



The Syresham Times


VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2008-10, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017





MAY 2024





Discover the taste and goodness of your countryside


 **100% Grass-Fed Beef, lamb and woodland pork:** Indulge in the rich, robust flavour of our beef and pork, raised on chemical-free pastures and in a woodland. Our commitment to ethical farming ensures happy, healthy animals and unbeatable taste.

 **Pastured Chicken:** Taste the difference with our pastured chicken, free to roam in the great outdoors. Raised with care and compassion, these birds lead stress-free lives, resulting in succulent and flavoursome meat.

 **Organic Pastured Eggs:** Breakfast just got better! Our hens roam freely, producing eggs rich in flavour and nutrition. Say goodbye to conventional eggs and hello to the golden goodness of our sought-after organic pastured eggs. (Reserve yours at food@naturewayfarm.co.uk)

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 **Ethical, Sustainable, Organic:** At our farm, we don't just talk about sustainability; we live it. Every purchase supports a farming approach that cares for the environment, animals, and your health. You'll find other sustainable products here, such as cereals, pasta, and handmade preserves.

Visit Us Today - take a break from the ordinary and treat yourself to the extraordinary.

Opening Hours:

Thursdays: 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Saturdays: 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM



Location:

Old Park Farm, Astwell Road,
Syresham NN13 5PT
naturewayfarm.co.uk/farm-shop



From the Editor's Desk

Are you still feeling the chills? It makes you wonder how our weather will continue to be affected. The almost continuous rain and hardly a chance to get the mowers out, makes it very difficult! The Parish Council is not subscribing to the “No-Mow May”, policy of last summer. However farmers are struggling with extremely wet and muddy fields, and who knows how that will affect prices in the shops. Hopefully the Sports Club will be able to host cricket and other events without too much damage to the surfaces.

And we hope that the May Day fete will have gone ahead ok by the time this edition goes to bed.

June will see the marking of 80 years since the D-Day landings in Normandy. We have local contributions about Northants Yeomanry involvement in 1944. The village is marking this event with decorations, and the **free** showing of a movie, with cheese and wine. Watch out for details, and come along to enjoy the film show along with free refreshments, courtesy of HS2, the Parish Council and Syresham History Society.

IAN DRAPER, EDITOR—MAY 2024

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COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

*Magnolia Blossom—Main Road
May Day Dancing*

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JULY 28TH 2024

NEWS FROM ST JAMES CHURCH

CELEBRATIONS

It was wonderful to celebrate different events of Holy Week with our Messy Church, School, Benefice and Chapel friends remembering all the highs and lows of that week leading up to our Easter Celebrations.

We now turn our attention to a Whit Walk around the five parishes of the benefice to celebrate Pentecost.

June 8th we are looking forward to playing our part in the Village Celebration.

Everyone is invited to join in. We look forward to the return of the **F1 car** to The Priory along with lots of stalls including games, Books & Bears, BBQ, Teas, Cakes

and more. We are excited about the use of the church on that day. There will be a display about the church bells (some of them are 400 years old this year) with a chance to try the bells out. We also welcome other village clubs to display posters celebrating their presence in the village. There will be another flower arrangement by Sally.

Finally, the opportunity to enter our **creative competition: "Celebrating Village Life"**. Entries cost £1 and will be displayed in the church. They will be judged in three categories: under 7s, 7-11s and over 11s. They may be paintings drawings poetry, prose... Entries delivered to Alice by June 1st



please.

STEEPLE SAGA We think we have enough money to pay for the repairs, although around £20,000 of this will be a loan. Many thanks to all those individuals who have contributed along with grants from Garfield Weston Foundation, Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust, Francis Coales Foundation, The Benefact Group and HS2. Unfortunately the work has been postponed to the autumn due to the return of the bats and problems sourcing the shingles and extra planning permission.

Continued Thanks to all the wonderful folk who help keep our church open and running for both worship and as great part of our heritage. Financial support, helping with church maintenance and events are all most gratefully received.

Here are some dates for your diary.

