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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

ISSUE NO. 248

JUNE - JULY 2025

FLIXTON

**SADLY BUCK CLOSES
SOLAR FARM PLANNED**

ST MARGARET

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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

June - July '25

Editor:

Phillip Kidner, Red House Farm, St Margaret South Elmham,
Harleston, Norfolk, IP20 0PJ, Tel: 01986 782289

Treasurer:

Jess Rawlin, White House, Margaret South Elmham,
Harleston, Norfolk, IP20 0PJ, Tel: 01986 783891

Village Representatives:

Homersfield	Sally Remblance	01987788947
Flixton	Peter Madder-Smith	01986 896828
St Peter	Jeremy Donaldson	jezdonaldson@gmail.com
St Margaret	Phillip Kidner	01986 782289
St James	Lynda Bradley	01986 782582
St Cross	Libby French Mullen	01986 782230
	Ian Noakes	01986 782292

**Thank you to those who send contributions, they help keep this
magazine going and FREE to over 400 households.**

NEXT COPY DEADLINE JULY 7TH

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

EDITORIAL

Sadly the President of the USA is still causing mayhem on several fronts, he puts tariffs on, then he changes his mind and takes them off, but the damage is done. The factory is closed and the workforce laid off or different markets found. The worst part of all, how can you trust him as he seems to do what he likes, not unlike his Russian pal Putin, although he stays on one side while Trump jumps from one camp to another. I shouldn't want to play cards with him!

GPC www.flixton.one.net

The GPC met at Batemans Barn on 13th March 2025. County Councilor Cloke updated the meeting on the transfer of Suffolk libraries back to Suffolk C.C on 1st June. Flixton Self Help group applied for help obtaining

GPC, continued....

environmental maintenance equipment. Dates were made for the Annual Village Meetings and Mr. P. Kidner and Mr. G. Hammond were elected to serve on the St Margaret South Elmham Village Hall Committee. Cllr Warne reported on the meeting between Highways, 2 Sisters and GPC, this was held at the 2 Sisters site and involved a walk down to Flixton Village pointing out the various potholes, blocked drains and broken curbs. Next Meeting AGM Flixton 13th May 7.30pm.

MOLE

Congratulations to Lewis Flatt on completing the London Marathon, apparently, they had showers the runners could pass through. Also at St Cross congratulations to David and Ann Hill on celebrating 50 years of marriage, I think that deserves another tractor to refurbish. At St Margaret S.E congratulations to Jack Wilmot, son of resident Kerry Wilmot, on riding a winner at Cheltenham. V.E day celebrations with swing dancing (see cover), flags, food galore, V.E cake and articles of war and clothing from the time provided by Alan and Helen Tissington and outside tractors from the time resting. The Easter Trail round parts of the village, including the Beck valley, was a success although one family missed a turn and were nearly in St Cross before they realised not only that, but the dog and a daughter had gone missing fortunately all were united. Best wishes to Claire Lee on continuing recovery at All Saints. Down at Flixton the word went out that a Hurricane was coming, unfortunately some, on reading the text, were slightly alarmed as they thought it was a storm and not a fly past.

FROM THE TRACTOR CAB

After several weeks without rain the ground is hard, many plants have not grown, whilst others have flowered early due to the stress, the bees were swarming weeks earlier than normal. All these things have a knock-on effect. Although many plants may look alright now, later or in the case of trees next year, the drought may cause them to die or become susceptible to disease. The weather has helped newly fledged birds and animals get a good start, as many can cope with the cold but not wet and cold. The Kingfishers that nest in the valley have already flown the nest.



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St MARGARET S.E VILLAGE HALL

The hall is undergoing a refurbishment following the successful grant application from UKSPF Rural Business & Community Hub fund run by East Suffolk council.

St MARGARET DIARY

Fri 6th June	BOWLS 7.30
Fri 20th June	Countryside Evening, 6-8pm, Beck Valley GUN DOG Display, Vintage Tractors Waveney Bee Keepers, Antique Roadshows Robert Tilney, Woodsmen Ben Loughrill's Bespoke tables, Sally's Flowers ,Friendly Ferrets and catering by Robert Earl.
Sat 21st June	Classic Vehicle Event, 10-4pm, Beck Valley Cars, tractors, stalls, bar, teas. Entrance £5. Vehicles to book Ring Rodney 01986782409
Sat 12th July	FLIXTON AND SOUTH ELMHAM FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW, St Margaret South Elmham Village Hall. Entries Jenni Baker 01986782377
Fri 18th July	HAND BELL RINGING DEMONSTRATION Village Hall 7-8.30pm, for information 07974126902
Saturday 19th July	Village BBQ 6 - 10pm, St Margaret South Elmham Village BBQ bar, games. On the ALFIE DAY GREEN
Sunday August TBC	Afternoon tea, Redhouse Farm
Sunday Sept TBC	Harvest Lunch, Village hall

