



The Syresham Times

Serving the communities of Crowfield, Pimlico and Syresham



**Preserving the old rural traditional hedge-laying—
the late Roy Hawkins**

50p (where sold)

Village of the Year winners
2008-10, 2013 & 2015

February
2016



From the Editor's desk

The year 2015 went out with a very mild spell accompanied by rain and very heavy floods in the north of the country. Thankfully the village was not too badly affected by wet weather, although as usual the brook was quite high. Here we are in 2016, another month gone already and

Christmas and New Year came and went, sadly we lost three residents over that time, including Roy Hawkins who is featured on the front cover— thanks to Sheila and family for the picture. With his passing we have lost some of the old skills of hedge laying and many other agricultural abilities which he possessed.

Housing or the current lack of it is a hot topic across the country at present. We can all see the current rapid growth in both Towcester and Brackley where urgent housing needs of both market housing and social housing is being developed. I discovered an interesting report of a debate in the village back in the 1920's, which highlights similar problems then. This was a more local issue and it was noted how some of the housing quality here was very poor, with a lot of overcrowding.

The village is intent on doing its bit to increase accommodation now, but it takes time, and a considerable amount of work by those who are involved.

Ian Draper, February 2016

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ADVERTISING

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Photographs in this edition are provided by —

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Cover Photograph:- Roy Hawkins Hedge laying

Supplied by Sheila Whitehead

**Copy Deadline for our next issue:-
April 30th 2016**

SYRESHAM HOUSING – REMARKABLE

FIGURES - *News item from a local paper—
early 1920's*

The Syresham Debating Society's meeting on Tuesday evening attracted a large audience and great interest was shown in the discussion when Mr William Green moved the motion *"That steps be taken to improve the housing accommodation of the working classes in the Parish of Syresham."*

Parish Councillors F Pollard, H Coy, J Geary, G H Miller and A Gee were present. County Councillor Mr J H Timms regretted his inability to be present and stating that it was useless to look for any improvement to private enterprise. He would take up the case with all the strength and energy he could muster if local authorities could take up the challenge. He did not see how an agricultural labourer earning 14s. 6d. (just under 75p) could afford to pay more in weekly rent than 1s.6d. (10p?). There was needed an alteration in the fiscal system to accomplish this.

Mr Green said that some 40 houses in Syresham had been allowed to tumble down. Of the 163 occupied houses 100 had no back door. There were many with only one room and one bedroom. Sanitary conditions were a disgrace, with some having good drainage and others none at all.

Mr Green quoted two cases of overcrowding that he had personally witnessed, and said that there was a pressing need for at least 10 new homes in the parish. It was stated that

three prominent landowners possessed practically all the land and many cottages too. Magdalen College, Oxford held 1,000 acres and two cottages; other landowners held 900 acres but with no cottages.

There were only two means by which a resolution of the problem could be achieved, namely through private enterprise and the Local Authorities. It was suggested that it was for the Parish Council to face this serious challenge.

Mr Geary remarked that the stringent regulations of the District Council (Brackley RDC) put up the costs involved in the erection of new dwellings, but at the same time expressed approval for the idea as it would provide better health and comfort for the people.

Mr Pollard supported the proposal, stating that it needed a simple transfer of land, money available on better terms and a system of co-operation.

Mr Geary remained convinced that the cause of rural depopulation lay firmly in the subject under discussion. The numbers of Parish residents had been dwindling for some years and there was little likelihood of improvement except through the actions of Local Authorities.

He moved that the Parish Council be asked to put into operation the provisions of the Housing and Town Planning Act. Mr Pollard seconded the motion and the meeting carried both motions unanimously.

This article was discovered during an archiving session for the History Society. Ed.

ROY HAWKINS— 1930—2015



Until his death on Sunday 6th December, Roy Hawkins was regularly seen about the village, maintaining an interest in many things agricultural.

Born 23rd February 1930, one of 13 brothers and sisters, including his identical twin Gerald, Roy lived and worked in Syresham throughout his life. He met and married his wife Lillian in 1951.

An active member of the community, Roy was a founder member of the Sports and Social Club and worked hard to help create the sports field, upon which he was frequently to be seen supporting the cricket and football teams. He was also a key contributor to the development and fund-raiser for the Club house. Amongst his Club activities, he included Dominoes and in recent years spent many hours watching the sports channel TV on a Saturday afternoon.

