



SHORT MAT BOWLS AT ST MARGARET SOUTH ELMHAM

SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

ISSUE No. 239

DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024

ST MARGARET S.E

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

ST NICHOLAS

CHRISTMAS BARN CRIB SERVICE

ST JAMES

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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

December 2023 - January 2024

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NEXT COPY DEADLINE JANUARY 7TH

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

EDITORIAL

Remembrance Sunday gives us a time to think 'Why?'. Listening to the lists of service people who have lost their lives in armed conflict, since the Boer war and most of them under 30 years old. As Churchill said 'Jaw jaw is better than WAR, WAR'. Sadly sometimes 'jaw jaw' is not possible as one side is ambushed without warning. MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY PEACEFUL NEW YEAR. Welcome to Sally Remblance as Homersfield's new correspondent.

GPC WWW.ONEFLIXTON.ONESUFFOLK.NET

The Grouped Parish Council of Flixton, St Cross and St Margaret South Elmham met at Batemans Barn, by kind invitation of John and Nicole Sanderson on 12th November at 7.30pm.

GPC continued...

Cllr Mann had negotiated with 2 Sisters Plant and they had agreed to fund the repair of the VAS machine. District Cllr Speca invited questions. Latest communications from Highways is; they will start the Flixton crossing on week commencing 11th November, but there had been no sign of this happening yet. Two trustees of the Flixton Aviation Museum gave a presentation of the future expansion plans of the museum. GPC insurance was discussed as this is the fourth year of a five year deal. There was to be a meeting on 14th November with planning concerning Breedon plans to extract gravel from Buckland. County Cllr Cloke agreed to represent residents' concerns at this meeting. Thank you to Mark Hadingham for mowing beside the path from the corner to the Buck.

MOLE



Last year, rain was in short supply, however this year it's ever present. The Beck was in full flood, although it comes up fast and goes down fast, giving a slight delay before the Waveney floods. Where the 1062 crosses the river at Homersfield, it got quite deep, many vehicles turned round but the higher ones went slowly through to applause from the gathering onlookers. Similar to the time in the past when the only way across was by ford. A few tried the Wash at St Peter and Spring Lane at St Cross, but they failed and had to be towed away. Short mat bowls has started at St Margaret S.E Village Hall, next session is Friday 8th December at 7.30pm everyone welcome. The Quiz held at St Margaret S.E village Hall in October was won by Black Stump by 2 points from 4 in a bed. Sadly long term resident Robin Hamilton passed away. He spent his youth at the Old Rectory, before going to Easton college and Spain, before returning to the village on the passing of his mother. Sympathies to the family. Bell ringer Ian Harris from Rumburgh has also passed away, he has serviced and rung the bells at St Margaret and other churches locally for several years. Sympathies to the family. St Margaret S.E litter pick, was conducted in high winds, it's awkward trying to put litter in a polythene bag that has a mind of its own in the wind. I see the wildlife in the area is becoming more varied, there's the Homersfield Horse that just stands in the field never seems to move and at the top of Grange Road in Flixton, there is rather a fierce Dinosaur.



Elisabeth



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FROM THE TRACTOR SEAT

It's November and most of the trees still have their leaves on, which with the heavy rainfall and high winds makes them liable to lose a branch or topple over. The heavy and persistent rain has waterlogged the ground, which makes being a mole, or any other burrowing creatures, a bit awkward and its time to head for higher dry ground. We have several visiting flocks of Waxwing here at the moment, these starling sized pinky buff and crested birds are over from Russia, searching for berries when crops run low in their homelands. This behaviour is called 'irruptive', if there are plentiful berries in Northern Europe they probably won't come. Their relatives, the Fieldfares and Redwing, also migrate here for the same reason.