FLIXTON NEWS

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING UPDATE

The annual parish meeting was held at the village hall on Tuesday, 15th April. A summary report of the previous year was presented by Phillip Kidner, the Group Parish Council Chairman and further local village information was presented by Ken Warne, Flixton Parish Council's Chairman. Issues regarding training for use of power tools, eg a strimmer, were ongoing with SCC representatives and this was limiting the things which the Community Self Help Group could achieve. The parking problem in St Felix Rise is still being dealt with by the District Council which is aiming to reorganise the parking area where the rented garages are currently based. Although the poor condition of Grange Road had been accepted as an issue, SCC have said



J. FELTON

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Flixton continued....

they don't have the finances to address the problem which is caused by HGVs trying to pass each other. The proposed Solar Farm was discussed and how it might affect the village. The public consultation exhibition was due to be held on 16th April. It was agreed that the subject would be added to the Group Parish Annual General Meeting planned for early May.

SOLAR FARM CONSULTATION

While the proposal for a solar farm does not seem to have been received with shock and people are generally supportive of the principle, it has definitely generated a great deal of interest. The problem with a consultation exhibition is that the opportunity to clarify key points and to allay fears can easily drift into generating feelings of doubt and concern. Over many years Flixton has suffered extraordinary disruption for such a small village while gaining little or no benefit for the community, so there is a natural distrust of most things "new" and particularly when questions aren't actually answered by bill board displays and still more questions are often generated. Sadly, this appeared to be the case at the consultation exhibition in the village hall on 16th April. The problem now is, given the timescale from the proposal through to work commencing, there is little available time to address concerns and provide clear information. An opportunity has been missed. Let's hope that the presenters understood that more clear information is needed and that they keep the community advised. There seem to be some questions which would be easy to answer; how and where does the farm connect to the grid? What is the detail regarding funding available to support the local community? How can a public footpath cross within the boundary of the farm when energy security is such a key issue? Let's hope these answers arrive soon.

THE BUCK

Most people will know by now that The Buck has closed its doors, for now. Following the tragic death of Ben Doughty, his family initially had to struggle in order to open the pub within the timescales Ben had been chasing. Then for over three years they worked at keeping a very large establishment viable, providing local employment and also taking care of their own parents/grandparents at the closing years of their lives. So, all that effort takes its toll and in April, Linda and Gary decided that they needed time for their own lives. The Buck is large hospitality building sitting within a



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'Walnut Cottage - Suffolk'

Flixton continued...

small community, so it has to be a destination establishment in order to grow and survive. It certainly has the potential to earn money and employ local people.

REMEMBERING FRIENDS

Following the sad news regarding Jayne, previously of St Mary's Close, a little group of 10 residents and friends plus Sky, Jayne's little dog, gathered in Julian's Garden by the Church on Tuesday 11th February to say their goodbyes and to hear and share memories. A big thank you to Neale at the Mushroom Farm who spent time cleaning up the garden and to Margaret who made the wreath of cream and orange roses. There is also a plaque made for the bench and thanks go out to those who donated toward the cost. A little gathering for refreshments at the village hall was also an opportunity for friends to catch up on news. Thanks to Sandra and Terry for the use of the hall.

More sad news for the village was the untimely passing of Alan Mann. Alan was born in Flixton and lived in the village all his life. Alan was a quiet person, the much loved husband of Elizabeth and brother to David. Alan's funeral on Tuesday 4th March at the church and wake at the Buck attended by many from the village and surrounding area who had known him since childhood. I'm sure the friends and neighbours who knew Alan and who know Elizabeth and David's family will be holding them in their prayers and their thoughts.

TIME FOR NEW THOUGHTS

The beginning of my stellar journalistic career with the Community News was, I believe, around 20 years ago. On reflection, passing up the opportunity offered by the Sunday Times may have been a bit of a rash decision but, in the end they managed to get by without me. Sadly, the Community News had to suffer the consequence. Over recent months and years I've noticed that I've not offered the humour which used to be a regular thing for me to include and, at 75, I reckon it's time for new thoughts and better keyboard skills. I'll continue to provide Flixton's news until someone steps forward but offers to take over my role will be appreciated and fully supported by me.

