



The Syresham Times



THE GREAT OUSE IN FLOOD WINTER 2020



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From
the
Editor's
Desk



2020 has left us and 2021 arrived, virtually unnoticed? An unusually quiet New Year's Eve with a background of 'stay at home' although a few fireworks did make their presence felt! And why not?

News of the continued progress of the virus was not surprising. Was it too soon to relax controls?

As we move forward, the daily death tolls and hospital admissions continue to rise at an alarming rate, and each family and community has much to do to protect themselves, and look after the needs of the more vulnerable.

What better opportunity to have the vaccination programme launched. Brackley Medical Centre is providing a superbly organised facility to begin the massive programme of supporting local surgeries with a steady flow of patients.

A brief text message or a phone call, and an appointment is made for a 30-40 minute visit for the phase one vaccination. And look how the numbers of those being protected are rising.

However, we see a continuing struggle in NHS hospitals across the country. How amazingly dedicated are the many thousands of hospital staff fighting the battle? They are so brave.

And is there a light beginning to show at the end of the tunnel? I hope so!

Ian Draper Editor - January 2021

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH

RIVER GREAT OUSE AT KINGSHILL LAYBY

CHRISTINA MUNSEY

COPY DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:-

APRIL 27TH, 2021

NEWS FROM THE RECTORY



Happy New Year to you all. At present, it doesn't seem at all like a good time, as we enter lockdown yet again and the virus has become even more contagious, making all of us concerned about contact with others.

We celebrated Christmas in the church, with an Experience Christmas event for the school children, a carol service and a Christmas Morning Communion service. Thanks go to all who made the church so lovely for Christmas. However, as we entered the New Year, it became very apparent, that although the Government lockdown rules allowed churches to open for worship, it was far more sensible to return to online services. Church gatherings seemed odd in the context of only being allowed to meet with one other person for exercise outside!

This we did after the first Sunday of January with the blessing of the Bishop. Do please join us for Sunday morning worship via zoom, the information is on our weekly Pew News and available from our website – <https://astwellparishes.org.uk>.

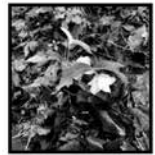
The church remains open for private prayer, Thursday to Sunday as per the previous lockdown.

So what of 2021? There are good things to look forward to. The roll out of the vaccine promises a better second half of the year, as more people are protected from the illness. We look forward to returning to

church and the fellowship we enjoyed from social events. We look forward to seeing family and friends again.

Alongside hopes for the future, there is sadness, as we mourn the loss of family members and friends, and darkness during the most miserable days of winter, with the cold and cloud and no warmth in the sun.

Even then, there is good news. We have a loving God who is with us always, through his Son, whose birth we celebrated at Christmas. Syresham has a wonderful village community where people do look out for one another – a sign of God's love in action amongst us. We are lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the country – albeit muddy at present! Even in these last days of winter, there are new signs of life around us, if we just look for them – to my joy, I discovered



flowering hellebore on the waste patch outside my front fence. A sign that even in a bleak wasteland, there is life and beauty.

A prayer remembering God is with us

Lord God, you are always with me. You are with me in the day and in the night.

You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad. You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.

You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried.

Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today. Amen.

God Bless, **REVD DIANE**

SYRESHAM KNITTERS

Syresham knitters and those from nearby villages have now knitted a total of 48 jumpers and cardigans, 12 cot blankets and 12 hats for the children in the Queen Elizabeth Advent Orphanage, Bulawayo, in Zimbabwe.

More are still to come and will be sent later in the year. It has been amazing to see the colour combinations and what the knitters have managed to achieve.

On behalf of the children, thanks to you all for your kindness and for giving your time so generously.



STEPHANIE BRACKPOOL

REMEMBERING VILLAGE FRIENDS

In recent months we have seen a number of sad losses within our community.

Some were previously remembered, others are recorded in this edition.

To all families who have suffered losses, we send our sincerest sympathies and condolences, for Gillian Clube, Peter Cotterill, Del Fox Alex Patterson, Ann Widdowson and Winnie Varney.

