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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

ISSUE No. 224

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

HOMERSFIELD

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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

August - September 2021

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	Sarah Day	01986 788905 sarahday7@hotmail.com
Flixton	Peter Madder-Smith	01986 896828
St Peter	Tim & Carol Maycock	01986 782296
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 SEPTEMBER 7TH

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

EDITORIAL

Still strange times we are living in and it's very confusing as to what we are allowed to do and what is illegal. Hopefully after 19th July things may be clearer if not better.

GPC

This was held in Flixton Village Hall on 11th May at 7.30pm. The Chairman and Vice Chairmen were re-elected. The Chairman signed the Declaration of office. Newly elected County Councillor Judy Cloak was congratulated on her new post and would be following up on Flixton's missing postbox and other items. The Asset register and approval of the Annual Audit were carried out and an internal Auditor proposed and seconded.

GPC, continued...

UKpower correspondence concerning upgrades in St Margaret S.E. were discussed. River Waveney Trusts project to help people upgrade their domestic effluent facilities was also discussed. Next meeting 12th July at St Margaret S.E Village Hall.

MOLE

The weather is at best erratic - hot one moment and cold the next, then a downpour of anything up to 45mm, but 2 houses only a few hundred metres away one can be dry and the other flooded. Down at the Flixton Buck great building changes are taking place as the building is cocooned in scaffolding, whilst painters and others transform the exterior, according to former Landlord Philip Murray, he is retired and living in Wingfield feeling 5 years younger, since doing so. However he is dodging about on his David Brown making hay when the weather allows. Good Luck. Up at St Margaret S.E there was alarm as the Village Hall treasurer, seeing a pile of litter in the car park, was about to get fingerprints and DNA from the rubbish and prosecute the offenders, before being informed the 'evidence' was the result of a village litter pick awaiting pick up by NORSE. He reluctantly had to put his handcuffs away. Still in St Margaret S.E there was a wedding, yes it actually took place having been postponed several times due to Covid regulations. Claire Riseborough married Will Griffith with local 'boy' Rev Sam Lee officiating, although at one time he was doing a magic trick, fortunately neither bride or groom disappeared in a puff of smoke. CONGRATULATIONS. There was a visit from 'Up North' by former resident Jan McCarthy, who was just checking up on us, apparently up there her neighbours are sheep. Down at Homersfield Bridge, which is the oldest concrete bridge in the UK and a listed structure, the posts stopping motor vehicles from going on the bridge have rotted away. Vehicles have been driving on, why? When you can't cross? I don't know. However there is now a sign and a concrete block, until new posts are put in position.

Sadly St James have lost one of their stalwarts in Charles Rodbourne our thoughts are with the family.

Elisabeth



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FROM THE TRACTOR CAB

The wet weather and warm conditions have resulted in a massive growth in the hedges and borders, which means there has also been an increase in ticks. Be careful if you or your pet have a tick stuck in you, do not try and squeeze it out as often part is left in the skin and goes septic. Just cover the top, as that is the breathing end, with an oil or cream, petroleum jelly is very effective, as it can't then breathe it falls out. They can also spread Lyme disease a nasty disease with flu like symptoms and worse, if suspected it is suggested you seek medical help fast. With the Beck running again the Egret is back as is that flash of blue, the Kingfisher. The Cuckoo was not heard until 11th June, slightly later than normal... If you hear a barking sound at night it could be a fox but is more likely to be a Munjac deer. Sadly, several Ash trees are not looking their best, as Ash dieback ravages them and so far no resistant strains have been found. Soon maybe the combines will roll, although this is somewhat later than in previous years, as my grandfather would tell me 'there always been a harvest' but he hedged his bets by not saying when.

