



AUTUMN IS HERE, SEAGULLS BEHIND THE PLOUGH

SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

Issue No. 24

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2024

ST MARGARET S.E HALLOWEEN PARTY 1ST NOV

FLIXTON COMMUNITY MEETING 7TH OCT

HOMERSFIELD LITTER PICK 12TH OCT

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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

October - November 2024

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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 NOVEMBER 7TH

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

EDITORIAL

Our roads were not designed for the speed or size of vehicles that the 21st century has produced and as they are unlikely to get wider, allow a bit more time for your journey, better to get there than not at all. The days are getting shorter so make sure if you are walking or cycling that you can be seen, wear high-viz at least. Stay safe

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 Monday 8th July at 7.30pm. District Councillor Toby Hammond introduced himself to the meeting. Parking on St Felix Rise, flooding in St Cross and progress on the clearance of the Flixton dyke were all discussed.

Next meeting St Margaret S.E village Hall, 10th Sept 7.30pm

MOLE

A mighty oak branch came down across the road near the Mushroom Farm, blocking the road, whilst the other half fell between two cars in the farm's carpark. Luckily along came Robert Thurston who, chainsaw in hand, sawed into manageable lengths and the road was clear, it was left to the legendary John Thurston to clear it all up. This was storm Lillian who was also responsible for felling an ash tree in St Margaret churchyard. Thanks to Joe Hamilton for cutting the church hedges, ready for the annual sponsored Church bike ride, this started in Suffolk many years ago and is now countrywide. Thanks also to Des Gilmore for freshening up the Austin and Jean's seat at St Margaret S.E village hall, where the exterior is also getting a coat or two of paint. The Garden Party at Redhouse farm was a great success many people enjoying the glorious weather whilst eating succulent sandwiches or drinking tea with delicious cakes. At St Cross, congratulations to Claire and Chris on the early arrival of Mason, another grandchild for Tracey and David. Many thanks to Daniel Johnson for painting all 3 of our ex-telephone boxes. Goats are back at Harpsfield Flixton, it's been many years since they could be seen grazing on the verge or the verge being cut for hay for them. Rumour has it that near neighbours Dean and Emily are going to move into their house from their temporary abode, an occasion probably involving flowers. Condolences to the family on the loss of Tim Remblance of Homersfield.

FROM THE TRACTOR SEAT



Whilst combining, looking down into the crop, you see round areas of flattened crop where the deer have been laying. The swifts have mostly gone back to Africa, whilst the swallows will be here a little longer. Following the plough (see cover) feasting on the worms and other food brought up by the plough, are the seagulls in their many different sizes and shades. In attendance although not in so many numbers are starlings, rooks and jackdaws. Although the seagulls follow the plough, the others just move across the furrows. The starlings fly in the best RAF precision staying the same distance from each other and should you be lucky enough to see a large murmuration, with thousands of these birds swirling in the air, twisting and turning without hitting each other, it is amazing. Sometimes the pied wagtails turn up bobbing up and down whilst feeding. Usually a buzzard is not far away, then the other birds keep their



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From the tractor cab continued...

distance, although I did witness a young one take a rat, this was a bit heavy and they could not get more than a couple of feet off the ground, so it was dropped, the bird then landed and came back. The jackdaws are a bit more likely to do aerial acrobatics than their relations rooks and crows. Only today one appeared to free fall spiralling downwards before pulling up just before hitting the ground. As the Beck dried up the heron arrived to fish out the last few puddles, also the little egret who was a resident, but hasn't been seen until now.

St MARGARET DIARY

Sun 22nd September	Harvest Lunch, St Margaret S.E Village Hall 12.30pm. Bring your own drink
Fri 11th Oct	Bowls 7.30pm
Sat 12th Oct	Litter pick meet at the Village hall 2.00pm
Fri 1st Nov	Halloween party 6.30 pm, games Adults £5, Children free. St Margaret S.E village hall
Fri 15th Nov	BINGO, Village hall, 7.30pm, £7 entry Bring your own drink
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

ST MARGARET VILLAGE HALL

Bowls is back on 11th Oct, come along, no experience needed, all equipment provided. Also back, after about 20 years, is a Halloween party with games competition for Best Carved Pumpkin to be brought to the hall with hot dogs and jacket potatoes. BRING YOUR OWN DRINK. Also making a return is Bingo, come and try your luck.

ST PETERS

In July we held another successful boules tournament at Ilketshall St Andrews Village Hall. The weather stayed dry and we raised just over £1000 towards the upkeep of St Peters Church. Many thanks to all who took part and those who helped on the day. A month later we held our village barbe-cue. The weather once again behaved, and a good time was had by all who could make it. Thanks to all who contributed food and refreshments.