EDITOR



DEL FOX 1934 TO 2020



So there's a handy-man in heaven now,
Who built his life on dreams.

No tasks, no chores no obstacles,
But loved the challenge of extremes.

A caring honest provider
That unselfishly gave his all.

A heart of gold and hands of steel
That responded to the call.

A husband, a Dad and a Granddad too,
That would help you to the end.

A reliable person of integrity
That all wanted and enjoyed as a friend.

There's a Handy-man in heaven now,
Who's fixing Heaven's Gate.

Oiling hinges with pride and care
So that they will open for all who wait.

Words used in the eulogy to Del on the occasion of his passing. He passed away on 13th December 2020.

We would like to thank everyone for the very kind expressions of sympathy at this time, it is deeply appreciated.

GILL FOX, KEITH, GARRY AND LYNDA

TRIBUTE FOR ANN WIDDOWSON JUNE 1941—NOVEMBER 2020

My Mum, Ann Widdowson, passed away in Katharine House Hospice last November.

I read a quote recently that said '*the measure of a life is not it's duration but its donation*'.

Mum gave throughout her life,

particularly of her time, as shown in her passions of nursing, friends and family.

Mum began work in the Glasgow office of Cadbury brothers. Her love of chocolate might lead you to consider this a dream job, however a couple of incidents put paid to that.



Firstly, after she and a friend returned from lunch with a half-eaten toffee apple she hid it in a filing cabinet. It was discovered when a file was needed and came out attached to the toffee!

She later washed the tea towels and put them in the oven to dry. A good idea until they caught light!

Cadbury's loss was nursing's gain and she trained at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary in a time of starched hats and strict discipline. She continued working there after qualification until she met Dad and moved to London.

As the youngest theatre sister at the Middlesex Hospital, she shared a flat with nurses in Harley Street! Not bad for a girl from Glenboig!

When I arrived she moved to Amersham Hospital, working nights. Having done the same, I have great respect for anyone who can manage that with two small children. As we grew she moved to other roles in palliative care, day surgery and orthopaedics before joining Brackley Cottage Hospital as a nurse then as Matron.

She was passionate about patient care being both an empathetic and skilful nurse. Ex-patients and relatives would often stop and talk to Mum, and became her friends. She even had her portrait painted by one relative!

Mum had friends stretching back to her training days and when I was young. They were people she spoke to regularly and even went on holiday with. She was still making good friends until very recently.

She really enjoyed the Trefoil Guild, working in the Age UK shop and bell ringing as well as the other groups she attended. She loved people and had a genuine interest in what was happening for them. There was little she enjoyed more than a coffee and a chat, except perhaps the addition of some cake.

Mum was generous, with her time, and quick to volunteer to help to the end.

The wonderful comments I have read in the cards both to Mum and to me have just confirmed how valued a friend she was and how much she will be missed. This is also reflected in the offers of help I had for today including the bell ringing, church flowers and the piper – which she would have loved.

Her greatest, passion was her family. I have great childhood memories. Not just things like holidays and birthdays, but how she made us feel. Always loved, encouraged, and supported.

Mum supported us as we got older, bravely visiting me in Australia and Ali in Bulgaria, Burma and Hong Kong, often travelling alone. She was so proud when we went to Buckingham

Palace for Ali to collect his MBE.

I must admit the first thing we did when was to find the toilet to see if the seats were gold plated and the paper embossed —the answers are no and no!

She would visit to look after my own children. I would come home from work to find them playing schools in the airing cupboard or making Granny biscuits or, more recently, having watched a film or talking about life, the universe and everything.

Mum loved nothing more than to sit on the sofa covered in grandchildren watching a film, possibly with some chocolate.

In essence Mum was an empathetic and caring nurse, a loyal and generous friend and a loving and loved Mum and Granny.

As Winnie the Pooh put it *'How lucky am I to have had something that makes saying goodbye so hard'*.

FIONA BEECH

CENSUS 2021

The next Census will take place on 21 March.

You'll soon see advertisements on the TV and in newspapers and towards the end of February a postcard will be delivered to your home to remind you that the Census is happening.

