



The Syresham Times

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From the Editor's Desk

Happy New Year to everyone!

As if by magic, we move forward into another year, with new challenges, and more than a little extremely cold weather! It seems that record low temperatures continue, whilst many of us struggle with the financial crisis created by war in The Ukraine, and associated hikes in fuel costs.

We look forward to the warmer spring weather and perhaps a chance to enjoy the celebrations of a new monarch.

It is strange referring to His Majesty as opposed to Her Majesty, and anticipating the new stamps, coinage and notes. 70 years of Elizabeth II was a very long time in our lives, filled with long standing memories. And many of us have known no different.

Saturday May 6th will be Charles III's Coronation Day and an additional Bank Holiday on Monday 8th May will enable Syresham residents to celebrate.

The village did very well with Christmas gifts for the Ukraine—well done Syresham!

Finally, it would be remiss not to place on record the thanks of the village to Malcolm and Clare Orr-Ewing, for all they did in our community over the years until their recent move.

IAN DRAPER, EDITOR - JANUARY 2023

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PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDED BY:-

Hazel Bullen, Sallie Connery, Paula Green,
Malcolm Orr-Ewing, Sam Hawkins,
Gill Swinford

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Donated gift boxes at Christmas for Ukraine families - Catherine Corns

COPY DEADLINE FOR MAY 2023 ISSUE:

APRIL 27th 2023

A VERY BIG THANKYOU to everyone for all the amazing array of Christmas gifts and cards, really wonderful and very much appreciated.

For anyone who is interested, the Post Office has the new King Charles III 50 pence pieces.



Also a reminder, especially for the newer residents that the shop and post office is open **EVERY BANK HOLIDAY FROM 8.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.**

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy new year and thank you for your continued support.

RUTH GROVELL

SYRESHAM NO TRUCK STOP GROUP

You may have received a leaflet recently about the proposed Syresham Truck Stop planning application. The leaflet was generated by a small group of Syresham residents who campaign to stop the



development of a large Truck Stop on the edge of our beautiful village. We saw a significant rise in objections to the planning application as a result. Thank you so much for your support.

Planning application WNS/2022/2012/MAO has been submitted to West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) for a 52 bay Truck Stop with refuelling station and amenity building, on greenfield land next to the A43 slip

road for Syresham on B4525.

We have engaged with Syresham Parish Council which is opposed to the project. We have delivered leaflets into neighbouring villages, spoken with our Ward Councillors and recently met with the Rt. Hon Dame Andrea Leadsom MP to ask for her support and advice. We are also working closely with other local groups 'Save Towcester Now' and Silverstone & Whittlebury Residents Association who object to the proposed Warehousing in Towcester and the Shack's Barn proposal in Silverstone/Whittlebury.

We plan to meet with members of WNC's Senior Management Team to highlight how this planning application on greenfield land in open countryside presents dangerous traffic issues and will set a precedent for more industrial development.

A '**NO TRUCK STOP**' Facebook group has recently been set up, where you can find more information about our activity and how you can get involved to stop this development which will profoundly change the character of our local area.

If you do not support this planning application, please **ACT NOW**. The deadline for objections has been extended beyond 6th February 2023.

Every adult in your household can object. Please ensure the 'objection' option is selected on the portal <https://snc.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/WNS/2022/2012/MAO>

GEMMA MORGAN

39 YEARS IN SYRESHAM

I first looked at The Priory in September 1982 when I was working in Weston Favell for Beacon Publications plc. I was shown round by the owner Mrs Cunningham, whose godmother by chance had been an Orr-Ewing. We had not sold our Gloucestershire home so we were not, 'proceedable'. The Priory



MALCOLM AND CLARE ORR-EWING

was too large for what we wanted, with two young children aged 5 and 8. By chance late in 1983 I met at supper the gentleman who bought the Priory, Charles Bunbury, who told me exactly what he had spent on it and what he had put right. The following March 1984 I was working in Dubai when Charles called me to tell me he was selling and we agreed a price there and then. We had by then received an offer on our house in Gloucestershire. Weekly commuting had not been ideal, though I made several friends up here in the 18 months I was on my own, who served Clare in good stead when she joined me.

Reg Osbourne was the vicar of Syresham and Whitfield in those days. He soon had me on the PCC and I served continuously from 1985 until leaving the village last November. When Reg retired, we had Peter Caldwell (Syresham also taking in Helmdon) and then Peter Lawley who was not ideally suited to rural parish life. On one occasion, in an attempt to

be ecumenical and to enhance our relationship with the Chapel, Peter hurled a raw egg high in the air, making a 'life' point, which sadly came down on the Chapel Minister's head, necessitating a visit to the Horton. Peter took up a post in Telford. We were lucky enough to persuade John Roberts, in Pimlico and taught at Sponne School at that time, to join us. He served 12 years followed by Will Adams, of Whitfield. Both John and Will still occasionally take services and their time is much appreciated. Later, we had Carole Peters and then Diane Whitaker, who sadly has just retired because of ill health.