ST Margaret S.E DIARY rules allowing

Saturday 24th July	Village BBQ, Bar, Games, raffle and unveiling of the Alfie Day Plaque. Starts at 6pm
Saturday 7th & 21st August	Village Hall Maintenance Days, 9am to 1pm and 3pm to 7pm
Sunday 8th & 22nd August	Village Hall Maintenance Days, 9am to 1pm and 3pm to 7pm
Friday 10th September	Countryside Evening, Beck Valley, 6pm to 8pm

COUNTRYSIDE EVENING in Beck Valley, St Margaret S.E

This is now going ahead on FRIDAY 10th September between 6pm and 8pm 'Gundog display, Birds of Prey, Josh's Bees, Lowland rescue, Sally's Flowers, The Waveney River trust, Ben Loughrill's unique boards, Vintage Tractors and fresh from filming Antique roadshow, Robert Tilney. Hungry?? then try Robert Earls burgers and more...

Word Search; Icecream Flavours

M	O	T	T	O	W	R	A	R	A	B	N	D	I
A	A	Y	R	R	V	T	S	T	N	C	A	L	Y
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REESES

NEOPOLITAN

CHOCOLATE

STRAWBERRY

COTTON CANDY

COCONUT

ROCKY ROAD

COOKIE DOUGH

TIGER TAIL

GREEN TEA

HOKEY POKEY

MAPLE WALNUT

FUDGE

PECAN

BANANA

VANILLA

St Margaret Church

Sadly due to Covid the Music in the Meadow had to be cancelled, it is hoped to do it next year. Anyone wishing to help with cleaning or flowers in the church contact Judith Turland 01986782383.

St Margaret S.E Village hall

The AGM was at the end of June, officers were re-elected and a program of improvements and maintenance was agreed. These are August 10th and 11th and August 21st and 22nd in the hours of 9am to 1pm and 3am to 7pm. It is not expected for you to be there all the time but even 30 minutes would help. Help needed at the Village BBQ on the night 24th July 6pm onwards contact Sue Glazer 01986783973

A Harvest SUPPER as well as Christmas Lunch is planned, details in the next edition.

St Peter, South Elmham

Quentin Russell

We were shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden illness that affected Quentin, which resulted in his untimely death. It seems inconceivable that a man so full of life should be taken so quickly.

Quentin came from Derbyshire. He had a successful wholesale cheese business in London in the 1980s. Quentin was married to Caroline, and they have 4 children. He lived in Normandy in France for 28 years running a Chateau. Caroline and Quentin moved to St Peter 4 years ago and loved it. Quentin quickly became involved in the life of the village and the general area. He seemed to know everyone and everyone knew him. His passion was his bagpipes and life in St Peter allowed him to spend time perfecting it. It was a joy to hear the sound of the pipes carrying across the fields.

Quentin enjoyed life, people and the pub! He was a social animal who embraced family and friends with affection and fun. He always enjoyed stopping for a chat when out walking the dogs and was the life a soul of village get togethers.

He touched so many peoples' lives. Everyone who knew him will have a tale to tell. Quentin will be remembered with affection.

Our thoughts are with Caroline and the rest of the family at this difficult time.



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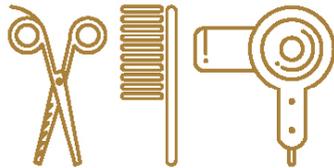


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ST JAMES

CHURCH NEWS

There was an outdoor service in St James churchyard in June on the subject of trees. It was well attended and enjoyed by adults and children. These experimental services are being held round the benefice once a month. There will be a service in the church on 18th July at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome. The churchyard wildflowers are continuing to bloom and it looks well cared for both front and back. Thanks to everyone who contributes to its upkeep.

HALL AND VILLAGE NEWS

By now, you will have received a flyer through the door with a new date for the Village BBQ. The postponement of lockdown easing, of course, meant that numbers would have been very restricted on the original date.

Just to remind you, the new date will be:

Saturday 21st August from 4pm onwards on the Green behind
the Village Hall.

No tickets needed, but it is essential that you call (or leave a message for) Jane on 01986 782413 so we have an idea of numbers. BYO alcohol, but soft drinks will be provided. There will be a Raffle. Donations always welcome.

We hope that you will all be able to come to this funded event to celebrate our return to some kind of normality, especially as we will not be holding the Christmas Lunch in December. (Just in case....)