St MARGARET DIARY

- 2nd/3rd December 2-6pm CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
ST MARGARET S.E CHURCH
- 8th December 7.30pm Village HALL SHORT MAT BOWLS,
all welcome
- 10th December 12.00PM for 12.30pm CHRISTMAS LUNCH.
£12, BAR, BOOKING ONLY 07974126902
- 21st December 6.00pm, CAROL SERVICE, Church
- 21st December 6.00pm Santa and Ronnie sleigh ride through
St Margaret S.E
- 22nd December 7.30pm Christmas Party, Village Hall. BAR.
LIVE MUSIC
- 19th January 7.30pm QUIZ, Village hall, refreshments, bring
your own drinks. To Book 07974126902

St MARGARET SOUTH ELMHAM VILLAGE HALL

After several years as treasurer of the Village Hall Chris Sadler has retired, many thanks for all the work he has done. Graham Hammond has kindly stepped up to take the mantle.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

St Margaret S.E CHURCH IP20 0PJ on DECEMBER 2-3rd



2pm to 6 pm. Come and see the decorated trees, find the 'ELF', try your luck at the Tombola. Enjoy the refreshments. See the lights. Want to try yourself, then ring Sue 01986782244



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ST MARGARET SOUTH ELMHAM CHURCH

An altar cloth has been discovered in Norwich, that was left for repairs several years ago. Enquiries are taking place to find out more.

RIDE AND STRIDE 2023 St Margaret's South Elmham Church

On a glorious sunny day on 9th September, St Margaret's South Elmham Church, like many other local churches, welcomed visitors from all over the county for the annual Ride and Stride event. They were greeted with delicious homemade biscuits (thanks to Sue Riseborough and Juliet Blaxland). Many stayed to chat and enjoy the occasion and have a look round the church. Ride and Stride is run by Suffolk Historic Churches Trust to raise money which is shared equally between the Trust and the local church chosen by the participant. Everyone is welcome to join in to enjoy cycling or walking round the local area and greeting others doing the same while being sponsored, or giving a donation, to visit as many churches as you like during the day. Many thanks to all the volunteers who took a turn in greeting visitors as the event couldn't have happened without you.

The idea for Ride and Stride started in Suffolk and is now popular across much of England raising a significant amount of money for local historic churches. This year was Ride and Stride's 50th anniversary. Next year's 51st event will be on Saturday 14th September 2024 9am - 5pm when we look forward to seeing as many cyclists and walkers again as possible.

Sue Glazer



Santa, Ronnie the reindeer and young Snowflake will be travelling through the village of St Margaret S.E on 21st December at 6.00pm distributing presents to the children, as long as they have been good.

ST JAMES CHURCH NEWS



The PCC in St. James is getting smaller and smaller due to ill health. If you think you can help, please contact Jane 01986 782413, as we really need help to keep our beautiful and very special church open.

Tuesday 19th December at 6.00pm is the date of our carol service in December. We



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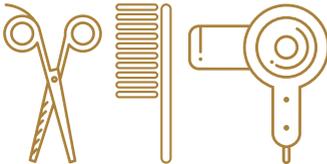
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St James continued...

are hoping, weather permitting, to gather in the hall car park to walk to the church singing carols by torchlight, to then finish the service in the church followed by hot drinks with cakes etc.

Even if you are not usually a church goer, please come and enjoy the sheer joy and companionship of singing these well-loved carols and sharing time with others from the village. You will all be welcome.

HALL AND VILLAGE NEWS at 50

We welcomed the Black Deek Band on the 15th September and enjoyed a great evening of excellent and varied music. Although turn-out could have been better, those who attended had a very enjoyable evening.

FUTURE EVENT

Over the weekend of the 17th/18th of November we will be celebrating the village hall's 50th anniversary. We hope very much that many of you will come to the Soul Alliance music evening to listen or dance the night away and to the Saturday afternoon photo and artwork competition voting and display between 3-5pm. Both events are free to villagers and afternoon tea will be served on the Saturday. (music evening will be £5 for non-residents). You can find info on SOUL ALLIANCE on:
www.musicglue.com/soul-alliance

Last but not least, the Hall committee is reaching the point when we would like to hand over the reins to some younger souls! We are celebrating 50 years of the hall's opening, so please come forward to help us keep our community asset going as a venue for all sorts of activities – new suggestions are very welcome. It is not very time-consuming, involving occasional short meeting to plan events. There is usually plenty of extra help to run the events, so the committee is primarily an event planning team. Contact Jane, (782413), Lynda (782582) or Caroline (782545) if you would be interested in planning events and keeping the hall open for another 50 years!

All our usual sport sessions continue through the winter- Badminton, Table Tennis and Pilates.

For details, please contact Caroline on 01986 782545.