At the beginning of March, you will receive an Information Pack in the post which will tell you all you need to know about completing the Census form. Remember, you complete one form per household.

You'll be able to complete the form

online, but if you don't have your own computer (or tablet or smart phone) you can ask a family member or someone else you trust to help you. If you'd prefer to fill in a paper form, the Information Pack will tell you how to ask for one.

You can start to complete the form as soon as you get it, but you should complete it no later than 21 March.

Please don't worry about filling in the form. You can get help from the special Census Help Line (the number will be in your Information Pack) and our Parish Clerk is here to help you too.

Call if you need any help:- 01280-851178 Email parishclerk@syresham.com

SIXTY YEARS TOGETHER!

We learned not long after the last edition of Syresham Times came out, that Irene and Les Hawkins

Happy Anniversary

celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, on 5th November 2020. We send them our hearty, if belated congratulations on this very significant occasion. What a lovely couple they made!



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Despite 'lockdown' the work of the Parish Council has continued during the last three months with our meetings being



held via Zoom. We have, amongst many things, dealt with planning applications, set the budget for 2021-22 and attended various zoom meetings, including HS2 and developments at Silverstone.

Council has continued work on the renovation of the Pocket Park, despite setbacks, owing to flooding and the need to make trees safe. We have obtained grant funding to carry out the renovations, and are hopeful that work will gather pace in the Spring. The project is overseen by the Parish Council's Pocket Park Committee and various residents have already offered practical help and become '*Friends of the Pocket Park*'. We are extremely grateful for this and will be contacting you as soon as the weather and the pandemic permit.

The **National Census**, is held every 10 years, and takes place on Sunday 21st March. The Parish Council has been asked to promote this.

The first formal survey of England was in 1066 with William the Conqueror's Domesday Book. The first modern census was in 1801 when names and addresses and age data were collected. In 1841 the renowned artist JMW Turner rowed a boat into the centre of the River Thames so that he could not

be counted as present at any property in that year's census. In 1911 the suffragette Emily Wilding Davison hid overnight at Westminster with the aim that she could give her residence as the Houses of Parliament! However, her landlady also included her on a second census form. On the last census form in 2011, 6,242 put down their religion as Heavy Metal and 176,632 people identified themselves as Jedi!

The Parish Council is promoting the NCC Covid Winter Support Scheme which is intended to help households, especially those with children, who have been affected by the pandemic and are struggling to stay warm and put food on the table this Winter.

If you feel you might benefit from this, help is available on 0300 1261000 Option 5. ([SEE PAGE 10](#))

Most people will be aware of the reorganisation of local government within our county. There is a new West Northants Council website where you can view all the latest news, plans and consultations, including the Budget Consultation, which affects us all <https://futurenorthantswest.org>

The Parish Council has received complaints from residents regarding the parking of cars on pavements and verges. We ask all residents to consider their neighbours when parking and especially the needs of people with limited mobility and mums and dads with pushchairs.

In recent weeks, more people have been walking the village and have

noticed the increased incidence of dog fouling. This is a serious health issue that can cause blindness in children. Failure to clean up after your dog is an environmental crime subject to a fixed penalty fine of £1,000. We ask those people who are committing this crime to think about their responsibility to other people and pick up after their pet, disposing of their sacks in the dog litter bins that are provided by the Parish Council. The Sports and Social Club also asks dog walkers using the field to have the same care for the local environment.

Finally, we have been informed that the **local elections** due to take place on **May 6th** are still scheduled to go ahead. The present council has now served for 5 instead of the normal 4 years, so all



the present members of the Parish Council will need to stand for re-election if they wish to continue to serve the community. Notices will

go up in the village regarding the elections. If you would like to stand for election, please contact the Parish Clerk for further information – parishclerk@syresham.com – or call 01280 851178

CLLR CHRIS MUNSEY

SCHOOL DAYS, MAY DAYS AND A MARBLE HEAD!