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St Peter continued...

The 49 club was won by the Ali in August and Catherine in September. Numbers are still available with proceeds going to church funds. Please speak to Pamela if you would like to take part. Speaking of the church, thanks to those who are going to take a turn at the church to welcome those taking part in the church bike ride.

My comment in the last edition about not having seen a barn owl for a long time in St Peter, must have reached the ears of the owl community. Late one evening recently a barn owl came screeching out of the darkness, scaring us half to death until we realised what it was. Sad to say I haven't seen it since.

Another new arrival in the garden is an egret. We have seen them in the area but one is now competing with the heron, moorhen and kingfisher for what remains of the fish in our pond. This, along with the Chinese water deer that seems to have taken up semi-permanent residence, means there is never a dull moment.

The chimney sweep is nearly upon us meaning the autumn is around the corner. Hopefully the weather will hold for a few weeks yet. Make the most of it as in the next edition I will be talking about Christmas.

HOMERSFIELD

We seem to have a very parched little village at the time of writing. The trees and bushes are flagging in the wood and the blackberries have shrivelled up due to lack of rain. The next "wood tidy up" is 28th September, meeting at the bench at 10.00 as usual.

A good time was had at The Black Swans Grand Fete, all sorts of interesting games and stalls.

In the Churchyard, Keith, while carrying out his voluntary maintenance, has uncovered some very interesting graves. They belong to the Poppy family, who, according to Ken Palmers book on Homersfield, lived at Heath Farm. They are directly opposite the Church porch near the fence and worth a look. It's hard to believe that they had been completely covered with soil and grass over the years.

The next village litter pick is on October 12th, meeting on The Green at 10 o'clock.



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ST JAMES

CHURCH NEWS

On Sunday 28th July at 2.30pm there will be a concert of Early Music played on a range of historic instruments, using the magic of modern live-looping technology.

Lizzie will be bringing to St James the expertise she has gained as resident at the Globe Theatre in London and has played for major events at Hampton Court, as well as the Tower of London. This will be a special experience, not to be missed. The church will be decorated and there will be refreshments on offer. Tickets £10 and bookable with Jane on 01986 782413 or at the door.

FLIXTON NEWS

VILLAGE MEETING

So, the next meeting is 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. Obviously there'll be some updates on training for Community Support Group members, important to ensure that community "work" is kept as safe as possible for the small army (ok, platoon) of volunteers who always show up to help improve our village

As I wrote in the last Community News, tidying up the area around and behind the old telephone kiosk may be another task to consider at the next Village Meeting.

Regarding flooding, we are now reaching the time when the potential for flooding may increase, so we may have to consider contingency options if the Environment Agency do not complete their work. The dyke along The Street is well overgrown and there is some concern that the vegetation will eventually collapse into the stream, raising the height of the riverbed. Latest feedback is that the Environment Agency intend clearing the dyke this coming Autumn. Just as importantly, we have to consider what can be done to clean/clear the culvert along Church Road and to check out all road drains after the latest influx of "flying straw". The flooding which occurred a couple of winters ago in Church Road and The Street was the direct result of neglect by Environment Agency and Suffolk County Council made worse by a cavalier approach by some road haulers and farming contractors not covering their loads.

Monthly Flower Arranging Workshops

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Flixton continued....

When these meetings began, the idea was to understand what people wanted from their community. We're doing the litter pick but that has been going for several years now and the Community Speed Watch group was already up and running (but at less than 30mph), plus some public spirited individuals were doing their best to mitigate the negative effects of poor road drainage. The Parish Council has been working towards improving the grass area in St Felix Rise too. Despite all these good things, 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. Rather, we're forced to respond to things which do not ultimately benefit the village.

So, maybe the 26th will give us the opportunity to set out a few "basics" for our village and Parish Council to set our sights on.

SOUND BATHING

Lin Smith is looking at organising another evening at the village hall to enable people to wash away the stress of everyday life by immersing themselves in a world of gentle sounds. The price for the event will be £16 per person. The date is not yet arranged, so will depend on response and demand. If you are interested, contact Lin on her email at: linsmith@btinternet.com.

THE BUCK

The Buck has been enjoying some late summer extra "walk in" restaurant trade which we hope, is a sign that the pub's trade is still on the up and that families are feeling able to afford to eat out more.

There's a new Motorcycle Meet on the second Friday of each month which also looks to be a popular evening event with bikes new and old.

