



# SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

ISSUE No. 250

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2025

ST MARGARET S.E

OPEN DAY AT THE REVAMPED  
VILLAGE HALL

HOMERSFIELD

HENRY THE HOOVER  
HAS RETURNED

ST JAMES

QUIZ 18TH OCTOBER

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# SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

October - November '25

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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**

If like me you are bombarded by questionnaires: 'how did we do', 'how 'we'd love to know what you think of our customer service', it sends me up the wall. If every letter delivered by the Royal Mail had one of these questionnaires, nothing would be done. They are persistent, but to rub salt into the wound, even if you put useless or -2, they say 'thank you'. No one reads them or they would enquire.

## **GPC [www.flixton.one.net](http://www.flixton.one.net)**

The Grouped Parish Council met at St Margaret S.E Village Hall on Sept 9th at 7.30. District Councillor Speca explained that all details and discussions by the District Council were available to everyone by viewing the East Suffolk Planning Portal online.

## **GPC, continued....**

County Councillor Cloke introduced new Communities officer Alex Bond who gave an outline of her remit, including tackling rural isolation, promoting physical activities and protecting green spaces. The Flixton self-help group have completed their brush cutter training. At St Cross the defibrillator has been registered with the circuit.

Next meeting FLIXTON, Tuesday 11th November

## **MOLE**

Changeable weather, all four seasons in one day, and it's definitely becoming Autumn, with the damp chilly mornings and nights. 'Have you lost a calf?' 'not that I'm aware of' 'well there's one asleep on the brow at the top of Totties Hill' 'I'd better come and have a look'. Yes there was a white calf less than 24hrs old curled up asleep being watched by the finder Linda and observers Dean and Emily. With my approach it took off straight down the hill, where instead of turning right which was the direction its mother was, it turned left on to a stubble field. With myself and Dean in a car in pursuit, at one time we were doing 20mph just to keep level, having passed this rocket, Dean leaped out but narrowly missed the speeding calf, so it was back in the vehicle and foot down this time, he leapt out like a cross between an Allblack winger and John Wayne, just catching its back leg enough for it to fall over before we had grabbed it, deposited it into the car and take it back to its anxious mother. The garden party at Redhouse Farm was competing with a similar event at the other village of similar name. This did not distract our regulars, many came to try the cakes, sandwiches and other homemade delights on the laden tables. They bought raffle tickets and bid at the cake auction. The rain held off although it threatened. Many thanks to the many who baked, served, washed and set up and cleared and returned everything to its home. Graham and Tracy have been spending Mondays painting the outside of the village hall and now all I hear is "Tracy says!!" Condolences to the family of Pip Newbery on her passing, a wonderful character. It's not many occasions when the pall bearers come as the Blue Brothers.

## **FROM THE TRACTOR CAB**

Harvest is over and it's like turning a page from yellow stubble fields, to brown fields as the plough and cultivator till the soil. Many of the birds



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From the tractor cab, continued...

and animals have had a good breeding year, although because of the cold spring many had a bad start, the swift and swallow seem to have gone back to Africa. With the corn harvested, the cover that the hares and deer could hide in has gone and it's unusual not to see at least one deer a day, usually a muntjac or Chinese, but fallow roe or red at least once a week. Whilst ploughing, the gulls always seem to know where you are and turn up to follow helping themselves to worms as you move up the field. One or more buzzards are generally about looking for an easy meal of a worm or anything the soil turns up. Soon the bee hives will be shut for the winter apart from feeding. It won't be long before duck and geese will be migrating from the North. The horse chestnut tree leaves have already gone brown and with the temperature drop others will follow. What a year for berries, the hedge rows are laden with them, whether it's brought on by the drought, where plants prioritise their survival by creating seeds for the next generation, or something else, or does it mean we are in for a sharp winter?

## **HI RIDE AND STRIDE VOLUNTEERS**



A big THANK YOU for helping at Ride and Stride yesterday. It wouldn't have happened at St Margaret's church without you. We even had the comment from one of the visitors that St Margaret's was the best church they had visited and I'm sure your welcome (and Sue Risborough's biscuits!) was a main reason. I hope you also enjoyed your hour.

More thanks to Sue Riseborough for her help with the 'Fascinating Facts' Also well done to Phillip for raising so much money yet again and still having the energy to help clear away at the end.

