



FLOODLIT ST MARGARET SOUTH ELMHAM CHURCH

SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

Issue No. 233

FEBRUARY 2023 - MARCH 2023

ST PETER BOULES TOURNAMENT IS BACK

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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

February 2023 - March 2023

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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 MARCH 7TH

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

EDITORIAL

It's all Doom and Gloom in the media at present, after all we are not huddled in bomb ruins in freezing conditions, not knowing when the next bomb shell or bullet will come, without heat, light or food. We are the lucky ones. So look on the bright side for a change, the days are getting longer the weather is milder and the bonus is it's free.

GPC www.flixton.onesuffolk.net

The Grouped Parish Council met at Flixton Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8th November. Amongst matters discussed were the Precept, UK power in St Margaret S.E, footpath to the Buck at Flixton and the proposed Pedestrian Crossing at Flixton.

GPC www.flixton.onesuffolk.net

This crossing is costing over £4000, funding has been raised from Breedon, County Cllr Judy Cloke, District Cllr David Ritches and The Grouped Parish Council. Next Meeting 8th January St Margaret S.E village hall at 7.30pm.

MOLE

The weather has been mixed, a short few days of minus temperatures, then rain and then high temperatures. It's no wonder that there are so many 'bugs' going about.

Thank you to Daniel Johnson and band who planted a mixture of hedge and trees in the parish. 60 residents and friends sat down to Christmas lunch with Turkey and all the trimmings followed by an array of sweets. Then with a twinkling of bells, Santa appeared to give the children presents, then he was off on his busy schedule with Ronnie the reindeer. Thank you to the cooks and in particular Phillip Sands for donating the rolled Turkeys. Santa and his trusty reindeer Ronnie drove through the village on a drizzly night handing out presents to the children and some deserving adults. Many thanks to Simon and Harry Murton for making the village hall car park useable. The vote for the winner of the Sam and Jean Earl Trophy for recognition of service to the village in the past year, was won by Valerie Smith for her work in persuading UK Power to upgrade the electrical network in the village. Congratulations to Bernard Duffield on celebrating his 80th birthday. At Flixton former resident Ivy Parsons passed away at the age of 95, sympathies to the family. At St Cross I hear Ian Noakes only had one wheel on his trailer, despite starting out with two.

FROM THE TRACTOR CAB

Avian flu is still rife in the bird population, many thousands of domestic birds have died and wild birds too. All domestic birds must be housed by law. This is to try to protect them. Several birds have just migrated to these shores in the first week of January, blackbirds, starling, chaffinches, robins, fieldfares, redwing and waxwing. Many come over to join the resident populations. Much depends on the weather in Europe, as it gets colder, they will leave, if as this year it's been milder many are only now coming.

Elisabeth



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Santa going through
St Margaret South Elmham

On Thursday night in the drizzle
with Ronnie the reindeer



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From the tractor cab continued...

Some like the mysterious woodcock fly over the North Sea on a full moon, quite often hit the dunes on the coast before recuperating and joining their English cousins. Hares, rabbits and deer are enjoying the mild climate as there is still greenery to eat. The Brown hare, also called European hare, is now considered naturalised as it was believed to be introduced by the Romans. Known in rural parts as a 'Sally' they differ from rabbits, they are larger with black tipped ears and they do not burrow, but shelter in 'forms', which are shallow depressions in the ground. They have been known to reach speeds of 45mph. Also, unlike rabbits they are solitary or paired, using their speed and jinking run to escape. They can produce 3 or 4 litters a year of up to 4 young called leverets. In the Spring they are often seen Boxing, which is part of the mating game.



St MARGARET S.E DIARY events at the VILLAGE HALL unless stated

10th February

QUIZ NIGHT 7.30pm, Refreshments,

Bring your own drink, £6 Booking 07974126902

10th March

QUIZ NIGHT, 7.30pm, Refreshments,

Bring your own drink, £6, Booking 07974126902

7th April

GOOD FRIDAY Easter Trail

8th May

Coronation Party to be arranged

30th June

Countryside Evening, Beck Valley

St MARGARET S.E CHURCH

The two-day Christmas tree Festival with thirteen decorated trees, strings of lights in the paths and inside the building was a lovely sight. Many people came to visit and partake of the refreshments. Thank you to all who decorated or helped. Especially Durrants who also donated their tree the church to be enjoyed for the Carol service. £552.65 was raised from this event.