His big passion lay in the traditional skills of hedge-laying, indeed he competed many times in Regional Championships and in 1961 was crowned National Champion. He continued to maintain involvement in the National Hedge-laying Society, eventually becoming a national judge, and met Charles, Prince of Wales, who is Patron of the Society.

One of his regular hobbies was gardening, and he was always involved with the Sports & Social Club Horticultural Annual Show.

As a youngster he developed his strength by pumping the organ bellows at St James Church!

Roy helped to set up the Pocket Park, and was a frequent volunteer there.

Roy was a very popular man, participating in several village activities, and always had time to talk to friends. He will be sadly missed. We extend our condolences and sympathies to Trevor, Antony, Sheila and all of the extended family.

STAN HUGHES, more recently a sports TV viewing friend of Roy at the Sports Club, Stan of Bell Lane, shared an interest in football and proudly supported the Welsh RFU side. He was a teacher and retired as Headteacher in a Bletchley Comprehensive school several years ago. Stan died just before Christmas.

JOHN BERRY – lived in Malt Lane, having settled in the village in 2008. Amongst his interests he was keen on cooking, photography, music, dog-walking, enjoyed animals and classic cars, as well as hill-climbs. He passed away on November 8th, aged 69. We extend condolences to friends and family.

Editor

MUMS AND TOTS

This term we have been focussing on traditional nursery rhymes. The children have been singing and creating pictures of rhymes such as Mary, Mary Quite Contrary and Incy Wincy Spider.



They have been using a variety of collage and painting techniques and have even made some jam tarts to serve to The Queen of Hearts.



We have introduced some new toys this term. There is a modern looking play kitchen, a work bench with many tools, two small dolls' houses and some large building blocks. The children have thoroughly enjoyed playing with them, although typically, the large empty boxes which they came in were popular too!

Mums and Tots is not only a great place for your little ones to socialise and have fun but it is a fantastic way to meet other mums and have a chat over a cup of tea.

We have welcomed some new faces this term and look forward to seeing some more. All of this wouldn't be possible without Sue Palmer. She helps us every week to set up, pack away and even stops to have a play!

Thank you, Sue!

Tina Nesbitt

(Sue Palmer wishes she could play too!)



SYRESHAM ST JAMES CE SCHOOL

There is never a dull moment in school with children and adults alike, busy with their learning. 2015 ended in style with the children putting on a fantastic nativity performance and the

choir, led by Miss Palmer, performing at the School and Church Fairs and hosting our first Friends and Grandparents afternoon. Our visitors listened to and joined in with Carols, while other members of the school served afternoon tea to our guests. I received many compliments throughout the afternoon and we will certainly be hosting the event again next year.

The introduction of a new National Curriculum in 2014 has brought about some changes within our school. The expectation of what pupils should be achieving at the end of each academic year has been raised with more of an emphasis on grammar, spelling and punctuation in English lessons and good old fashioned times tables features prominently in the Maths curriculum. As you can imagine all at Syresham School have risen to this challenge and are working hard to ensure the very best achievements.

We have a topic based approach to the learning where we try to make lessons as meaningful and purposeful to the children as possible. One way that we do this is to transform the classrooms to support the topics being studied. In Years 5 and 6 the focus is on Victorian Britain. In their classroom they have a Victorian style living room with fire and two fireside chairs where the children may sit to



work. On the other side of the room is a beach (with real sand) deck chair, Punch and Judy and a

view of the sea and pier! Years 3 and 4 are learning about Egypt— they have a Bedouin Tent, Pyramid and Tutankhamun! For Years 1 and 2 it is Christopher Columbus, so they are under the sea with fishing nets hanging from the ceiling and a boat! Finally the Reception children are learning through Fairy Tales, there you will find an enchanted garden, castle and a beanstalk that reaches up to the ceiling! The children are really enjoying being submerged into their topics and are producing work of a high standard.

Kate Clough, Headteacher

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Our 50th Birthday party was a huge success with entertainment by The Bethany Homestead Singers, a buffet

tea and a birthday cake (beautifully made and decorated by Lydia). The cake was cut by Joan Whitehead (her Mum was a founder member of the Club). Even the raffle and prizes had a golden theme. John Roberts showed some wonderful films of wildlife around Pimlico and then wonderful scenes of his favourite holidays. Our December bingo afternoon went well, thanks to the Sports Club for the loan of their equipment Colin for calling and Barbara for sourcing prizes. The New Year Party was well attended with a delicious 2 course meal — thanks to Sarah and her team.