Altogether as PCC member and churchwarden for more than 20 years, I have served seven incumbents at St James Church.

In early days in the village I was conscripted by John Braybrook into the Parish Quiz Team (still serving in 2022!). I was a little disconcerted to be introduced, I think to Willie Bennie, another quiz team mate thus...'*Can I introduce you to Malcolm Orr-Ewing who is a Tory!* As if I had six legs, was sprouting horns and had no other job! On another occasion I had conscripted Sheila Lewis (Roger's mother) to join a Conservative Inter-Village Quiz. When I dropped Sheila back, having won the County Cup and had our picture taken for the Chronicle and Echo, I saw that her house was festooned, top to

The Syresham Times

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bottom, with Labour Party stickers! There was a General Election pending. But I espied one small window at the top of the house, Roger's bedroom, which sported a minute Conservative sticker.

With Rosemary Smith and Philip Pettit, I was one of the founders of the Syresham Times back in 1990. I was the publisher with Gill Dixon as my editor for several years, before moving sideways into dealing with the advertising space and the printers. Having won the Queens Award for Export Achievement in 1985 and 1986 (*see reminiscences of meeting Her Majesty the Queen in last edition of the ST*), the company I was working for in Weston Favell went bankrupt because of the sudden rise in the oil price and I found myself 'on the publishing market'. I started my own small company Priory Publications Ltd and employed a number of people in the village including Shirley Aris, Kay Keane, Francine Wilkins and, in his gap year, Roger Lewis. Doreen Moreland was a great help with mailshots (as well as baby sitting, sometimes at the same time). That kept us ticking over until I sold it in 2014, to be retained as a consultant until 2018.

I now drive patients to hospital appointments and am busy with church life.

The Priory is a wonderful house for entertaining and in our time there, we have had wine tastings, wine and cheese evenings, Friendship Club teas, Church Fetes, the vicar's wedding reception, new incumbent's lunches and many more functions.

Not to mention parties for my 40th and 70th birthdays and marrying our daughter Charlotte from there in 2006. We are so pleased that the Powell family have bought The Priory and I am sure they will be as happy there as we were over 39 years.

We are now at Brook House in Shalstone, whose nearest Post Office is still Ruth's shop, (and the estate agent's particulars also told us that the nearest nightclub is *The Mirage* in Milton Keynes), so you will not be shot of us completely!

MALCOM ORR-EWING JANUARY 2023

BROWNIES REPORT—WOL

We have a very exciting programme of events planned for the Brownies during the Spring term. It started with a pamper evening, where the girls were able to have a foot spa, hand and foot massage and toe nails painted. We

couldn't paint finger-nails as we didn't want to get into trouble with Mrs Clough!

Wendy and her daughter Hayley led an evening, trying to teach the



Brownies how to crochet, thank you ladies.

An evening at Brackley Fire Station is planned and the girls will be able to learn about the great work that is carried out by the volunteer Firefighters, also a visit to Waitrose is in the schedule where they will learn

all about where our food comes from and how it gets from the producers to the supermarkets.

The girls will also be working on and gaining their Local History badge. They need to explore the different buildings in the village and when they were built. They will also find out about the different shops that were here and learn the Syresham song. Towards the end of the term the girls will be hosting a Mexican food evening which will coincide with the Girlguiding Thinking Day celebrations, where the association worldwide remembers Girlguiding all around the World.

We are very lucky at the moment to have 4 young helpers working towards their D of E service award, they have been such a great help.

If you have a special hobby or talent you have which you would like to share please contact me.

PAULA GREEN WOL

RON COX 1930 TO 2022

Ron was born in 1930 the son of Fred and Phyllis Cox. He started school at the age of 5 and always said he went to a High School— as he had to climb 4 steps up into Syresham School.

His first job was working for Blencowe's in Syresham, farming with horse-power. He moved on to Ruck Keenes Farm in Church End, where his love of tractors began, also where he met Janet.

When Ruck Keenes sold, Ron went on to work for Pether and Bird in Brackley as a driver, he also spent a lot of time on the family farm. He would have

loved his own farm, but sadly had back problems, which stopped his dream. In the late 1950's he went to work at Croughton US Airforce base where he



spent many a happy day. He also began coach driving for Jeffs Coaches where he enjoyed plenty of banter with his passengers.