May 10th INTER-PARISH QUIZ NIGHT
Lois Weedon

May 19th WHITSUN WALK around the parishes

June 1st SAFARI SUPPER

June 2nd ROGATION SERVICE and lunch in Wappenham

June 8th VILLAGE CELEBRATION

June 15th BARN DANCE at Manor Farm, Wappenham

ALICE PALMER & REVD. HUGH WHITE

PHOTO ROB POWELL

GEORGE TIMMS TRUST



One of the Trust's objectives has always been to support the development and wellbeing of local children and young people. As part of this, the George Timms Trust offers Educational Grants to young people in our community (aged 16-25), who may need financial support for their education or job training. These grants are to help towards any costs directly related to a course of education or training – such as books, tools, course fees, transport, or living costs if studying away from home.

The two types of financial grant available are as follows:

- ◆ Students at school or college or undertaking an apprenticeship or other vocational training - support available for a maximum of 2 years.
- ◆ Students at university – support available maximum 4 years.

If you or a family member would benefit from financial assistance to help you achieve your educational or vocational ambitions, please contact the Trust by email info@georgetimstrust.org.uk, or by dropping a note through our letter box (32 High Street, Syresham NN13 5HL).

We will acknowledge receipt and explain the next steps. We will then ask you to complete an application form with further details. Any

information supplied by you, and any response from the Trust, will be kept totally confidential.

GEORGE TIMMS TRUST GARDENING CLUB

In February the Gardening Club visited Canons Ashby with a view to seeing the snowdrops. Although we managed to see some snowdrops, the atrocious weather meant that parts of the garden were closed to the public. Those of us who braved the rain also went on a tour of the house which we all found very interesting and informative.

In March we welcome Chris Bazeley who gave a very enjoyable and informative talk on 'Whistley Wood'. In April we enjoyed an updated version of the old classic film 'The Secret Garden' featuring Colin Firth and Julie Walters. The story by Frances Hodgson Burnett is said to be inspired by the gardens and grounds at Great Maytham Hall in Kent which might possibly provide an opportunity for a future Gardening Club visit.

Our next month's talk will be 'This Gardening Life' by Nigel Munsey. Come along and find out Nigel's fascinating gardening experiences!

The Gardening Club will also be organising the Open Gardens on Saturday June 8th which are part of the day of Village Celebration – more details can be found elsewhere in this edition. There will be approximately 10 gardens open around the village with stalls and refreshments. Tickets will be £5 and may be purchased from a central location in the High Street or any of the open gardens. It would be great to see you there. **CHRIS MUNSEY**



SYRESHAM ART EXHIBITION 2024

SYRESHAM VILLAGE HALL

SAT 12TH OCTOBER 11AM – 5PM

SUN 13TH OCTOBER 11AM – 4.30PM

Works from local artists presenting
paintings and photographs covering a wide
range of topics and prices.

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*Artists, please contact Mary Turnham for
exhibiting details and costs:*

07780 115147: maryturnham@icloud.com



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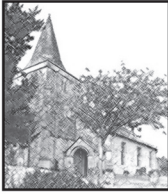
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The Friends of St James

We have some great events coming up which you are warmly invited to attend. These offer a great opportunity to

meet new friends and get to know your neighbours in the village.

Events to put in your diary:

June 1st 2024 Safari Supper. £17.50 per ticket. We all meet together for canapés and sparkling wine at the first venue, and are then taken by our various hosts for a main course. Afterwards we regroup for our desserts or cheese and biscuits at the final destination. Bring your own drinks to see you through the main course and desserts. These are always great fun! If you would like to book your place, please call 07814283385.