There was quite a congregation for the Carol service which was privileged to have the Saints choir there to entertain, with Mulled wine and mince pies to follow.

Christmas day service was also well attended, someone had already opened their stocking from Santa as they left their new gloves behind.

J. FELTON



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CHRISTMAS PARTY

They came from far and wide to hear the music of the Blue Plate Specials and special guest Mark Flanagan and others. The hall was rocking, the lights were flashing and the music flowing. Thank you to Paul and Jude for putting on this free event. Robert Earl was also there entertaining the music goers with tales of when he was a boy whilst serving refreshments.

IN DAYS GONE BY

According to a former resident, a while ago before the traffic increased, when he was a boy, they used to play Cricket on the Alfie Day Green. Some of the fielders would be standing on the road, until the cry of 'car' would see them sprint out of harm's way, before resuming their position.

ST JAMES

CHURCH NEWS

Although the rain stopped the procession of carols from the village hall carpark to the church, a good number of people came to enjoy the service, singing our favourite carols and then enjoying refreshments and a chance to catch up with neighbours and friends. Thanks to all who decorated the church for the occasion. It looked beautiful. Also, a big thank you to those who volunteer to clean the church.

A big thank you also goes to those who volunteer their time through the year to keep the churchyard looking so well cared for. We receive a large number of favourable comments on its appearance.

If you can spare the odd hour over the year to assist with the cleaning, please contact Rachel or Jane (782413)

HALL AND VILLAGE NEWS

It may seem a little premature, but we will soon start planning for some kind of Coronation celebration in St James, probably on similar lines to our Jubilee day in 2022.

Early warning then, that we will need volunteers to help plan and execute this for the event in May.

The Jubilee was a resounding success, so we have a lot to live up to! There will be flyers coming through your doors to ask for help in the near future.



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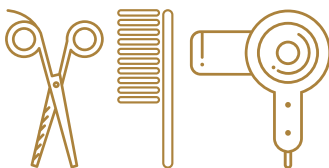
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St James continues...

The sports sessions in the Hall always welcome new members, contact Caroline for details of badminton and Table Tennis on 782545. Contact Jane for private bookings, whether for sports (we have equipment for Pickle Ball and Soft Tennis as well) or for private parties on 782413.

We have some new families in the village and some we missed arriving during the lockdowns, so a belated welcome to them all.

PILATES CLASSES

Classes are in the hall, Tuesdays 7-8pm or Thursdays 10-11am, £10 a class, all ages and abilities welcome. Pilates is a gentle yet effective way to tone, stretch and exercise the whole body, great for posture and alignment.

Anyone who is interested can contact Harriett at hbdempilates@gmail.com

SPRING OPEN GARDEN

Jane Bastow will be opening her garden at The Laburnums for charity again this spring - the 30th year that she has opened her garden.

On the 26th February from 11am - 4pm: View snowdrops and hellebores, as well as other spring flowers. There will be hot and cold refreshments, but whatever the weather, the garden has lots of shelter. Come along and support local charities. Details call 01986 782413.

ST JAMES ORCHARD

The orchard meadow had its final all-over-cut quite late this year, in fact the rather extreme during the year meant that it had significantly fewer cuts altogether.

Over the past few years, we have lost a number of the trees originally planted, some due to disease or insect attack (the latter in particular finished off all the apricots, a shame as it was one of those that gave the first fruit the orchard ever produced) and some that may not have been the best choice for the soil conditions (e.g. cherries). So, we decided to fill in the gaps with new trees in December. We added an extra Orleans Reinette apple, as this is a very popular variety with villagers, and some varieties new to the orchard – an apple Pitmaston Pineapple, a pear William's Bon Cretien and an Oullin's Gage greengage. Thanks to Alan and Jeremy for help with digging, planting, staking and fitting the tree guards.

Soon we will be looking to do the winter apple and pear pruning and rounding up the orchard volunteers to help with this.

