

Village Voice



For the residents of **ILKETSHALL ST MARGARET** Ilketshall St. Margaret

Welcome to ISSUE 82 September to November 2026

What a summer it has been! Hot and dry with endless days of blue, cloudless skies that were determined to keep the rain away. Even though it hasn't been good for the growers amongst us, it has certainly given us plenty of opportunities to enjoy long days, good company and some wonderful times with friends and family. Once again our Village Show (and a particular wedding) was a highlight, bringing everyone together and reminding us of what makes village life so special. Community spirit, plenty of talent and, of course, lots of friendly competition! As we say goodbye to summer and look towards autumn, we can look back on a season full of happy memories, laughter and good times shared with those around us. Now, as the evenings draw in and the temperatures finally become a little more bearable, we can look forward to the next chapter of this year and all the opportunities it brings to get together again. Here's to autumn, and to many more good times ahead!

Julie

St. Margaret Church Autumn Services

13th Sept **Evening Prayer** 5.00pm
17th Sept **Benefice Lammass** 7.30pm VH
18th Oct **Harvest Communion** 10.00am
29th Nov **Advent Service of Light** 4.00pm – with Advent Carols

Benefice Coffee Morning - the first Saturday of the month at 10.30am in the Village Hall

Midweek Communion Service for Autumn

Sept: Ilk st John Oct: St Margaret South Elmham
Nov: St Michael South Elmham

Details of all church services in the Saints' Benefice are circulated by email from Sange Wilson of Rumburgh. Please email her for your personal copy (sange.wilson@yahoo.co.uk)

Songs of Praise – Countryside and Creation at the Royal Norfolk Show was aired on Sunday 16th August – did you manage to watch it? If not, it is now available to watch on the BBC iPlayer, just look for: [BBC One - Songs of Praise, Countryside and Creation at the Royal Norfolk Show](#) Watch out for the possible appearance of a Saints breeder of rare breed sheep - our own Gail Sprake!

Dates for your diary during the Autumn

17th Sept **Lammass Local Grain Celebration**
Ilketshall st Margaret Village Hall
22nd Sept **Hobbit Day**
21st October **Diwali**
17th October **Curry Night - VH**
31st October **Halloween**
1st November **All Saints' Day**
5th November **Bonfire Night**
14th November **Hot Pot Night - VH**
20th & 21st November **Wreath Making Class - VH**
28th November **Black Friday**
30th November **St Andrew's Day**

Looking ahead to events in the VH

13th December **Christmas Lunch**
Burns Night
St Patricks Night
Shared Supper Night
18th May **Village Hall AGM**
17th July **Village Show**

Ilketshall St Margaret Village Show 2026

Report by Show Secretary, Roger Webb

This year's Village Show was blessed with kind weather. Apart from a few spots of rain, we enjoyed a lovely sunny afternoon, allowing visitors and exhibitors alike to make the most of the event. It was wonderful to see so many people attending and the car park over-flowing. The atmosphere throughout the afternoon was friendly and welcoming, making it another successful celebration of our village community.

By popular demand, musical entertainment for the



afternoon was provided by the excellent Black Deek Band who got everybody's toes tapping. In between performances, The Rumburgh

Morris Dancers performed a traditional Mummers play, replacing staves with balloons borrowed from the children's entertainer Steve from Tricky Twister who also proved a crowd pleaser with his magic tricks and balloon twisting. An estimated 150 people visited the hall and grounds, enjoying the fabulous



produce show which filled the hall to the brim - the flower fragrances were wonderful!

This year, due to time constraints, spuds from 50 entries to the Spud in a Bucket competition were weighed in advance - a mighty task undertaken by

RESULTS	
1ST	7. TREVOR MAYHEW 2742
2ND	11. RICHARD SHAP 1953
3RD	20. PAUL SHAP 1864
1. ALISTAR HONEA 664	
2. OLIVER HITCHCOCK 1150	
3. OLIVER HITCHCOCK 692	
4. OLIVER HITCHCOCK 1193	

husband-and-wife team Darren & Julie Harding, with previous 2 times winner Trevor Mayhew collecting the Masher Trophy with a total weight

of 2700 grams - what's his secret?

As always, the BBQ gang (Dan & Chris) were well prepared for the onslaught of hungry mouths and the Tea & Cake tent managed by Maggie and family kept everyone well refreshed, raising a record amount. To all other stall holders present who I haven't mentioned, again, a big thank you!

The Slow Bicycle Race seems to be catching on - and there were plenty of participants for the Tug O



War, High St vs Low St with the determined Lows coming out on top 2-0 against a

formidable High St line up - they had obviously been practicing!

The keenly contested Roger Lambert Memorial Shield for Best Garden Displays involving a 'Bear Hunt' was a new idea and the committee are planning to stage a repeat next year. And remember, all delayed entries from this year's schedule to the Heaviest Marrow class will be weighed at the Tea on The Lawn, Sunday 30th Aug 2.30pm, St Margret's Hall, High St.