July 22nd Friends' AGM. Venue and time tbc

Membership: *The Friends of St. James* is made up of people who may not be regular members of the congregation but who value our lovely church, its history, and the part it plays in the life of our village community. The Committee, backed by the members, take responsibility for some aspects of the upkeep of the church which fall outside the scope of the Madge Payne Bequest. We organise a variety of events, some in conjunction with other groups, which contribute to the social life of the village and help raise money to fund specific projects – such as the

upkeep of the church grounds. We warmly welcome new “Friends”. If you would like to know more or become a member of the Friends, please call ***ANTOINETTE 01280 850060.***

SYRESHAM

PARISH

COUNCIL

The Parish Council has been as busy as ever during the last three



months. Hopefully you will have noticed the new bench on Main Road near the High Street entrance. This is made of recycled material and replaces the one destroyed by a falling branch a few years ago. The offending tree has gone so it is now safe to sit and rest or relax on this bench as you walk around the village. The bench was in fact purchased with winnings received from our Village of the Year success a couple of years ago.

For our younger residents we were pleased to have the equipment in the Swingfield professionally cleaned. In previous years this has been done by members of the Parish Council, but this year we felt a good power wash was necessary. Also in the Swingfield, following the great success of the wildflower trial patch last year, we would like to extend the wildflower bank. This will necessitate the removal of the grass, raking over the area and

sowing of more wildflower seeds by the children from the school. We would greatly appreciate any offers of help!!

Staying with the nature theme, the Parish Council has recently organised a survey of all the trees in the village for which they are responsible. I am pleased to report that most are OK, but there are a couple of trees in the Pocket Park that require attention. A contractor will be employed to do this work and notice will be given when the Pocket Park will be closed.

The Parish Council also has a new logo showing our renowned Jubilee Tree. We thank our new Clerk Nichola Ali for creating this design. We are also pleased to report that our website has been updated and now has a new website address which is www.syreshamvillage.com Notices will soon be put up in the village to inform residents of this.

Advisory notices requesting that people adhere to a 20 mph speed limit within the village have been put up in various places. In the interest of the safety of us all we request that drivers respect this request.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the Village Annual Litterpick, especially the members of the Rapid Relief Team of the Plymouth Brethren who got the week off to a very good start.

As many of you will already know, 2024 is the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings that took place on 6th June

1944 when Allied troops landed on the coast of Normandy. It was the start of the campaign to liberate Europe and defeat Germany. But enough said – if you want to hear more about this momentous event come along to the History Society meeting on June 5th at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall. Following this on 6th June the Coffee Shop will have a D-Day theme and then on Friday June 7th there will be a film featuring the landings that will be shown in the village hall with wine and refreshments provided. Will the film be ‘Saving Private Ryan’ or ‘The Longest Day’? We shall see! Although it is organised by the History Society, it will be financed by the Parish Council and HS2. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Finally a reminder of two important meetings in May. The **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** will be held on Thursday 16th May at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall. This is not a Parish Council meeting, but a meeting of the residents of the Parish, called and co-ordinated by the Parish Council. The Speaker will be a representative of HS2 who will give an update of the project and explain what will be happening in the near future. Reports from Village Organisations and Parish Council Committees will be available for residents to view. The second meeting is the **PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING** on Wednesday 29th May at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Residents of the parish are welcome to attend. **CLLR CHRISTINA MUNSEY**

MUMS AND TOTS.

We would like to welcome any new families of the village and anyone who lives in the local area to join us on *Wednesday mornings* in Syresham Village Hall.

Our two-hour sessions start around 10.00am and are for children from Birth to pre-school age.

We offer a comfortable play area for Parents/ Grand Parents to play alongside the children, we also have an area for babies to stretch out on.



The children love making new friends as do the parents, time to sit and have a hot drink and share a snack time with the whole group at 10.50.

The room is set out with a variety of toys to stimulate learning, with indoor bikes and ride-ons and a favourite slide. We offer a table of creative play, painting, making things this is enjoyable for parents too. The hall has parking with pram access.

We charge £2 per adult - £1 a child over one year old - 50p per child under one year

Come along and meet myself Cathy and Beryl. Sessions run during school term time.

For more information call **07798-567884 HAZEL BULLEN**

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS - SEE PAGE 25

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849 EXPERT

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FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Hoping to live up to our name we would welcome anyone to join us fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon to share demonstrations, talks, quizzes, films and outings. The opportunity is open to make new friends, meet up with others and enjoy company for the afternoon always ending with tea and cakes. We meet at 2.30 in the village hall. Our next meeting is 7th May when we look forward to you joining us.