I received an enquiry from Georgina Hall (nee Dodwell) regarding a marble head that she collected when a child at Syresham School in the 1960's. Here, she shares her memories of Syresham at that time, although she lived in Wappenham. Ed

My Mum did a lot of research before

choosing Syresham school for me. This was way back before Ofsted, league tables, SATS and open days. We lived at Wappenham where in the 60's there was no school. My parents had farmed at Wappenham from the early 1950s, until Dad developed farmer's lung, a serious allergy to cereals. Times were incredibly tough on the farm, and Mum took on supply teaching to help make ends meet. She wasn't a qualified school teacher, having trained in speech and drama and had taught riding through the war. But it seemed in the late 1950s that was enough to fill in for teachers who were ill or absent. Hence by the time I was born she knew all the schools from the inside. She was impressed with Mr Harvey, headmaster at Syresham, and so there I was on my first day ... clinging to the gates and howling to go home!

Miss Payne took me firmly inside and tried to reason me out of howling. *'Your Mummy will be busy*



with the washing' she said. This did not help at all, because I knew Mummy would be mucking out the ponies, and maybe riding. After that school improved, Mum had insisted I remain left-handed, which I very obviously was. I do remember a parents' evening when Miss Payne told my parents I needed to work on my letter 'S' as it was always back to front! There are fleeting memories of

hot summers playing on the grass at the back of the school; a heavy thunder storm, during which I was asked to take a younger girl home round the corner. And the stripy brown mugs handed out at the end of the year; school lunches with that comforting smell of boiled cabbage, little milk bottles warming on the radiators in the winter, and of course May Day was special! We learned maypole and country dances, elected a May King and Queen, and processed around the village dancing.

There were flowers cut from our gardens, and the very grown up older boys carried poles topped with wheels of flowers. The sweet, dusty scents of



wall flowers and bluebells are still powerful reminders of those May Days.

Early in 1970 we moved house although I did complete the school year. I still remember my best friend Nicola Palmer, also Paul, Tim, Angela, Carl (he was American). Recently, Syresham returned to my thoughts as I started researching a piece of marble statuary a head, which I rescued from the gardens of a lost grand house on a school trip. I believe that was Blakesley Hall, which was demolished by 1959. The memory of this being part of a school trip is very strong, maybe some kind of nature walk, or picnic treat?

So, I wonder if anyone in the village remembers me, or knows anything about a school trip between 1967-1970?

GINA HALL (GEORGINA DODWELL)

NCC PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE PROGRAMME

Now, more than ever, services across the community are working together to support those most affected by COVID.

Our aim is to help people maintain their independence and resilience for as long as possible. We are keen to work in partnership with local parishes to promote our service to the wider community, to support vulnerable adults to improve and maintain their independence and wellbeing. Our service can support anybody in the county, over the age of 18, who may be struggling leading to reduced independence. We are currently operating as a telephone service, offering 12 weeks of person-centred support with a trained Wellbeing Advisor. Advisors have a wealth of knowledge and contacts for community services, charities and organisations across the county.

Referrals require successful completion of the eligibility criteria. Usually within 2 working days we arrange an initial appointment with an advisor. We support:

- Social isolation Falls
- Lifestyle Medication
- Mental, Physical and emotional health and mobility issues

For information and the online referral form, please call **0300-126-1000** or visit:

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/health/pages/supporting-independence.aspx>

PARISH COUNCIL STREETLIGHTING UPGRADE PROJECT

The Parish Council was informed in 2017 that many of the existing lantern bulbs used in streetlighting in Syresham and Crowfield would soon become obsolete and that the Council should consider replacing the lanterns as soon as possible. This would provide the Parish Council with an opportunity to upgrade the current lighting to:

- ◆ improve the quality and reliability of lighting in the Parish; including new lights in identified 'dark areas';
- ◆ significantly reduce costs of energy usage and maintenance;
- ◆ reduce the parish carbon footprint by installing energy efficient LED lanterns.

There are currently 40 streetlights in Syresham and Crowfield, two of which have already been replaced with LED lanterns, after repairs were not possible.

The streetlighting upgrade project involves:

- ◆ 37 lantern upgrades (including replacement of service boxes where necessary).
- ◆ 1 new column and lantern at the NE corner of The Pound (replacing a light removed).
- ◆ 1 new column and lantern at Main Road/High Street Junction inc. a lit Give Way sign and trenching.
- ◆ 1 new lantern on WPD pole at The Pound/High Street Junction.
- ◆ 1 new lantern moved on High Street nearer Chapel/Sunday School Rooms.