In February and March we are having soup lunches, please look for notices in the Post office and for date of our Annual Meeting. Do come along and try it for yourself. *Dot*

Your **FOOD WASTE** is recycled into **ENERGY** to power our homes

good to know

Recycle all your food waste to power our local community

recycle for South Northamptonshire

www.southnorthants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling

South Northamptonshire Council



MESOTHELIOMA UK
CHARITABLE TRUST - 1126086
Supporting People With This Asbestos Cancer

Pat, Nadine, Toy and Danny Coates invite you to a Coffee Morning in Aid of Mesothelioma UK in memory of Bruce Coates on **Saturday 19th March, 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.**

8 Blenheim Place, Syresham
Raffle, Tombola, Cake Stall, Door Prize
Tea, Coffee, Biscuits. All welcome.

FRIENDS OF ST. JAMES, SYRESHAM

In 2015 with the donations gratefully received from both The Friends of St. James and visitors attending our events, we have at last been able to buy new pew cushions and a door curtain for the Church and we were also able to make up the funds for the flood lighting of the church. Many thanks to everybody.



We start 2016 with our **Pancake Lunch on 9th February, Shrove Tuesday**, at Vine Cottage, Broad Street, 12.00 to 2.00 pm, followed on **Friday, 11th March by our Quiz presented by John Braybrook** in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Please watch out for posters—everybody is very welcome.

Judith Shaw

NEWS FROM THE RECTOR

2016 is a leap year, so what will you be doing with that extra day?

Maybe you will spend more time with family and friends. Perhaps you'll use the time to do some of those much-needed DIY jobs, or catch up on the garden—yes, we really did need to

mow the lawn in December!

This year February 29th falls within the period the Church calls Lent, it's a time when Christians learn and reflect on their



faith. Here in the Astwell Benefice I encourage people not to give up anything for Lent but to take on something new, join one of our varied Lent courses—anyone is invited.

During Lent we will be offering B&B to everyone — *Breakfast and the Bible* will be a roadshow moving around the Benefice on a Saturday morning. It will offer an introduction to Christianity and a chance for the curious, for the lapsed and even for regular churchgoers to ask questions about faith, the bible and what really goes on in a church service. And we will do all this over a full English!

For more information email or give me a ring, oh and look out for the posters! Information on all our services can be found on our Church notice boards, and speaking of noticeboards.... I know the service pattern with it's Benefice wide services can be a bit confusing, banners on the board outside Church aim to let everyone know when we have a service here at St James and what time it takes place and remember everyone is welcome!

I have shared with you before that St James is struggling to pay it's day-to-day running costs. Well, at the end of 2015 we could only pay half our bills — we were over £9,000 short.

Unless we are able to raise more in 2016 the long-term future of the Church is in grave danger—your help really is needed to keep our church as a centre of worship in our community.

PCC is working flat out on fund-raising and any ideas you might have would be really welcome, as well as your thoughts in our Christmas Church Magazine questionnaire, but we need more help than just that.

Would you be willing to give £1 a week to the church, to help us pay our bills? So far only two residents have joined the scheme. If every home in the village gave us just £1 a week we would be solvent — we hope it isn't a lot to ask. For more information on how to give please contact me or Alice Palmer.

As always, my prayers and God's blessings remain with you. Please do get in touch if there is anything I, or the Church can do for you, St James is (*and hopefully will always be*) your Parish Church, you are always welcome to worship with or just like to enjoy the peace and quiet of this ancient community building.

Rev Carole

01327 860798

rectorastwellbenefice@aol.com

SYRESHAM CHAPEL



As we approach Easter we think of the message of new hope when Christ died on the Cross. It gives us the joy of everlasting life with him in the future. Nature at this time of the year confirms this hope with flowers and trees coming alive again. Perhaps Easter would be a good time to think of

people who are lonely and housebound and endeavour to do more for them. Christ did so much for us so let us do a little for others.