DOT

RUTH GROVELL, SYRESHAM

VILLAGE POSTMASTER 30 YEARS!

Recently, I had the great pleasure of presenting an award and flowers to our lovely Ruth the village Postmaster and was able to congratulate her on her 30 years of service, with the community. I know speaking to some of her customers they all love her and would be lost without her. I also know that people travel to her post office



from surrounding areas because of her outstanding customer service.

Kind regards, **KAREN MCILROY,**
NORTHANTS POST OFFICE RETAIL
AREA MANAGER



even further afield we would like to congratulate our postmistress Ruth on her 30 years of service. We are so fortunate to have a post office that is open five and a half days a week. The Parish Council on behalf of everyone wants to express our thanks and congratulations. So thank you Ruth from us all. **DOROTHY DUNKLEY**

ST JAMES CE SCHOOL

The friends of Syresham School kicked off 2024 fundraising activities with the



6 Nations prediction competition. Cath Clark very kindly ran this event for us again and we had a fantastic number of entries. There were lots of changes of leader due to the unexpected wins. Thank you to all who took part and the money is going towards a tennis coach

coming in to teach the children this term.

In February the children put on their best outfits for school DISCO. It was great to see all the children strutting their stuff and having a lovely time together. Thank you to the DJ for the awesome tunes. A fantastic evening was had by all.

In March we had a spring DIY SOS and tidy up. As ever it is amazing what can be achieved with a bit of people power. Lots of stone, bark and sand was topped up as well as a lot of jet washing. This year we were lucky enough to have Steve and Ryan from Nicholsons and their help and expertise was very much appreciated.

SARAH PATERSON, CHAIR FOSS

PARISH PATH WARDEN

At the end of April, a dozen of us set off from outside the King's Head on a damp Spring Saturday morning to enjoy another community walk across the fields around Syresham. The footpaths took us across parts of College Farm, Langley Farm, Santhill Plantation, Kingshill Farm and Park Manor Farm. We covered just under 3 miles and finished at the Church where there was some hot homemade soup to revive us; and we were joined there for lunch by a few other friends and neighbours who'd not been able to come on the walk.

We'll be doing another walk in the summer so look out for the posters, or the next edition of Syresham Times.

Different people come each time so it's a good way to meet other villagers, and to socialise actively in the fresh air – and maybe go down a path less travelled.

If you always walk the same route but fancy a change, and are not sure where else to go, check out the interactive map on the West Northants Council website at <https://bit.ly/42E284u>.

This online map allows you to select a layer showing all the public rights of way: zoom in on where you want to walk, and then click the 'Map features and tools' menu on the top left corner of the page. Select 'Map features', then 'Transport and streets', and then 'Public rights of way'. Saving this to your phone, or taking a printed copy in your pocket, will help you keep to the right footpath, bridleway or byway.

ANDREW HORNBY

ANOTHER ACTION PACKED FEW

WEEKS AT



BROWNIES.

A variety of activities have been carried out by the girls ranging from cooking and eating pancakes, planting out flowers in front of Sunday School, learning about St George the Patron Saint of England, who they believe never visited our shores to trying to fit

their bodies through a piece of paper. We also celebrated 50 years of Syresham Brownies by having an 'everything 50' night and the girls had a challenge of putting 50 different things in a jam jar.

I was very proud of those who came to Church to parade for Mothering Sunday. Well done all!

We had fun with our annual egg hunt in the Chapel, redeeming card ones for real chocolates!

We are looking forward to being outside as much as the weather allows this term and hope to end our year with a BBQ at the Pocket Park! Again weather permitting.

We are very fortunate to have lots of help at the moment and we couldn't keep going without them. Many thanks. **REPORT BY WOL**

Paula and David would like to thank everyone who donated to the coffee morning in March. We raised a staggering £1,000 for **BREAST CANCER NOW**.