Please see map on page 20 for location of new or moved lanterns.

After a public questionnaire, night surveys and many months of investigations, seeking professional advice and obtaining quotes from three contractors; the Parish Council selected Eon as the preferred contractor. The decision was based on Eon's competitive quote and that they were able to carry out all the installations and connections, rather than having to rely on WPD to carry out the connection work. Eon are also the Parish Council's current maintenance contractors and electricity suppliers and have been found to be competitive and provide a very good reliable service.

The LED lantern chosen (see above) is similar to the three lanterns that have already been installed. The Parish Council have received positive comments from residents approving of the quality of light these lanterns produce. The lower wattage and soft white glow were chosen so the light would not be too harsh and bright for a rural area such as this.

The Parish Council has listened to residents' comments from the 2017 residents streetlighting survey, and where possible, has responded to those requests in the plans. It was not possible in all instances, either due to costs or technical restrictions, to incorporate all requests. New lighting is being installed in significant 'dark

areas' identified during night surveys and from resident's comments, particularly at road junctions.

FINANCING THE PROJECT

The total cost of the planned project is £24,209 (ex. VAT). While researching and planning the project the Parish Council has been building a reserve from precept in the last three years to pay for approximately 50% of the work. The Parish Council recently brought forward the installation of the new column and streetlight and the lit give way sign at the junction of Main Road/ High Street, as carriageway resurfacing was about to take place. The council wanted to avoid carrying out electricity trenching works once the new road surface had been laid. The cost of this work was £6,946 (ex. VAT).

In addition to the remaining Parish Council Streetlighting reserves, a further £12,209 will be required to finance the project. The Parish Council has applied to various grant bodies, including HS2 Community & Environment Funds and SNC Community Funding for grants to cover the streetlighting cost. However, both applications were unsuccessful. While this did cost almost a year in time waiting for the outcome of these applications, the Parish Council felt it was worthwhile attempting to finance the project through these opportunities first.

The Parish Council has consequently opted to apply for a low-cost loan from the Public Works Loan Board to cover the remaining required funding instead of waiting to save more funds from precept. The reasons behind this

decision are that the existing stock is becoming less reliable and more costly to maintain, and the Parish Council is keen to avoid any further delays to cost savings, improved lighting for residents and environmental benefits.

At the time of going to print, the Parish Council are awaiting MHCLG approval to borrow, which has been delayed due to Covid-19. Barring any further financing delays the intention is that the streetlights can be upgraded this year, providing residents in Syresham and Crowfield with more reliable and efficient streetlighting and with better quality light.

SAMANTHA HOSKING, PARISH CLERK

GILLIAN CLUBE FEB 1937 TO JAN 2021



As many of you will already know my lovely Mum, Gillian Clube, sadly passed away on Tuesday afternoon, slipping away after a few short days battling

Covid, to join my Father, Alan, whom she has missed so much. She just missed her 84th birthday.

Mum and Dad moved to Syresham about 20 years ago and threw themselves fully into village life, not only making some very good friends and drinking the odd G & T along the way but also re- connecting with Mum's second cousin Elizabeth Harris, which meant so much to Mum.

They were very happy and those friends became the most amazing support group after Dad died and Mum's dementia was diagnosed. She had regular visits from many,

including Elizabeth Harris, Sue Palmer and Kathleen Brunning. Mum used to love it whenever anyone knocked on the door and I enjoyed getting to know so many of the lovely Syresham 'folk'!

The family cannot express its thanks deeply enough to those who provided such invaluable help, support, guidance and friendship over the past few years. Particular thanks go to Charlotte Inwood to whom we are forever grateful as the dementia took its inevitable hold of Mum. I would also like to say a huge thank you to Nikki Crozier who became an important part of the care team before Mum went into the care home.

Mum and Dad were lucky to have retired to such a wonderful village. Thank you Syresham for everything.

