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# **SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS**

ISSUE NO. 240

**FEBRUARY - MARCH 2024**

**ST CROSS**

**LOSES A CHARACTER**

**ST MARGARET S.E**

**HAND BELLS RING AGAIN**

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# SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

February - March 2024

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NEXT COPY DEADLINE MARCH 7TH

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

## **EDITORIAL**

Water, water everywhere seems to be very apt at present. The trouble is with our present volatile climate is, to wish for dry weather might cause a swing to a drought. Be careful don't believe everything your computer tells you. Wishing everyone a Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

## **BOOTS CHEMISTS AT BUNGAY MEDICAL CENTRE**

Sadly this branch is closing 9th March. There is another one in the centre of Bungay, but not so accessible and without parking.

## **GPC WWW.ONEFLIXTON.ONESUFFOLK.NET**

The Grouped Parish Council of Flixton, St Cross and St Margaret met at Flixton Village Hall on Tuesday 7th November at 7.30pm. Thanks were given to 2 sisters for funding the repairs to the VAS, speed indicator in Flixton.

GPC continued...

Concerns were expressed about the prolonged delay by Highways in erecting the crossing signs at the junction with the B1062. 2 Sisters are also doing regular litter picks on Grange Road. Financial support from County Cllr Cloke to repair the Flixton road sign was being organised. Finances for the coming year were discussed including an increase in the precept, in line with inflation. County Cllr Cloke was also meeting St Cross Councillors to see what could be done about flooding and slowing traffic in the village.     NEXT MEETING MONDAY 8th JAN St Margaret S.E

## **MOLE**

Seasonal greetings. It's wet and then some. Floods, abandoned vehicles and trees down and it's only a few days into the New Year. Christmas Tree Festival, had trees and lights everywhere. The St Margaret S.E Christmas lunch was full, with over 70 villagers and friends sitting down to the traditional meal, followed by an auction and the announcement of the engagement of new residents Dean and Emily. Santa and Ronnie were there to distribute the presents. Glenn Earl was declared the winner of the 'Sam and Jean Earl Community Person of the Year'. Chris Sadler former village hall Chairman and long-time treasurer was presented with a retirement gift. Many thanks to Philip Sands for donating the turkeys. The Fun quiz in November was won by 4+2, a close competition. This year's carol service had a surprise, as at the close the congregation were treated to Jingle Bells on Hand Bells that have only just come to light after many years, thanks to Gail Sprake for arranging this musical extravaganza. The celebrants on Christmas Eve were treated to a repeat performance. A couple of days before Christmas Day, after dark, Santa was seen on his sleigh being pulled by Ronnie the reindeer, children and a several adults turned out in the strong wind to receive presents, as they all said 'they had been good', from the bearded gentleman, before he disappeared into the night. The Christmas party was rocking with the hall full and the bands in full swing, it's rumoured there may be a Summer one. The weather might be somewhat inclement, but not bad enough to stop such determined people as Sue Glazer, Maggie Flatt and James Graham, running through and round the floods. Bowls and badminton continue with a newly engaged couple joining the badminton and Simon Murton trying his hand at bowls.

*Elisabeth*



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## FROM THE TRACTOR SEAT

Even the birds don't like all this rain unless they are wildfowl. My bird feeder is a busy place with blue tits, great tits, robins, black birds, chaffinches, woodpeckers and on the ground is an occasional pigeon and at least twice a day a cock pheasant checks to see what food is available. The ones that arrive in a flock are the long-tailed tits, about 10 of them, gorging themselves on suet ball and peanuts, although my bird book says they only eat insects, like anything else they eat what is there. Along the Beck it was related to me that as the flood waters expanded there were in the 50s/100s of water voles scampering about. Likewise on the bridges were no end of spiders and other insects just above the waterline. Despite the wet weather Bluetongue virus is still being spread by midges. The infected midge believed to come across the channel, whether they came over on one of the small boats, I don't know. Unfortunately it's here and the virus affects cattle, sheep, deer, goats and camelids such as llamas. Smaller and younger infected animals suffer a slow and painful death if not spotted, in the larger ones not always, but it is a legally notifiable disease to DEFA, if you do not report it, you are breaking the law. The last time it was in this country was 2007. The affected animal is humanely culled to minimise the risk of onward transmission. There is no risk to human health from Bluetongue. At present the disease is in Kent and Norfolk with 10km no movements areas.

