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QUEEN ELIZABETH 21/4/21- 8/9/22**

SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

ISSUE No. 231 OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2022

HOMERSFIELD

CHURCH ROOF FINISHED

FLIXTON

PERMISSIVE PATH

ST MARGARET S.E

TREE PLANTING

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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

October - November 2022

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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

It's been a rum time again, drought, much messing about selecting a leader and then sadly the Queen passed away. The drought was brought about from very little rain, in fact none at all, falling from the end of May until September 5th. All this time it has been scorching temperatures and dawn to dusk sunshine. Despite civic and community leaders and firemen issuing pleas not to light fires or BBQs, some did with catastrophic results. It's beggars belief that they could not see that the grass hedges and cereal crops were tinder dry and the smallest spark would ignite an inferno. Several fires were thought to have started by discarded bottles acting as magnifying glasses, whilst others were a machine striking a flint. If a fire is started that easy, why have a bonfire or is there some incriminating evidence that needs destroying.

GPC www.flixton.onesuffolk.net

The Grouped Parish Council of Flixton, St Cross and St Margaret South Elmham met at St Margaret S.E Village hall on Monday July 18th. Matters discussed included the mirror and Quarry liaison group in Flixton, UK power's progress in St Margaret and fencing off the play area in St Cross.

Next meeting September 12th at Batemans Barn, St Cross 7.30pm.

MOLE

Lovely it has rained and not before time too. St Margaret S.E BBQ on the Alfie Day Green was a much quieter gathering this year, although welly throwing and marbles can get emotive. The annual Flower and Produce show in St Margaret Village Hall was down on the vegetables, mainly due to the drought but was made up by the many cakes, jams, biscuits and photography classes, thank you to Jane Neale for providing the strawberry teas and Jenni Baker for her organisation. Jenni is, I understand, flower decorating in London for the Queens funeral. Badminton in the hall definitely is not only energetic but with unattached rackets flying through the air and shuttle cocks being headed by the participants, it gets quite noisy, cries of 'ceiling' and 'out' are heard at regular intervals. A garden party at Redhouse Farm was a lovely affair, plenty of very tasty cakes and sandwiches, there has been some concern as to whether the lawn would be cut, as it happened with the drought it did not need cutting. Up at St Cross it's house moving time as Roy and Joyce have moved on, Sally has gone to St Margaret Ilk and Maggie Flatt has moved a short distance, with Stephen and Georgie moving to her house. Already Georgie has fallen in a ditch, not, I gather, of her own choice and Stephen is back on the cigarettes, he claims he forgets his electronic substitute, odd how he remembers the fag packet and lighter. Sadly Kevin Gibbons has passed away, our sympathies to the family.

FROM THE TRACTOR CAB

The very dry weather affects many things; many of the trees and bushes shed their leaves, as the plant shuts down only keeping the plant alive, moles and other creatures find it hard to burrow, birds, bees and other insects are looking for water. It's been so dry that the electric fence that keeps the cattle in doesn't operate as it should.

Elisabeth

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From the tractor cab continued...

Although the machine is on, the ground they are standing on has no moisture in it and when they touch the fence they do not complete the circuit, we had the same trouble in 1976. Whilst hitching the front of the combine on, a nearly white bird landed not 6 foot a way, where it kept leaping up and down on a piece of cardboard, this carried on for a minute or 2, which is when this young Buzzard realised there was little nourishment in cardboard. Later as the combine and baler were working it descended onto a bale and from this vantage point dropped down on several disturbed rodents, as the baler moved across the field the buzzard moved to, flying from bale to bale. Sadly the martins, swifts and swallows have gone on their long trek to Africa. The geese and ducks can be seen at dusk and dawn migrating across the sky. The hedges are full of berries well the brambles are, but like the sloes, they are small because of the drought. Even in the garden plants, such as runner beans, have not been very prolific as although they are watered and flowering, the petals just fall off, as they struggle with the heat. Many of the birds have successfully reared more than 1 brood.

JENNI ASPLAND

A memorial service was held for Jenni Aspland, late of All Saints, in St Margaret S.E Church on September 3rd, Jenni died at the start of Covid. We heard how she had climbed out of her bedroom window in Denton to elope with Tony back to All Saints. Afterwards at the hall a large amount of photographs of hers were on display and these could be taken away.