Best wishes to all Sue

## **ST MARGARET SOUTH ELMHAM VILLAGE HALL**

The finishing touches are nearly done at the Village Hall, thanks to the grant from East Suffolk Council – and we'd love you to come and see the results! We're holding an Open Day on Saturday 4th October, from 10am to 3pm, and everyone is welcome to drop by and see our NEW facilities.. It's an informal day – pop in for a tea, coffee and slice of cake, have a look around and a chat. We'd also love to hear your ideas on how you would like to see the hall used more, and if you fancy helping out with the hall or future events, it's a great chance to get involved a little too.



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## **St MARGARET DIARY**

Sunday 21st Sept	Harvest Lunch, Village hall , 12 for 12.30pm. BRING YOUR OWN DRINK. TICKETS £12
Friday 26th Sept	Hand Bells, all welcome 7-8pm, Village Hall
Sunday 28th Sept	Tracy's and Gabbi's McMillian Coffee Morning Village Hall 10-12. raffle
Saturday 4th Oct	GRAND OPENING OF REFURBISHED VILLAGE HALL, 10am-3pm, ALL WELCOME
Thursday 16th Oct	Line dancing just a tester, come and try. 7.30pm VILLAGE HALL
Saturday 18th Oct	LITTER PICK meet at the hall, 2.00pm
Friday 24th Oct	BINGO, Village hall 7.30pm £7 entry, bring your own snacks and drink .To book 07974126902
Friday 31st Oct	HALLOWEEN PARTY 6.30pm Games, Best carved Pumpkin, soup and more. Adults £5 Children 13 and below free
Friday 14th Nov	FUN QUIZ 7.30 refreshments £8 bring your own drink. Teams 6 Raffle. To Book 07974126902 before 11th Nov
29th/30th Nov	CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL TBC
Sunday 14th Dec	Christmas Lunch, 12-12.30, bar, raffle and Santa £12. to book 07974125902. BEFORE 9th DEC
Sat 20th Dec	CHRISTMAS PARTY Carol service 6pm

## **HOMERSFIELD**

Church Wood is beginning to look very autumnal now and thanks to Keith there is a lovely view of the church from the wood. He's doing a brilliant job.

Good news for the church, the wall has been repaired and looks very smart also the Henry Hoover has returned from his wanderings. The police were very good, finding him and eventually returning him.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Saturday 4th Oct      volunteer morning in Church Wood 10 till 12.  
Meeting at the picnic bench.



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Homersfield continued...

- Saturday 11th Oct      village litter pick. Meeting on The Green at 10 a.m.  
Please wear gloves, litter pickers, bags and hoops  
provided.
- Sunday 19th Oct      Holy Communion Service (with coffee afterwards)  
at St. Mary's Church at 10 a.m.
- Saturday 8th Nov      volunteer morning in Church Wood 10 till 12,  
meeting at the picnic bench.
- Sunday 16th Nov      Evening Prayer Service St. Mary's Church  
Homersfield 4p.m.
- Tuesday 18th Nov      Parish Council Meeting at The Black Swan 6p.m.  
Members of the public are welcome to attend.

A kind volunteer is needed to cut Homersfield Community Park (petrol and lawnmower provided) Please contact Debbie Bird email [debbiebird@btinternet.com](mailto:debbiebird@btinternet.com) or telephone 01986788215.

There is a vacancy on Homersfield Parish Council. If you would like to make a difference to your community and want to know more, please get in touch by emailing [clerk@homersfield-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@homersfield-pc.gov.uk).

You may be interested to know that St. Mary's Church has a '59 Club', half the money is spent on prizes and half to the upkeep of the church building and churchyard. Anyone can have a number (they don't have to live in the village). It costs £5 a month and can be paid as a monthly standing order or annually by cheque or cash. If you would like to give your support by joining please get in touch with Tom Holdridge by phone 01986 788169 or email [tomholdridgeth@gmail.com](mailto:tomholdridgeth@gmail.com).

### **FLIXTON & SOUTH ELMHAM DISTRICT FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW**

The annual flower and produce show was held in St. Margaret South Elmham village hall on Saturday 12th July. After such a hot few weeks with little or no rain we did wonder how entries would go, but we need not have worried. We had a total of 35 contestants entering a total of 186 entries in the classes. Flower entries were down, but that was hardly surprising given the temperature.

## Monthly Flower Arranging Workshops

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Back by popular demand was our class in the cookery section, which was for men only. This was very competitive and won by Daniel Johnson with his butterfly buns.

Best potato entry was won by Desmond Gilmore and the collection of vegetables by Roger Webb. The best cookery exhibit went to Julie Steward, with her millionaires shortbread, and the most points in the cookery section went to Carol Garwood with 11 points. The handicraft trophy went to Mu Gurbutt with 6 points. And the floral art was awarded to Sheila Cooper with 6 points. Sadly the floral art section was down in numbers this year. Roger Webb took the vegetable trophy with 18 point and Jenni Baker took the flower trophy with 24 points. As a result of all this Roger Webb was awarded the runner up to most points with 21 points and Jenni Baker was awarded the most points in the show with 34 points.

