



# The Syresham Times



Remembering those men of this community who gave their lives

*Village of the year 2008-10, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2017*

50p (where sold)

**November 2018**



## **From the Editor's desk**

It is one hundred years ago now, since the cessation of hostilities and the Great War came to an end.

Over 100 Syresham men went to the front, and 33 lost their lives on active service or subsequently through injury.

The village will be marking the passing of that centenary with an Armistice Concert in the Church on Saturday November 10th, and the annual Remembrance Service at the Memorial Stone, 10.45 - Sunday 11th November.

The History Society is working with the Church together with Brackley Wind Ensemble and Milton Keynes Makes Music choral group to ensure this date is marked.

Less well known is the massive impact of the so called Spanish Influenza, which took the lives of many millions of people across the globe during the latter days of that war.

Glasgow was first affected in the UK, in May 1918, and within weeks it had spread to London and almost a quarter of a million died two months.

One wonders how a small community like Syresham was affected by the pandemic, if at all?

If there is to be another similar Pandemic, it may be decades away, it could be quite mild or very severe?

We will not know till it happens.

**Ian Draper, November 2018**

## *What's in this issue?*

- 3 Northants ACRE praises Village Hall
- 4 Armistice Concert Syresham Gems
- 5 Reporting Problems Mums and Tots
- 6 David Wyness, 1938—2018
- 7 Parish Council News George Timms Trust
- 8 Timms Trust, Andrea Leadsom MP
- 9 Gardening Club History Society
- 10 Friendship Club Chapel Sports & Social Club dates
- 11 Sports Club St James School
- 12 Astwell Benefice Quiz dates Friend of the School
- 13 St James School Just Dance 2018 Pimlico Light Railway
- 14 St James Church Interregnum
- 15 Diary of events
- 16 Crossword by Vintage Port
- 17 St James Church Interregnum

## **ADVERTISING**

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*Photographs in this edition are provided by —* Brackley

Wind Ensemble, Ian Draper, John Roberts, Claire

Turnham, The Wyness Family

**Cover Photograph:- Memorial Stone and Poppies**

**Copy Deadline for our  
next issue:-  
Wednesday, 30th January 2019**

**THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXTRACT  
FROM A REVIEW  
WRITTEN BY FRANCES  
HARRIS OF NORTHANTS  
ACRE COMMUNITIES**



Syresham Village Hall's Grand Opening took place on 30th June. The idea was originally conceived twenty-one years ago, when a local landowner generously offered the committee a parcel of land on which to construct a new building to replace the old wooden hall. The project proper took three years, with the construction phase lasting twelve months.

I was recently showed around this fantastic new building by Committee Chair, Christina Munsey. By no coincidence, the weekly Thursday Café was taking place, and I was entertained to delicious coffee and cakes!

The facilities include a main hall, meeting room, modern kitchen/bar, toilets (plus a disabled toilet with baby changing facilities), a library, parking and an outside picnic area.

The main hall measures 16.1m by 9.1m. Light and airy, the spacious hall has a kitchen at one end and space for a large demountable stage at the other, together with ample, well-planned storage for the mums and tots group and other users. As well as free WiFi, the hall has a comprehensive sound and projection system, with hearing loop. A foyer connects the main hall to the smaller meeting room and kitchen. Outside,

there is a large terrace with picnic benches and lovely rural views. A convenient pathway leading from the centre of the village via Syresham's Sports and Social Club makes the hall very accessible by foot. But there is also ample parking for those who choose to drive.

Syresham Village Hall's Thursday Café is a veritable institution, having been a long-standing fixture of the old hall. Since its inception in 2008, the Café has been taking place every week apart from an annual fortnight's break.

Open from 10.30am until 12.30pm, the Café is manned by a rosta of volunteers, who make the mouth watering cakes and serve the refreshments. The Café has a large band of loyal supporters both from within the village and further afield and attracts many passing cyclists. For £2 you have a choice of cake with either a pot of tea or freshly brewed coffee. Proceeds from two weeks are donated to charity—this year, Christian Aid and Macmillan. And I can personally vouch for the deliciousness of the cakes...

Many congratulations to the Management Committee, Steering Committee and Project Manager (Adam Jeskins) for overseeing the construction of this impressive new hall.





**BRACKLEY WIND ENSEMBLE  
AND  
MUSIC MAKERS OF  
MILTON KEYNES  
ARMISTICE SERVICE**

St James Church, Syresham

7.30 for 8pm Sat 10th November

MUSIC, READINGS and POPPY  
DROP

Tea, Coffee Wine and Soft Drinks

Tickets £10 from Sue Palmer  
850252, Malcolm Orr Ewing  
850218, and Ruth at the Shop  
850210 or on the door.