AUDREY MAYHEW

Sadly Audrey formerly of Flixton has died and the cremation has taken place. There will be a gathering of Audrey's friends at Flixton Buck on SEPTEMBER 28th at 2PM

SUFFOLK CHURCHES RIDE AND STRIDE

Not something I had done before, but then it's not that often you see a farmer on a bike anyway, having modified the bike that had been left here a year or two ago, mudguards, reflectors and a bell. Off I go, first I called in at St Margaret to get my card signed by Bernard, then off to the church of All Saints, this is a bit off the beaten track and is approached by a small path on the edge of a field. However once there Julia marked my card, offered me a sweet, which I accepted.



J. FELTON
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Suffolke churches ride and stride continued....

Next stop St Michael's, luckily for me a storm had just passed so although the road was wet I was not. There was no one at the church, but the paperwork was a quick selfie and down the hill up to the other side to St Peter's. Another sweet and a signature and across the drome to Flixton, where although no person inside there were thermos', drinks and biscuits, another selfie and along the B1062, which to the unaccustomed rider of a bicycle I found a bit scary. Firstly with a helmet on it causes the air to whistle, thus you have trouble hearing vehicles from behind, if you wear headphones or an ipod then you have no chance and it's dangerous. Secondly there were large puddles, and maybe in my youth, I may have gone fast and whipped through, now I'm more careful as there could be a pothole under the water. Up the hill to Homersfield church and a gathering of folks, not to see me just clearing the churchyard, Sally signed the form, a drink, a few words of encouragement from Tom and away. Sally filmed my departure to prove that not only that I could ride a bike, but also in case any of my sponsors needed evidence. Up the double hills into St Cross, down the hill sharp left to St Cross church, here I encountered a couple of surprised people putting up a dog run and the lovely Caroline from St James, who like me was there to sign in, and now it's back to St Margaret to sit in the church to sign other forms. Thank you to my sponsors.

P.T.K

St MARGARET S.E DIARY

events at the VILLAGE HALL unless stated

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 25th Sept | Harvest lunch, bring your own drink, 12-12.30pm
booking vital 07974125902 |
| 14th October | Quiz Refreshments. Bring your own drink raffle.
£6 a head. Booking 07974126902 |
| 15th October | Litter pick, Village hall 2pm. Bags etc supplied |
| 12th Nov | Tree Planting Village Hall 10-4. Daniel 07584678337 |
| 18th Nov | Quiz Refreshments, Bring Your Own drink, raffle.
£6 a head. Booking 07974126902 |
| 3-4th Dec | Christmas Tree festival St Margaret Church |
| 11th Dec | Christmas lunch 12.00 – 12.30pm, £12
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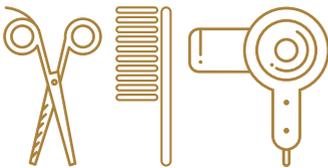
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Bring a spade. Volunteers needed for planting and ongoing tree care. Do you have space for a tree or bush on your land or garden?

Contact Daniel on 07584678337

St MARGARET SOUTH ELMHAM VILLAGE HALL

It is with reluctance that the Village Hall committee has had to increase the price of hiring the Village hall to £8 an hour for regular users and parishioners.

Thank you to Julie and Simon for the donation of a dishwasher to the hall

ST MARGARET CHURCH

The church was visited by the Archdeacon and others on what they call a Visitation. This basically means they inspect the building and check the paperwork and such procedures as Safeguarding, ramps and hearing loops are in place.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Following the success of last years, it was decided to hold another one on DECEMBER 3rd -4th. If you or your organisation would like to take part. Tel Sue 01986782244

ST JAMES

CHURCH NEWS

The Harvest Festival is being held at St James church on Sunday 25th Sept at 11 am. We hope you can join us.

HALL AND VILLAGE NEWS

The usual activities continue in the Hall – for badminton and table tennis session details, please contact Caroline Rodbourne on 01986 782545. Look out for details of future events in flyers or the next magazine.

Do you need some hardcore for a small project?

I have some to clear from my front garden. Free on collection.

The Old Post Office, Homersfield. 01986 788490.

Monthly Flower Arranging Workshops

First Tuesday of the month
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HOMERSFIELD

WELCOME TO IAN

We were pleased to welcome Ian Duffy to his first council meeting last month and very much look forward to working with him. There remains one vacancy on the Parish Council, so if you would like to help care for the village and its community then please get in touch with the Parish Clerk by emailing homersfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com.

Heritage Map on Phone-box



Do take a look (if you haven't already) at the fabulous heritage map now displayed on the back of the phone-box on the Green. It was created by Alan Irvine and paid for with a grant from County Councillor Judy Cloke (East Suffolk Council).