In all, there were 67 exhibitors and 305 exhibits, raising over £1500 for the village hall funds - a mighty effort from such a small village! The standard



of entries across all classes was excellent and attracted much praise from the judges and visiting public alike. The committee would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help make this event a success. Have a great summer!

Results:

Tomkin Plate (Most points in Show)

Karl Mann/Julie Gaskell

Stott Trophy (Second most points in Show)

Lucy Webb



Fuller Cup (Most points for Fruit

Roger Webb Read Cup (Most points for Vegetables)

Roger Webb

Val Chapman Cup (Best Horticultural Exhibit)

Val Carroll

Masher Trophy (Heaviest weight of bucket potatoes) **Trevor Mayhew**

Cannel Cup (Most points for Flowers)

Lucy Webb/Karl Mann

Mann Cup (Most points for Cookery & Home Produce) **Lucy Webb**

Smith Howell Cup (Most points Ladies Handicrafts) **Sally Porter**

Huguenot Cup (Most points Men's Handicrafts) **Darren Harding**

John Arthey Trophy (Best Photograph)

Lucy Webb/David Mills

Rogers Trophy (Most points for Floral Art)

Val Carroll

Alison Morgan Cup (Finest Floral Exhibit)

Val Carroll

The Wigg Cup (Most points in Farmers Class)

Emma Hald

Roger Lambert Memorial Shield (Best Garden Display) **Maggie Oldham**

Founders Award (Most points for a Novice)

David Mills

Children's Award (Most points Children's Classes) **Lily Webb**

Family Cup (Family who have contributed most) **The Gaskell family**



The Ilketshall st Margaret Village Show Report 2026 and full gallery of photos and videos can be found under the 2026 Show page on the Ilketshall st Margaret website

The village Hall AGM will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 18th May 2027. More details about this will be shared closer to the date

Notes on Nature from Brenda: August What a summer we've had! I've never known it so dry for so long. We have had bullfinches on the fast drying up Rowan Berries, the blackberries are very small and dry, no blackberry and apple pie this year. Most of the apples have fallen off the trees. The potato crop is very small, and not many of them. I think the competition bucket yielded a better crop! One good thing, no grass cutting and no slugs or snails eating my Hosta's. I think the swallows have had two broods this year, lots of them wheeling about the sky. I've been putting water out for the wildlife – hares by the backfield gate have readily come to drink, wasps round the watering cans. Butterflies in great numbers and hummingbird moths. I think when the rain eventually comes it probably won't know when to stop!!



For all those creatives amongst us. The annual Festive Wreath Making class will be held in the village hall on Sat 28th & Sun 29th Nov from 11am-2pm. Lead by a local florist, for £30 per class all materials, tea, coffee and cake are included. Please call Maggie on 01986 781640 for more information and to reserve your place.

We couldn't let this edition of the Village Voice be published without saying **CONGRATULATIONS** to Rob and Val who tied the knot in our own St Margarets Church in July. I can safely say I have never seen a happier or more colourful bride – and the church foyer decorated with hats and fascinators was something to behold. May you continue to be happy and support each other in your future life together.



Contacts for the Village

Church – **Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345 / 07714 986462**

Parish Clerk – **Jane Waring**
parishclerkstmargaretilk@yahoo.com

Contact for the Village Hall

Event bookings – **Eva Collyer 01986 781312**

Hall Hire – **Maggie Oldham 01986 781640**

Village Show – **Roger Webb 07941 826772**

Media – **Julie Harding 07931 676289**

General Enquiries - **Val Carroll 01986 781540**

General Enquiries – **Ed Obrian 07798 761574**

We have seen this year that our Village Hall is a great place to hold your celebration; be it for an intimate family gathering, a community event, something to get your body moving or a prestigious Village Show! If you would like to find out more about hiring the hall please speak with Maggie, our 'Trusted Keeper of the Calendar' to find out availability and rates.

As we head into Autumn, September in our human world is a time for slotting back into productive rhythms. The informal freedoms of summer holidays are over, and the steady beat of the school and working day resumes. Yet, within nature things are beginning to change. Beneath our feet there are signs of a very different cycle, as shortening days and increasing rains call forth a crescendo of our most colourful and fascinating organisms: mushrooms, as our woods and forest become a blanket of wondrous colours and shapes to bring joy to our daily walks in nature. It should also be mentioned that this is the time of year that the Arachnids Assemble! There are about 670 species of spider in the UK, but thankfully most of them prefer to avoid humans altogether and only around ten species are commonly seen indoors. Those that become very apparent at this time of year, the 'assembling arachnids' that people notice are generally the house spiders which unfortunately for them often end up inside Hoover bags, thrown back outside or under our slippers! Remember to keep an eye out for both as they form part of our seasonal change.



ENJOY AUTUMN AND ALL OF THE CHANGES TO OUR WORLD IT BRINGS

Contributions to this newsletter are always most welcome, email jehardinguk@yahoo.co.uk telephone or text Julie on 07931676289 or alternatively drop a note in at Martindale Cottage, High Street. Deadline for the next issue is 20th November 2026