All in all a good show, considering the season. The show has been running now for a total of at least 90 years, long may it continue. We are most grateful to those local businesses who support us by their sponsorship. If you would like to contribute in any way for next year, we would be more than happy.

## **PIP NEWBERY**

May I thank all the people who helped with the organisation and details of Pip's funeral and, of course, the congregation who came on the day. In spite of the sadness of the day you all created together a memorable and beautiful day for her family. We are very grateful.

I have heard that as a result of their work at the funeral Ian W and Rob W are to offer a couture wedding/funeral transport service. I'm sure we wish them every success.

Pip and I discussed for some time the possibility of building some cottages in part of the meadow opposite the School for young couples from the Saints. We both felt it was a tragedy that almost none of them are able to remain in the area once they leave their family homes. The Saints need their young to flourish, survive and progress.

Of course the amount that can be built on the meadow is tiny relative to need. A couple of other people have expressed interest in the idea, and I hope there will be more once the idea is developed.

There are many details to be worked out: legal, planning and funding among them.

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# Church Services

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

28/09/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Flixton
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Rumburgh
05/10/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St John
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St James
12/10/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Ilk St Margaret
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Margaret SE
19/10/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Homersfield
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Peter
26/10/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Rumburgh
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Flixton
02/11/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St James
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St John
09/11/25	Remembrance Sunday		
	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Margaret SE
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Ilk St Margaret
16/11/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Peter
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Homersfield
23/11/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Flixton
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Rumburgh
30/11/25	Advent Holy Com	10.00am	St Cross
	Advent Carols	5.00pm	St Lawrence

Sally  
Autumn

Autumn's on its way and it's been a bit wet,  
But I'm not ready to give up on summer just yet,  
I'll keep splashing around in my flip-flops for a while,  
Until socks and wellies become the necessary style.  
In the country we hang on to that summer feeling,  
But in the City shops are crammed floor to ceiling  
With Christmas stuff! I can't believe it  
In September, really? We just don't need it!  
Who wants to be shopping for Christmas gifts?  
In and out hot shops, up and down lifts,  
I really can't think of anything worse  
And neither can my little overstretched purse.

Sally REMBLANCE (HOMERSFIELDS Pam Ayes)

HARLESTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Harleston Choral Society's summer came to an end on 1st September with the start of our Autumn Term. We're nearing the end of our wonderful 25th Anniversary Year and would love you to join us. We're rehearsing for our Christmas Concert (Saturday 6th December in St John's Church, Harleston). Our programme will include a selection of Christmas music, carols - some with audience participation - and Part 1 of Handel's Messiah, plus - by choir and public demand! - the Hallelulah Chorus, all under the baton of our Music Director Justin Bindley.

Practices are on a Monday night from 7.30 - 9.30 pm, in The London Road Church, and parking is available in The Original Factory Shop (TOFS) car park opposite. So, please come and join us, you have three weeks to decide whether or not HCS is for you before fees are due - current fees are £45.00 per term (there are some concessions).

We're a friendly community choir and we welcome everyone, and although it's an advantage to be able to read music, it's not essential. There are no auditions and music is provided free. Further information about HCS can be found on our website [www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk](http://www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk) and from our Joint Chairs - [caroline@rodbourne.org.uk](mailto:caroline@rodbourne.org.uk) and Jo Curry [jo.curry@sky.com](mailto:jo.curry@sky.com)

Pip Newbery continued...

I hope to announce a meeting soon to get the ideas and, of course, objections of the local community.

Thanks again to you all, Richard Dean

## **ST JAMES CHURCH NEWS**

Harvest Festival Service will be on Sunday 5th October at 5pm. Please come and join us in singing all the favourite hymns for this lovely time of year and to enjoy the church dressed for the occasion.

The service will be followed by an afternoon tea - planned for outside if the weather is kind to us. Donations will be gratefully received for this. If you are interested in helping to decorate the church, please contact Jane on 01986 782413.

**CAROL SERVICE** Sunday 21st December. Weather permitting, we will walk from the hall singing carols and then after the service sweet and savoury refreshments with hot drinks and mulled wine will be available. The Waveney Valley Brass Ensemble will be leading the carols once again. All are welcome to join this start to Christmas.