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The Christmas Tree Festival had 13 decorated trees on display, a brilliant display of gorgeous lights. A bit of drama when a member of the clergy went off-roading and got stuck and although foggy, many people came on both days to see the paths all lit with Christmas lights. The tombola was busy, followed by tea, coffee or the special hot chocolate with marshmallows. Cakes to eat or buy and you can still find the elves. Thanks to all those who supported and worked tirelessly on the days.

## St NICHOLAS

The crib service held at Church Farm (see cover) was attended by over 40 children and adults. Rev Leon was a shepherd and some of the children were wise men or shepherds. Set in the barn with sheep in front and cattle either side of the assembled, gave it a timeless feeling. Many thanks to Michael and Gail for arranging this.



**J. FELTON**  
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## **St MARGARET DIARY**

FRI 9th Feb	7.30pm Bowls, all welcome
SAT 10th Feb	10am-2pm TABLE TOP SALE £5 a table to come and sell your wares. Contact Jannine 07852664818 or jannineparry@yahoo.co.uk to book a table CAFE will be running with teas, coffee, cake savoury snacks and soups
SAT 16th March	10am-12pm Jumble sale Donation welcome Contact Jannine 07852664818 or jannineparry@yahoo.co.uk Cafe will be running with tea, coffee, cake, savoury snacks and soups
TUE 23rd April	7.00pm ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING, venue to be decided
FRI 28th June	6-8pm COUNTRYSIDE EVENING, Beck Valley
SAT 29th June	Classic vehicle Show

### **IAN HARRIS**

‘Pam Harris and family would like to thank the people who packed Rumburgh Church to overflowing for Ian’s funeral. The collection, which has exceeded £2700, will be shared between Rumburgh Church and the OPA for oesophageal cancer, from which he recovered some years ago. Ian never retired but continued to work at Corner Farm and was on his tractor up to the day he died. It was Ian’s wish that he be taken to church on his little grey Ferguson and carried by family members. Always a family and community man, he devoted much of his time to Rumburgh church and was an enthusiastic bell ringer.

Please accept this as the only acknowledgement for the flowers, cards and letters as they are too numerous to answer. A thousand thanks.’

### **HOMERSFIELD**

We’ve taken a battering over the last few weeks from the wind and rain, the marshes are looking like lakes again. A very large part of a tree has been blown down in Church Wood, it had been home to hornets for the last two years. A happy band of ladies decorated the Church in December ready for the Carol Service and it looked beautiful.



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## **Homersfield continued...**

The service was well attended and we welcomed The Saints Choir which boosted our singing no end!

We send our sincere condolences to Debbie Bird as her devoted husband Ray passed away on Boxing Day. They were a familiar sight strolling round the village, unblocking drains on the verges. He will be greatly missed.

We also send our condolences to Yvette Plumb and her sons and their families after losing Mac. I remember him holding discos in The Iron Room at St. Cross, with his Elvis hair style, very impressive, back in the day. Homersfield Parish Council recently donated £100 to Bungay Community First Responders, for which they were extremely grateful. On Saturday 25th November three of us: Sally, Mark and Sarah planted over twenty young hornbeam trees, which had been donated to Homersfield, along with some self-sown hazel which we also planted that morning. Since then, the rains have helped these young plants to settle into the wood. Thanks to Sally for her help planting them as it involved clearing bramble, fallen wood and nettles before digging them in and protecting them with guards.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2024.

## **ST CROSS**

Happy New Year to all in St Cross.

### **WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE...**

The almost non-stop rain has been one of the dominating topics of recent months. The river, and more locally the Beck, fills and overflow with each period of sustained rainfall and with saturated land and full ditches, the water has nowhere to go and so we have flooded areas. The most significant areas within the village are the corner by The Blacksmith's Workshop and the bottom of the hill on Sandy Lane.

Parish Councillors met with County Councillor Judy Cloke on 24th November. During a site visit the issues were explained and following the meeting reported (again) to Highways. We await the Highways engineer's report.

During the most recent flooding, a car was stranded in the water on Sandy Lane. Two fire engines and an ambulance attended. Thanks are extended to Leon for the help he gave during this incident.

## Monthly Flower Arranging Workshops

First Tuesday of the month  
10.00am until 3.00pm

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## **St Cross continued...**

Once again, David Hill has been out clearing drains and keeping water flowing away from the roads. Thank you once more, David.

## **TAKE CARE!**

If you're using the footpath in the field below St George's church on the stretch between the footbridge and the gate to the Beck meadow, please watch out for the large sink hole which has appeared. The landowner has been informed and action is in train, but please watch out!

## **MICHAEL PEARCE 'BASKEY'**

Suddenly passed away 26/1123.