In 1958 Ron and Janet married, bought a house in Crowfield where they had many happy years and raised two daughters Sallie and Suzanne. He enjoyed many very happy times with his three granddaughters and five great granddaughters. He was outnumbered by all the females in his family!

He went on to enjoy his much-loved small holding, especially his sheep and tractors, and spent many of his retirement years at various ploughing matches, road runs, hunting and local shows, including Blakesley and Bloxham.

He particularly enjoyed Brackley Carnival where he would drive his tractor through Brackley in the parade,

then display for all to see. He was so very proud of his old tractors. Lastly not to forget his vegetable garden, he loved to tell us on a Sunday family meal that everything had been grown in his garden, although the one vegetable that caused us grief were the runner beans ... What could possibly be a problem you ask? WIND! The wind always blew when his beans were climbing the stick, as if it was done on purpose. We often had to barricade them in to protect them!

So talking of beans, please help yourselves to a little bag containing a couple of seeds for you to grow in memory of Ron – Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad.

Janet, Sallie and Suzanne would like to thank everyone for the cards and kind thoughts and for attending his memorial service. **JANET, SALLIE AND SUZANNE**



FRIENDS OF SYRESHAM SCHOOL

We had a thoroughly enjoyable evening at The Towcester Young Farmers family bonfire and fireworks display in aid of Syresham School. There were delicious hot chocolate, mulled cider, tasty hot dogs and sweet treats. All set in the magical setting amongst the fairy lights and straw bales. All brilliantly organised, once again by the amazing Claire Turnham

(Clip board and walkie talkies in hand!!) and the fireworks were fantastic too!!

We would like to say a big Thank you to all of the amazing volunteers on the day. Thank you also to all our local sponsors. Wappenham Farm, SDRB Joinery LTD, Kings Head Syresham, Ultimate Bars, Town and Country Plumbing and Heating, Oliver Gregory, OW RJ Vernon Agricultural Contracting. The night went with a huge bang and we raised a rocketing £1,842.78.

Our attentions now turned to Christmas. This year we decided to chance the weather and go outside. The playground had never looked so sparkly with festoon and fairy lights. We had all the usual Christmas Fayre fun which included several games for the children. The adults could enjoy a warming cup of mulled wine and enter the Grand Hamper raffle. Elfridges, where the children could buy gifts for their loved ones was a sell out and the Christmas stall enjoyed brisk trade. Even the Elves returned to the school playground and we had a visit from Pixie Mixie the sweet shop owner and Elvis McJingles landlord of the Elven Tavern, to name but a few. Word searches were purchased and the children (and adults) had a great time looking for the letters that made up a Christmassy word.

A huge thank you to every one who came and supported us. Thank you to all the amazing people who gave up their time to man a stall, bake, set up and tidy away. We raised a whopping £2,442.50. This is an incredible amount and we could not have done it without the generosity of our sponsors,

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The Nativity was back in the church and the children put on two fantastic performances. The audience was treated to refreshments, with Mulled wine and we sold more raffle tickets.

A huge thank you to the Round Table for bringing their fabulous Santa Sleigh to the village. We had a great team of amazing volunteers who came out to help collect donations. We had to move fast to keep up with Santa and thank you to the Dudley Family who provided some much-needed refreshments. With your help we raised a magnificent £556.85.

With all this incredible fundraising we have purchased lots of lovely new items for school, including new library books, cooking equipment, teachers' class spend, Maths equipment and updating the SEN area.

We are always looking for willing volunteers who would like to get involved (you don't just have to be a parent of the school).

If you are a keen baker or would like to help at any of our events, please get in touch with the school office.

SARAH PATERSON, FOSS CHAIR



Hello, I'm Sam Hawkins. You may remember me as Alan's son or possibly as Les's grandson. Since leaving the village I've been working in theatre (apart from 2 years in the pandemic when I taught drama at Eton College). I started writing plays. It's quite competitive so I didn't have much luck to start with, which meant I came back home to work as a fencer for my dad here in Syresham. I then wrote a play about being a fencer in Syresham, and what do you know, that play called *Village Idiot* is having a production in London and on tour. Every scene is set in Syresham, with scenes in The Park, Bridge House, and the Pound, the King's Head also gets a mention. I have changed a few things about Syresham, mostly that HS2 is planned to be going through the centre of the village. But I hope it feels like a genuine representation of village life, from someone who has lived it. I think more importantly it's a defence of the rural way of life, and of who rural people are. Often rural people are sometimes viewed as less intellectual or less enlightened by people in cities, and I wanted to challenge that in the play.