AMANDA AITCHISON

SYRESHAM ST JAMES CE SCHOOL



On the 4th January with children in bed and uniform ready for school, the Prime Minister announced that schools would be closing until at least February half term. I say closing, we never really opened, with a teacher training day wasted as we were preparing to welcome the children back for the new year. The 5th of January will be a day for the memory bank as all our staff worked to put together an online curriculum that would support children of all ages and all abilities. We knew this time around that we had to provide learning that

was going to stretch the children and challenge their thinking, as well as support catch-up programmes that many still required from the summer lockdown.

This was the day that we also had to establish who our keyworker children were and who we would and could invite into school to learn. During this time of pressure and anxiety the staff's determination to support me, the children and families of the school never faltered.

By 9am on the 6th of January we opened the door to 22 children in school and 57 children at home. As for nursery, we made the difficult decision to open only to keyworker families as we felt very strongly that the younger children were best placed at home with parents during this uncertain time.

I am very proud of the learning that we are providing for our pupils. Every morning begins with an online zoom registration, where children have the opportunity to see each other, chat to the teacher and hear about the day that has been planned for them. After that they begin their learning, at home with the support of parents, or in school supported by teaching staff.

As the morning progresses, Early Years and KS1 staff run break-out groups on zoom calls to teach phonics, English and Maths, allowing all children to learn together and at the same time. This interaction is so important for the children and is a welcome part of the school day - it is great to hear everyone learning together, even if we can't all be together. This style of

What's been happening in lock down?



**ELF DOOR TRAIL
DECEMBER 2020**



**SANTA MANAGED A
DISTANCED VISIT!**



SYRESHAM CE ST JAMES SCHOOL

learning continues in KS2 with children working in small groups and 1 to 1 where the need arises. By the end of the day nearly 60% of children have been taught over zoom at least once, and some twice during the day. This is no mean feat by the staff who are also marking work, responding to questions from children at home and teaching those children in school. Of course none of this would be possible without the hard work, support and dedication to the learning that parents are giving their children at this time. They do this while also holding down their own jobs, looking after younger siblings, ordering online shopping, taking the children out for fresh air and generally trying to cope in this crazy world in which we have found ourselves. There

is no perfect solution to home schooling and this this isn't easy, but we are all finding a way through it together.

I am pleased to say that we now have Covid-19 testing twice weekly in school for all staff. This provides peace of mind and a much needed boost as we look towards continued uncertainty in our classrooms. We open the doors to nursery after half term. I cannot wait to welcome everyone back to school from what I hope is the last lockdown. As always, we will have plans in place to support our children and their families as we begin to establish another new normal in our classrooms. Until then, if you walk past a house and see children hard at work with their parents, please give them a wave or a thumbs up, they really do deserve it!

MRS CLOUGH, HEADTEACHER

**CYCLE ROUTES AND
ACTIVE TRAVEL**



SNATRA was invited to speak at the December 2020 HS2 liaison meeting.

Attendees included 7 parish council representatives, HS2, DfT, EKFB, Fusion, SNAG, Highways England, South Northants Council, Brackley Town Council and two local MPs.

David Cranwell outlined SNATRA's proposed initiative and acknowledged that this ambitious project would need to be undertaken in stages and funding gained from a variety of sources. NCC, SNDC and local parish council representatives expressed support for the project. There was also an acknowledgment that so far the focus on cycling and walking funds had been in urban areas but that there was now an opportunity in rural areas with DfT, EKFB and HS2 working to achieve this.

Now is the time to really keep the support strong. If you feel you or a family member may wish to reduce your carbon footprint and safely push the baby and buggy to childcare, library, doctors, different parks, ride your bike/e-bike to work or school, walk to Whistley Woods, visit a friend in a nearby village, get a wheelchair ride to coffee mornings, then join SNATRA on Facebook or write to your NCC Councillor, SNC Councillor, any in the new unitary council, or Andrea Leadsom, 4a 138, Watling Street East, Towcester, NN12 6BT.

andrea.leadsom.mp@parliament.uk

Make sure you include your name and address.