Thelma and family would like to thank everyone who supported them through this sad time. Thank you for all the cards and flowers. Thanks too to David for being the best friend and boss and being there to support Mick to the end. Thank you to Phillip for the lovely words in church, about Baskey's life. Special thanks to Laura and Karl for all they have done. We would like to wish everyone a happy healthy New Year 2024.

## **FLIXTON**

For Input please contact Pete Madder-Smith on 896828

Happy New Year to readers. Let's hope that 2024 brings us all a slightly less waterlogged year than 2023. We're just starting into the deeper part of Winter, so it's time to look out for neighbours who might just need a hand.

## **"Flixton Fly-tippers"**

I didn't realise that it was cheaper to cancel a green bin to save money, but then risk a £1,000 fine for fly tipping. It's an interesting approach to life and to the community. Don't use a green bin, just dump it in your own village! Well of course that's not normal behaviour and, as I've said before, we have a good band of residents who try to improve our village and then we have a small number who just don't care. There is always a struggle getting Suffolk County Council to fulfill their statutory duties keeping the verges clear, particularly along Church Road. That's why it's so disappointing to see unsightly garden waste piled up there. Underneath some resident's detritus are some daffodil bulbs which the village planted to try and make the place look a little better.

## **NICK HARRISON**

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# Church Services

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

28/01/24	Holy Communion	10.00am	St James
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	St Margaret SE
04/02/24	Holy Communion	10.00am	Ilk St Margaret
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	St Peter
11/02/24	Holy Communion	10.00am	Flixton
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Rumburgh
18/02/24	Holy Communion	10.00am	Homersfield
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Ilk St John
25/02/24	Holy Communion	10.00am	Ilk St Margaret
03/03/24	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Peter
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Ilk St Margaret
10/03/24	Mothering Sunday		
	Holy Communion	10.00am	Rumburgh
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Flixton
17/03/24	Holy Communion	10.00am	Ilk St John
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Homersfield
24/03/24	Holy Communion	10.00am	St James
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Ilk St Margaret
31/03/24	Easter Sunday		
	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Peter
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Ilk St Margaret

It is proposed that instead of 11 church annual meetings to have one big one.  
This will be held on 23rd APRIL at 7.00pm venue to be found

**HARLESTON CHORAL SOCIETY** - our Spring Term began on Monday 8th January 2024, but it's not too late to join us. We're rehearsing Saint-Saëns Requiem and Dvořák Mass in D Major for our Summer Concert on 29th June 2024. We welcome everyone – especially Altos, Tenors and Basses - even if you've never sung in a choir before. There are no auditions and music is provided free. Practices are on a Monday evening 7.30 pm- 9.30 pm, in The London Road Church, Harleston IP20 9BH. Parking is available in The Original Factory Shop (TOFS), almost opposite the church. Further information about the choir is on our website [www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk](http://www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk) or from Stella Brownsea at [heidihouse@btinternet.com](mailto:heidihouse@btinternet.com)

**HARLESTON & DISTRICT U3A** welcomes you to our monthly talk, The Silk Roads Cities of Uzbekistan, on Wednesday 21st February at 2.00 pm in St John's Church, Harleston IP20 9AZ. It will be given by Pat Alker, based on her wide travels in that area, with lots of photos of the stunning architecture and with reference to the current revival of the concept of linking Europe with the Far East, and – as she says – ‘with all places in between’. Further information about this and all Harleston & District u3a's activities is on our website [www.u3asites.org.uk/harleston](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/harleston) or by contacting Kim Poulton on 01986 788149.

### **WORTWELL BOWLS CLUB**

Our club is situated alongside the Wortwell Community Centre.

We play from April to September, on Monday afternoons and Wednesday evenings.

We are a friendly, welcoming club. If you would like to come and give bowls a try why not get in touch, no previous experience required.

For more details contact Phil Poulton,  
01986 788149 or [philpoulton5@gmail.com](mailto:philpoulton5@gmail.com)

**Wortwell Bowls Club Open Day:** Sunday 7th April from 2.00 pm

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## **Flixton continued...**

Why on earth do people actively make things worse? And why on earth don't they understand that garden waste is still classed as fly tipping when disposed of in this way?

So, there's an opportunity now to stop the practice, avoid embarrassment plus a possible fine. I believe the opportunity should be grasped while it can be.