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HOMERSFIELD



I seem to have been volunteered to write about Homersfield news. I may not be very good and may need some prompting, do feel free to give advice or let me know of any upcoming events that you would like mentioned.

We have suffered a bit in the last few weeks with the heavy rain and the village has been 'an island' once or twice, but the water is receding now. I do wonder where the moles go, as they start making their hills again as soon as the water levels go down. I spotted a barn owl over the marsh which was lovely to see.

We had a successful litter pick on 21st October and several sacks were filled. New daffodils have been planted around the village so that's something to look forward to. Sadly we have lost Malcolm Plumb, known as 'Mac', sympathies to the family.

The churchyard crew have had to hang up their tools for the winter, but they've done a brilliant job all through the summer. A special 'Thank You' to Brian Beales and Fabrizio Biasi for their kindness and help.

Thank you Lynne and Peter, for creating such an interesting display in our telephone box about the history of telephone boxes.

Our Carol Service will be held on 22nd December at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments afterwards.

Sally

FLIXTON

"Mac"millan Party

Well, Chris has outdone all her previous parties. Her special village event, which began at midday, was very well attended by friends and neighbours. It was also excellently supported by some who couldn't attend. Early on the luxury raffle was called, then followed by the auction. Auctioneer of the day was Thomas Cracknell who did a very professional job, even encouraging bidders to bid against his mum Kate in order to maximise the return. Thomas was closely supported by his enthusiastic young team of helpers who carried items around to potential bidders. Another, second raffle followed, keeping the activity lively.

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Church Services

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

03/12/23	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Peter
	Carol Service	6.00pm	Ilk St Margaret

Advent Carol Service & Saints Choir

Sunday 3rd December

6.00pm Ilk St Margaret Church

Carol service with St Lawrence School

Thursday 7th December

6.00pm Ilk St Lawrence Church

Saturday 16th December

3.00pm Church Farm, St Nicolas Barn Crib Service



Carol Services

Thursday 7th December	6.00pm	Ilk St Lawrence
Sunday 10th December	3.00pm	Ilk St John
Wednesday 13th December	6.00pm	Rumburgh
Sunday 17th December	6.00pm	St Margaret SE
Monday 18th December	6.00pm	St Michael
Tuesday 19th December	6.00pm	St James
Wednesday 20th December	6.00pm	St Cross
Thursday 21st December	6.00pm	St Peter
Friday 22nd December	6.00pm	Homersfield

Christmas Eve (Sunday)

3.00pm Ilk St Margaret Crib Service

5.00pm Flixton Crib Service

11.30pm Flixton Midnight Mass

Christmas Day (Monday)

10.00am Ilk St John Family Communion

Sorry services into the new year are not known to me at time of
print please ask your Churchwarden



Flixton continued...

The weather certainly helped the event go well and gave another “get together” opportunity for neighbours and friends to chin wag while enjoying the home made sausage rolls, quiches, cakes and liquid refreshments. Extra thanks go out to The Buck, Flixton, Mushrooms, Three Willows Garden Centre The Original Factory Shop, The Fleece Inn, Maise Brook Farm, Pepperells Meats, Fay’s Grooming Parlour, Whiskers Pet Shop and the Taste of Raj. All the donations helped immensely.

An extra special thank you goes to Kate Cracknell who always comes up trumps helping the event to succeed.

Lastly (nearly) Chris is asking for any unwanted hamper baskets which she can use in readiness for next year’s party... what a busy lady.

Now for the very best news of all. You all helped raise £1670 to support a wonderful cause. So well done everyone and especially well done Chris.... and Cassie!!

Buck Pub

Friday morning, 6th October, a car arrived at the Buck just before opening time. I went over to have a chat and met Stefan and his wife Michelle. They’d just driven down from Peterhead, near Aberdeen, staying overnight in Bishop Aukland. Stefan’s surname is Girling... so that may interest a few readers. When he was around 13, Stefan used to cycle from his home on Beccles Road in Bungay to the Buck. His first task was to clear away and wash all the drinks glasses in the pub, then he began his shift on the pumps. Not the beer pumps but the petrol ones outside! In Stefan’s words, “Gentry arriving at the pub would pull up at the petrol pumps, ask me to fill the tank and with that they’d walk in to the pub. I’d then park their cars for them”. So why Aberdeen for a Bungay lad? Stefan went to work over at Kessingland, the intention being to serve as apprentice mechanic but the boss, knowing his experience on the pumps at the Buck, often diverted him to serving fuel to customers. One day a Jaguar pulled up (“two tanks”, said Stefan) and he was talking to the driver who’s name was also Girling. It turns out the fellow was his Dad’s cousin. He offered Stefan a job for Brown & Root (an Oil Industry Firm) in Gt Yarmouth. Before he was 18, Stefan had sorted a job in Aberdeen.