We have been overwhelmed by your kindness and support. Many, many grateful thanks.



**SYRESHAM
WESLEYAN
CHAPEL**

The Chapel is still open every day for anyone who wishes to spend time on their own or drops a request in the prayer box.

We were pleased to join with friends from the Church for a series of Lent

Studies in the Sunday School led by the rector.

Easter celebrations began with a Passover meal on Maundy



Thursday, we joined the Walk of Witness when the cross was carried from the Church to Chapel, Paula led our Good Friday evening service. Easter Sunday afternoon the children had a special craft session and everyone had tea together before our evening service. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make our Easter time so special. **DOT**

**VILLAGE CELEBRATION
SATURDAY 8TH JUNE**

A day with something for everyone in the village - F1 car, church fete at The Priory, children's crafts in the Sunday school, Open Gardens, teas, a sports club barbecue, celebration of the bells and flower arrangements in the church, club displays, quizzes and charity stalls... **Mark it in your diary.**

Competition: **"Celebration of Village Life"** – entries £1 by June 1st – drawings, paintings, poems, all welcomed. Entries will be displayed in the church with winners in categories under 7, 7-11, over 11 (all the way to 100).

If you want to be involved - open a garden, run a competition or raise money for charity somehow - please contact Alice or Cathy (via Ruth if you don't know them) to get on the programme for the day.

ALICE PALMER

JENNY AND DAVE DURRIE

Many congratulations on their recent marriage. *EDITOR*



SYRESHAM
VILLAGE CELEBRATION

SATURDAY JUNE 8TH 2024
OPEN GARDENS 10.30 - 5.30pm
REFRESHMENT STALLS AVAILABLE AROUND THE VILLAGE
FI REPLICA CAR! - PLUS OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE PRIORY 1.00pm - 3.30pm
'GARDENS OF THE BIBLE' DISPLAY IN THE CHAPEL
DISPLAYS CELEBRATING VILLAGE LIFE, OUR HISTORY AND MUCH MORE IN THE CHURCH
FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

SYRESHAM OPEN GARDENS

SAT. JUNE 8th part of our VILLAGE CELEBRATION

10.30 till 5.30

Welcome to my Garden

ALL WELCOME - LOTS TO SEE AND DO!

D DAY 80 CELEBRATIONS

PLEASE PUT YOUR FLAGS OUT

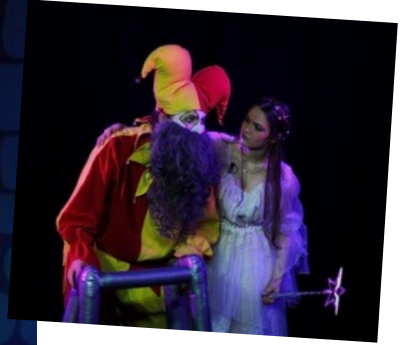
Programme of Events

Wed. 5th June - History Society Talk on D Day Landings - Village Hall - 7.30p.m.

Thurs. 6th - Come and enjoy coffee and cake at the Village Hall Coffee Shop for just £2

Friday 7th - 'The Great Escaper' film in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. with Cheese and Wine buffet **FREE TO ALL VILLAGE RESIDENTS** (sponsored by the Parish Council and HS2)

Sat. 8th - **VILLAGE CELEBRATION DAY** with **OPEN GARDENS, CHURCH FETE EXHIBITIONS, STALLS AND REFRESHMENTS** (YOU WILL RECEIVE AN INFORMATION FLYER)



TYS FEBRUARY
2024
SLEEPING BEAUTY





Under new management!
Congratulations to Steph Mitchell and the TYS team on producing an excellent show once again! It's also good to see Keith hasn't lost his touch with the stage lighting and photography!





CANON'S ASHBY WALL HANGING

This year Syresham celebrates the 400th anniversary of St James Church bells first being rung.

It would be a wonderful project to record Syresham's history from pre-Doomsday, through to the installation of the bells and onwards to today's modern village.