HOMERSFIELD COMMUNITY WILDLIFE REPORT

Some months ago, we were pleased to welcome Cathy Smith, a Community Wildlife Advisor from Suffolk Wildlife Trust to the Community Wood. We had invited her with the aim of understanding more about our wood and how to care for it. If you would like to read the very interesting report, then go to the Parish Council website <http://homersfield.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/> and select 'Our Village' from the top tabs. You will then have the option to select and view the report.

THE PLAYING FIELD

The Homersfield Playing Field Charity trustees are doing their best to close the charity with the Charities Commission so that they can pass the administration back to the Parish Council, but it is proving more difficult than first thought. Fingers crossed all is resolved soon.

VILLAGE LITTER PICK – SATURDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2022

Come along and help tidy up our village for the benefit of people and wildlife. We will be meeting on the Green at 10.00am and can provide grabbers, bags, hoops and high-vis for everyone to use. It is recommended that you wear gloves.

Wood working parties – Saturday 8th October 2022 and Saturday 26th November 2022

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Church Services

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

18/09/22	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	Ilk St John Homersfield
25/09/22	Harvest Festival Holy Communion	10.00am	St James
02/10/22	Holy Cummonion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	St Michael St Peter
09/10/22	Holy Cummonion Harvest Evening Prayer	10.00am 3.00pm 5.00pm	Flixton Ilk St Margaret Rumburgh
16/10/22	Holy Cummonion Baptism Evening Prayer	10.00am 12.00pm 5.00pm	Homersfield Flixton Ilk St John
23/10/22	Holy Cummonion	10.00am	St Margaret SE
30/10/22	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 4.00pm	St Cross Ilk St Lawrence
6/11/22	Holy Communion (memorial) Evening Prayer	10.00am 4.00pm	Ilk St Margaret St Michael
13/11/22	Remembrance Sunday Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 4.00pm	Rumburgh Flixton
20/11/22	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 4.00pm	Ilk St John Homersfield
27/11/22	Holy Communion Advent carols	10.00am 6.00pm	St James St Margaret SE

04/12/22	Holy Communion Tree Decor	10.00am 4.00pm	St Peter Ilk St Margaret
11/12/22	Holy Communion Carols	10.00am 4.00pm	Flixton Ilk St John
18/09/22	Holy Communion Carols	10.00am 6.00pm	Homersfield St James
25/12/22	Christmas Day Holy Communion	10.00am	St Margaret S.E

Dear Residents,

My name is Sonia Collins and I am the Local History Recorder for All Saints and Nicholas South Elmham and Rumburgh as part of the recorder scheme. My principal aim is to collect, observe and record what is happening today in the parish as that will become tomorrow's history. I am also keen to collect unrecorded items from the past.

If you have anything that you wish to pass onto me or if you would like to contribute to my record, photos, news of events that are taking place, or if you would like to talk to me about your memories of living in All Saints and St. Nicholas South Elmham and Rumburgh, I will be really pleased to hear from you.

The best way to contact me is via email initially. I will be out and about in the parishes and I will be getting involved in local history events organised by The Suffolk Local History Council.

If you would like to find out more about the Local History Recorder Scheme please look at The Suffolk Local History Council Web Site.

Welcome to the Suffolk Local History Website - slhc.org.uk

I look forward to hearing from you and making sure your history is recorded for future generations.

Sonia Collins

Email: sonia.k.collins@btinternet.com

Homersfield continued...

Everyone is welcome to come and help care for our wood under the careful guidance of our Tree Warden, Mark Timms. Bring hand tools if you have them. We meet at 10.00am at the picnic bench in the wood and work together for a couple of hours, but you do not have to stay for the whole time. You will be given a high-vis to wear (or bring your own).

Meeting Dates: Our next meeting is Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 6.00pm in the Black Swan.

Meeting dates/agendas etc can be found on the village notice board and, on the website, <http://homersfield.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/>
Homersfield Parish Council

ST MARY'S CHURCH, HOMERSFIELD

ROOF AND TOWER PROJECT

Hurrah – all work is finished and it looks fabulous.

Fundraising Stalls at the Black Swan Fete and Wortwell Fete

Thank you to everyone who donated bric-a-brac for our stalls or came along and bought some or had a go on our treasure map game. A special thank you to Mick and Jill for the donation of the bike. Altogether we raised £226 towards maintenance of the churchyard.