Monthly Flower Arranging Workshops

First Tuesday of the month
10.00am until 3.00pm

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ST PETER

I have just realised it is 3 years since my celebrated 10th anniversary edition which means, according to my sometimes dubious maths, that I have been wielding the keyboard for 13 years. You will need to keep your diary free in July 2026 for the 100th edition party, unless someone wants to take the hot seat in the meantime.

After a 3 year hiatus we have decided to stage our normally annual boules tournament this year. A provisional date of Sunday 23rd July has been set and once confirmed will return to Ilketshall St Andrew village hall. It is open to all ages and all abilities are welcome. You don't even need to know the rules! All you need is a team of four to play. The event lasts all day with games played in leagues in the morning and in the afternoon, teams play a straight knockout competition. The best teams play for the cup and the not so lucky teams play for the plate, so you will all get plenty of games. There will be food and drink available and the village hall bar will be open. This really is a fun day out so why not give it a try. We hope to have the date and venue confirmed by the end of January when an email will go out to past participants with information and entry forms or alternatively please contact tim.maycock@btinternet.com or 01986 782296.

Christmas has come and gone once more. I unfortunately had to miss what was apparently an enjoyable Carol service at the church. Well done to all who helped with decorating the church and making it happen. The 49 club for December and January was won by the church as the numbers were not issued indicating that some numbers are still available. If interested, please contact Pamela.

I know I am tempting fate but at the time of writing it seems that winter lasted around 10 days this year, which happily coincided with Mrs correspondent and I having a nasty cold. From what I have heard it was just our turn as it seems to have got into most households recently. Hopefully the cold snap was enough for the flora and fauna clocks to be reset for the coming year.

Speaking of which 2023 is here. Is it just me or is 9pm the new midnight on New Year's Eve. It seems the last few years I have ended by hoping the coming year was better than the last. Seems like we've arrived at double or quits this year. Happy New Year to my reader.

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Church Services

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

**Leon Collyer will be licenced as Rector
at Flixton Church at 10.00 am on 5th February**

29/01/23	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Lawrence
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	St Cross
05/02/23	Holy Communion	10.00am	Flixton
12/02/23	Holy Communion	10.00am	Ilk St Margaret
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Rumburgh
19/02/23	Holy Communion	10.00am	Homersfield
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	St John
26/02/23	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Maragret SE
05/03/23	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Peter
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Ilk St Margaret
12/03/23	Holy Communion	10.00am	Rumburgh
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Flixton
19/03/23	Holy Communion	10.00am	St John
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Homersfield
26/03/23	Holy Communion	10.00am	St James
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Margaret SE
02/04/23	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Michael
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Ilk St Margaret
09/04/23	Easter Sunday		
	Holy Communion	10.00am	Flixton
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Rumburgh



FLIXTON

Happy New Year. Well, we've been through what was a fairly brief "Ice Age" and seem to be back to the usual East Anglia weather. I have to say that on clear days the Winter sunsets in the Waveney Valley are some of the best I've experienced. Let's hope things stay this temperate until the Spring.

For those not on fixed rate tariffs, don't forget to read your electricity meters in preparation for the rate hikes. It's quite telling when a "warm room" opens up in St Mary's Street, Bungay.

Although we live in a rural setting, safe, accessible open space is limited within the village so there is sad news regarding the walks around the "park" lake, which had been made available for responsible walkers and their dogs. The landowners have now been forced to close it because of misuse which is a great shame.

THE BUCK

One of Ben Doughty's original aims was to develop the pub with "family" in mind. This year's New Year's Eve (I suppose that's really "last year's") was very much a family event at the Buck and the staff were pleased to get personal thanks from all the parents for providing a safe enjoyable environment for all the youngsters to play in while mums and dads welcomed in 2023. Over the next couple of months there will be quiz nights (first one on 12th January - for Prostate Cancer Research), a Chinese New Year themed week from the 18th to the 22nd and Burn's Night on the 25th January. There will also be art workshops on the second Saturday of each month. Then starting in February (3rd February) a Ukelele Workshop, "No strings attached". Also Valentines Week, beginning on the 8th of February, the Mustang Car Club event on the 18th of February and there's a Murder Mystery night on the 4th of March (bring your own candlestick... in case of power cuts). So there's plenty to interest different tastes. Don't forget... watch the Buck Blackboard or Facebook Page.