The cast is fantastic, Kevin is played by Mark Benton, (Eddie in *Early Doors*, Howard in *Northern Lights*, and Martin Pond in *Barbara*). He was also a long-running role on *Waterloo Road*, and he also made it to week 10 of *Strictly Come Dancing*!

Scottish stage legend Eileen Nicolas, who was also Ewan McGregor's mum in train spotting, plays *Barbara*. Maximilian Farley plays *Harry*, Phillip Labey plays *Peter*, and Faye Wigan is *Debbie*.

The play is directed by Nadia Fall, who is the artistic director of The Royal Stratford East and has directed multiple shows at The National Theatre.

The set and costume designer is Lily Arnold, the associate designer on the remembrance day poppy



installation at The Tower of London. Choreography is by Carre-Anne Ingrouille - resident choreographer on Hamilton. And the accent coach is Alan Hawkins, who played a cow's rear end in a pantomime.

It would be really great to have some people from Syresham in the audience. Tickets at from £10, Stratford is easy to get to on the train from Banbury, or 5 minutes away from the theatre there is a huge car park. Nottingham and Ipswich both have lots of parking.

Nottingham Playhouse : 11th March - 25th March

Ipswich New Wolsey : 29th March - 1st April.

Royal Stratford East : 13th April - 6th May

SAM HAWKINS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 12th February - Sunday carvery (serving 12-2pm)

A traditional Sunday roast carvery will be available with a choice of meats with all the trimmings including roast potatoes, parsnips, stuffing, a selection of seasonal vegetables and gravy.

WEDNESDAY 5TH APRIL - Easter Bingo

GOOD FRIDAY 7TH APRIL - Easter cakes

EASTER SATURDAY 8TH APRIL - Live entertainment from 8.30pm

And much more, through the year ahead.

CLUB QUIZ NIGHTS 2023

February 24th March 24th April 28th

May 26th June 23rd July 21st

August 18th September 22nd October 20th November 17th December 15th

BEER FESTIVAL WEEKEND of June 2nd to 4th

SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER - *Mighty Sham Manor* presents an **EVENING OF FUN AND MYSTERY**. A three-course dinner party with the fun of a murder at the manor. £17 per head for the meal.

SARAH WHITEHEAD 07912-784294

**ST JAMES CE SCHOOL, OFSTED
REPORT 2022**

On 6th December 2022 we had an Ofsted inspection. I am very pleased to share some highlights from the report with you. We had a very positive day with the inspectors and I am pleased that they saw the hard work and commitment to the school from staff, children, parents, governors and those from the community who support the school. It really is a team effort!

MRS CLOUGH, HEADTEACHER

“Pupils love coming to this school. They, parents and staff describe it ‘as a family’. The pupils are a credit to the school, are respectful and kind to each other, and behave well in lessons. Pupils focus on their learning. Classrooms are calm.

Expectations are high for everyone. Leaders have designed the curriculum to meet pupils’ needs. All pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), have access to the same curriculum opportunities.

The early years environment is stimulating and purposeful. Adults develop strong, nurturing relationships with the children, teaching the importance of the patience needed to take turns. Leaders rightly recognise that further work is needed to develop the curriculum sequence within the Nursery to ensure it fully prepares children for Reception.

Pupils with SEND are well supported.

Staff make effective use of resources to identify pupils’ needs quickly. Pupils with SEND rightly learn the same curriculum as their peers. They succeed in school. Several parents commented on how much they appreciate the support their child receives.

Pupils learn about equality. They develop a mature understanding of the protected characteristics, for example. They explore various world faiths and religions and can speak confidently about them. Pupils’ learning of fundamental British values is woven

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS - SEE PAGE 24

117 EXTENSION ACTIVITY

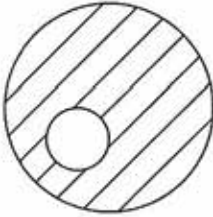
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117 CORE TASK

2	9	5	6	3	1	4	7	8
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through the curriculum. Pupils use this learning to become responsible members of their school community. Governors regularly visit the school, and are well informed. Staff are proud to work at the school. They feel valued, and appreciate that senior leaders consider their well-being and take workload into account. Relationships between staff, pupils and families are built on mutual respect and genuine care." *Mrs Clough*

MARJORIE ELIZABETH HUNT (1929 – 2022)

Marjorie was a much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was born in Pury End on 1st February 1929, she was an only child but had over twenty-five first cousins, many of whom lived locally.

She attended Paulerspury primary school, and Towcester Grammar School. Pury was a small rural village, which she and her cousins had the run of, and of which Marjorie had many tales. It is not hard to imagine that Marjorie was the ringleader in many of these shenanigans.