If you would like to co-ordinate or join a group contributing towards a piece of work along similar lines please leave your contact details at the shop.

STEPH BRACKPOOL

MAY DAY FETE AND MAY POLE DANCE

This year's May Day was certainly one to remember. On the lead up, we were being challenged by the British weather which did not help the planning department but we braved it and carried on as normal.

We were so lucky until the final

dance when the heavens opened. We must say a huge thank you to everyone who came out to support us. To all the cake bakers, the bottle and sweetie jar donors, the burger flippers, the raffle ticket sellers and all the volunteers out there. We simply couldn't do it without the support of this tremendous community.

Isla and Leighton made a fabulous Queen and King, with Toby and the hoppy horse and Theo as Court Jester supporting them. All the children looked fantastic in their traditional May Day outfits. They danced so well around the May Pole from Nursery to Year 6.

Thank you to everyone who was involved keeping this wonderful tradition alive.

Sarah Paterson.



OUR GEMS CLUB..... 

You are very welcome to join us!!!!

Do you want to socialise in the community, meet new people, and enjoy the company of friends? We are a group of women who meet on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm at Syresham Village Hall (SVH) and occasionally at different venues/times. We are a great bunch of 'gals' who want to socialise, learn new things from our guest speakers, and have fun!! You can be part of this fabulous group, just come along to any meeting. Or if you would like to know more about us, or would like to come along with one of the members, please just call or text Sally (07765 402612) or Antoinette on (07814 283385). It costs £3 per event at the village hall or £20 per year. This is such great value for a club on your doorstep.

OUR NEXT FEW EVENTS ARE:

May 8th 7:30pm SVH: Daily life in Tudor Times, Martin Sirot-Smith from Sulgrave Manor will be the speaker in period costume.

June 12th Afternoon tour of Stowe House & Gardens followed by tea & cake.

July 10th Broughton Manor Gardens further details of times to follow.

August 14th 7:30pm At home with the Chairperson....a lovely evening in a beautiful garden with friends old and

new!!

September 11th AGM SVH 7:30pm opportunity to share ideas for future events...it our club to make how we want it to be. **ANTOINETTE HORNBY**

EKFB SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES AROUND BRACKLEY

EKFB has been involved since 2023 in supporting the local community around Brackley as part of the HS2 contributions to the local community.

Earlier this year they supported Syresham TYS production of Sleeping Beauty. TYS is a not for profit organisation, supported by sponsorship through the provision of new theatre equipment, for the benefit of Syresham and the surrounding area to enjoy.

EKFB have also been involved in other local community initiatives through:-

- * Donation of a new defibrillator to Syresham Parish Council to be installed at St James Church;
- * Contributions to St James Church for the restoration of the Steeple;
- * Helped food deliveries to the West Northants Food Larder, visiting Brackley Food Bank;
- * Supporting other community projects at Helmdon, Evenley Wood Gardens, Greatworth, Radstone and Bracken Leas Primary Schools;
- * And Sponsorship of the Syresham D -Day 80 project. **EKFB**

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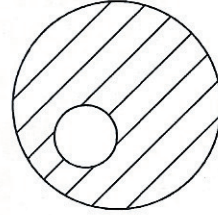


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Providing Sport & Recreation to the
Community Since 1974**

Opening times:

Mon - Thurs 7.00pm to 11.00pm

Fri 7.00pm to Midnight

Weekends 12.00 to Midnight

Sky Sports \ BT Sport

Function room available for hire.