ORCHARD & WOOD NEWS

After the wild look, the orchard meadow was left un-mown for a month, the orchard is back to its normal state with the clearing and “avenues” mown but the wild flowers and grasses left joining up the rows of trees for the rest of the summer.

The orchard crew, very ably assisted by Alex Dinsdale and his chainsaw skills, has begun to reclaim Sheet Field Wood at the south of the large field behind the Hall. The paths, which had become very over-grown and clogged with self-propagated trees, have now been widened and cleared using the orchard’s mini-tractor and flail mower.

Monthly Flower Arranging Workshops

First Tuesday of the month
10.00am until 3.00pm

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Village Hall

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flowersbyjenni@gmail.com

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Jenni Baker



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St James continued...

The central space has also been cleared of excess growth and mown and the wood is a much more accessible and pleasant place already. Thanks also to Robbie Thurston for lending his trailer and disposing of the debris, and to neighbouring residents who have offered to help with future work in the wood and the adjoining field.

CHARLES RODBOURNE

We are sad to report the recent passing of Charles Rodbourne, a resident of St James for more than fifteen years. From the moment he arrived, Charles played an active part in village life and made many friends. Always willing to help with organising village events and participating in different sports, Charles had been ill for a few years but remained interested and active for as long as possible until his illness, which he bore with remarkable courage, prevented it. He will be greatly missed not only by his family but also his many friends.

SHOTFORD BOWLS CLUB

Shotford Indoor Bowling Club, Harleston – Open Day on Saturday 4th September, 10am to 4pm. Come and see the facilities and sign up for our free coaching sessions if you are interested. No previous experience necessary. Bowls provided.

FLIXTON

DRAINS IN THE STREET

“Anyway, the drain test came on Saturday 8th May, when continuous overnight rain had resulted in huge puddles across the B1062 outside the village. Usually when that happens, I have to leave my driveway wearing a wetsuit and snorkel... but it was clear. No boating lake outside the Buck!”

That was from the last, May’s news. Maybe I wrote too soon. The 8th of July saw another deluge... and another “lake outside the Buck”. Let’s hope it was a “one off”.

NICK HARRISON

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Church Services

AT PRESENT SERVICES ARE ON ZOOM AS GATHERING ARE NOT PERMITTED.

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

01/8/21	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	Rumburgh St. Peter
08/8/21	Holy Communion Evening Prayer <i>outdoor</i>	10.00pm 5.00pm	St Cross St Michael
15/8/21	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	Flixton St John
22/8/21	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	Ilk St Margaret St James
29/08/21	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	St Margaret St Lawrence
05/09/21	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	Hommersfield St Cross
12/09/21	Holy Communion Evening Prayer <i>outdoor</i>	10.00am 5.00pm	St Peter Rumburgh



THE BUCK... PHIL MURRAY

Well, after a bit of toing and froing, Phil has left the Buck. Phil arrived in 2008, when the sudden departure of the previous landlord left a fair number of youngsters without incomes or, in some cases, homes. At that time Phil's intervention saved the day and a few jobs. He was always supportive to the youngsters who worked for him and I'm in no doubt they will remember his faith in them for many years to come.

Phil was a little unsure what the future was holding for him but I'm reliably informed that he's taken the reins of a pub near Woodbridge. So, thanks Phil and good luck for your future.

THE BUCK... BEN AND NICOLE

It's nice to know that the pub is being refurbished by Ben Doughty, a lad from our village, with the support of Nicole, Ben's partner. It takes a great deal of drive and effort to continue to run a thriving business on a daily basis, then to spend all your spare time working on the pub refurbishment. The Buck is already showing some positive signs of visible improvement and will at last be given the garden space which it always needed in order to be "family friendly". They are hoping to have something running by the end of August, with luck.

So, a warm welcome to the "new" Flixton family of Nicole, Ben, Alfie and Max. I think the arrival of this new, young energy will breathe some extra zest into our community.

CHRIS MAC... CHARITY GARDEN PARTY AND GARAGE SALE

Chris will be holding another of her Charity Garden Parties in aid of Macmillan on the 18th September from around 1.00pm. If the weather is a problem the party will adjourn to the village hall, but if all is well it will be held at her home, "Holmeside", in Church Road. This is advance news but there will be notice board information. Chris has asked for any raffle donations to help her reach her £1,000 goal.