During the second world war, the children watched search lights and dog fights over the village, and after a bomb hit telegraph wires and destroyed the roofs of many of the houses, Marjorie, her family and occasional refugees from other parts of the UK lived downstairs in the house for over two years.

These were simple, frugal times, and

Marjorie looked forward to Christmas very much. She grew with confidence each year. So much so that one year she discovered a hidden stash of presents and secretly unwrapped them whilst her parents were out. This was only discovered on Christmas day, as a result of her lack of surprise at the nature of any of the gifts.

After finishing school, she went on to learn shorthand and typing in Northampton. Her first job was in the almoner's office at Northampton General Hospital, followed by a period at the Electric Light Board. Later she moved to the Plessey factory and offices in Towcester, where she ultimately became personal secretary to the managing director. Later

she moved to the Caswell research centre.

Marjorie married her first husband Pete, whom she met in 1949. They lived the first few years of their married life in Greens Norton.

Marjorie's only daughter, Gillian, was born in 1951. This arrival led to the addition of a sidecar to the motorbike upon which they had travelled together up to that point, and a move back to Pury End in 1954.

Marjorie took an active part in village life. She was a member of the Parish Church Council, belonged to the Good Neighbours Club, and given her lifelong love of gardens and flowers, was involved in the annual horticultural show.



Her husband Pete developed rheumatoid arthritis before they moved back to Pury, and spent long periods in hospital, in particular at Stoke Mandeville. Tiring of long journeys for hospital visits that involved several changes of bus, Marjorie learned to drive. This was a freedom she relinquished very reluctantly in her eighties.

After Pete passed away in 1971, Marjorie met George, and subsequently remarried. They spent most weekends going to whist drives and to dances with friends. Her three grandchildren were born during the years that followed, and Richard, Abbe and Beth have fond memories of staying in Pury for many weekends, playing in the garden and helping on the allotments.

Marjorie and George enjoyed travel, including trips to Devon and travels around Europe with her cousin Walter, and his wife Joan. Marjorie's persistence is well illustrated by one vacation in France, where she spent each night trapping mice invading her lodgings, and releasing them outside. The mice, like Marjorie, preferred to return swiftly to a warm fire .

When Marjorie retired, she joined the Milton Keynes WI market and spent many hours jam-making, baking and packaging the vegetables that she and George had grown. This became a veritable cottage industry involving many of the family, particularly at Christmas time when their cottage became a production line for festive holly wreaths.

After George passed away in 1994,

Marjorie came to live in Syresham to be near family. Here she made many new friends, as well as discovering that her childhood friend Beryl was her neighbour. She joined the Friendship Club, the History Society and many church and chapel activities. She especially enjoyed Scrabble Nights in the chapel, and quizzes in the Village Hall.

Marjorie looked forward to the annual scarecrow festival, where she ran an expansive flower tombola stall, with the support of her great-grandchildren.

She will be remembered walking around the village with her 'spirited' Jack Russell terrier, Henry. Henry was also, according to Marjorie, responsible for the only blemish on her driving record. Marjorie was choosing books in the library in Brackley, when a gentleman entered to say that a car piloted by a jack Russell had just driven past, and subsequently crashed, outside.

In recent years Marjorie became less mobile but still took an interest in village activities whenever she could, and the family are most grateful to Pat, Sue, Kathleen, Kevin and Claire for the help and support that they also gave her during this time.

Marjorie celebrated her ninetieth birthday with over a hundred friends and family across many generations, and always enjoyed a glass of wine or a gin and tonic.

The family would like to thank you for all the support given and the expressions of sympathy received.

GILL SWINFORD



TAKE YOUR S.E.A.T.'S PANTO THIS YEAR IS THE WIZARD OF OZ!

Not a traditional panto, but we have added all your favourite panto elements to our show and we promise, spectacular sets, wonderful costumes and dramatic lighting!

We will entertain you with fabulous dance routines, beautiful singing, spectacular effects and many funny moments for all the family.

The cast and backstage crew have been rehearsing and building sets since September last year and we promise top entertainment for you!

It's perfect Half-Term entertainment! So, please support us and buy your tickets now, so not to avoid disappointment! They are selling fast! See you there ... in the Land of Oz!

KEITH WATTS, DIRECTOR

PARISH FOOTPATH WARDEN

Anyone interested in finding out about the local public footpaths, bridleways and byways in and around the parish, please



contact our new volunteer Parish Path Warden, Andrew Hornby (details below).