## **FLIXTON VILLAGE : FROM LIN AT NO. 3 CHURCH ROAD**

First of all Happy New Year to you all and welcome to all the new residents to the village. A meeting has been arranged for 15.02.24 at 7pm in the Adair Room at the Buck Inn, thanks to Linda and Gary. It would be great to support them and their staff for all their hard work. The meeting is around any issues that you would like to raise, especially regarding the drains and the flooding, following on from what Pete Madder-Smith reported in the last edition of the Community News regarding the state of the drains. I also would like to arrange quarterly dates for not only litter picks but cleaning the village and any other ideas you would like to discuss, which I will add to the agenda.

I have to thank those of you who have in this awful weather, avidly cleaned the drains to help the water away. It would be great if we could all come together in a steering group to support the village and should any of you wish to volunteer to be more involved in waking our sleepy village up, this would be the best opportunity to do so.

If anyone has any issues they wish to raise on the night, please do not hesitate to contact me at [linsmith@btinternet.com](mailto:linsmith@btinternet.com) to add these to the agenda, no later than 10.02.24.

I hope to see you all brimming with ideas and issues that we can look at and organise between us all.

## **THE BUCK**

After a busy time in the lead up to Christmas, we normally expect things to slow down, but the Buck will be presenting Fiona Harber of Harber Lights on the 19th of January. Although a trained opera singer, Fiona covers a variety of styles for all musical tastes. Steven Treadaway will be at the Buck on the 25th (don't ask me how I know... it's just a talent of mine).

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## **Flixton continued...**

Valentines week begins on the 14th of February so look out for the special menus and afternoon teas.

Other events being considered are games nights, cash bingo and poker (Las Flixton?) and a table top sale. So watch the pub notice board for further key dates.

## **FLIXTON 100 CLUB**

November

1st	Stuart Tilbury	62
2nd.	Malcolm Mckinnon	75
3rd.	Trixie Garrod	59

December

1st.	Lynda Lee	12
2nd	Terry Stewart.	42
3rd.	Max Doughty	91

## **ST JAMES**

### **CHURCH NEWS**

A big thank you to all who helped and/or attended our carol service in December. What a magical evening! The walk from the village hall to the church, under a starry sky, singing carols, the sound of the organ softly playing as we approached the church and then part of the service in just candlelight. A warm meeting of friends and neighbours with hot drinks and refreshments to follow, while we caught up with the news. What better way to celebrate Christmas.

### **HALL AND VILLAGE NEWS**

The Fiftieth anniversary of the hall's opening was celebrated with a music event, thanks to the Soul Alliance, returning with their popular music sound on the 17th and tea and judging of the photo competition on the 18th. Many villagers and friends attended both events and their success were due to the many helpers who put in time and effort. Thanks to all of them. The village hall committee will hold a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING in the hall at 7pm on 24th Jan to discuss the future of the village hall. As we are now a very small committee, we need ideas from others for which events to hold in order to bring the community together again after the pandemic years.

The Hall, being the only communal indoor space in the village, is used as: A polling station, Sports venue, Social hub for the Coffee caravan, Venue for music events, theatre productions, first-aid workshops etc. Preparation hub for outside events, such as Jubilee and Coronation days, as well as summer lunches, and BBQs.

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## **NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK AVIATION MUSEUM**

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and every Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday From 10am to 4pm.

The Museum offers private viewings during the whole of the year.  
Further details can be obtained by calling our  
manager Gary on 01986 896644

### **St James continued....**

Weekend base for Duke of Edinburgh activities. Private hire for celebrations, wakes, public amenities for parking etc for Ramblers groups and others. Defibrillator station.

Please come along and share your ideas with us on the 24th. We will not be asking you to commit to anything, simply to share your ideas for how to provide what the residents would like to see happening at your hall and how to fund it so it can remain open long into the future.

All our usual sport sessions continue through the winter- Badminton, Table Tennis and Pilates. For details, please contact Caroline on 01986 782545. Harriet has space in her Tuesday and Thursday Pilates classes, for details contact her on 07583446129 for information.

Any private bookings, please contact: Lynda on 782582

### **OTHER VILLAGE NEWS**

In December a group of residents decided to organize a Christmas lunch event which proved very popular. They would like to say a very big thank you to all who helped and supported the lunch with their generosity and good cheer. The children enjoyed games and the raffle was well supported. The sum of £461 was raised for village hall funds.

### **OPEN GARDEN. 25th FEB**

Jane Bastow's garden at the Laburnums will be open again on Sunday, 25th February, between 11am and 4pm for snowdrops, hellebores and other early gems. Adults £4, children 50p in aid of local charities.