STEPHANIE BRACKPOOL

SYRESHAM CHAPEL



We continue to open the Chapel every day for anyone who wishes to go in and pray or even leave a request for prayers in the prayer box. You are asked to use all the sanitisation requests but trust you will feel a sense of peace for going in.

We have continued to hold Zoom services every Sunday evening and its wonderful so many friends are joining us. We felt Christmas Eve should be celebrated so members made cakes etc and we gave these to everyone who was in the High Street at the time. We had a wonderful Zoom carol service with friends and relations joining us. Everyone was asked to mute themselves, sing along at home with either Paula or Philippa singing

SUDOKU ANSWERS - SEE PAGE 21

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solo. It made us feel we were still singing our traditional carols. Christmas morning service was led by Brian from his home in Derbyshire who again spoke the following Sunday. It is wonderful we are able to join together in this way. Please do get in touch if you would like to join us—you'll be very welcome.

I wonder how many of us have been transferring dates on our calendars and wonder instead of looking back to a strange 2020 we should look forward to use 2021 to live faithfully to God and to all our loved ones. Every day will give us the opportunity to make right our relationships with one another and with God. The words of Psalm 90 say "Number your days and your blessings, new every morning". We should count our blessings, name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done. It will probably amaze us what we can do if we invite God to be our companion in 2021. We wish everyone a very happy and blessed New Year. **DOT**

MID-SUMMER CABARET SHOW



Take Your S.E.A.T. was looking forward to a Talent Show in February, this year to make up for NOT doing the panto and to ALSO to cheer us all up ... something we all desperately need! Unfortunately, we will have to delay our show in February for obvious

SYRESHAM SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB



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SARAH WHITEHEAD

reasons. Instead, there will be a Cabaret Show in mid-summer. *(Date to be announced.)*

We hope to perform the show on the Cricket field in mid-summer using a stage with full lighting and sound system on the carpark at the Sports & Social Club. With the acts signed up so far, it will be a real treat to look forward to in the summer.

Talks with the Sports & Social Club, have only just begun and we hope they will provide a bar and BBQ food or maybe a pig roast. By using the Cricket field, we will be able to socially distance the audience, where you bring your own chairs. We did a similar show about 10 years ago and it was a huge success.

We are now calling it a **Cabaret** and not a Talent Show, as some people were put off coming forward as they thought it was a Britain's Got Talent style show with Simon Cowell criticising their act! Regrettably Simon is not available, so it will be a straight forward Cabaret Show with local acts entertaining.

We still need more acts, so if you juggle, do magic, dance, sing in a band or on your own, do comedy stand-up or any other genre, please contact me at the email below and we can chat about what lighting, sound or props you may need. Don't be shy come forward and perform!

Take Your S.E.A.T. will perform classic panto dance routines with our younger members and a few show sketches. It will be a brilliant summer evening and something we can all look forward to! So, whether going on stage or just

watching, do please support us!

Email To Perform on:

keithwatts55@btinternet.com

Don't be shy ... lets perform!

KEITH WATTS, SHOW DIRECTOR

FLY TIPPERS AT KINGSHILL LAYBY



The layby at Kingshill on the old Main Road is often the target of



PHOTOS MEL BUGLER

people who seem to have no care for our local environment. It costs time and money to clear away.

To report such behaviour contact South Northants Council **01327 322344** or the Parish Clerk **01280-851178**

MESSAGE FROM THE FRIENDS OF SYRESHAM SCHOOL



Goodness what a strange and busy few months it has been!! Despite the challenges we have all faced, working closely with Mrs Clough and staff at Syresham School, before Christmas The SS managed to pull off some really great events and activities for the children to enjoy that felt reassuringly normal!

At the end of October each class bubble had their own choice of Themed Movie Party to celebrate the end of term ... complete with cinema style tuck bags; themed craft and party

games. This was a free event enjoyed by all the children and was featured in the national press "PTA+ magazine" as an "inspirational story"!

December in school was as busy as ever with festive crafting boxes, a virtual panto with ice creams in the interval, a Santa Run for Katherine House Hospice, a fantastic visit from Santa, arriving in the playground on his sleigh on his way to Wappenham Farm, (Thank you to Annette and David Wilson for arranging this!). There were individual class Christmas parties with games and festive food boxes supplied by Julie Turnham Catering.