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

Monthly Flower Arranging Workshops

First Tuesday of the month
10.00am until 3.00pm

St Margaret South Elmham
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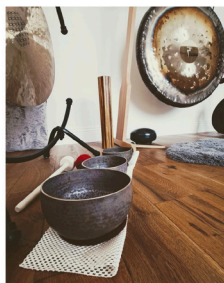
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100 CLUB WINNERS

March '25

1st	Helen Aldous	41
2nd	Elizabeth Mann	63

April '25

1st	Sue Madder-Smith	74
2nd	Lara Hunt	10

ALAN MANN

As many of you will now know, I sadly lost Alan at the beginning of February, he has been badly let down by the authorities that were supposedly caring for him. He spent many years working on the family Mushroom Farm at Flixton with his brother David and I understand he was a very good Mushroom grower!

He sadly suffered with ME for most of his life which meant he had to rest and pace his life on a daily basis - every single day!

We spent over 25 years together and Alan was a wonderful, kind, considerate, generous and very caring man, he is and will be sadly missed by us all.

ELISABETH

HOMERSFIELD

We have been blessed with some lovely warm gardening weather. The Swallows and Swifts have returned, rather hesitantly, I think as we have had a very cold spell. But the Cuckoo is back and we can hear him almost constantly in Church Wood and on the marshes. The wood is looking lighter now that some of the brambles and Alexanders have been removed, they really take over if left to spread. There is a 'bramble regrowth clearing' morning on Sunday 8th June at 10am.

The Church was beautifully decorated for Easter and the Easter Service was well attended. The lovely old wall in the Churchyard is being repaired at the moment. The playground is open and being used again.

Please put out water for hedgehogs and other creatures. They must be very thirsty at the moment. SALLY

HOMERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL - CHAIR'S END OF YEAR REPORT

It has been a busy year with some of our highlights listed below. None of this could be done without the support of Parish Councillors, our County Councillor, District Councillors, Parish Clerk, Tree Warden and volunteers.

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Church Services

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

18/05/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Peter
	Pet Service	5.00pm	St Homersfield
25/05/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Flixton
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Rumburgh
01/06/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Mchael
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St John
08/06/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Ilk St Margaret
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Margaret SE
15/06/25	Baptism	10.00am	Homersfield
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Peter
22/06/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Rumburgh
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Flixton
29/06/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Cross
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Lawrence
06/07/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St John
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St James
13/07/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Margaret SE
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Ilk St Margaret
20/07/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Peter
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Homersfield

HARLESTON CHORAL SOCIETY welcomes you to its 25th Anniversary Concert, on Saturday 28 June at 7.00 pm in Harleston Sancroft Academy. We'll be singing Carl Orff Carmina Burana with professional soloists and orchestra, and the school's choir. Further information about HCS can be found on our website www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk and from our Joint Chairs - Caroline Rodbourne at caroline@rodbourne.org.uk and Jo Curry at jo.curry@sky.com

A Garden Frenzy!

Suddenly everything's started to grow!
Hedges to cut, lawns to mow,
A garden takes so much maintaining,
Fences and sheds need more staining,
Weeds to pull, pots to fill
And to top it all...another mole hill.
But no matter how tired and fed up you're feeling
Another visit to the Garden Centre is so appealing,
Just a few more plants and a bag of peat,
Then hopefully the potting will be complete!
Until next time!

Sally Remblance (Homersfields Pam Ayes)

Homersfield continued...

Ian (Jan 2025) and Angela (March 2025) resigned from the council this year. I wish to record our thanks to them both for their contributions. We are glad that they continue to support the village in various ways. We welcomed Lynne in May 2024 and Peter in March 2025. We are most appreciative that Tony and Helen allow us to hold our meetings in the Black Swan.

CHURCH WOOD - In August we held an extra meeting to enable us to focus on making plans for Church Wood. The wood has been inspected for safety and tree surgeon work completed. Mark has organised 8 volunteer mornings - clearing brambles, pathways and planting replacement trees. A volunteer from the village has also worked extremely hard to clear the brambles outside of the organised mornings. We are moving forward with the new welcome board.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS - We have discussed six planning applications and the article 4 direction.

HOMERSFIELD PLAYING FIELD - Homersfield Community Park Charity have continued to work to re-open the Playing Field using funds from a bequeathment. The bequeathment conditions include that the charity owns the Playing Field. It has been valued and the transfer of ownership from Homersfield Parish Council to the Charity begun. Homersfield Parish Council will continue to support the charity to keep this valuable village resource open and usable.

