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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

ISSUE No. 245

DECEMBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025

ST MARGARET S.E

ST JAMES

FLIXTON

ST NICOLAS

SANTA'S VISIT

22nd December 6pm

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

8th DECEMBER

COFFEE AND CAKE

30th November 10.30

BARN CRIB SERVICE

14th December 3.30pm



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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

December '24 - January '25

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St James	Lynda Bradley	01986 782582
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Thank you to those who send contributions, they help keep this magazine going and FREE to over 400 households.

NEXT COPY DEADLINE JANUARY 7TH

The views and comments printed herein are not necessarily the views of the Editor or this publication

EDITORIAL

Firstly apologies from our printers, as a gremlin hit the printer as it printed the last edition. Resulting in some pages being correct and others from a previous one. Unfortunately this was only discovered after distribution. The world seems to be in a turmoil, but we must be thankful in this part of the world, it is fairly peaceful and may it last.

WISHING A MERRY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL

GPC www.flixton.one.net

The Grouped Parish Council of Flixton, St Cross and St Margaret South Elmham met at St Margaret S.E Village Hall on 10th Sept. District Cllr Specia explained the launching of the East Suffolk Youth Council. Hopefully the Environment Agency should start to clean the Flixton Dyke by Christmas.

GPC, continued....

A representative from Flixton Aviation Museum explained their future plans. Thanks were made to Cllr Daniel Johnson for painting the 3 ex-BT boxes. Measures to make Sandy Lane St Cross better signed for HGVs were also discussed.

Next Meeting FLIXTON VILLAGE HALL 12th Nov 2024 at 7.30pm

MOLE

At St Margaret S.E welcome to Tracey, nice to see (Foreman) Peter Cope-man getting about again. Thank you to David Page and co for clearing the fallen tree in the church yard. The Litter pick in October did not yield as much as usual mainly, not that it is not being left, but the many walking citizens are picking it up, it's a lot simpler if it's not put there at all. The Harvest Lunch at St Margaret S.E was well attended and much catching up took place as well as enjoying the excellent meal. Durrants held a Charity clay pigeon shoot in the Beck Valley. There was a scary Halloween Party in the hall (see cover) Pumpkin carving, with apple bobbing, Dean's doughnuts on a string, mystery objects in a slimy box, mummy wrapping and a Halloween quiz, many thanks to Eric, Hannah and friends from the Halesworth Appollo Youth Centre for bringing their spiders, webs and witches, it made it even more spooky, all helped with Jannine's warming soup. The Harleston Players' production of Dads Army was brilliant, made all the better by Homersfield's Lawrie Hammond as Private Fraser complete with rolling eyes and Lucy Hammond as a volunteer to the platoon and later as a member of the U boat crew in the 'Don't tell him Pike' sketch. Congratulations to St Margaret S.E resident Kerry Wilmot who after 5 years painstaking investigation and correspondence about the crash at Mettingham of a World War B24 Liberator 'Gypsy Queen' has managed to have memorial to those who were lost trying to keep the stricken bomber away from centres of population. Seven members of the crew parachuted to safety, the copilot, pilot and one other perished in the crash, as the aircraft was trying to get home to Hardwick.
HAPPY CHRISTMAS

FROM THE TRACTOR CAB

Harvest is over and the fields have been planted with crops for next year. There are still a few stubbles untilled with pigeons, pheasants and small birds looking for grains to eat.

Elisabeth



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From the tractor cab continued...

The numbers of Munjac and Chinese water deer seem to increase every season, they wander in daylight as well as at night. The still warm weather seems to upset the seasonal clock on many plants as some have come back to flower, apparently according to an eminent climate chap, this is what we are to expect with late Spring frosts. The land is very dry, seems odd to say we could do with a rain, but you have to be careful what you wish for. Late October the meadows by the Beck had hundreds of small frogs hopping about in them.

St MARGARET DIARY



Fri 15th Nov	BINGO, Village hall, 7.30pm, £7 entry Bring your own snacks and drink
Fri 22nd Nov	Bowls, 7.30
Sat 30th Nov	Christmas Tree festival, Church
Sun 1st Dec	Christmas Tree festival, Church
Sun 8th Dec	Christmas lunch. Bar, raffle and Santa. Adults £12 children £6. 12 for 12.30. Booking only 07974126902
Sun 8th Dec	Christmas lunch, Bar raffle and Santa. Adults £12, children £6. 12 for 12.30. Booking only 07974126902
Sun 15th Dec	CAROL SERVICE, 6pm Handbells, refreshments
Sun 22nd Dec	SANTA & Ronnie driving through ST Margaret S.E 6pm
FRI 14th Feb	BINGO, Village Hall, 7.30 Bring Your Own drinks and snacks

CHURCH BIKE RIDE

Thank you to everyone who sponsored me for the church bike ride, you raised £501 for the Suffolk Historical Churches Trust.