*In association with Syresham and District History Society  
Proceeds to Royal British Legion and Astwell Benefice*

**SYRESHAM GEMS  
WOMEN'S GROUP**

It's been a busy few months for the Gems. In August we had a very interesting and enjoyable visit to Sulgrave Manor. The house was built by Lawrence Washington, George Washington's five times great grandfather, in the mid-1500s and we learnt all about its history and the link to America. We started our visit with coffee and cake



(lots of it) followed by a guided tour with our very knowledgeable guide.

It was good to see so many members at the AGM in September. Wendy gave an update on the finances and Judith reviewed the previous year. Members particularly enjoyed the craft evening, chocolate demonstration, health talk, visit from Dogs for Good and the Tai Chi demonstration. Ideas were also put forward for next year's programme.

In October Wendy Wesley and her colleague Pat from Brackley and District Floral Club very kindly stepped in at the last minute. She showed us how to create a structural Autumnal arrangement on parallel lines with roses, gerberas and foliage. We learnt that: you only need to give gerberas a small amount of water; to cut flower stems on a diagonal otherwise they can't take up water; creative ways to use garden foliage and leaves; and to remove the guard petals from roses.

Our next few meetings are as follows:

- ◆ 14<sup>th</sup> November – tbc
- ◆ 12<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas party
- ◆ 9<sup>th</sup> January – Origami flower making with Paula Milner, the Crafty Lass - [www.craftylass.com](http://www.craftylass.com)

We are always on the lookout for speakers, so please get in touch if you'd like to get involved. For more information about the Group, forthcoming events and membership please contact either Maggie Newton (07734 080073) or Judith Shaw (850613).

*Judith Shaw*



**Gems October meeting, flower arrangements**

### **REPORTING LOCAL PROBLEMS**

To report a faulty streetlight, please contact the **PARISH CLERK on 01280 851178 or parishclerk@syresham.com**

Please also contact the parish clerk to report swing-field, pocket park or footpath issues or an overflowing dog waste bin.

To report potholes, fly tipping, empty grit bins, highways or pavement issues, please use the Northants County Council Street Doctor reporting tool:

[www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/roads-and-streets/Pages/report-highway-problem.aspx](http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/roads-and-streets/Pages/report-highway-problem.aspx)

Speeding or illegal parking should be reported to the Police using the 101 number.

For further information on Parish, District and County Council responsibilities, please see the A-Z of services section on the village website [www.syreshamvillage.com](http://www.syreshamvillage.com)

**SAMANTHA HOSKINGS, CLERK**

### **MUMS AND TOTS**

Syresham Mums and Tots have been busy again this Autumn. We have welcomed new



children and their grown ups over the last month.

The children still enjoy their new surroundings in the village hall. Tidying up has certainly been made a lot easier and safer.

We have enjoyed a number of



crafts making butterflies, caterpillars, fish, magazine collages and enjoyed getting messy with vegetable printing.

A local *Sing and Sign* teacher joined us for an enjoyable session of singing and learning some signs.

As always, next term has plenty planned with yoga, pottery painting and cookery to name but a few activities.

If you are a parent, a grandparent or a carer who is looking for a friendly group to meet with, please come along on a Wednesday morning between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 p.m. in the village hall. We cater for ages 0 to 4 years and always have an abundance of tea and coffee on tap.

**CLAIRE TURNHAM**

## **DAVID CHARLES WYNESS 'DAVID'**

May 23rd 1938 to August 23rd 2018

*Extract from the Eulogy at Banbury Crematorium, September 13th 2018.*

Charles David Wyness, largely known as David, was born in Ormskirk Lancashire in 1938. He lived with his mother Lois, father Charles and his brother Peter. Sadly his mother died when he was young and he was separated from his brother when father Charles was called up for World War II duties. David moved south to Newbury to stay with family, returning to Ormskirk with his brother in 1942.

On leaving school he joined the RAF where he met up with Gillian, at a dance evening, and were married in Banbury in 1960. Serving in the forces meant they moved a lot in the UK and then settled in France for a year. On returning to the UK. Their first son Jonathan was born in Leighton Buzzard. After a short time in Cyprus David left the RAF and they moved to Charlton where Richard was born in 1968.

It seems the Wyness family were keen campers here at home and abroad, however on some such expeditions, things were prone to go wrong.