WEBSITE DOMAIN - Following guidance, we now have a gov.uk website and a clerk's mailbox.

SOUTH NORFOLK TRACTOR RUN - In February, over 50 tractors stopped at Homersfield raising money for a Cancer charity. The organiser had not arranged for parking and some of the drivers decided to break section 34 of the Road Traffic Act and park on the village green. The ground was churned up and large ridges created by this irresponsible, inconsiderate parking.

Several villagers approached the drivers and asked for the tractors to be removed. A few were.

The organiser promised to come back after the event and 'make good' the green.

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Homersfield continued...

It is extremely sad that a charity event, which had the intention of doing good, has detrimentally affected the green in our Conservation village and upset villagers.

SCHOOL BUS BOARDING SAFETY - Further to concerns from parents in the village, 'no parking' road markings were installed by the bus shelter in July 2024. This was kindly funded by the County Council.

Homersfield Bridge Notice Board - The notice board has been repaired and re-installed. This was kindly funded by our District Council.

There have been various other discussions and activities which are all listed in the minutes. Our minutes are available on <https://homersfield-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/meetings/>

Members of the public are always welcome to attend our meetings or contact the clerk with issues or suggestions concerning the village. Her email is clerk@homersfield-pc.gov.uk. Lucy Hammond (Chair)

ST. CROSS

BIRD LIFE!

Down at South Elmham Hall, a Cattle Egret has been spotted. Whilst Little Egrets have been frequent visitors over recent years, the larger Cattle Egret has not been so visible in our locale.

Here in the village, a cuckoo was both seen and heard and then spotted flying down the Beck towards St Margaret's.

A GRAND DAY OUT!

If you fancy a wander around a beautiful 3 acre garden of trees, colourful borders and ponds to take in, then put the date in your diary when Squires Barn will be open under the National Garden Scheme. Refreshments available including a wide range of home baked cakes, with lots of seating throughout the garden. As if all that wasn't enough, there will be music from Crème Anglaise. It all makes for a lovely, local day out and all proceeds go to charity.

GARDEN OPEN at SQUIRES BARN (Under National Garden Scheme)

Sunday 29th June 11am - 4pm Entrance: £5 (children free)

THREE SAINTS PARISH COUNCIL

Three Saints Parish Council would like to thank everyone who took part in our Litter Pick last weekend (15-16th March). A total of 15 bags of

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Three Saints Parish Council continued....

rubbish were collected, with more disposed of directly into volunteers' own bins. Our vigilant dog walkers continue to be everyday heroes, helping to keep the Saints tidy. Unfortunately, some dog owners are still leaving poo bags and fouling throughout the parish – please be aware that we are monitoring this. Our thanks also go to East Suffolk Services for collecting the bags. Sally Chapman Clerk to Three Saints Parish Council

ST PETER

At the time of writing, summer appears to have arrived early, the gardens are springing to life and the swallows have returned from their winter break. Your correspondent always views the arrival of the swallows at the beginning of summer. Their song fills the heart with joy at the prospect of lazy summer days on the patio.

Our swift boxes have been mounted on the barn. We await viewings and, with luck, occupation. It's good to see swift numbers increasing in Suffolk, thanks to the efforts of certain local residents. It would be excellent if more residents joined the effort. Swift boxes typically cost £20-30 each, if you're wondering. The more expensive ones have a nicer kitchen installed, I hear. On the topic of bird life, David of this parish has reported a nesting Red-legged (aka French) Partridge nesting by his porch, which seems to have been unperturbed by painting work going on nearby. We wish it well, with its new family.

By the time you read this, the annual bric-a-brac sale at St Peter's Cottage should be complete and you will all be furnished with more tomato plants, 1980s music CDs and jigsaws than you know what to do with. Many thanks to the locals who put so much effort into making it happen, providing such a variety of wonderful plants and other items, and to those who supported our church by coming along and buying. On to next year's!

Despite our spectacular mediocrity at the game of boules, your correspondent and his teammates are looking forward to the friendly annual village boules tournament at Ilketshall St Andrew village hall on Sunday 20th July. Any level of player from beginner to seasoned expert is welcome. If you haven't entered yet, please get in touch with Tim Maycock at 07768 061 228 or email tim.maycock@btinternet.com.

The village litter pick in March was a resounding success, thanks to certain delinquents that drive through St Peter on their way from A to B. Eight bags of rubbish were collected and either recycled or disposed of.



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St Peters continued....

I wish we could return them to their original owners. Perhaps one day we shall analyse the contents more closely and figure out who they are. It can't be that difficult.