The joint Carol service led by David was well attended and carol singing was great just before Christmas Eve when we went around Church End, Wappenham Road and Burnham Place. On Christmas Eve we didn't get far before we were all soaked so had to give up. We raised £500.00 for Action for Children. Christmas Eve we had a 2 hour session with the children doing various crafts and making Christingles. Paula led our service and it was wonderful to welcome so many people. Christmas morning service was well attended and we thank everyone who makes the Chapel look so special for the time of year.

We are now looking forward to Easter, planning 3 special meals during Lent, will join the Walk of Witness on Good Friday and our own service in the evening with Easter Morning Breakfast and Praise and our Easter Day service will led by Chris Bazeley. Families are welcome at Breakfast Church at 9.30.a.m. on the second Sunday of the month. Secret Keepers operate on 2 Wednesdays a month and Youth club on alternate Fridays during term time more information from Alice Palmer or Cathy Corn. *Dot*

During the History Exhibition back in October I was reading the old School Punishment books – it must have been hard to go to school in the early 1900's. Punishments were severe.

A group of boys who threw a snowball

at an elderly gentleman walking past the school had 6 strokes of the cane. Life is so different but I realised these people all have relatives in the village. One lady who is now in her early 70's got the cane for going skating on a pond and being late back for school! I think we should all appreciate our school and the wonderful lives the children have today.

Dot

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council never seems to have a quiet time of the year; the last 3 months being no exception! Several councillors and I attended the Abbey Road hearing at The Forum in Towcester in November.

The Planning Inspector heard from all interested parties, asked many pertinent questions and even spent a few hours walking round Syresham to understand the village, the proposal and objections. The appeal was refused on several grounds and the Inspector's report is available for review on the website www.syreshamvillage.com.

The outline planning application for the new village hall site and 26 houses on High Street is still live and more detailed plans are currently being worked on to enable a full planning application to be submitted.

The Parish Council has received more complaints regarding dog fouling around the village. There appear to be some areas more prone to fouling than others and if this continues, the parish council may consider

approaching affected homeowners to discuss the possibility of using CCTV, in line with current legislation, to catch the dogs in question.

If your dog fouls in a public place and you do not clean it up, you will be breaking a Dog Control Order under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. If you are witnessed not cleaning up after your dog, you may be given a fixed penalty of £75. If you refuse to pay the fixed penalty you may be taken to court and a fine imposed of up to £1,000 plus court costs. Please be a responsible dog owner.

On a happier note, spring is only just around the corner and the Parish Council will be organising a working party to spruce up the Swingfield. A date will be set and advertised on the website, so if you have an hour to spare and don't mind cutting back brambles, cleaning play equipment, weeding and just generally making the area look tidy, please come along.

Finally, many grateful thanks to everyone who helped collect and gave generously in December when we accompanied Santa and his little helpers around the village. We raised £263.71 which has been put towards the new village hall project.

Lesley Sambrook Smith (Clerk to PC)

FROM OUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

As your County Councillor, I sit on a number of committees and working groups including the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

The County is undergoing the biggest
9 changes it has seen in many years.

Significant savings could be made by combining the 9 different authorities and by working together. For example the District, Town and Borough Councils have their own waste collection services and yet the County disposes of it all. There is scope for a County-wide waste collection service, provided by one body rather than eight. This would produce significant savings which could be directed to the already stretched front line services. Do you have any views about a combined Authority? If so please let me know.

The County Council is under continuing financial pressure with more yet deep cuts to budget. This has so far been achievable without affecting front line services but it cannot continue. The Council now has to re-think how it delivers many services, including the setting up of separate companies to run the services and deliver the essential cuts without damaging those services. Check out details at:-

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Council/performance/Documents/PDF%20Documents/CouncilPlan_2015-20.pdf

The state of our roads continues to be of concern to us all. There is not enough money for all the necessary repairs. The best way to get repairs done is to keep reporting any poor roads to street doctor at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Transport/roads/streetdoctor/Pages/Step1.aspx.

The more a problem is reported the

higher up the priority list it goes and the better chance it will get repaired in time.

The Empowering Councillor's scheme is a fund given to each Councillor for their Division for projects of benefit to the community. I have helped Syresham with projects in the past, and am pleased to say that I have committed a contribution of £5,000 towards your new village hall.