In addition to the Garden Party, Chris and neighbour Sue are having a garage sale on the 17th July, so give them a look... you may just find a bargain!

Don't forget, if you have any news for the village let me know on 896828.

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FLIXTON 100 CLUB

JUNE 2021

1st	Marnie Brennan	45
2nd	Stuart Hunt	39
3rd	Caden Hennesey	38

MAY 2021

1st	Sue Warne	18
2nd	Douglas Stewart	53
3rd	Alan Mann	61

HOMERSFIELD

Monday 28th June guided walk-in churchyard, Church Woods and area of Homersfield

A dozen people assembled in the churchyard, hosted by the PCC and led by Mark Timms, to look at various plants and any creatures that turned up. The first things were lady's bedstraw (previously used to fill a mattress) along the paths and then the ant-lions along the edge of a garden. Everyone had the opportunity to listen to bird song, including the piercing cry of the oyster catcher circling around the lakes, get a name for the species and see plants like the wych elm in the woods. A male kestrel was watched sitting on top of a telegraph pole with its grey tail (smaller than the female). Asked about the peculiar smell in the woods, Mark explained that if it smelt of rotten meat it was the "stinkhorn" (*Phallus impudicus*) fungus. There was a small patch of hare's foot clover on the roadside and more importantly an earth star fungus was visible with its pepper potholes in the middle on the round top - this is where the spores are dispersed. Besides a grey heron and for some listening to the reed warbler and reed bunting there was a sighting of the albino robin which has been around for a few weeks.

Thanks to Mark for leading such an interesting walk and the variety of sightings.

Sarah (booking clerk)

HOMERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

WANTED – Guardian of the Phone Box

A volunteer is sought to become the first 'Guardian' of Homersfield's former Telephone Kiosk.

After many years, thanks to a grant, our iconic phone box is undergoing a refurbishment. The traditional red kiosk plays a significant part in our national heritage.

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Homersfield continued...

The local community of Homersfield chose to retain this kiosk a long time ago, therefore ensuring it can be enjoyed by generations to come.

Our aims for the refurbished phone box are:

- 1) Village History: To display varied historical information and images, outlining various pointers of interest in Homersfield and surrounding area.
- 2) Conservation: To have (changeable) pictures/notes of local flora and fauna displays according to the seasons. List of local walks. Spotters guide to birds and trees in Homersfield Wood and local area.

Homersfield sees many visitors passing through its village. If you are interested in taking on this voluntary role, then please contact Sally Chapman, Clerk to Homersfield Parish Council.

Email homersfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com. Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you.

HOMERSFIELD WOOD

Please come and help in the wood on Saturday 25th September 2021 from 10am until 12.00pm. Everyone is welcome – whether skilled or unskilled – there will be a task for you.

VILLAGE LITTER PICK

Date for your diary – Saturday 16th October 2021. Please come and help make our village litter free. Meet 10.00am on the green.

HOMERSFIELD BRIDGE

For some time vehicles have been parking and offloading on our historic 'listed' Bridge. Only cyclists and pedestrians have the 'right of way' across the bridge. Three posts have been missing for years so Homersfield Parish Council is investigating the possibility of obtaining a 'grant' to replace them. I am pleased to say that the Highways Dept. have loaned us a "No Parking on the Bridge" sign to deter vehicles from Homersfield side crossing the bridge. Mr Phillip Kidner very kindly offered and delivered an oil drum filled with concrete to act as a back stop for the sign, to prevent someone thinking about either removing the sign or driving over it will now think twice about doing so! Thank you, Phillip.

Angela. HPC Chair



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ST MARY'S CHURCH, HOMERSFIELD – WINNER SCOOPS £258.50

We were excited to present the holder of number 17 in the 59 club with winnings of £258.50. They were even more excited to receive it.

It would be good if there were more members. All current members pay by standing order, but if that is not 'your thing' then we are now accepting annual subscriptions. It costs £60 a year (£5 a month) with cheques payable to Homersfield Church.