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

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FLIXTON COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

The Flixton Speed watch Team has been up and running for several months now and has deployed numerous times in the village. I believe we have been effective in starting to get the message out to motorists and remind them to slow down. When you consider all roads in Flixton have 30MPH speed limits, we have caught some motorist speeding at well over 40 MPH. We all know that if a child or someone's pet steps out into the road in front of a speeding car, there is a far greater chance of causing serious injury or worse still death.

Everyone in the Flixton Community Speed watch team is a volunteer. We only operate within the village itself and in conjunction with Suffolk Police. We are looking for some new members to join our team. If anyone would be interested in joining, then please contact me. We only ask volunteers to make themselves available for an hour or two each month. You will be given all the necessary training and I can assure you it's not difficult.

The idea behind the scheme is to educate motorist to try and encourage them to keep to the speed limits because it is well known that speeding is a common cause of road collisions and affects the lives of many people in our towns and villages.

Thank you: Terry Hunt

100 CLUB

November

1st.	Tim Summerson	21
2nd.	Maureen Wigby	26
3rd	Roy Heaton	88

December

1st.	Harry Softley	4
2nd.	Dexter Wong	65
3rd.	Christine Davidson	18

ST MARY'S CHURCH, HOMERSFIELD

CHRISTMAS THANKS

Thank you to everyone who came and shared carols, mulled wine and delicious treats (baked by Sally) at our carol service. Thank you to those who gave their time to decorate the church so beautifully. A massive thank you to the Benefice Choir, who not only sang so beautifully as part of the service, but also came and sang in the Black Swan afterwards. Thank you to Tony and Helen at the Black Swan for letting us in.

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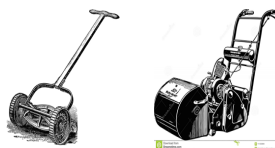
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Event days and Flypasts will be advertised in the Spring
Issue

MONTHLY WALKS

We had our first monthly walk (first Wednesday of the month) on January 4th. Ten people walked around Alburgh and Wortwell and shared a hot beverage in the church afterwards. All agreed that it was pleasant to walk with friendly company and that they would happily meet again. The next two walks will be on Wednesday 1st February and Wednesday 1st March. We meet in the church car park at 10am and everyone is welcome (including friendly dogs). The pace is steady (not too fast) and the length of walk around 2 ¼ to 3 ¼ miles.

St Mary's, Homersfield – Parochial Church Council

CHURCH WOOD VOLUNTEERS

In November volunteers began removing invasive sycamore from the slopes of Church Wood. This will give room for oak seedlings to grow and form the next generation of trees. There will be two more volunteer tasks this winter on Saturday 11 February and Saturday 4 March, starting at 10:00am and finishing at noon. All are welcome. Please bring work gloves and tools if you have them.

Happy New Year!

Well, that's Christmas over for another year,
The decorations are gone and it all looks so bare,
We've all had enough of the turkey roast,
It's back to good old beans on toast.

Another great party rocked St.Margarets Village Hall,
Music, bands and someone off the TV entertained us all!

My New Year Resolution was to have a healthier diet,
That went well for one day! I really did try it,
But someone had to finish the chocolates, that wasn't my intention,
Now there are several tins of biscuits that require my attention,
Never mind, I'll try more exercise, get some fresh air,
When I feel inclined to heave myself out of this chair!



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ST CROSS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Here are a few reasons to be cheerful as we enter a new year in a challenging world:

1. Look around... we are lucky to live in a beautiful part of the world.
 2. Our community is caring and we look out for each other.
 3. Watch out for the diverse wildlife we live amongst.... buzzards, red kites, muntjac, red, roe and chinese water deer, to mention a few.
 4. There are various activities to choose from.... village quizzing, sporting activities and a library in the Telephone Box!
- If all this isn't enough for you.....