If you find that a public footpath has become impassable (e.g. a broken stile) you can report this directly to the

local authority via www.fixmystreet.com. This is really handy from your mobile phone as you can show the position on an online map and submit photos too. Please let our footpath warden know, so that the local authority's response can be tracked

You may have seen that some of the steps down from Main Road (by Kingshill Bridge) to the footpath that goes under the A43 (AZ46) had disintegrated over time. The issue was reported via Fixmystreet, investigated and subsequently repaired by the local authority's contractor within a few weeks. It's that simple.

Where you find that footpaths or bridleways have become overgrown, blocked by vegetation etc, again please get in touch.

ANDREW HORNBY

andrewjhornby@ymail.com

FLY-TIPPING HELP FOR LANDOWNERS

Landowners across West Northants can apply for funding to clear and prevent fly-



tipping on their land under a scheme delivered by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

When fly-tipping takes place on public land, the taxpayer pays for the removal and disposal of the waste. However, if a fly-tip occurs on private land, the landowner pays for the clean up and removal.

The scheme was initially launched as a

pilot last year by Stephen Mold, the Police, Fire, and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire (PFCC), and was extended in October 2022 for a further 12 months.

Private landowners are able to apply for a grant of up to £1,500 towards the cost of having the fly-tipped waste cleared away and to support them in establishing prevention measures which will make the land less vulnerable to fly-tippers in the future. Funding is only available for private landowners.

Cllr David Smith, WNC's Cabinet Member for regulatory services, community safety and engagement, said: "I would encourage farmers and landowners on the frontline of this important issue to find out more about the scheme and how it can support them."

West Northamptonshire Council is committed to tackling fly-tipping and deterring people from blighting communities. The Council's Cleaner Communities Campaign aims to provide guidance on how people can ensure they only use licensed waste removal companies, highlight when people have been prosecuted for fly-tipping, and gather intelligence on dumped waste to lead to a prosecution.

Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Stephen Mold said: "Fly-tipping is a crime and is a blight on our streets. The anti-social behaviour of a minority can ruin our communities for everyone else."

WEST NORTHANTS COUNCIL

SYRESHAM CHAPEL

Our Christmas services began with the joint Carol service followed by brunch and carols Christmas



Eve when we were so pleased to welcome so many people joining with us to sing not only the traditional ones but some which have been sung in the village for many years. We were so pleased to raise so many gift boxes for distribution abroad, especially Ukraine, for those suffering at Christmas.

We are now looking forward to welcoming everyone to our Mothering Sunday Service at 10.30.am on March 19th. The walk of witness will take place on Good Friday morning when the cross will be carried from the Chapel to the Church.

DOT

SYRESHAM & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

Come along to the Village Hall on a 1st Wednesday in the month to enjoy one of many historical talks, we have a full programme of topical talks from a wide variety of speakers covering a wide range of topics.

Each month has a different theme and topic and a regular raffle prize draw is an added attraction. Annual subscription is £15.00 or entry on the night is £3.00.

In January we had an interesting talk by Kevin Varty from Milton Keynes, in which he demonstrated his Magic Lantern projector and gave us some wonderful images dating back to Victorian times.

The upcoming programme includes a talk about Canon's Ashby Gardens, this coming week; in March a talk about an Arctic sailing expedition by Sir John Franklin, from which he failed to return. This will be followed in April, by what should prove to be an interesting archive of film material covering Northamptonshire over the years.

May will see an interesting presentation about the role of the River Thames in World War II. We also plan a visit to the Museum in Milton Keynes that month.

Hopefully we will be running a trip to Greenwich in September, and then another Quiz evening similar to those that were run by John Braybrook, in late October.

Do come along and join in the programme!

IAN DRAPER, CHAIRMAN

ST JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH

As I write, there is ice on the inside of many of our windows and the study thermometer is up from 5.9° to 6.2°. However, I know if I look outside, the hardy snowdrops and crocus are pushing their way through the cold earth heralding the hoped for spring.

Down at the church we have many hopes and plans for this year. We hope



that you will join us in some of the activities and celebrations, dates shown below. They include: our joint service for Mothering Sunday with the chapel; our Easter celebrations; the welcome return visit of Note-ability choir, who sing songs from Bach to The Beatles and beyond; and our Inter-Parish Quiz nights—bring along a team, or just come and watch others battle it out. £10 includes a 2-course meal, licensed bar available.

We have plans to tackle many of the 157 tasks our architect has set us to keep the church and churchyard in good order. Some will need professional work and we are in the process of gathering quotes for this work. However we can tackle many others with help from our sterling Churchyard Working Party and Tower Captain.

We will be working on the first Saturday of each month from March to September from 10.30-12.00, clearing ivy & moss, tidying beds, painting ironwork – we welcome anyone who would be willing to join us.