On one French trip, after a picnic Gillian left her handbag on the roof of the car, resulting in the bag and its contents being spread over the road, including all their French Currency! David and his brother in law were to be seen running about the motorway dodging cars retrieving the crisp banknotes. On completion of the task, brother in law



Mark lit a cigarette to relieve the stress of the previous activity. On throwing the butt on the ground he was amazed to see the grass verge aflame in seconds. The family' supply of bottled water was used to put out the inferno!

On another occasion in North Wales, after a night of torrential rain, they awoke to discover the tent was surrounded by the lake which had originally been over 400 metres away. In their attempts to break through they discovered the water was now 2 feet above the nearby bridge and access road out of the farm. The car cut out and they had to wait to be rescued to a nearby Bed and Breakfast to dry out.

Gillian and David had busy lives, she was a District Nurse and he worked for the Foreign Office as well as running a TV rental and repair business.

In 1983 they bought the Red House which was turned into a very successful and highly regarded 25 room nursing home, finally retiring in 2001.

In the closing years of his life they enjoyed the comfort of an apartment in Tenerife, inviting many friends to stay and enjoy. He always enjoyed his gardening and when they moved to the bungalow on Wappenham Road in 2002, he finally had the time to create a haven which kept him still busy, and where they both spent happy hours overlooking the fields from the conservatory

Thanks to the Wyness family for this tribute to a much loved man.

**Editor**



## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

Syresham Parish Council continues to work for the benefit of the parish, generously giving their time and expertise to improve the environment in which we live and to ensure that our village continues to be a thriving community.

You may have noticed that the flower boxes at the entrances to the village have recently been replaced, thanks to one of our Councillors, Mervyn Williams. The sturdy new boxes will soon be replenished with plants for the winter season.

Our new footpath wardens, Steph and Geoff Brackpool, are doing a sterling job. The footpaths are a source of pleasure for many village residents and it is the duty of the Parish Council to make sure they are freely accessible to all. The Parish Council will therefore be asking landowners to ensure that they keep all footpaths unblocked and provide stiles to give access between fields.

Parking in the village continues to be one of the issues we need to address and the Parish Council therefore requests all residents to be respectful of other road users and pedestrians when parking vehicles. Please note that if a vehicle is causing an obstruction the driver is committing a legal offence and should therefore be reported to the police using their 101 number, not the Parish Clerk.

The blocking of drains has recently caused a problem. The Parish Council is liaising with Anglian Water with regard to this issue, but would request that no

fat or fatty substances, wet wipes or nappies are flushed into the system as these items will inevitably exacerbate the problem.

Another major concern of the Parish Council is the public transport system and we are working to try to improve this. A questionnaire is included with this copy of the Syresham Times. If the lack of public transport is causing concern to you or if you have opinions you wish to express on this subject, please complete the questionnaire and return it as requested.

Now that the clocks have been turned back and the nights draw in, the issue of street lights comes again to the fore. We would remind residents that the Parish Council has an ongoing street lighting project and reports will be issued to residents as the project progresses.

We would like to take this opportunity to give all parish residents our best wishes for the forthcoming festive season and remind you that if you have any concerns or issues you wish the Parish Council to discuss, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01280-851178 or email [parishclerk@syresham.com](mailto:parishclerk@syresham.com)

***CLLR CHRISTINA MUNSEY***

### **THE GEORGE TIMMS TRUST**

The George Timms Trust was set up over 120 years ago to support any residents of Syresham who fell on hard times or otherwise found themselves in distress.

In the 21st century the Trust still operates along the same principles, offering financial and other assistance

to members of our village community at times of need.

You may have neighbours (or know of other Syresham residents) who are facing significant hardship, or who may otherwise benefit from the Trust's support. If you would like to make a referral to the George Timms Trust it will be treated in confidence and given full consideration by the Trustees.

To get in touch, please email [info@GeorgeTimmsTrust.org.uk](mailto:info@GeorgeTimmsTrust.org.uk) for a quick response.

Alternatively you can drop a note, addressed to The George Timms Trust, into our post box at 23 High Street, Syresham, NN13 5HL. We look forward to hearing from you.

If you would like to support the work of the Trust by making a donation you can do so online at <http://www.georgetimmsTrust.org.uk/>

**ANDREW HORNBY**

**FROM ANDREA LEADSOM, MP**

Residents will be pleased to hear that the development of the new Brackley Medical Centre is proceeding apace, and progress is being made on the access route and other enabling works. I am hoping to visit the site in early January to see how they are getting along, and I look forward to it opening by the end of 2019.



The new building will comprise a new suite of GP rooms, a pharmacy, a range of outpatient services to allow people to be treated closer to home, and a reinstatement of the step-down intermediate care beds that were lost

when the Brackley Cottage Hospital closed. This is a huge win for Brackley and surrounding villages like Syresham, and I know everyone will welcome its grand opening.