Contact Adam Jeskins

07711 971709

Bradbery Close, Syresham, NN13 5HA

BRACKLEY AND D-DAY



In 1939, men of C Squadron, 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry were called to the Drill Hall, in St Peters Road, Brackley. Here they were to stay, sleeping in the Hall, even though their homes were in walking distance! Eventually, as things quietened down, they were allowed home in the evenings. Many frequented the pubs in the town with their chums. Throughout the day they undertook intense training on everything from tank manoeuvring to small arms training. Boys of Syresham talked of tanks parking up at the Sand Pits on the Wappenham Road, with tank crews sleeping under their tanks. Church parades occurred every Sunday, with the men marching the short distance to St Peters Church. Yet all this training seemed in vain. Some officers requested transfers to more 'active units' yet other stayed. Their baptism of fire was to come in June 1944, for the 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry, and its sister unit, 2nd Northamptonshire Yeomanry were to land into the Normandy beachhead. Two men landing with the 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry were Lieutenant Vaughan Green and Lance Corporal Reg Madelaine. Lieutenant Green was a master at Magdalen College School. He was a well-liked teacher and most certainly a member

of the Northamptonshire Yeomanry Territorial Squadron in Brackley. He was well respected and deeply liked by the men under his command. He was also a very gifted poet, writing many poems in France and Holland.

Reg Madelaine was a Brackley lad. He grew up on Halse Road and attended Magdalen himself. He would have known Vaughan Green from his time at MCS. Both ended up in the 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry in Normandy in June 1944. I often wonder how they acted as Master and former pupil.

Reg was sadly killed in action on the 27th June 1944, he was 23 years old. He is buried at Hottot-Les-Bagues War Cemetery in a row with his Sherman crew mates. Their average age was just 25.5 years old. Reg played cricket, rugby and hockey for Brackley/MCS. He had joined up on the 1st September 1939, no doubt as one of those territorials. A former neighbour of Reg's remembers him visiting to say goodbye before he left for the invasion. His death broke his mother, losing her only son.

Lieutenant Vaughan Green was to serve with the 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry all through Normandy, in the breakout, through Belgium and into Holland. He was sadly killed in one of those tragic chances of war. Whilst crossing an open field for an orders group, he was caught in the open, away from his tank, by a random German rocket barrage. His death was keenly

felt with his men weeping at the loss.

A fellow teacher of Vaughan Green was Geoffrey Allen Woodhouse, MA (Oxon). He was a Sergeant in the Intelligence Corps, serving with 57 Field Section. He was killed on the 19th July 1944 and is buried in Normandy.

The final man to be killed in Normandy was Private William Faulkner, 1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment. Son of James and Alice Faulkner of Brackley, he had returned from India to the UK for Christmas 1943, in preparation for D-day. He had joined the army at 19 in 1933 and was veteran soldier of 30 in 1944. He was killed in the fighting to close the Falaise Pocket on the 16th August 1944 and is buried at Banneville-La-Campagne War Cemetery. His family had inscribed on the bottom of his headstone:

*Deep in our hearts his memory is kept,
we all loved him too dearly to ever
forget. **LEST WE FORGET.***

JASON RUSH GRATEFUL THANKS TO JASON
FOR HIS RESEARCH AND THE PROVISION OF THIS
ARTICLE FOR THE SYRESHAM TIMES, EDITOR.

SYRESHAM & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY D DAY RECOLLECTIONS

Our June History Society meeting, will be addressed by Chris Bazeley of Brackley. Chris is a regular speaker in local villages, and he has kindly provided some background information to his talk, around the Northants Regiments and involvement in the Normandy Campaign. In

November 1938, with war on the horizon, the Mechanised Cavalry Brigade (TA) was formed which was made up of three Cavalry Light Tank Regiments. The Northamptonshire Yeomanry was part of this newly formed Brigade and, as a result was expanded to become a complete regiment. This was quite a step up considering that the Northamptonshire Yeomanry had, until this time, been more of a "TA Dad's Army with tanks" although no doubt the Territorial Army would hotly dispute this put-down! By 1939 the regiment consisted of three squadrons: Regimental Headquarters and "A" Squadron were based at Northampton, "B" Squadron was based at Daventry and "C" Squadron at the Drill Hall in Brackley, now the site of a housing estate called Yeoman Close. This growth of the Northamptonshire Yeomanry was part of a more wide-spread expansion of the Territorial Army which rapidly doubled in size. By 1939, it was becoming increasingly likely that a European war was now more than a possibility, and across the country TA units were doubling their numbers. As a result, the Northamptonshire Yeomanry split in May 1939 to form two Cavalry Light Tank Regiments: The 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry (TA) had their Regimental Headquarters and "A" Sqn at Northampton, "B" Squadron at Daventry and "C" Squadron at Brackley as was previously the case. The newly formed 2nd Northamptonshire Yeomanry (TA) had