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

FLIXTON 100 CLUB

June			July			AUG		
1st	Laura Haylock	27	1st	Rowan Hunt	5	1st	Claire Anderson	
2nd	V. hall	95	2nd	Janice Reed	54	2nd	Alan Gall	
3rd.	Stuart Tilbury	38	3rd	Alex Howard	69	3rd	Ken Warne	

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Church Services

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

15/09/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	Ilk St John Homersfield
22/09/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	St James St Margaret SE
29/09/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	St Lawrence St Cross
6/10/24	Holy Communion Harvest	10.00am 5.00pm	St Michael Ilk St Margaret
13/10/24	Holy Communion Harvest	10.00am 5.00pm	Flixton Rumburgh
20/10/24	Holy Communion Harvest	10.00am 5.00pm	Homersfield Ilk St John
27/10/24	Holy Communion Harvest	10.00am 4.00pm	St Margaret SE St James
3/11/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 4.00pm	Ilk St Margaret St Peter
10/11/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 4.00pm	Rumburgh Flixton
17/11/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 4.00pm	Ilk St John
24/11/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 4.00pm	St James St Margaret SE
1/12/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 4.00pm	St Peter Ilk St Margaret

SOUTH ELMHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP.

Meetings are usually held on the last Thursday at St Margaret South Elmham Village Hall at 7.30pm unless otherwise advised.

Thursday 26th September - 'How Suffolk acquired its own Diocese, Bishop and Cathedral' by Roy Tricker

Thursday 31st October - 'The Princess, the Sheriff and the Gasman' - the story of Rumburgh's Manorial Records' by John Mallory Garbutt

Thursday 28th November - 'Suffolk's Ancient Woodlands' by Ben Holzer

Everyone is most welcome, you do not have to be a member to attend the meetings.

£3 on the door, £1 members including refreshments.

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Contact Details inside front cover

ST CROSS

Congratulations to Holly on the birth of lovely Arlo. And not forgetting proud grandmother, Monique.

CHURCHYARD

Comments have been made about some lovely work which has been carried out in the churchyard.

Paths have been cleared and it is looking well cared for. Visiting graves has been made easier and the whole impression is very positive.

The footpath below the churchyard leading on to the Beck meadow has also been cleared making it easy to use by walkers. Thanks to the land-owner for taking the necessary action so that this cherished path can continue to be accessed with ease.

Thanks also to Leon for his strimming around the bus shelter making it look good and providing a nice environment for children to wait for the school bus.

The Telephone Box has been repainted and is looking splendid.

The paint was provided by the Parish Council but the superb paint job was performed by Daniel Johnson. It is of course a very professional job as this is Daniel's trade, but we are very grateful that he gave his time and expertise for free.

Don't forget to peruse the shelves for a good read to while away the encroaching autumn evenings!

ST JAMES

In July the concert of Early Music held in the church, which had been turned into a colourful garden, was well attended and enjoyed by all, as were the refreshments offered in the sunshine of a summer afternoon outside. We raised just over £200 for the church. Our Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday 27th October at 4pm. This will be preceded by tea and cake (hopefully in the churchyard weather permitting) from 3pm. If the weather is not so good, then this will be in the church. Please come along and join in with the traditional Harvest hymns. If you would like to help with decorating the church for this, contact Jane on 01986 782413.

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St James continued...

As many will have seen, work has started on making the overflow field accessible for parking, as we are aware that a number of people attending the church are unable to manage the distance from the village hall.

HALL and VILLAGE

The Summer Lunch was a happy occasion, with good food and no rain. Just under thirty people spent a happy afternoon taking part in traditional races - egg and spoon, three-legged and sack races, with none taken too seriously! There was also a raffle with the most generous prizes St James has seen, which had been kindly donated. Thanks to all who worked hard to put the event together, from tent erectors to cooks and of course, for clearing it all up later.

FUTURE EVENTS

QUIZ NIGHT

This will be on Saturday 26th October at 7.30pm. Teams of up to 6 people. There will be a Ploughman included in the price of £6 per person. BYO alcohol. Raffle not to be missed.

To book, please contact Caroline on 01986 782545

MUSIC NIGHT

The Soul Alliance band will return to the hall on Saturday 9th November for a 7.30pm start. Cost only £5 per person and BYO alcohol.

If you haven't heard them before, don't miss this great night of music and dance to well-known songs. Book with Dave on 01986 783959

CHRISTMAS LUNCH.

This will take place on Sunday 8th December, so please put it into your diaries now. Always popular with friends and family. Details to follow later.