Some people have been in touch to share their concerns about the impact of the closure of the A422 through Farthinghoe, and the increase in associated traffic on the B4525. The Environment Agency has finally given permission to Northants Highways to allow them to begin the repair works to the Farthinghoe Bridge, and the County Council has indicated that they anticipate the road will reopen before the end of the year after around 3 weeks of works.

Similarly, I know that many residents of Syresham have been affected by the closure of the A5 through Towcester whilst Highways England has been undertaking substantial carriageway repair works. A number of businesses have been in touch with me to raise concerns about the loss of trade, and I am monitoring the scheduled completion of the work closely. Of course, residents have welcomed the temporary removal of HGVs through the town centre, and this has reinvigorated interest in the early delivery of the Towcester Relief Road. You will be pleased to hear that I convened a further meeting a few weeks ago with Persimmon Homes and the District Council to discuss progress on securing an agreement to fully fund the road's early construction; we had a very positive conversation and continue to explore an approach which would bring the



road forward to the end of 2021. This is in lieu of the current arrangements where the developer only has to build the relief road once the 1,016th house is sold and occupied, which may not happen until the mid/late 2020s. I will of course update through my website with further developments as soon as I can. As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any specific concerns or queries.

[andrea.leadson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:andrea.leadson.mp@parliament.uk)

**ANDREA LEADSOM MP**



## **GARDENING CLUB**

Our October meeting was a talk on Cacti, perhaps not a subject we were enthralled with but our speaker was excellent, being Chairperson of the British Cacti Society. He brought along some wonderful plants and was so enthusiastic and let us all handle them and answered many questions. He is a judge himself, has exhibited at all the major flower shows and we all came home with some seeds so it will be interesting to see if anyone from our Club is successful in growing a cactus.

Next month Tuesday November 20<sup>th</sup> we have a visit from Chris Day from Buckingham Garden Centre.

December, date to be arranged, we shall be lunching at a garden centre. We do welcome new members and would love to see you joining us.

**DOT**

## **SYRESHAM AND DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY**



The end of the year is fast approaching again, and soon it will be Christmas. We are joining with the Church in the Remembrance and Armistice concert performed by *Brackley Wind Ensemble and Milton Keynes Makes Music*, at the Church and at the Memorial Stone on the centenary weekend of the end of the War.

At the October AGM, it was agreed to change our meeting day to the 1st Wednesday, this to enable a new class to take every Tuesday evening in the month. So with effect from November 7th we will be meeting in the Village Hall on a Wednesday in future.

We have a speaker from Northampton coming to remind us about childhood memories of the 1950s, and then in December an old friend returns, Chris Bazeley who will regale us with information about traditions and celebrations around the Wassail Cup. The evening will include wine and cheese and perhaps some festive music and singing!

In January Stephen Barker will return to us and describe the issues around the Civil War and the battle at Cropredy Bridge. And then in February we invite back Liz Woolley to talk about Lord Nuffield, William Morris.

Perhaps now we are moving to a Wednesday you can come along and

enjoy the kind of activities that members undertake.

Annual Membership (January) is £12, or £3 each month on the door.

**IAN DRAPER, CHAIRMAN**

### **FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

We continue to meet once a fortnight and have a full programme until the end of the year. We have had some excellent afternoons and a very successful Harvest Festival and sale.

Thanks to Miriam who proved an excellent auctioneer raising £98.00 which we handed over to Carol Muddiman for the training of dogs in which she takes part.

This year a break from tradition we are having our bingo afternoon when we celebrate the Club's birthday. Our last meeting of the year will be December 4<sup>th</sup> when Chris Bazeley will be talking on Christmas customs. We shall commence the New Year with our party on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

**Dot**

### **SYRESHAM WESLEYAN CHAPEL**

Like everyone in the village we are making plans for Christmas. Let us remember Jesus' birth the reason for our celebrations and affirm our commitment to give him gifts of love and service, and to seek others to do the same as we remind ourselves that *Jesus is at the heart of the season.*



On Christmas Eve at 6.30.p.m. we invite everyone to join us for soup etc., and to sing carols. Many of the carols have been sung by the Chapel for over a

hundred years, no one knows their origins, but do come along and keep this tradition going. We always went around the village but with double glazing etc and the cold the Chapel is warmer! Our *CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE will be at 10.30.a.m.* and would really welcome you to join with us.

Breakfast Church is very busy as we are making Jesse's tree. The story starts in Genesis and goes on to Christ's birth. One of our members very kindly made the trees and each month everyone is very busy with all the crafts etc. It is so good to have so many people joining us but for details of dates please contact either Paula or Cathy

George and Christine have now ceased their sales for the winter but many thanks to them for all their hard work.