P.T Kidner

ST NICOLAS

14th Dec at 3.30pm Barn Crib Service with live animals CHURCH FARM

HOMERSFIELD

Some exciting events in the village recently... we welcome a new little baby girl into the village, Amelia at Heath Cottage! A bittern was seen down by the river. Unfortunately I didn't see or hear it.



J. FELTON

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Homersfield continued...

A great deal of litter was picked up around the village on 12th October by a hardy few. There is a notice on the Village Notice board advising that some people may be able to claim Pension Credit, but may not be aware of it. It is worth looking into, to see if you are eligible for this useful benefit.

Our Carol Service will be held on Monday 23rd December at 6p.m. All welcome. I will arrange decorating nearer the time.

Dates for wood tidying volunteers:

Sunday 24th November | Sunday 8th December

Sunday 12th January | Sunday 9th February

Meeting by the bench in the wood at 10a.m.

Sally

TIM REMBLANCE

I'm sure most of you know that my youngest son Tim died suddenly at home on 4th September, aged 42. He was laid to rest with his father Paul in Homersfield churchyard on 2nd October. It was a wonderful tribute to him and we (Ben, Daniel, Skye, Gemma and myself) would like to thank everyone who braved the rain to say "goodbye". We would also like to thank everyone who helped organise the funeral. Firstly, Kathryn at Rosedales for her help and compassion, guiding us through the whole difficult time; Leon for taking the service; all friends who helped clean and prepare the church with flowers; Paul and Jude for the P.A. system, which worked brilliantly; Steven for cleaning and preparing the car; Phillip who struggled to take the names of the mourners in the pouring rain; The Black Swan team for providing the wake and everyone who so generously gave donations to Homersfield Church. Thank you to Lauren too, for your incredible support. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone, but all your kind words, thoughts and offers of help are very much appreciated.

ST PETER

At the time of writing, I have just seen the first flock of fieldfares of the year. In fact, I nearly fell over as they flew overhead as I checked to make sure they weren't pigeons or starlings.



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St Peter continued...

The call is unmistakable though. Also unmistakable was the baby grass snake I accidentally netted when clearing leaves from the pond. Despite being less than 6 inches long they were clearly unimpressed with the turn of events. I did manage to persuade them into a safer spot next to the pond to hopefully see out the winter. Interestingly I hadn't seen any adult grass snakes this year, but I guess there must have been at least 2!

Towards the end of September some may have been alarmed to see a group of Australians wandering the lanes. We had a visit from our son, his Australian partner and our baby granddaughter who live in Melbourne. They were joined one weekend by several of her family who are currently living in London. The Australian contingent had lived in cities all their lives and I think it is fair to say they were culture shocked. This was partly by the lack of specialist coffee shops, one even brought his own beans to grind, but also the wide open spaces. Apparently when they were talking afterwards they all agreed that it is a nice place to live before, after some thought, one enquired, "but what do they do all day?" A fair point I suppose.

The 49 Club was won in October and November by the church. Numbers are still available from Pamela if you would like to help the church by taking part.

Thanks to all the volunteers who took a turn at the church on bike ride day and to John to riding for St Peter.

The village carol service this year is on Friday 20th December at 6pm. As usual all are welcome to come along and there will be nibbles etc afterwards. St Peter are also this year hosting midnight mass on 24th December at 11pm. Again all are welcome.

As I come to the end of my 14th year as your correspondent (Anyone want take over for the next 80 odd editions?) and as this is the last edition of 2024 it just leaves me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2025.

FLIXTON NEWS

Village Meeting

Held on 26th September at 7.00pm in the Adair Room at the Buck, thanks to Linda and Gary for providing the venue, free of charge. Lin Smith opened the meeting welcoming all those present and gave a broad update on actions stemming from the previous meeting.

Monthly Flower Arranging Workshops

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10.00am until 3.00pm

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Flixton continued....