## **HALL AND VILLAGE NEWS**

The concert of mediaeval and renaissance music in the setting of our flower decorated mediaeval church was once again very well attended. The audience then lingered in the churchyard to enjoy welcome refreshments. The Messiah sing along day on was very popular with 65 attending the day. The weather was kind, in spite of changing forecasts, so the Orchard Picnic on the 31st August, was a relaxed afternoon with more than twenty people attending and some very well-behaved dogs. The cider proved very popular, as an accompaniment to the picnics.

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

A reminder that the **MUSICAL LIFELINES** session will be repeated in the hall on the second Monday of each month. Aimed at those in later life who might enjoy a music workshop. There is no charge and there will be refreshments. If you enjoy listening to music with some company, come along and join us.

**SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER, 7.30 pm.** The popular Soul Alliance band returns to the Hall for an evening of great music. Come along to

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dance to the music or just listen, either way, a great way to spend an evening in autumn. Tickets £7.50. BYO alcohol. Book on Village WhatsApp or with Dave on 01986 783959 or 07778204113. Last minute decision, pay at the door.

SATURDAY 18th OCTOBER, 7pm. QUIZ NIGHT in the Hall. Always popular with hot meal (pizza and puddings this year) and a raffle. A donation from the proceeds will be given to the MacMillan charity.

Teams of up to 6 people and cost will be £7.50 pp. Book with Lynda on 01986 782582, Caroline on 782545 or on the Community WhatsApp. Please book by 14th Oct.

SATURDAY, 15th NOVEMBER. PHOTO COMPETITION to be judged by you in the hall between 10.30 and 4.00 p.m. Still plenty of time to take those photos now. Entries to Grange Barn (box in porch) no later than Friday 14th November. There will also be an arts and craft exhibition in the hall at the same time.

DECEMBER 14th Christmas LUNCH. Details in the next edition of this magazine.

DECEMBER 21st Carol Service in the church.

## **ST CROSS**

### **KATE'S QUESTION?**

Does anyone have any ideas on who might be the culprit in the following tale? Kate's ponies, Gethin and Nige, known collectively as 'the boys', are carefully grazed during the summer months of plentiful grass. Too much of this good stuff can have serious negative consequences for small ponies. So when the grass in their paddock is low and a little bit of supplementary feed is required, Kate uses a couple of small open mesh balls made from rubber which are filled with hay. In late August one of the hay balls went missing over night and was later found in the neighbouring stubble field. The hay was gone and the rubber structure of the mesh ball had been chewed through. Was it a deer? If not, what?

Any answers or guesses welcome!

### **SPLISH, SPLASH, SPLOSH!**

Sadly, not rainfall as we've had much too little of that! However, down at Mill Farm there has been excavation, concrete laying and electrical preparations. Watch out for the splashing when the final installation takes place!

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St Cross continued....

Don't forget to make use of your Telephone Box library as the autumn evenings draw in. There is a well curated range of books which thanks to Monique is kept neat and tidy.

## **ST PETER**

The summer is over and, as I write this, the autumn equinox is only a couple of weeks away. Rain has been falling in sheets and most of the swallows have flown, which is always a sad moment here. The wasps, having done their duty, have feasted on the produce from our plum, greengage and fig trees and are blundering drunkenly around the garden. It's nice to have their company.

Christmas came early to St Peter, as a couple from our parish (who shall remain anonymous) celebrated an early family Christmas at home. Imagine their surprise when they were regaled by Louise and Ali, with renditions of "Good King Wenceslas" and "We wish you a Merry Christmas", much to everyone's merriment.

On the subject of Christmas, the carol service at St Peter will be at 6pm on Sunday 21st December. Don't say you weren't warned.

The 49 Club was won by Karen Riffel and the church. The church has been having quite the winning streak. Numbers are still available from Pamela, if anyone would like to even the odds.

St Peters Brewery has continued its own winning streak at the 2025 World Beer Awards. Their Golden Ale won Bronze, Plum Porter won Silver and their popular Cream Stout won Gold as well as being England Country Winner. Having acquired a number of breweries in recent months and years, beers from those breweries are now available in the brewery shop at St Peters. More good reasons to take this newsletter to claim your 10% discount.

## **FLIXTON**

### **CHRIS MAC & CHARITIES**

On a lovely, hot, sunny Sunday in late July, Chris held a final charity garden party at her home in Church Road. It was a slightly less "busy" affair with a very scaled down auction but still achieved a noteworthy £760 for the Macmillan Charity. Chris had already raised another £500 previously this year in Race for Life.



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Flixton continued...

Just for the record, in the twelve years Chris has been doing her charity work she has raised very close to £26,000. Nothing short of amazing. Well done Chris.