**Dot**

### **SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB EVENTS**



#### **NOVEMBER**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Carvery serving 12-2pm

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> – English Food Night serving from 7pm

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Prize Quiz

#### **DECEMBER**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> – Sunday Carvery serving 12-2pm

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> – Children's Christmas Party 2-4pm, Disco, Games and Party Food Age 9 and under only £2.50 per Child

Please confirm for numbers thanks

Tel:- 07912 784294 or Email

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> – Club Prize Quiz Night  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Prize  
Bingo – Eyes down at 7.45pm lots of  
prizes to be won

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Christmas Dinner  
Party – *see separate poster for details  
this is a bookable evening only.*

**Christmas Eve** – Mulled Wine, Mince  
Pies and Christmas Music, Claude's  
Board Christmas Draw

**Boxing Day** – The Roy and Lillian  
Hawkins Charity Football Match: kick  
off 10.30am followed by Turkey  
Sandwiches and Bar open from 12pm

**New Years Eve** – Disco, Buffet and late  
Bar Free Entry

[sarahjwhitehead@btinternet.com](mailto:sarahjwhitehead@btinternet.com)

**SARAH WHITEHEAD A MESSAGE FROM**



### **THE SCHOOL AND NURSERY**

Life continues to be busy here at the school. We have welcomed 12 new children into our Reception class, from our nursery last year, making transition very easy for children, parents and teachers alike. The benefits of having a nursery are endless. The children have specialist music, PE and French lessons as well as having the opportunity to interact with the older pupils. We are developing a strong early years team who work together to provide a high standard of care and education for the children.

Thanks to the help and support of the local community the children are all benefitting from the refurbished school gardens. The space that they have to play in at the back of school is so much bigger and allows the children to be playing football, table tennis, tag, climbing on the timber trail or rolling down the hill! Playtime has never been so much fun!

In the classroom KS2 continue to have fun with their learning as well as achieving good results. This year in KS2, 70% of our children achieved the expected standard in the National curriculum assessments in all subjects, compared to the national figure of 64%. This included 80% achieving the expected standard or above in reading and grammar, 70% in Maths and 90% in writing. All of these figures show an improving trend for the school and all are well above the national figures. While as a school, our broad and balanced curriculum and the children are always at the heart of our teaching, it is pleasing to see that this education also enables our children to achieve well.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors to our school and nursery. We currently have spaces in most classes and in the nursery for both two and three year olds. So, if you would like to come and have a look around, or know someone with young children in need of a school place or childcare, please give us a call!

**MRS CLOUGH, HEADTEACHER**

SYRESHAM SCHOOL  
**Christmas Fayre**  
SATURDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 1.45 - 4pm

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF  
*Festive Fun And Games*

CAROL SINGING BY THE SYRESHAM SCHOOL CHOIR AT 1.45pm  
Seasonal Gift Stalls, Santa's Grotto,  
Christmas Crafting Activities, Glitter Tattoos,  
Wish Upon A Star, Fun Games  
Mulled Wine And Refreshments,  
Christmas Hamper Raffle. And Much More!

macintyers  
TOWN & VILLAGE HOMES

WITH THANKS TO OUR LOVELY SPONSORS

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FRIENDS OF SYRESHAM SCHOOL



Though we've had the long hot summer holidays a lot has happened since July! We've got a fresh new great looking logo, embracing growth, longevity, team work and our 'hands on' approach, thank you to Caroline Ferguson for her design work.

Our AGM in October, provided an opportunity to reflect on achievements over the last year and to plan how the Friends will support the school in the future.

*We had our most successful year of fundraising in the history of Friends, it is inspiring and impressive:-*

**We hosted 38 Friday cake sales, collected with the Round Table and Santa, produced T-towels and received donations from our DIY SOS weekend, Easy Fundraising, Barclays and Aviva – all of this combined to raise a whopping £9,957!**

And we've been spending, spending, spending this year too!

We've contributed significantly to the transformation of the Nursery, Reception and KS1 outdoor area, plus the large playground bike/trike shed and storage shed plus re-instating the timber trail. We funded provision of French lessons for all children for the year and purchased three large foldable tables used every day for breakfast club and events.

This year we hope to raise funds for more KS2 Maths resources; more



### ASTWELL BENEFICE QUIZ CHALLENGE

Team Quizzes representing the Astwell Churches

- ◆ **Wappenham** VH November 17th, 2018
- ◆ **Whitfield** VH January 19th, 2019
- ◆ **Lois Weedon** VH February 16th, 2019
- ◆ **Helmdon** Reading Room, March 16th 2019

Contestant tickets £8.50 (includes a meal). 8 Rounds of questions and answer as a team.