WATER EVERYWHERE

.....but especially on the corner opposite The Blacksmiths Forge.
Following our drought and heat filled spring and summer, the rain finally arrived and with it a large accumulation of water on the road. Cars were forced onto the wrong side of the road in order to avoid the 'lake' which posed a real hazard. The accumulation of water was caused by blocked drainage. This meant the ditch filled with water which was forced into the road. Gratitude is extended to Paul and Julian who combined their stash of drainage rods and managed to clear the blockage. The problem had been reported to Suffolk Highways who arrived just in time to watch the water flowing once more in the ditch! We have however been promised action on ditch clearance which should help prevent a recurrence of this issue.

SOUTH ELMHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month at St Margaret South Elmham Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

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

Thursday 23rd February Speaker to be confirmed

Thursday 30th March 'USAAF Station Q104: Ditchingham Maltings and the Wall of Friendship' by Huby Fairhead

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HARLESTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Your friendly non-auditioning community choir is now rehearsing for our Summer Concert on 1 July, singing Haydn's Stabat Mater and Mozart Opera Choruses, Arias and Ensembles, with professional soloists Laura Morgan (Soprano), Joanna Gamble (Mezzo Soprano), David Menezes (Tenor) and Aleksi Koponen (Baritone). It's never too late to join us, and we're always looking forward to welcoming more singers, especially Tenors! Come and join us on a Monday evening 7.30 – 9.30pm in The Church at London Road in Harleston, under the direction of our Music Director Justin Bindley. For further information about all our activities go to our website www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk or contact our Chair Stella Brownsea at heidihouse@btinternet.com

HARLESTON & DISTRICT U3A

Harleston & District u3a would like to invite you to join us for our monthly talk on Wednesday 15 February, at 2.00 pm in St John's Church, Harleston. Actor David Webb will be sharing the experiences of his life as a 'Yellowcoat' in the highly successful BBC tv comedy series Hi de Hi, with insights into what happened behind the scenes. Further information about this talk and everything that Harleston & District u3a has to offer is on our website www.u3asites.org.uk/harleston or by contacting Kim Poulton on 01986 788149.

BACT VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Let me introduce you to Melita, our newest volunteer driver.

Melita contacted bact after seeing our vehicles being driven around her local area. She found the bact website and completed our online volunteer application form. A member of our team responded and invited Melita in for a chat and explanation of the role and training. As a self-confessed lover of driving, Melita was sure it was something she would enjoy. Sadly, Melita recently lost her husband and often found herself driving as a means of unwinding and for a change of scenery. She also felt lost and without purpose and in need of a reason to leave the house. She wanted to be of use in the community; meet, connect, and communicate with people.

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Bact continued...

Following her bact training and receipt of her DBS certificate, Melita was soon on the road taking her first passenger to their local GP practice. She has since met people from all walks of life, of all ages and all with a story to tell!

Having been away from the workplace for some years, Melita was lacking in confidence and felt her skills needed updating. She has been driving for bact for a couple of months and is already feeling a positive shift in her mental health and outlook.

Melita says the lifeline she offers passengers in transporting them to appointments, social events and such like, benefits her in similar ways. It has helped her during an incredibly difficult and emotional time and allowed her confidence to grow in a safe and supported environment. One of Melita's regular passengers said 'I immediately felt comfortable in Melita's company. I really enjoy travelling with her and having a chat during our journey. She is sociable and easy to get along with.'

Volunteering is known to improve self-esteem and confidence whilst providing opportunities to build relationships and make friends. It can provide people with a sense of community and purpose whilst bringing fun and happiness.

Melita confirmed this by saying 'I don't just enjoy driving for bact, I love it! I started with offering just one day per week but now I often do a bit more. It fits around my availability which works well with other commitments I have.'

"It is apparent how valuable bact services are to many in our local community and the feeling of providing a much-needed lifeline is both rewarding and satisfying." This is the message from many of our volunteer drivers.

We are keen to hear from anyone who feels they can offer some time volunteering. No amount of time is too small and there are often weekend opportunities too.

If you would like to know more about joining our friendly and committed team, please contact bact on 01986 896896

www.bactcommunitytransport.org.uk

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