The bric-a-brac and books stall is now re-instated in the church porch, so if you are having a clear out, items can be left with Sally at 9 Glebe Cottages, Homersfield, or Lucy at Mill Cottage, Homersfield or Jo at 46 Low Road, Wortwell. Don't forget to pop into the church and have a browse.

WELCOME DAISY

It was lovely to share in the celebration of Daisy's Christening on Sunday 21st August. She was so patient and smiley – what a little bundle of joy!

CLEANING AND FLOWERS

On the Saturday before Daisy's christening a small bunch of us cleaned the church. Much debris had come down from the building works.

Thank you to all those who cleaned, to Mary for creating such beautiful flower arrangements and to Rhoda for cleaning the communion set.

Church Paths and Strimming

Thank you to David and Glenn for making the paths so much smarter by edging them. It makes such a difference. Thank you to Emma for helping Sally with strimming.

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Homersfield continued...

APPLES

The apple stall, with all donations going to the church, is back outside Mill Cottage. If you have any surplus produce you would like to add, it would be gratefully received.

LOVE YOUR CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD DAY – *10th Sept 2022*

Thank you to all those who came and helped to clean and tidy as well as 'check in' those taking part in the Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride. Several people also took the opportunity to light a candle in Remembrance of Queen Elizabeth and write a message of condolence.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday 16th October 10.00am

Sunday 20th November 4.00pm

Sunday 18th December 10.00am

Everyone is welcome.

St Mary's, Homersfield – Parochial Church Council

FLIXTON

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

This is just a brief note reflecting over 70 years of a lady's reign which helped to keep some sense of stability in a nation coming very gradually and reluctantly to terms with it's new place in a turbulent world. As with all humans, the Queen may not have always got things right but she kept her original promise to her realm right up to her final days. There will be few, if any, who have achieved as much.

THE BUCK

The Buck has had two afternoon and evening fun events. The first was a music and beer festival bringing together families, couples and youngsters to enjoy diverse music and equally diverse ales. Although sitting close to the music meant that sign language was needed at times, it was great to see and to chat with some old friends from the village.

The second event was a Caribbean inspired afternoon party with the opportunity to not only try some Caribbean food but also some very interesting cocktails.

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Flixton continued...

As a result of both events, the Buck will be bringing back a couple of the bands over the next weeks and months.

I believe I'm right in saying that there may be a series of food events aimed at giving clients a taste of recipes from around the globe. So watch the notice boards and lookout on their Facebook page for updates.

FLIXTON'S RACE TRACK

Some of us may have seen the Community Speed Watch representatives out in The Street and Church Road. They're there trying to reduce the adverse affect of vehicles speeding through the village. The problem has existed since well before our arrival in 1994 and the past efforts of the Parish Council in installing vehicle activated speed signs are beginning to wain, probably due to the reduced Police visibility across the county generally. I've carried out some speed checking myself, recording speeds in excess of 55 mph in The Street, but my presence, visibility and various gesticulations have had positive effects, albeit only for short periods of time. Clearly, the Community Speed Watch Team has it's work cut out but let's hope for some real success.

CHRIS' GARDEN PARTY

Just a late shout for Chris Mac's Macmillan garden party on the 17th September. Holmewood in Church Road is the venue, with the party beginning around lunchtime. Chris and friends always put on a lovely spread, so try not to miss this... all for a great cause. If anyone would like to donate any raffle prizes for the day, please contact Chris on 01986 892656.

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

DOG MESS

The narrow footpath from the Flixton village up to the gravel pits has seen increasing amounts of dog mess. There is definitely more since the gates to the gravel pits have been locked. New signs have been put up but unfortunately dogs can't read. Please be a good citizen and pick up after your dog. Thank you from all who walk the path.



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If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor contact The Clerk Sally Chapman by email threesaintssouthelmhampc@gmail.com or phone 07774 734411 for more information. website: <http://threesaintssouthelmham.onesuffolk.net>

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PERMISSIVE PATH

There is now a permissive path from Flixton Buck running between the 1062 and the ditch towards Flixton joining the pavement near the corner

HARLESTON AND DISTRICT u3a's

Harleston & District u3a's next talk, on 21 September at 2.00 pm in St John's Church Harleston, presented by Janette Robinson, is entitled Flora Sandes. Flora, who came from Suffolk, was just about the only Western woman to join a WW1 army, as a woman who wasn't disguised as a man. She was enrolled in the Serbian Army, became a sergeant and later a captain, and fought on the front line. Further information from Kim Poulton on 01986 788149 and on our website

ST CROSS

When the dust has finally settled (pun intended) on what will surely go down as the driest year ever in East Anglia, how will we cope with the next one and the next?