Interested in joining the Syresham Team? Please contact John Braybrook, 01280-850384

digital cameras and to create an outdoor 'reflection area' where children can have quiet time.

If you shop online, please could we ask you to sign up and support Syresham School.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fosyresham/>.

It's a really easy, clever way to raise money for us – no catches, no baking, no pesky raffle tickets!! Just guilt free online shopping. Simply use the Easy Fundraising site to shop with more than 3,300 well known stores like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, Asos, eBay, Boden and M&S and when you make a purchase, the retailers sends us a free donation, at no extra cost to you. Brilliant!

### **PUT IT IN THE DIARY!**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November – School Christmas Fayre 1.45pm – 4.00pm**

Please join us for a festive filled afternoon, kicking off with the school choir singing around the Christmas Tree.

We'll have lots of wonderful stalls, Father Christmas, games, craft, the tea room and the bar with festive fizz, our fabulous raffle of Christmas Hampers and so much more. I look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you for all your support over the year.

**LISA DIMBLEBY CHAIR, THE FRIENDS OF SYRESHAM SCHOOL**

### **JUST DANCE 2018**

The Sylvie Essame School of Dance have their annual studio



performances on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 3.30 and 7.00pm** in the village hall.

The school will be joined by dancers from Brackley Ballet School and Step by Step Dance. There will be a wide variety of dance styles on display - Modern Theatre, Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Latin and Contemporary. So, a very full and entertaining programme. And as usual, profits will go to the village hall.

Performances are open to everyone, not just friends and families of the dancers.

Tickets cost £6 (concessions £5). For further details and to book tickets please call or email Sylvie (01280 850239 - [Sylvie@SylvieEssame.co.uk](mailto:Sylvie@SylvieEssame.co.uk)) or visit [www.SylvieEssame.co.uk](http://www.SylvieEssame.co.uk).

### **SYLVIE ESSAME**

### **PIMLICO LIGHT RAILWAY 2018**



We've had a very interesting year! Hardly anyone turned up for the first time we ran the trains in April and then in May we ended up running 70 trains in the two hours!

June was beginning to get hot and then in July we had strategic buckets placed around the track in case a spark set light to the parched grass.

August was rained off and then we had a lovely day in September to finish the season, and along the way we entertained the U3A from Buckingham and Brackley and also the Mums and Tots from Helmdon as well as the Syresham Group.

In all we have run some 250 trains and

are able to send £581 to Send a Cow; the charity we have supported since we started – I think we've bought a number of cows by now !!

We now go into the winter season with maintenance, repairs and new builds with the youngsters having time in the workshop to learn new skills.

**JOHN ROBERTS**



### **THE INTER-REGNUM**



When Carole Peters King left us in order to take up another job with the Bishop of Salisbury in August, we were faced with the prospect of a second interregnum in under seven years and the third one with which I, as a churchwarden, have been associated.

We were fortunate to have had Rev Canon John Roberts as our Rector from 1993-2005, and then to have had a transition period of only six weeks before Rev William Adams, already living at Whitfield in the Astwell Benefice, succeeded him in 2005. Will left us in 2012 and we then advertised the post of Rector of the Astwell Benefice (six churches) that Autumn.

#### **CHANGE OF MEETING DAY**

**FROM NOVEMBER 2019,  
SYRESHAM & DISTRICT HISTORY  
SOCIETY WILL MEET ON THE  
1ST WEDNESDAY OF EACH  
MONTH**

The selection committee selected Rev'd Carole Peters, recently retired as a freelance producer at the BBC and fresh from a curacy in Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, to be Rector of the Astwell Benefice. She started here in June 2013.

During the present interregnum, Wiggy Smith will take some of the Communion Services, and outside priests, PTOs will take other services. Syresham will continue with its two lay-led services on the second and fourth Sundays. Will Adams may be available for individual baptisms, weddings and funerals, but it working mainly for Brackley St Peter's, and helping in the four other parishes in the Deanery that have a vacancy.

John Roberts will be available for occasional services in the Astwell Benefice, and he has already kindly agreed to take our Midnight Mass at 9.30p.m. on Christmas Eve at St James Church.

We now have a Selection Committee of 12, from the six parishes in the Benefice. Syresham Representatives will be Alice Palmer and myself. Led by Judith Elkington of Helmdon, we have put together a Benefice Profile for approval by the Archdeacon.

The position be advertised in The Church Times and on the Diocesan website.