The partial solar eclipse on March 29th was observed by many in these parts. To our relief, there is still no sign of a plague in the parish. Not even a partial one. On the subject of solar, the public meeting to view plans for the proposed solar farm near Flixton was attended by several in our parish. Needless to say, there are mixed feelings about the proposal. Hopefully there is a report on our findings, elsewhere in this newsletter. Our collective alarm bells rang early on April 23rd when a Mercedes car was spotted, suspiciously parked in a field in St Peter, some distance from the road. Thankfully the vehicle disappeared without trace within a couple of hours, with no sign of any misdeed. The pitch forks have been put away and calm has returned to the parish.

The 49 club was won in both March and April by the church. Numbers are still available from Pamela Bonnett, if you're feeling lucky.

I met with Julie Hinsley, Finance & Commercial Operations Director at St Peter's Brewery recently, with a view to bringing a little brewery news to the newsletter. St Peter's Brewery celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, having been established in 1995 by John Murphy, who 'invented' the concept of branding and brand valuation, in the 1970s. Their first beer was launched the following year and they now brew 15 beers in St Peter; mainly ales and stouts. Surprisingly, alcohol-free ales are their biggest seller, now comprising 30% of their sales. How the world has changed! Unlike many organisations these days, they invest in staff development, often hiring 18 year-olds from the local area and retaining them for many years. **They offer a 10% discount in their brewery shop for anyone showing a copy of the South Elmham Community News (this newsletter) when making a purchase.** What's not to like? We wish everyone across the Saints an enjoyable and relaxing summer

ST JAMES

CHURCH NEWS

On Sunday 4th May, we in St. James held a day of remembrance and celebration for the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Starting with a church service in the morning at which "our soldiers" were on parade sitting

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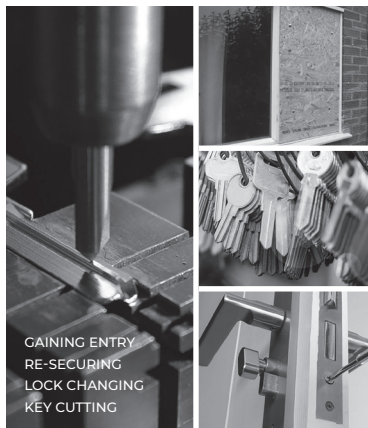
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among the congregation, who attended in large numbers, an afternoon tea in the front of the church followed. Despite being a bit chilly a good number of people attended and had a very enjoyable time. A donation pot on the refreshments table raised £125 for The Royal British Legion.

Flowers and the Union Jack were laid on the war grave at the back of the church to honour all the young men from our village who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The PCC would like to thank all the people who helped to clean and decorate the church, making it a very peaceful setting for the service, and also to those who helped with the afternoon tea in any way.

Thanks especially to those who attended thus making all the work worthwhile. A very special day for the village.

HALL AND VILLAGE NEWS

In March, the music evening with Paddy's Legs band was very successful and enjoyed by those who attended. Whirligigs will be at the hall for a Ceilidh on May 10th for what should be a fun, if energetic evening! See below for our following music event.

In April, the Crafternoon on Book -making was fully booked and a very enjoyable session. See below for the next one.

Thu 29th May	Crafternoon: Plate Painting at 2pm.
Sat 4th June	Hall AGM, at 6.30pm.
Sat 5th July	Village Summer Lunch on Village Green, weather permitting, booking essential. Helpers Needed
Mon 14th July	Crafternoon: Felt Flower Making for pots at 2pm
	Contact Ruth on Community WhatsApp or 07765790214
Sun 27th July	"Consort of one" A return of the wonderful mediaeval music concert in St James church. Also
July TBC	Crafternoon, which will be Felt Flower making. Details from Ruth Jewson on village website or see notices.
Sun 31st Aug	Picnic in the Village Orchard, Details tbc
Sat 13th Sept	Music night with Soul Alliance.
Sat 11th Oct	Quiz Night
Sat 15th Nov	Photo competition and Art and Craft Exhibition
Sun 14th Dec	Christmas Lunch.

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Saturday 17th May ----- Guild of Aviation Artists

Saturday 24th May ----- 40s Themed Day

Saturday, Sunday 14th, 15th June --- NASAM Brick Exhibition

Saturday, Sunday 19th, 20th July ----- NASAM Meccano Exhibition

Some events will have flypasts depending on weather and serviceability
Please note that the Museum will be closed to the public on Wednesday
June 4th, Saturday June 7th, and Sunday June 8th. Please see our website
for full details



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