It seems that Governments of all creeds are unwilling/unable to deal with a climate crisis even though the Covid emergency brought unprecedented, if cool, worldwide cooperation.

Dicky Brown has earned himself several more Gold Stars for the excellent restoration of the village pump, not sure if it is in working order but baggy first place if the taps dry up. Dicky and David Hill have also rebuilt the village bench which Dicks father originally built when he was village blacksmith this is following on from their amazing resurrection of the bus shelter several years ago.

Many thanks to Libby for keeping an eye on the Telephone Library, she had to move very quickly recently to stop somebody from making a contribution of several rolls of wallpaper. Not sure if was no longer required in No 10 as they packed up and fled rather than discuss the matter with her!

I notice the Council have finally got round to putting one of their magic runes by the blocked (for 4 years) drain in Mendham Lane. It remains to be seen if the script fades away before they get a man round with a shovel to sort it.

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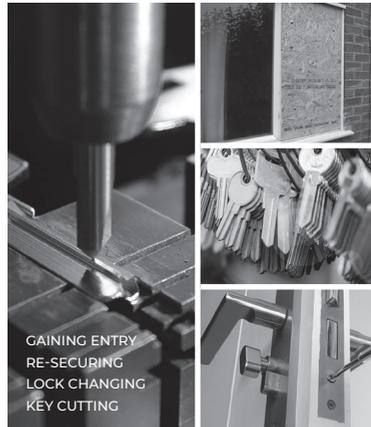
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ST PETER

You know that autumn is definitely on the way when we are making arrangements for Dave the sweep to clean the village chimneys. The way things are going with gas, oil and electricity prices I'm sure we are not alone in planning to make full use of our fire this year.

Our village barbecue was a little later this year and so some people were double booked, but a good time was had by all who managed to make it. The weather forecast promised the first rain for weeks on the day but for once we were pleased that it held off.

Following on from that you will be a little horrified to learn that our Christmas (yes, it is just around the corner) get together is in the planning stage so keep an eye on the village chat group for details in the next few weeks.

The 49 club was won in August by Louise and in September by Jez. Numbers are still available and if you would like to play, please speak to Pamela. All profits go to the church.

Speaking of the church, it is beginning to look like the plan to site a defibrillator there is progressing well. The background work is ongoing and hopefully there will be further news on this in the next few weeks.

Continuing the wildlife theme from previous editions, we have seen a blackcap warbler for the first time. These are apparently common, but not in our garden. We have also had a young blue tit that took to roosting in the roof of a covered area in our garden, even when we were sitting out there. It has recently disappeared though. We are thinking of opening an investigation into a potential bluetiticide, with Barry the Sparrowhawk as the prime suspect.

Hopefully by the time of the next community news we will have had some proper rain, maybe even enough for us to start moaning about it. Let's hope so.

SOUTH ELMHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Thursday 29th September - 'A very remote period indeed'. Discovering East Anglia's earliest humans by Rik Hoggett

Thursday 27th October - Two talks by members:

'A talk on trees' by Ben Holzer

'A talk on Inventories in South Elmham and Ilketshall' by Janet Fisher

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All meetings are held at St Margaret South Elmham Village Hall on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30pm unless otherwise advised. The entrance is £1 for members and £3 for non-members.

Including refreshments.

Everyone is most welcome; you do not have to be a member to attend.

Phew!

What a long hot summer this has been,
Not a lawnmower or hedge cutter to be seen.

For weeks it's been so hot and dry,
I'm sure I just saw a camel strolling by.

It's worrying though, the climate is changing,

Our whole lives need rearranging,
A 'change' is easy to say but hard to make,
Lifelong habits are hard to break.

We must do better for our grandchildren's sakes,
They shouldn't suffer because of our mistakes.

The weather was lovely for the children to play,
While us old 'uns' tried to hide away,
I felt like a vampire, hiding from the sun,
Creeping out at dusk to get jobs done.

While writing this, we have some rain,
It will be good to see green grass again,
It's a pity we can't store the heat in some way,
Then release it when we have enormous bills to pay.

Soon we'll be getting out the airing horse,
Washing strung around the kitchen again of course,
Wet laundry everywhere,
Steam and fabric conditioner fill the air.

Anyway, just to end this little rhyme,
I'll be 70 in a few weeks time,
But I'm not ready to accept that fact!
Mention it, at your peril, you may get smacked!

Sally REMBLANCE (HOMERSFIELDS PAM AYES)

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