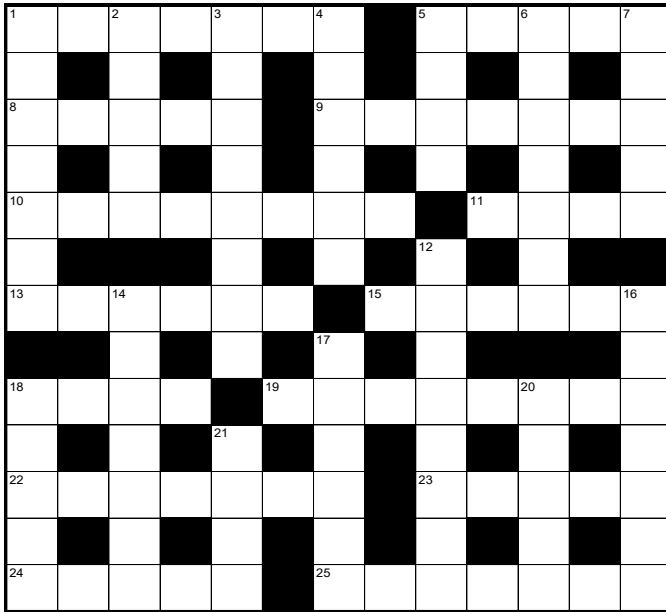
Syresham sees itself as a 'middle of the road' parish, neither bare altars nor 'bells and smells'. Within the Benefice, we are blessed with a good relationship with the Wesleyan

*Continued page 17 -->>*

# Events and Diary Dates

<b>HAPPENING SOON</b>	<b>WEEKLY DIARY</b>	<b>FORTNIGHTLY DIARY</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<p><b>SUNDAYS:-</b> Chapel Service 6.00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Church Services</b>—<i>please check the Astwell Benefice Diary</i></p> <p><b>MONDAYS:-</b> Walking Group 10.00 a.m. <i>meet at the Shop</i></p> <p><b>CARD RECYCLING GROUP</b> <i>contact Sue Palmer for details</i></p> <p><b>DANCING CLASSES</b> Village Hall— various 5.00 to 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>TUESDAYS:-</b> <b>HATHA YOGA</b> 9.00 till 10.30a.m. <b>ADULT BALLE</b>, 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 Village Hall,</p>	<p><b>THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB</b> 2nd Tuesdays, usually Village Hall 2.30 p.m. <i>not August—beginning in April</i></p> <p><b>TUESDAYS (ALTERNATE) —</b> <i>Armchair Keep fit</i></p> <p><b>WEDNESDAYS (1ST &amp; 3RD)</b> Secret Keepers, 7-11 yr. olds 7.00 p.m. till 8.00 p.m. <i>Term time only</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MONTHLY DIARY</b></p> <p><b>2ND SUNDAY</b>, Sunday School &amp; Breakfast Church 9.30 a.m.—<i>Not December</i></p> <p><b>2ND SUNDAY</b>—Sports Club Carvery lunch 12.00 noon till 2.00 p.m.</p>
<p><b>10<sup>TH</sup> ARMISTICE SERVICE</b> ST JAMES CHURCH, 8.00 P.M.</p> <p><b>11<sup>TH</sup> REMEMBRANCE SERVICE</b> AT THE VILLAGE MEMORIAL STONE, 10.45 A.M.</p> <p><b>24TH SYLVIE ESSAME DANCE,</b> VILLAGE HALL 3.00 TILL</p> <p><b>24TH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR,</b> 1.45 P.M.</p> <p><b>28<sup>TH</sup> PARISH COUNCIL MEETING,</b> VILLAGE HALL</p>	<p><b>PILATES</b> Village Hall, 12.00 noon to 1.00 p.m. 7.30 to 9.00</p> <p><b>TAEKWON-DO</b> 7.30 to 9.00 p.m.</p> <p><b>BROWNIES,</b> 6.00 till 7.15p.m. Sunday School <i>Term time only</i></p> <p><b>CRAFTS GROUP,</b> 2nd, 3rd &amp; 4th Tuesday, Sunday School, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>CIRCUIT TRAINING,</b> Sports Club 7.15 p.m.</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAYS:-</b> Mums and Tots, Village Hall 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon <i>Term Time only</i></p>	<p><b>3RD TUESDAY,</b> Gardening Club, Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>1ST WEDNESDAY</b> History Society, Village Hall 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>2ND WEDNESDAY</b> GEMS Women’s Group, Village Hall 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>3RD WEDNESDAY</b> Sports Club Cash Bingo Night, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>LAST WEDNESDAY,</b> Parish Council Meetings , Village Hall 7.30 p.m.</p>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<p><b>CHURCH SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS—SEE PAGE 17</b></p> <p><b>PARISH COUNCIL MEETING,</b> VILLAGE HALL</p>	<p><b>3RD TUESDAY,</b> Gardening Club, Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>1ST WEDNESDAY</b> History Society, Village Hall 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>2ND WEDNESDAY</b> GEMS Women’s Group, Village Hall 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>3RD WEDNESDAY</b> Sports Club Cash Bingo Night, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>LAST WEDNESDAY,</b> Parish Council Meetings , Village Hall 7.30 p.m.</p>
<b>JANUARY 2019</b>	<p><b>THURSDAYS:-</b> Village Hall Coffee Shop, 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>BOWLS CLUB,</b> Village Hall, 7.00 p.m.</p> <p><b>SPORTS CLUB—CRICKET MATCHES IN SEASON</b></p>	<p><b>LAST THURSDAY,</b> Church 200 club at the VH coffee morning</p> <p><b>3RD OR 4TH FRIDAY,</b> Sports Club Quiz Nights</p> <p><b>2ND SATURDAY,</b> Friends of the Churchyard, 10.00 a.m.</p>
<p><b>30<sup>TH</sup> PARISH COUNCIL MEETING,</b> VILLAGE HALL</p>		