## **NEW NEIGHBOURS**

So we have two sets of new neighbours in the village. Sue and Jim just down the road from Chris plus Alicia, Richard with children Florence and Daisy... not forgetting Bel, their new pup. Welcome to them, hoping we have new volunteers for litter picks and other village improvements.

## **ROAD DRAINS AND CULVERTS**

At the beginning of this month, we saw an SCC Highways vehicle over the road on the Buck car park, so I went over to see what was going on. The driver was Owen Camp who has replaced Hugh Healy as the area engineer. There have for some time been doubts over who is responsible for clearing the culverts in Church Road. Was it SCC Highways or the Environment Agency? It now seems that Owen has concluded that SCC do have the responsibility for keeping the culverts clear and to that end he had cleared the culvert across the road at the St Marys Close junction a couple of weeks ago. I raised the topic of the Church Rd/B1062 culvert which hasn't been cleared in the 31 years we've lived in Flixton. Owen advised that if we can get flooding evidence photos for that area, it will give him support to prioritise the cleaning work. So, if anyone has photo evidence of the bad flooding when the Environment Agency had to provide pumps, please let me or the Parish Council know. To jog your memories, the significant flooding took place on the 24th December, 2020. It affected The Buck, our house and a "new build" located near the junction of Church Road and the B1062. For the benefit and safety of our village this culvert must be cleaned.

## **VILLAGE SUPPORT**

Just another reminder, 20th September is a Village Hall workday and the 18th October is a Litter Pick morning, so ALL volunteers will be welcome. Just another reminder, 20th September is a Village Hall workday and the 18th October is a Litter Pick morning, so ALL volunteers will be welcome.

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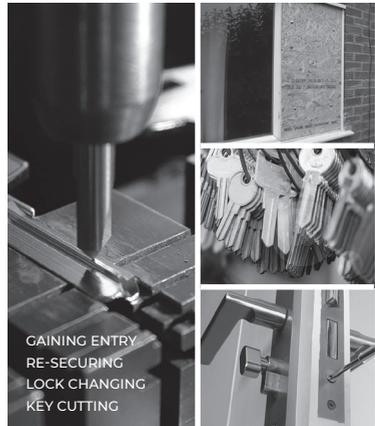
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## FLIXTON 100 CLUB

July 25

1st	Ellemay Hinsley	76
2nd	Alfie Doughty	87
3rd	Robert Clint	83

August 25

1st	Helen Haylock	42
2nd	Tedd Ely	14
3rd	Ken Warne	100

### **USAAF HERITAGE TRUST – GRANGE FARM – FLIXTON.**

Many people have been enquiring about the site behind Grange Farm, adjacent to the Two Sisters.

In 2024 the USAAF Heritage Trust was formed and is dedicated to preserving and restoring what is known as Site 4 —the most intact remaining communal site of a WWII USAAF airfield in the UK.

Following nearly two years of negotiation, the Trust has secured a lease on this historically significant site, which largely survived post-war demolition due to a meaningful personal connection between Lilian, her family and the American servicemen who were stationed here during WWII.

The goal is to restore the site as a comprehensive USAAF Heritage Centre, focusing not only on combat units but also on the full range of personnel who served at these airfields. Unlike existing museums, the vision for Site 4 includes a Living History Museum representing the stories of all those involved. This extensive project will require substantial funding and community involvement, as restoration will be phased and costly. The initial phase will secure the site and restore key buildings, with future plans involving educational events and fundraising activities.

With decades of collective experience among the Trustees, the Trust recognises the challenges ahead but remains committed to saving this unique heritage site. Support—financial or otherwise—from the public is crucial, and all contributions will go toward the site's preservation and development. Updates and information can be found on the 'USAAF Heritage Trust' Facebook group

### **DITCHINGHAM MALTINGS AND THE WALL OF FRIENDSHIP by Huby Fairhead**

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Adult £10.00 | Child 5-17 £5.00 | Family Ticket £20.00 (2 adults and 3 children)

Saturday 13th September----- Veteran Vespa Club

Sunday 14th September -----Battle of Britain Day

Some events will have flypasts depending on weather and serviceability

Private viewings can be arranged through our manager

Please see our website for full details

## Village Hall Community Hub

**Grand Opening Sat Oct 4th 10.00-15:00**

Everyone welcome to see the new features, hear our plans, and chat about the types of facilities **you** would like to see made available.

**New event - hold the date!**

December 20th - Village Christmas Party. Tickets available from October. Music and fun for all the family. **Don't miss.** See website for details.

**Available to hire**

Please spread the word - events, birthdays, meetings, small businesses, and more.

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