their Regimental Headquarters and "A" Squadron at Northampton, with "B" and "C" Squadrons based at Kettering. Both Regiments were integrated into the 20th Light Armoured Brigade (TA) being mobilised on 1 September 1939. In 1944, as a part of the 33rd Armoured Brigade, the unit took an active role in the Invasion of Normandy, landing on Gold Beach in Normandy on 6 June, D Day. Other units alongside our Northamptonshire boys were the 1st East Riding of Yorkshire Yeomanry and the 144 Regiment RAC.

The Brigade's chief role was of supporting our infantry but it did take part in one action as a complete unit at Le Mesnil-Patry, Rots on 11 June 1944 only five days after D day. The battle for Normandy saw some of the fiercest fighting of the war and the Northamptonshire yeomanry was in the thick of it around Caen, including the battle to capture Caen, Operation Charnwood on the 7 July. The fierce fighting continued long beyond this.

On 8 August 1944 the regiment was involved in Operation Totalize, the significant and bloody breakout from the Caen Salient. It was during this operation that local man Joe Ekins, a Sherman Tank gunner of the Northamptonshire Yeomanry, gained recognition for possibly being the man who scored a direct hit and killing the renowned German tank commander, Michael Wittmann, the 4th top scoring tank ace in history.

Following this the regiment was

involved in the famous Battle of the Bulge. Subsequently the regiment was re-equipped with Buffalo amphibious armoured personnel carriers for the Rhine crossing. Thus, the Northamptonshire Yeomanry had a significant role from D Day to the entry into Germany.

*Grateful thanks to Chris Bazeley for providing the details above of the Northants Regiments in the Second World War. **EDITOR***

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB Contact

Sarah Whitehead for all events - 07912 784294 -



sarahjwhitehead@btinternet.com

CRICKET The new cricket season starts on Saturday May 4th with live cricket at the club on most Saturday afternoons. The 1st XI play in the South Northants Cricket League, Bankier Sloan Premier Division and the 2nd XI compete in the South Northants Cricket League, Division One along with certain cup competitions. Check the website syresham.play-cricket.com for details of fixtures, results and league tables.

FOOTBALL - UNDER 18 OPEN TRAINING

HALSE FC who are based at the club are looking for new players to join the squad of their OYL U17 championship winning team for next season. The team will play matches on a Sunday afternoon and train on Tuesday evenings. The team will be headed up by a UEFA B licensed coach. Get in touch to register interest or find out

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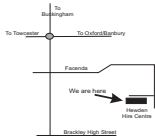
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SATURDAY 25TH MAY - BBQ Starts 6pm

SUNDAY 19TH MAY - SPRING CRAFT

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SUNDAY 26TH MAY - AFTERNOON TEA

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FRIDAY 31ST MAY TO SUNDAY 2ND JUNE - ANNUAL BEER FESTIVAL

Live band on the Saturday at 6pm - BBQ Friday and Saturday – There are still a few barrels available to sponsor at £60 each. Sponsors names will be advertised on the barrel and in the beer guide. Please contact Sarah for more

information. We are looking for some help on the bar at the beer festival again this year. If you could spare an hour or two over the weekend, we would be most grateful. Please contact Sarah with the days and times that suit you.

SATURDAY 29TH JUNE - ANNUAL MEMBERS' NIGHT

ADVANCE NOTICES

SUNDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER - CLASSIC AND MODERN VEHICLE SHOW -

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SOLUTIONS SEE PAGE 9

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 2.00PM TO 4.00PM (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME)
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.

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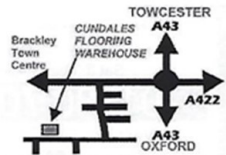
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