If you would like to become part of 'the club' and have the excitement of a possible win along with the nice feeling of contributing towards the church and churchyard being insured and maintained, we would very much like to hear from you.

Please contact Tom Holdridge - tel: 01986 788169 or email: tomholdridge.th@gmail.com to arrange.

Lucy Hammond

Secretary of Homersfield Parochial Church Council

MRS MURIEL BOAST

The funeral took place of long-time resident Mrs Muriel Boast at Homersfield St Mary's church, on Monday 8th February 2021 at one o'clock. Mrs Boast formerly of Church road, moved to Harleston.

ST CROSS

It is Wimbledon fortnight at the time of writing and the Euros are coming to a close. Great times if you love sport... great time for a good book if not! Our farming community is busy preparing for harvest and hoping for some dry weather. There has been much activity both indoors and in the garden at Squires Barn in preparation for their garden opening to the public on 11th July. Stephen has been working dawn to dusk getting the garden into tip-top shape. Indoors, Ann has the oven working overtime producing all sorts of deliciousness for the refreshment stall.

Fingers crossed for the weather and a good turnout to raise money for charities supported by the National Garden Scheme. Let's see how it went....

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Contact Details inside front cover

GARDEN OPEN AT SQUIRES BARN

Stephen and Ann Mulligan held an open garden event on 11th July under the National Garden Scheme (NGS). All money made on entry and refreshments is for charities supported by the NGS. It is a real accolade to be accepted into the NGS open gardens and a testament to their flair for garden design and hard work. The garden looked stunning despite the challenging weather in the weeks leading up to the day. Stephen received many well deserved compliments about the garden from visitors.

Visitors were able to enjoy a drink and cake in the garden. There was an excellent variety of cakes which were donated by so many friends and neighbours. Safe to say, no one went hungry!

Final figures for money raised aren't available just yet, but we do know that over £1300 have been raised for charity. A fantastic achievement! Look out for the date next year.

Stephen and Anne would like to thank everyone who helped in the preparation and running of the event. So many people baked cakes, helped on the day (in the kitchen, car park, stalls) and generally made the day run smoothly. Thanks to the Debenhams for allowing their meadow to be used for parking and to Paul Debenham for preparing it for the day.

There are too many individuals to mention by name but everyone's contribution has been hugely appreciated.

As one of the volunteers on the day, I'd just like to say what a lovely community event it was. It was a great way to bring people together; we all enjoyed working together, having a natter and doing something worthwhile. Looking forward to next year!

FROM THE BECCLES AND BUNGAY JOURNAL AUG 1968, FRONT PAGE

For the first time there is to be a Flower festival at Homersfield church on Saturday 24th, Sunday 25th and Monday 26th August. Money is needed for the Fabric fund, in recent months £400 has been spent on the tower and drainage. The Rector Rev A.G Ensor has written an interesting pamphlet on the church and village, costing 3 Pence (pre-decimal). There will be a Special Evensong led by the Rector and will include choral program by the Laxfield Choir. A marquee is to be erected and will be used for serving tea and light refreshments. There will also be a Bring and Buy sale.

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THE END OF LOCK DOWN

Is the end of restrictions really in sight?
Let's hope good old Boris has got it right.

There's not much happening as we're still not quite free,
But at least things are exciting on the T.V.,
At the time of writing football's 'still coming home',
And Matt Hancock's in trouble for letting his hands roam!

At least the wildlife is doing alright,
And everyone but me has seen the Red Kite,
Otters in the Beck, ghostly birds in the wood,
Turtle Doves and Egrets in our neighbourhood.

Enjoy these light nights, get out and explore,
In six short months we'll close the curtains at 4,
There's so much to see and so much to do,
Walk in the countryside, take in the view,

Warm balmy nights, sunsets to see,
And the best bit is...this is all free!

HOMERSFIELD'S PAM AYES (SALLY REMBLANCE)

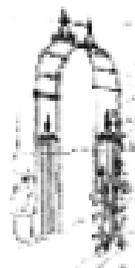
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