Next meeting FLIXTON BUCK 23/1/25 at 7.00pm

The Community Support Group now had suitably trained members able to ensure safe working for residents getting involved in local roadside or pathway maintenance and improvements. 2 out of the original 4 volunteers are now trained. Discussion covered the excellent work being done by just a few people and the need for more volunteers but, importantly a structured “calendar” and means of contacting people willing to help. There are clearly residents who not only have some useful garden maintenance equipment but also the skills yet don't get involved to help. Also, much equipment was promised by SCC for self help groups and this offer needs to be taken up.

Flood risk issues were also discussed and we may just be seeing some further improvement being made by the Environment Agency along the beck in The Street. It's time now to take a look at what can be done to improve flow inside Church Road's culvert. Also, the road drains blocked by too much straw is being addressed through the Parish Council.

When these meetings began, the idea was to understand what people wanted from their community and many of the issues we're having to grapple with seem to stem from the fact that there is no clear view of what we want our village to look like. So, if you get a tap on your door soon, it'll just be volunteers with questionnaires hoping to get your views. Please take a little time to answer their questions so they get as wide a spectrum of views as possible. Please don't turn them away as they will be giving their time in the hope of improving your village.

There's also going to be a pressure group aiming to look at the things which have continuously blighted the village and provided no counterbalancing benefits. Don't expect the world too soon, though.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

The CSW are doing sterling work helping to control the speed through the village in Church Road and The Street near The Buck Inn. We have recorded speeds of 51mph and these offenders have been reported to the Police. As co-ordinator I would like to say a big thank you to the volunteers. A vacancy has occurred and anyone interested in joining us, please contact myself, Terry Hunt on 01986 892177. The speed check sessions usually take place every two weeks for around one hour but commitment is just to attend when you are free. It is very satisfying seeing the effect of our presence.

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Church Services

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

01/12/24	Holy Communion Joint Saints & Bungay Advent Carols	10.00am 3.00pm	St Peter Mettingham
05/12/24	Holy Communion	9.00am	Ilk. St Margaret
08/12/24	Holy Communion Carol Service	10.00am 3.00pm	Flixton Ilk St John
12/12/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	9.00am 5.00pm	Ilk St Margaret Runburgh
14/12/24	Barn Crib Service	3.30pm	Church Farm St Nicolas
15/12/24	Holy Communion Carol Service	10.00am 6.00pm	Homersfield St Margaaret SE
16/12/24	Carol Service	6.00pm	St Michael
17/12/24	Carol Service (with school)	6.00pm	St Lawrence
18/12/24	Carol Service	6.00pm	St Cross
19/12/24	Holy Communion Carol Service	9.00am 6.00pm	Ilk St Margaret Rumburgh
20/12/24	Carol Service	6.00pm	St Peter SE
22/12/24	Holly Communion Carol Service	10.00am 6.00pm	St Margaret SE St James
23/12/24	Carol Service	6.00pm	Homersfield

24/12/24	Crib Service	3.00pm	Ilk St Margaret
	Crib Service	5.00pm	Flixton
	Midnight Communion	11.00pm	St Peter SE
25/12/24	 Family Holy Communion	10.00am	St Michael
26/12/24	 No Service		
29/12/24	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Cross
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Ilk St Lawrence



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Flixton continued...

Flixton Village Hall

As you are hopefully aware the Village Hall is left in trust to the village and is run by volunteers. This involves shared grass cutting, cleaning and occasional outside maintenance. Extra hands are always appreciated. If anyone is interested, I would be very happy to explain what these light duties entail. Please contact myself on 01986 892177 or any other committee member for more information. Terry Hunt.

SOUND BATHING

November 5th may seem an odd evening for tranquility but Sarah Lou's sound bathing session should have set a few residents' stress levels at new lows. Let's hope so.

CHRISSIE MAC'S GARDEN PARTY

The Macmillan Charity must be over the moon with Chrissie's efforts. On a beautiful, warm, September Saturday, neighbours and friends began turning up around 12.30. Neighbour Kate worked wonders taking in entrance fees, selling raffle tickets and collecting together the cash bids for the vast number of spectacular auction items which Chrissie had not only collected but also personally decoratively packaged over the year to improve bidding. Thomas used his wit and charm (James, his dad might disagree) as auctioneer to maximise the results, aided by brother Paddy and Chrissie's granddaughters Megan and Scarlett parading the sale items to ensure everything was sold.