Big shout-outs to the FOSS team and all the staff at Syresham School who worked really hard to make this all happen.

Thank you also to everyone involved in the Elf Trail, from the creative team who put so much into making all the lovely little doors and houses, to the "Elf Door Keepers", despite a downpour on Sunday morning, and to everyone in the village for the wonderful Christmas light displays! It was a really magical event and one which we may well repeat in the future!

Congratulations to Otis Berry who won the Elf Trail Festive Family Hamper. I'm delighted to report we were able to raise £165 online and donations.

Over the past year the FOSS has had to adapt rather swiftly to the unfolding events and restrictions, our hands have been ever so slightly forced into more online methods of raising

money. However a year on and I'm incredibly proud of everything we have achieved. We now have our own online PTA EVENTS page for taking donations, selling tickets or items such as the personalised Tea Towels and coasters that we were able to sell throughout December, raising £350.

We held our first ever online raffle in December proving to be a huge success and raising a whopping £2,046 for school! Thank you to all the local businesses who donated prizes, to everyone who supported us by buying a ticket, to Lisa Gregory for all her hard work in making it happen and to Marc Burgess for securing Barclay's match funding.

DATES FOR THE DIARY ...

Obviously our events calendar is somewhat precarious and "subject to restrictions!" Keep an eye out on the Facebook page or the village Post Office window!

FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY... Family Comedy Bingo Night - virtual event via zoom - tickets on sale at bit.ly/FOSSComedyBingo promises to be a really fun evening.

Easter Antics... we're hoping to run an Easter trail and a "virtual duck race" over the Easter holidays.

MAY-DAY, TUESDAY 4TH sadly it is looking increasingly unlikely that May Day will be able to go ahead in its usual format. However we are all very keen that the occasion should be marked in some way. Please look out for further information nearer the time.

CAROLINE FERGUSON, FOSS CHAIR

LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

6th May, 2021

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Would you like to offer your skills and experience?

Do you enjoy working as part of a team?

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As a Councillor representing your community you can actively help keep Syresham, Crowfield and Pimlico a great place to live and work. You will be supported in your role and offered training. You should be comfortable working electronically, have a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team.

For more information about Syresham Parish Council, being a Councillor and where to find details of the election process, key dates and candidate nomination papers, please contact Syresham Parish Clerk:

Samantha Hosking parishclerk@syresham.com 01280 851178

**Deadline for submission of your nomination paper is
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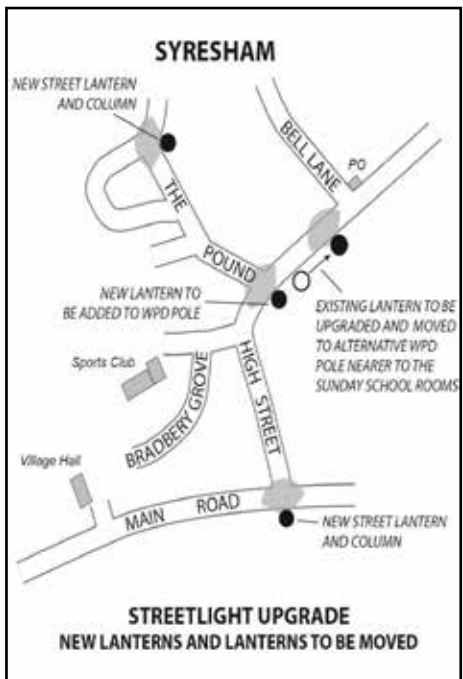
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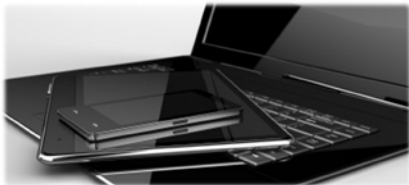


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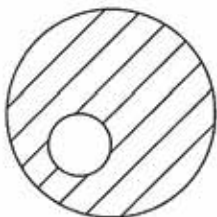
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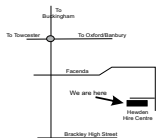
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