We continue to have services at 11.00 am on the 1st to 4th Sundays all are welcome. Whatever else happens may you be filled with hope, joy and peace this spring.

Some dates for the next few months:

February 10th Inter-Parish Quiz night
Lois Weedon

February 21st Pancake Lunch TBC

March 3rd Inter-Parish quiz night in
Syresham Village Hall

March 4th, April 1st, June 4th and July
1st Churchyard working

March 11th TBC Messy Church for the under 7s.

March 19th Joint Mothering Sunday service 10:30am in Chapel

March 31st Inter-Parish quiz night in Whitfield

April 9th Easter Communion 11am

April 21st Inter-Parish quiz night in Helmdon

May 8th Community churchyard working (note different day for Coronation)

July 1st Note-ability concert

ALICE PALMER

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

We would first like to wish all residents, somewhat belatedly, a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Councillors have continued to work busily during the past three months, considering planning applications and setting the budget for the next financial year. We have also held several extraordinary meetings, primarily



to consider the application for outline planning for a Truck Stop on the Welsh Lane junction. The Parish Council has objected to the proposal, and, after considering the matter in great depth, decided to appoint a planning consultant to write a detailed letter of objection to the proposal to the West Northamptonshire Planning Committee.

Council representatives have also continued to attend meetings on HS2,

Silverstone Circuit and MEPC, who are responsible for the growing Silverstone Business Park. and the local cycling and walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP) for Brackley. Reports on these meetings have been given to all Parish Councillors and residents will be kept up-to-date on these issues. Some Parish Councillors have also attended seminars and courses on Community Engagement and the provision of Warm Spaces. In addition to this, meetings have been held with Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Highways regarding speeding and noise issues on Main Road.

We hope you will have noticed that the old paling fence in the Swingfield has now been replaced by an attractive metal fence to match that on the road side of the play area. Plans are also in progress to replace the wooden playhouse and install an inclusive swing.

The Climate Change sub-committee of the Parish Council has met to consider the comments and suggestions made by residents at the Climate Change Fair last year and to formulate a plan of action for the forthcoming year. Meanwhile, we would ask you to put the date of the next *Climate Change Fair in your diary – Friday 22nd September 2023.*

There have recently been reports of cars parked illegally or parked on the pavement and vehicles with a SORN that have been parked on the highway. The police are dealing with these, but we ask that if you see any more such

instances, please report them to the police.

The Parish Council has appointed a new footpath warden, Andrew Hornby, and we ask that if you encounter any

problems on public footpaths and bridleways you report them to Andrew on ?

Finally another date for your diary – ***Syresham's Litterpick Week 2023 will take place from Monday 20th March to Sunday 26th March.*** We hope that as many residents as possible will take part and help us to keep our local countryside attractive, safe and litter free.

CLL CHRISTINA MUNSEY

SYRESHAM MUMS AND TOTS

We have a very active group of Mums, Dads, Grandmas and Grandpas and friends, who join us along with their children every Wednesday morning at 10.00am in the village hall during term time. From birth until pre school all children are welcome .

For those who join us, it's two hours in the company of other parents you can share encouragement and enjoy a coffee or two. The children have the freedom to explore play with an assortment of toys in a warm, bright,



safe environment for a small weekly charge. Cathy, Beryl and myself are there to help with the running of the group, but we want you to be part of it too.

We have activities that the children are encouraged to do along with parents, painting, drawing, crafts etc.

There is dressing up, a play kitchen, dolls, cars and an assortment of other activities that can be enjoyed to stimulate the children through play.

We really look forward to you joining us, if all you need on that morning is to sit and relax we will do our best to let you do that.

Last year during the warmer months the children enjoyed the garden area at the village hall , they rode the bikes and trundles and played with the sand tray.

Amongst lots of creative activities that Tina Nesbit kindly arranged for the children to do, they made many creative things with paper and glue, explored food by making iced biscuits, food pots and pizzas, and learned about colours, had a bouncy castle made pottery gifts and visited the village church for a nativity story.

We thank Tina for all that she did and is still doing for Mums and Tots.

We look forward to the year ahead and would like to welcome you to join us .

HAZEL BULLEN 07798-567884





**SILVERSTONE
RESIDENTS
PASS**

PROGRAMME 2023

Silverstone has opened applications for its 2023 Residents Pass Programme.

The Residents Pass grants free access to the circuit on selected race weekends throughout the 2023 season for Syresham residents. One Resident Pass per household will be offered, which will entitle 2 adults and 4 children tickets (aged 15 or under) per event. The application form requires proof of residence (e.g. utility bill, council tax, driving licence) to be uploaded.