With extra donations of beer, wine, squash, cakes, crisps and more, Chrissie's little army of helpers put on a fine table of quiches and sausage rolls plus homemade cakes as refreshments for the nearly 40 guests to enjoy. Extra sunshades lent by the Buck helped prevent sunburn on this lovely late summer day.

Chrissie would like to give a huge thank-you to The Buck, Three Willows, The Factory Shop, The Fleece Inn, Raj Indian, Whiskers Pet Shop and Pepperells Meats, for their vouchers. On the day the count total was £1810, but has concluded at £2010. A fantastic result.

Chrissie has her own reasons for doing these events and has said that it's time now to call a close to them, which is very sad. While Chrissie gets help for the event on the day, we all get the benefit of her year's worth of effort. Well done Chrissie.

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Flixton continued...

COFFEE & CAKE IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS

Come along and have a drink and chat, sharing some time together on Saturday November 30th 2024, 10.30am until 12.00 at Flixton Village Hall.

Any feedback or news contact Pete Madder-Smith 01986 896828.

FLIXTON 100 CLUB

September

1st Jamie Hinsley 52
2nd Stan Caley 26
3rd Sue Warje 47

October

1st Gary Doughty 83
2nd Clare Anderson 93
3rd Ben Softley 37

St CROSS

Congratulations to Claire and Chris on the birth of Mason.

Apologies for the lateness of this notice; the news came just too late for the last issue. It's lovely to have two babies in the village!

This will be our final issue of news before the year comes to an end. November seems to have been endured under 'anti-cyclonic gloom' but the autumn colours remain spectacular. Here's to a joyous Christmas and peaceful year ahead in our community and beyond.

Remember, if you have any items of news or information to be included in the village news, please get in touch. The names of your village correspondents are at the front of the magazine.



ST JAMES

CHURCH NEWS

We would like to thank all those who helped to decorate the church for Harvest Festival. It looked wonderful with all the flowers and produce. The Tea and cakes beforehand were well attended too, although too chilly to be outside.

The newly grass seeded area at the back of the church has taken well and a bit later the hedging will be extended to the gateway. A date for your diary - the carol service is on Sunday 22nd December at 6pm. If the weather allows, as in previous years, those who wish will meet at the village hall carpark and walk to the church singing carols (please bring a torch).

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St James continued....

The rest of the service in the church will be accompanied by the Waveney Valley Brass Ensemble, so please join us even if you think you can't sing but like to (there are several of us!) you can when the band is playing! There will be sweet and savoury refreshments, hot drinks and mulled wine to follow the service.

Please come and join us and kick start your Christmas.

HALL AND VILLAGE NEWS

Both our recent hall events were very successful and attracted good numbers. The quiz returned after an absence of five years, due to Covid and proved popular as ever.

The Music Night with Soul Alliance was also a great evening, with visitors coming from further afield as well as the village. We'll look forward to the popular band returning in 2025.

FUTURE EVENTS

The Christmas Wreath making workshop is now full but look out for future craft workshops in the New Year.

VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS LUNCH. SUNDAY, 8TH DECEMBER.

Do not miss your chance to start the Christmas season with the Village Hall Christmas Lunch in the company of your friends and neighbours.

Bring friends and family to enjoy the usual full lunch with all the trimmings, plus great raffle, which will be well worth the tickets once again.

Start time. 12.30 for 1pm. Tickets. £10 adults, £5 children, under 5s free.

BYO alcohol. Choose starter when booking from:

Pâté OR Smoked Salmon Roulade OR Vegetable Soup.

Booking ESSENTIAL BY NOV 27th as numbers limited.

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Look out for a list of events for 2025 in the January edition of the Community News





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ALL THINGS FESTIVE EXTRAVAGANZA

ST MARGARET SOUTH ELMHAM CHURCH

This year we are tweaking our Christmas Tree Festival, to include Flower Arrangements and Christmas Displays. It will be held on Saturday 30th November and Sunday 1st December 2 – 6pm at St Margaret South Elmham Church.

There will be a trail/quiz inside the Church to guess the theme of each display, which will be depicted by either:
a Christmas Carol or Christmas Song,
a Christmas Film or Christmas Book.

Correct quiz entries will be put into a draw to win a Christmas prize.

Visitors will also have a chance to vote for their favourite Festive Display, and that exhibitor will be awarded a prize at the end of the event.