Whatever the weather, come and enjoy the garden, along with hot drinks, cakes, hot soup and crusty bread (GF available)

### **ST JAMES VILLAGE GREEN**

In November 2019 we suggested to East Suffolk Council (ESC) that they give the field they owned to the west of St James Lane, between the Village Hall and Sheet Field Wood, to St James. This would save them the cost of maintaining it (usually done by us anyway) and enable us to look after and improve it for the benefit of the village.

In August 2020 ESC offered the freehold to St James at no charge and in November with ESC Cabinet approval work on the transfer contract began.



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## **St James continued...**

In June 2021 our Parish Meeting AGM agreed that the field would be a significant new asset for the village and voted unanimously to proceed with transferring ownership when terms were agreed. The field would be known as The St James Village Green.

The COVID epidemic rather slowed the process, and some unexpected legal issues had to be dealt with. One was the need for our Parish Meeting formally to acquire the power to own land. This was achieved in January 2023 when, under the Common Seal of East Suffolk Council, ESC conferred on St James South Elmham Parish Meeting “the function of a parish council to acquire and hold land for the purposes of general community use”.

Finally, on 18th December 2023 the legal transfer was completed and the land for the St James Village Green became “ours”. [The St James South Elmham Parish Meeting comprises all electors of the parish].

Meanwhile, we have begun work on developing and using the Green, helped by a grant from The National Lottery Fund. This included using it for our two recent major celebrations: the Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and the Coronation Celebration last year. We were successful in bidding for a Jubilee Oak from ESC for the Jubilee event which was planted in 2022 at the head of the Green, and at the end of last year we were given 500 daffodil bulbs by ESC which have been planted in various places around the Green. We have also removed the large mound of dangerous waste in the NW corner and re-seeded the area. Our thanks to all who have helped in these activities. More improvements, facilities and events will come in 2024. Our new Village Green is already becoming part of St James village life.

## **ST PETER**

The excitement of Christmas, New Year and the bins being collected on different days has died away now and at the time of writing we are getting something more like winter weather. Hopefully this dry period will continue for a while and let the water from the mild wet and stormy period get away. It's a sad farewell to Martin and Lisa with best wishes for the future but a warm welcome to Beth, Ben and Wilf at Willowdykes Barn. Good luck in your new home. It seems quite a long while since January 2010, which is when I wrote my first community news entry.

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### **St Peter continued...**

If there is more than 1 applicant, we could hold a selection process. I was thinking of musical chairs.

Mrs Correspondent and I missed out on the village Christmas meal as we were away. I understand a fine time was had up at The Hall with much merry making.

The carol service this year was well attended and we were ably assisted by a choir and saxophonist. Thanks to all who made the church ready, provided the refreshments and did the readings.

The 49 club has all gone the way of the church for the last 2 months as the numbers had not been issued. The unissued numbers could be yours for a small payment in aid of church funds. Please speak to Pamela.

By the time of the next edition, we will hopefully be seeing the first signs of spring and the promise of the summer to come. There will hopefully also be news of the annual boules tournament, so start exercising those throwing arms. A Happy New Year to all.

### **FUN QUIZ**

raising funds for BUNGAY FIRST RESPONDERS and St Andrews Church  
Thank you to the contestants and participants in the FunQuiz held at St Andrew's village hall on Friday 12th January for raising over £1100 for Bungay First Responders and St Andrews church. Many thanks to Gerald and Sue Godfrey for catering etc. also to Bridget Ellis for stepping in at the last moment to ask the questions and keep order. The winners of this amusing evening were Lovewell-Blake.

### **SOUTH ELMHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

Thursday 29th February - "The Real Basil Brown" by Sarah Doig

Thursday 28th March - John Rainer will talk about the Use of Lidar to interpret the landscape

Everyone is most welcome to our meetings, you do not have to be a member to attend. Our meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month  
in St Margaret South Elmham  
Village Hall IP20 0PJ at 7.30pm

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## Christmas - The Aftermath

Well, Father Christmas has gone back to the North Pole,  
And the reindeer are, once again, on the dole,  
And I don't want to eat mince pies anymore,  
At least until December 2024.

The bins are full of the paper and mess,  
When they'll get emptied is anyones guess,  
I just copy my neighbours, they know what to do,  
They know the right day and whether it's black or it's blue.

These strong winds and rains have caused a right hullabaloo,  
I think I may exchange my car for a canoe!

The new calenders and diaries have all been filled in  
And whatever the new year brings we'll take it on the chin!  
So, for now, close the curtains, make up the fire,  
And sit back and dream of what may transpire.

A happy and healthy New Year to you all  
Sally REMBLANCE ( Homersfields Pam Ayes)



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