The calendar of events features over 25 race meetings, including British Superbikes (Saturday), British Touring Car Championship (Saturday) and Silverstone Festival - formerly known as The Classic (Sunday). The application form can be completed at: <https://www.silverstone.co.uk/about/local-community/local-residents-information>

If you do not wish to apply for tickets but would like to receive communications relevant to local residents, please email: residents@silverstone.co.uk with your full name and address to be added to our mailing list.

ALISON HILL, PR AND COMMUNICATIONS, SILVERSTONE

FREE RURAL ENGAGEMENT EVENTS, NORTHANTS POLICE.

You may be interested in attending

one of the following events in February. Although they are predominantly aimed at farmers and landowners wanting to see how rural crime is tackled, and how they can help in the prevention and detection of rural crime. This will be an ideal opportunity to engage not only with the Rural Crime Team, but many partners ranging from Office of Police & Fire Crime Commissioner, NFU, Northants Fire, Environment Agency, Northants ACRE, BASC, Crime Prevention, PIDs Systems, Tracker UK, Neighbourhood Watch, County Traveller Unit, Northants Search & Rescue, Firearms Licensing Canal & River Trust and many more. Exhibitors from across the county will be displaying new and innovative crime prevention products and there will be ample opportunity to network with police and local authority officers, as well as other members of the local farming community and the exhibitors.

MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY AT TOWCESTER SPORTS CLUB:

[Northamptonshire Police Rural Engagement Event Tickets, Mon 20 Feb 2023 at 18:30 | Eventbrite](#)

MONDAY 27TH FEBRUARY AT ALTHORP HOUSE:

[Northamptonshire Police Rural Engagement Event Tickets, Mon, Feb 27, 2023 at 6:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

All events run from 6.30pm to 10pm.

Places are limited

ELAINE O'LEARY (Northants ACRE)

Tel: 01604 765888



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117 CORE TASK

SUDOKU PUZZLES

117 EXTENSION ACTIVITY

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SOLUTIONS SEE PAGE 13

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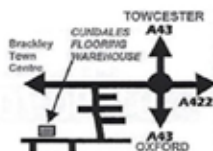
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PROPRIETOR: RUTH MARY GROVELL

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE VILLAGE HALL THESE DAYS?

MON-DAYS	DANCE CLASSES 6.00PM TO 8.30PM (<i>Term time</i>)	TUESDAYS 2 nd Tuesday 2 nd 3 rd & 4 th Tuesdays	11.00am to 2.30pm BALLET/PILATES/ SEATED PILATES (<i>Term Time</i>) 5.30PM TO 7.00P.M. DANCE (<i>Term Time</i>) 6.00PM TILL 7.15PM BROWNIES, <u>Sunday School Room</u> , TAEKWANDO 7.30PM TO 9.00PM PERSONAL TRAINING 7.30PM TO 8.30PM FRIENDSHIP CLUB (29/03) 2.15PM TO 4.00 PM FROM APRIL 1ST 2022 CRAFT GROUP, <i>Sunday School</i> 7.30-10.00PM
WEDNES-DAYS 1 ST WEDNESDAY 2 ND WEDNESDAY LAST WEDNESDAY	10.00AM TO 11.45AM MUMS & TOTS (<i>TERM-TIME</i>) 12.15 TO 1.15PM PILATES (<i>TERM TIME</i>) 2.30 TO 4.30PM GARDENING CLUB (<i>FROM JANUARY</i>) DANCE 5.00PM TO 7.00PM BALLET 7.15PM TO 9.00PM HISTORY SOCIETY 7.30PM TO 9.30PM GEMS WOMEN'S GROUP 7.30PM TO 9.30PM 7.30PM PARISH COUNCIL	THURSDAYS	COFFEE SHOP 10.30AM to 12.30pm BOWLS CLUB 7.15PM TO 9.15PM
FRIDAYS	Various activities SPORTS CLUB QUIZ (3RD FRIDAY) SPORTS CLUB)	SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS	SEIDOKAN 2ND & 4TH SUNDAYS 10.00AM - 12.00PM SOCIAL EVENTS SPORTS CLUB
SUNDAYS	ST JAMES CHURCH 11.00AM 1ST & 3RD SUNDAY 2ND SUNDAY 4TH SUNDAY	HOLY COMMUNION MORNING WORSHIP PRAISE AND PRAYER	SYRESHAM CHAPEL WEEKLY SUNDAY SERVICE 6.00 P.M.



Be There!

WIZARD OF OZ THE PANTO

PERFECT HALF TERM ENTERTAINMENT!

Wed 15th - Sat 18th Feb 2023

7.30pm (Sat Matinee 2.30pm)

At Syresham Village Hall

Tickets On Sale
At Village Shop

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