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

Thursday 12th December, 2pm - 4.30pm. A new event for St James, this will be led by an expert, with all materials and light refreshments included in the cost of £15 per person. No experience needed, just enthusiasm. Book with Ruth on 01986 783959

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Sunday 29th September

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Saturday 5th October

Aston Martin Owners Club

Wednesday 9th October

Norfolk MX5 Owners Club

Extra events are planned, please visit our website for further details There will be Flypasts at some events. All events and Flypasts are subject to weather and operational Serviceability.

St James continued....

A reminder of our first-class sporting facilities in the Hall. As well as Badminton and Table Tennis sessions, there are Pilates classes and equipment for other sports, such as Pickleball and Softball. If you would like information on any of the above sports, please contact Caroline on 782545.

NEW LOOK for the village! If you haven't seen them already, make sure you check out the progress in refurbishing our telephone kiosk and water pump in front of the Hall. This is the result of several people putting in a lot of voluntary effort to enhance the look of our village. We are especially grateful to Joseph Thurston, who spent hours removing old and broken glass, putty and fittings from the kiosk ready for sandblasting and the proper red paint. The old parish pump has had a refresh and is no longer a rusty monument but now smart in green. Whilst at it, our post box was also given the treatment.

NORFOLK & SUFFOLK AVIATION MUSEUM

Since our last article printed in the Newsletter progress has been made with respect to additional land we purchased adjacent to the existing site. 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.

We have contracted a planning consultant to assist us through the process of developing the site. There are various things that we hope to achieve as part of this process.

The section of woodland that we now own is set to become our primary car park through access just inside our existing land. This will enable us to increase car parking spaces which can get very full on busy days.

The section of meadow that we purchased adjacent to the existing site will continue to act as overflow car parking (which through the kindness of Andrew and Emma Gilham the museum has enjoyed for some time).

We also seek permission to create an exit from the site and a new car park which will allow safer access to the road as well as a one-way system that does not have cars driving through the main site where visitors are viewing the main outside aircraft display



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Norfolk & Suffolk Aviation Museum continued...

We will also be placing one of our aircraft sections on the meadow by the road as an eye-catching advert for the museum. We do not believe that this will impinge on the village.

The existing land will continue to provide blue badge and volunteer parking.

There are other developments that we are seeking to accomplish too. We plan to erect a new building on the South side of our existing site. This will then form the entrance and exit from our site to/from the new car park. It will also house the shop and NAAFI (café). The reason for needing an entrance/exit will become obvious later in this article.

The next plan is to erect a new workshop. We have always been very lucky to have skilled craftsmen and women volunteering at the museum and having a purpose-built workshop for them is important.

Aircraft were not designed to be stored outside for lengthy periods of time and would benefit greatly and last FAR longer if they were displayed inside. To that end, we seek to build a new Hangar on the north side of the site. This building will allow us to move another six or seven aircraft inside. Moving the NAAFI into the new entrance building will allow another aircraft to move inside.

Our final building project is that we seek to expand our current flight simulator building to house a new simulator.

None of these buildings will be easily visible from the road through the village, nor will the new car park, so we believe that the various projects will have no negative impact on the village.

In all the years we have been open as a museum, 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, as explained earlier in this article.

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.

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Norfolk & Suffolk Aviation Museum continued...

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 an exciting and 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. We are currently one of only two aviation museums in Britain that do not charge admission. The prices will be:

- Adult - £10.00
- Child (over 5) - £5.00
- Family (up to 2 adults, up to 3 children) - £20

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.

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 proposal 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 please drop in and ask to speak to Steve or Gary.

TRYING

I thought you might like a verse
But it's not so easy at first
But I can tell you it's hard at this stage
I'm trying but it's taking an age
I'm struggling to get the words to rhyme
It's as if all I can do is mime
The lady from Homersfield makes it look easy
So I will stop before you feel queasy.

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HARLESTON CHORAL SOCIETY

We're back singing on Monday evenings 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm in The London Road Church, Harleston IP20 9BH. Free parking is available in The Original Factory Shop (TOFS), almost opposite the church.

Come and join us, especially if you're a potential tenor! We're rehearsing Haydn's Missa Sancti Nicolai and other Christmas music (including carols, some with audience participation) in preparation for our Christmas Concert on 14th December in St John's Church, Harleston.

HARLESTON & DISTRICT U3A

Harleston & District u3a's monthly talk, on Wednesday 16th October at 2.00pm will be given by Cheryl Lewis from the East Anglian Air Ambulance charity. Cheryl will speak about a day in the life of the air ambulance service – she is EAAA's expert fund-raiser for this amazing charity, which provides life-saving critical care 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year by air and road.



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