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Flixton continued...

He was “collared” by Michelle, an Aberdeen lass, at her 18th birthday party and within 3 weeks they were engaged and have been together ever since. In Michelle’s words, “We flew down to Norwich, my Mum saying you’re not going and drove back in a Ford Escort Mexico. Me with a ring on my finger!”

Stefan’s mum, aged 90 still lives in Bungay hence their visit. But he still fondly remembers the “Alan Breaze years”, working at the Buck.

The Pub Quiz Night went very well, with extra tables laid on. Run on behalf of the Prostate Cancer Charity, it achieved nearly £300 for a very worthy cause. There were also some pretty good prizes to be had. Thoroughly recommended, I reckon we’ll see a few of these over the winter months. They’re currently planning one for mid January, so look out for the notices.

January 19th will be a special evening with Fiona Harber, a trained opera singer who also covers rock, Latina, funk and soul. Looks to be a quite unique opportunity to enjoy a broad range of music.

FLOODS ARE NOT ACCIDENTS

For years now the vilage has had problems with flooding and it’s been getting steadily worse. The rainfall levels may be caused by climate change, but the worst effects and the slow recoveries to normality are not accidental. There are two major culprits. The Environment Agency carries out work that it sees as necessary while choosing to ignore the obvious. Suffolk County Council chooses to save money by not clearing road drains. There are at least four drains in The Street which have been blocked for all of the 24 years I have lived here. I’ve even had to dig out three of them in order for them to be visible to “short sighted” SCC sub contractors when they occasionally make flying visits from as far afield as Southend on Sea! They are still blocked, often creating “drive through car washes” just outside The Buck. On the 8th November a small group of us met with a representative of Anglia Water and also a representative of SCC Highways. I was shocked to discover that SCC Highways don’t have proper records/prints of their old infrastructure. Those records would have definitely been accessible 25 years ago. However, the meeting had a positive direction and, with some luck, we may be at the very beginning of addressing the road drain issues for The Street. Next step must be the culvert in Church Rd and across the B1062.

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MINERAL EXTRACTION

It will probably come as no surprise to many that the planning application to allow mineral extraction just to the Bungay side of the village has been passed. The granting of permission was delayed until a site visit had been completed by the relevant county councillors. It seems that the visit was merely a “box ticking” exercise, albeit one which enabled some more expenses to be claimed. Councillors were not listening to information being provided, allowing their mobile phone calls and messages to take precedent over their levels of concentration on the important matter to hand. It is also interesting to note that the vote to grant the application took a party political line, so nothing new there .

While it's clearly necessary for mineral extraction to take place across the country, it would be nice if Suffolk County Council could occasionally do some joined up thinking. The Street floods nearly every time a cloud drifts near Flixton. It floods for a few reasons but the primary one is that Suffolk County Council doesn't meet it's statutory obligation to clean the road drains. The drains and ductways in The Street are collapsing because Flixton is part of Suffolk County Council's cheap solution to the need for a Bungay bypass for heavy lorries. An increasing number of those HGVs travel between Holton and Flixton because Suffolk County Council have never placed any restrictions on HGV traffic to and from the poultry factory via Church Road. Residents might want to consider exactly what Suffolk County Council do in the interest of this village.

Pete Madder-Smith 01986896828

100 Club

September

1st. Keith Parker
2nd. Ken Warne
3rd. Janice Reed

October

1st. Susan Yaxley 39
2nd. Jack Softley 15
3rd. Terry Hunt. 74

ST CROSS NEWS

Welcome to new village residents Deborah,
partner and two dogs who are recently moved into Minster Cottages.
Autumn has arrived with its darker mornings and evenings and so much
rain!





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St Cross continued...

Land is saturated and roads flooded. Once again Sandy Lane has gathered significant amounts of water on the road and a number of vehicles have come to grief and required rescuing. Parish Councillors have raised the issue and are due to have a site meeting with our County Councillor Judy Cloke.