Adam Simmons has done a great job as our Police and Crime Commissioner for the last four years but is not seeking re-election in 2016. Please consider all the candidates and vote in May. This is a very important role within the County and community and could have a profound effect on our policing over the next four years.

I am happy to be contacted by phone or e-mail— my details are I.Morris@northamptonshire.gov.uk or 07710198272. I am also on twitter Cllr Ian Morris @aussielover100

SYRESHAM & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

2015 was rounded off with our Christmas celebrations. A talk given by Martin Sirot-Smith on the theme of Tudor Christmases, a wassail cup was shared, food and drink consumed and a good time was had by all.



We began 2016 with an excellent talk presented by Roy Smart about Percy Sinclair Pilcher a British inventor and pioneer aviator who

was his country's foremost experimenter in unpowered flight at the end of the nineteenth century.

Our next talks are:

- * **1st March**—The Battle of Northampton, 1264—by Mike Ingram.
- * **5th April**—Royal Bastards, the children of Royal Mistresses—Roger Powell

We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month in the village hall at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are welcome to join us at a cost of £3.00. per evening. For further details please contact Ian Draper on 01280-850388.

Judith Shaw

THE POCKET PARK is owned by the Parish Council but is maintained by a small group of hardworking volunteers. 2015 was a very sad time for the committee as we lost two much loved and valued members of our team, Darren Jeacock and Roy Hawkins. Darren was always willing to help and provide wildlife advice and Roy, despite his age, was one of our most active members. They will be dearly missed, but their legacy lives on in the Park thanks to them helping to plant trees, maintain the paths and support the park for everyone to enjoy.

If you like working outdoors and would like to give something back to the community, please consider joining the Pocket Park committee. We only meet when necessary and prefer to spend time in the park on working parties during the spring/summer to make

sure the park is well maintained and a pleasure to visit.

Please do get in touch (parishclerk@syresham.com or phone 851178) as soon as possible, so we can begin to plan our working parties.

Lesley Sambrook Smith

**FROM OUR LOCAL POLICE
COMMANDER**

I have been in post since September 2015 as your area Commander in South Northants. Policing and its costs are high on the agenda, but I want to assure you that we are doing all that we can to support and protect you and the local areas.

I have asked Community Police Sergeants Tania Ash and Micki Simons to provide monthly data to be circulated to all parishes. We will be looking at patterns, incidents and trends in the parishes.

We have a TWITTER presence, so you can follow what we are doing and what is happening locally **@TowcesterSCT**.

Details of local incidents will be tweeted and residents can keep up to date with current Policing trends in the area. Northants Police Service also has a web address:

<https://www.northants.police.uk/#!/Home>, and there is also the national police website www.police.uk.

You may know that we are recruiting Police Volunteers— please get in touch with me if you are interested.

Inspector Phil Kings X0029, South Northants Senior Commander

Phil.kings@northants.pnn.police.uk



It's been a fun few weeks at Preschool

recently. 'Zoolab' came along and brought a range of interesting and exotic animals for the children to meet. A snake, rat and cockroach were amongst the visitors, and the children were encouraged to hold and touch them as well as ask questions. There was an incredible amount of enthusiasm on the part of the presenters as well as the preschoolers.

Judging by the amazingly muddy wellingtons that come home daily there has been some major excavation work going on in the Preschool garden - or rather lots of fresh air with many happy times just spent digging, digging and more digging in the mud! (...one of my son's favourite activities!).

Preschool and School are running a joint **Bingo Night on Friday 4th March** (doors open 6pm – eyes down 6.30pm!). This has always been a great success when run in previous years and kids and adults alike love it. All are welcome— both novices and hardened bingo players— and all ages! We will also be hosting another **Ladies' Quiz Night** in the village hall on **Friday 15th April**. Again an incredibly fun night and all are welcome. More details in Ruth's shop nearer the time on both the Bingo and the Quiz nights.

We welcome Tina Nesbitt to the committee – and Niki Braker, as a Preschool Assistant, joins our team.

We do have spaces at the moment for

new starters and take children from the age of 2. *Rachel Oleś*

WOMEN'S GROUP 2016

As reported in the last issue of the Syresham Times, our WI group was officially 'suspended' on 13th January – partly as we were unable to form a Committee and partly because members felt we hadn't been getting good value from our membership subscriptions over the last few years.