**Crossword — thanks to Vintage Port**



**ACROSS**

- 1 Seen by the naked eye (7)
- 5 Distinctive feature in musical composition (5)
- 8 Pale pinkish-violet shrub (5)
- 9 Priest's Assistant (7)
- 10 Members of a religious sect (8)
- 11 Small pool (4)
- 13 Actors leave the stage (6)
- 15 3.25 light years (6)
- 18 Informal diner (4)
- 19 Laborious work (8)
- 22 Chief priest (7)
- 23 Inhabitant of Zurich (5)
- 24 Loud (5)
- 25 Pesters (7)

**DOWN**

- 1 With a vehement flow of words (7)
- 2 Deal with (5)
- 3 Tennis stroke (8)
- 4 Very pleased (7)
- 5 State of mind (4)
- 6 & 7 Current building site (7, 5)
- 12 Describes a dressed wound (8)
- 14 Turkish title of respect (7)
- 16 Pretence of modesty (7)
- 17 Post war house (6)
- 18 Castrated chicken (5)
- 20 Form of lyrical poem (5)
- 21 Neat (4)

**ANSWERS—ACROSS** : 1 Visible; 5 Motif; 8 Liliac; 9 Acolyte; 10 Brethren; 11 Pond; 13 Exeunt; 15 Parsec; 18 Cafe; 19 Drudgery; 22 Pontiff; 23 Gnome; Noisy; 25 Badgers  
**DOWN**—1 Voluble; Solve; 3 Backhand; 4 Mood; 5 Mood; 6 Mood; 6 & 7 Taylors Field; 12 Bandaged; 14 Effendi; 16 Coyness; 17 Prefab; 18 Capon; 20 Epode; 21 Neat



Chapel, with several shared services, and also with St James C of E Primary School, largely through the tireless work of Alice Palmer.

We hope that the position of Rector of The Astwell Benefice will be attractive to applicants. As well as being situated in beautiful countryside, the Benefice has good road & rail connections, good educational facilities and sound infrastructure.

The applicant will benefit from one United Benefice PCC, cutting down parish meetings and hopefully enabling him or her to spend more time on pastoral visits. Carole introduced this system in January 2018 and it will run for an experimental three years. The bulk of individual Parish work in maintaining the church, is now done by the Syresham BRICC (Building, Repairs, Insurance & Contents Committee) which meets quarterly. If anybody needs a priest in the interregnum or would like a visit, please contact me. (Tel: 01280-850218)

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#### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2018**

- ◆ **Dec 16th 6.00p.m.** Candlelit carols
- ◆ **Dec 24th 5.00p.m.** Christingle Service
- ◆ **Dec 24th 9.30.p.m** Midnight Mass
- ◆ **Dec 25th 10.30 a.m.** Christmas Morning Service

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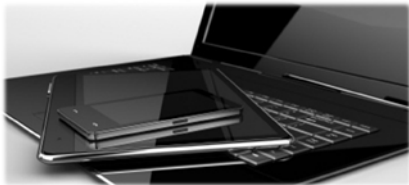
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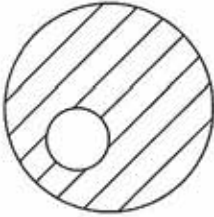
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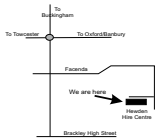


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