A Christmas Tombola, 'Find the Naughty Elves' and 'Guess the name of the Penguin Family' will be there to enjoy, along with teas & coffee and Hot Chocolate with all the trimmings. Delicious homemade cakes and savouries, too tempting to miss!

Entry £1 adults, Children free.

All profit in aid of the Church.

Visit us at twilight to enjoy the welcoming, magical lights inside and outside the Church. If you would like to join in and display a Christmas Tree, Flower Arrangement or create a Christmas Display (in any medium) along the themes set above, please contact Sue 07989840599 or email sriseborough82@gmail.com for further details.

HARLESTON & DISTRICT U3A would like to remind our followers that there will be no monthly talk in December, but we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year. We'll look forward to seeing you again when our monthly talks resume on 15th January 2025, in St John's Church, Harleston. For further information please visit our website: u3asites.org.uk/harleston or contact Kim Poulton on 01986 788149.

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Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum (NASAM)

An Important Change

Our museum's roots can be traced back 52 years to a handful of aviation enthusiasts, meeting in an old Nissen hut behind the Flixton Post Office. From those inauspicious beginnings, our museum has grown into a widely appreciated aviation attraction, now bringing in over 21000 visitors per year.

In all those years, we have never charged for admission. But, as we have grown, the demands have also grown. We need to maintain our ageing collection; we need to add to the attractions for our visitors; and, in keeping with the museum's history of expansion, we have more plans for expansion over the next five years.

Despite not charging admission, the museum has never been 'free'. We have always said that we rely on donations. Originally, we asked that visitors donated what they could afford. Latterly we asked that visitors donated what they thought we were worth. However, the average donation per visitor stands at £1.83 and the reality is, we cannot maintain our museum, much less improve it, for £1.83 per visitor.

And so, to ensure a bright future for NASAM, we have taken the decision that, from the beginning of 2025, we will start to charge an admission fee. We have taken our cue from other comparable museums and have set our prices accordingly. There will be a simple ticketing structure and, when Gift Aided, tickets may be converted to an annual pass, providing unlimited visits during that period. The prices will be:

Adult - £10.00 | Child (over 5) - £5.00

Family (up to 2 adults, up to 3 children) - £20 (meaning children are 'free' on the family ticket)

We have always valued the patronage of local people and appreciate the support you have given us over the years. We recognise that, unlike many of our visitors, you're not necessarily going to spend all day with us on your frequent visits. This had some bearing on our deciding to opt for a ticket valid for 12 months with Gift Aid. For those unable to Gift Aid, museum membership may be taken out at no additional cost which, in turn, will bestow an annual pass. We trust that, if you are one of our many repeat visitors, you won't feel that £10 per person is an unreasonable ask for unlimited visits over a 12-month period.

As always, we welcome feedback and will be particularly interested to hear your thoughts on our decision to charge an admission fee. You can contact us by e-mail at nsam.flixton@gmail.com. Alternatively, why not drop in on Wednesdays, Saturdays or Sundays and tell us in person? You're always very welcome!

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NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK AVIATION MUSEUM



OPENING TIMES



10am until 4pm every Wednesday
Saturday and Sunday until 1st November 2024

Then Sundays only until 1st December 2024

Closed between 1st December until February 14th 2025

Admission Charges will apply from February 2025

During Christmas and New Year there will be a few open days,
please visit the website for dates & details

Private Viewings can be arranged

Please contact the Museum Manager on 01986 896644

SOUTH ELMHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our next meeting is on Thursday 28th November at 7.30pm
'Suffolk's Ancient Woodland' by Ben Holzer

Everyone is most welcome, you do not have to be a member to attend, just turn up on the night. £3 entrance on the door, £1 members. Refreshments included for all.

There are no meetings in December and January, although there will be a Winter Social Lunch for members in January. For further information on the group please consult our website <http://southelmhamanddistrictlhg.onesuffolk.net>

HARLESTON CHORAL SOCIETY – You're invited to join us on Saturday 14th December at 7.00 pm in St John's Church, Harleston IP20 9AZ for our programme of beautiful Christmas music: Haydn's Missa Sancti Nicolai and other seasonal music, and carols, some with audience participation. All with our four soloists and the Harleston Chamber Orchestra. Tickets £15 (including wine or a soft drink and a mince pie) are available from choir members, on the door on the night, or from Harleston Information Plus. Accompanied children go free.



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