The bus shelter by Minster Cottages has had a clear out. It was swept and the encroaching bramble cut back so that it is more pleasant for children to use while waiting for the school bus. Thanks to Leon from The Cottage and his dad for their efforts.

Thanks also to David Hill who was out there in the heavy rain, clearing the way for the excess water to escape into the ditches and helping to keep the road clear.

Carol service at St Georges Church St Cross on Wednesday 20th December. On the dark winter days ahead, don't forget the Telephone Box book exchange. There are lots of books for both adults and children.

Thanks to Tom Brooke and the Churchyard crew for the clearance work

ST PETER

It's hard to believe this is the last edition of 2023. As another year slips by, let's hope the recent rains are the worst weather we will get this winter. Fingers crossed.

It's been a slow news period but the mystery of who was clearing up our remaining pears has been solved. Every morning the ground would have been cleared of windfall. Eventually I saw a couple of crows. One was working on the floor and the second would be in the pear trees helping the fruit to fall. Then they would take them into the field to eat in peace. I'm hoping they will get the hang of other garden chores soon.

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

The village Christmas carol service will be held on 21st December at 6.00pm. As usual all are welcome with nibbles etc afterwards in the church. As I come to the end of my 13th year as your correspondent (I'm open to offers if anyone would like to take over) (Not Yet Ed) it just leaves me to wish

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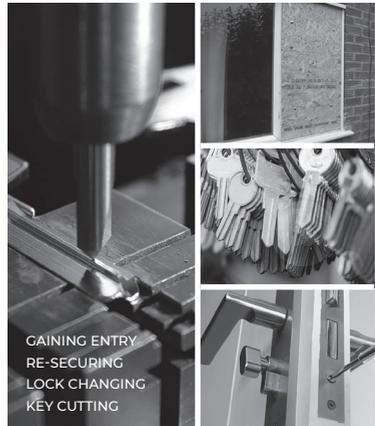
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*u3a Harleston and District wish
all readers
a Very Happy Christmas*

For further information on our organisation please visit our
website: www.u3asites.org.uk/harleston
phone: 01986 788149

HARLESTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Harleston Choral Society – come and celebrate our Christmas Concert with us on Saturday 9th December at 7.00 pm in St John's Church, Harleston IP20 9AZ. We're singing Vivaldi Gloria and Christmas music including pieces by Saint Saens, Holst, Whitacre, Rutter, Berlioz and Drake under the baton of our Music Director Justin Bindley and with soloists Jo Westaway and Joanna Gamble. There will be carols for you to sing with us too! Tickets (£15, including wine or fruit juice and a mince pie; accompanied children free) available from choir members, on the door on the night, or from Harleston Information Plus.

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For Ladies of a Certain Age

I'm lacking ideas for composing a rhyme,
This one's different; for ladies only this time,
How different life is to when we were young,
Being old isn't nearly half as much fun,
Gone are the days when we ran everywhere,
Now we wander along, taking great care,
One careless stumble or one little trip
Will likely end up with a broken hip,
Gone are the tight mini dresses hugging our figure,
Now our clothes are longer and bigger,
Long sleeves to hide our 'bingo wings'
And a nice big cardie can hide many things,
We could party all night 'til a new day was dawning,
Then go out to work early next morning.
I look in the mirror and what do I see?
My mother looking back at me,
When did this happen? Wrinkles and grey hair?
When did I turn into a 'little old dear'?
I'm grateful for the excitement that used to be,
Now just give me a book and a nice cup of tea.

Sally(HOMERSFIELDS Pam Ayes)



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FRIDAY 29th DECEMBER
IN THE VILLAGE HALL
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FRANK AND THE BEANS
sweet soul sounds are stirring my soul
THE BLUE PLATE SPECIALS
americana and all that
and
THE SUGAR BEATNICKS
bawdy, ballsy and sassy
This is a free event, but in order
to pay the musicians we are asking for donations, so
please be generous - it is Christmas after all
This year we will have a licensed bar selling beer, wine, cider and soft drinks
so please don't bring your own
We look forward to seeing you all. It will kick off at 7.30ish
there will be a bit of disco dancing at the end, and who
knows there may even be a mystery guest or two

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