We want to continue with a women's group in Syresham and would love to hear your thoughts on such a group. An open meeting will be organised in early March – *watch out for details in the next few weeks.*

Some of the aims of a new group might be to: meet new people; learn new skills; hear guest speakers on topics of interest such as health and well-being, make-up, developing creative skills etc.; finding out more about the wealth of interesting people and experience we have in the village; or simply to enjoy good company in a relaxed and informal environment.

Please contact either Judith Shaw on 850613 or Maggie Newton on 850324 for details or with your suggestions.

Maggie Newton

THE SYLVIE ESSAME SCHOOL OF DANCE

annual show was in the Village Hall on 29th November. Dancers, ranging in age from 9 to 18, performed a variety of dance styles. We raised £170, towards the village hall fund. A raffle raised £58 for the Starlight Children's Foundation.

Sylvie Essame



Take Your S.E.A.T. 2016
PRESENTS



ROBIN HOOD

THE PANTO

You Are
Required To
Attend The Village
Hall On These Days!

WED	17th FEB 7.30
THURS	18th FEB 7.30
FRI	19th FEB 7.30
SAT MAT	20th FEB 2.30
SAT	20th FEB 7.30

TICKETS ON SALE AT
VILLAGE SHOP
Adults £7.00
Concessions £4.00

By Order of
The Sheriff!

Be There!
Or Else ...

www.takeyourseatsyresham.com - visit the new website!

CHARITY FUN RUN



Every Year the Katharine House Hospice Santa Fun-Run raises money, and Crowfield is always involved! Here are Janet Cox and Sallie Connery who between them

managed to raise over £364.00 on the day and had great fun enjoying themselves! Well done both of you! We like the outfits!

GRUMPY OLD MAN

Television Trailers are particularly noticeable on the BBC where we are bombarded with them. Just recently there was a trailer for a BBC programme in which Robert Peston sounded drugged.



Over Reaction? - There was a classic example over the death of David Bowie, coverage took over 17 minutes of a 30 minute news broadcast.

Soaps—these used to be humorous sometimes, especially Coronation Street. EastEnders is consistently gloomy. You could end up feeling suicidal if you watched it regularly.

Breakfast TV News— BBC is OK although repetitive. ITV is dominated by show business topics and covers very little actual news.

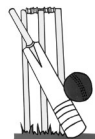
Personalities— Life seems to be so full of ‘personalities’, amongst the

more unwatchable are Paul Hollywood, Mary Berry, Keith Lemon, Graham Norton, Chris Evans and Jonathan Ross, and many more!

Life and people were different in my earlier days!

SYRESHAM CRICKET CLUB

As the 2015 SNCL premier league champions set out to defend their title in 2016, Syresham



Cricket Club preseason indoor nets begin on Monday 15th February at 7.45pm in Stowe School Sport Hall.

If you are interested in playing cricket, the club is always looking for new players of all abilities. Please feel free to come along or contact Scott Wilson on 07789-920273 for more information.

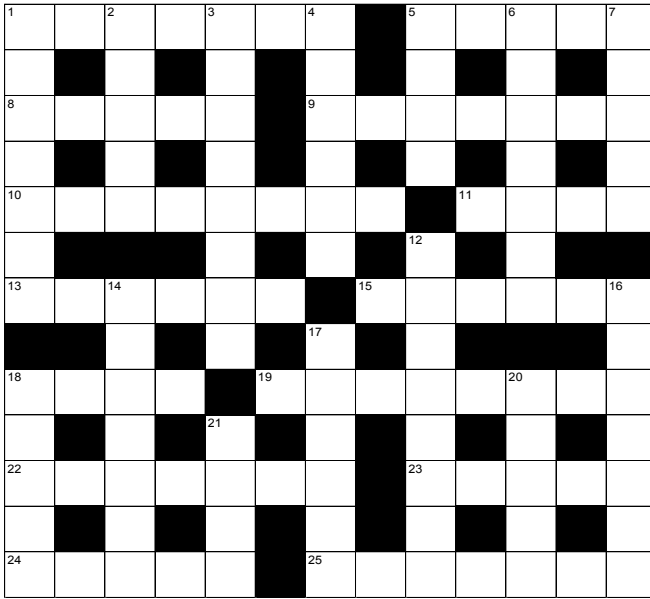
TAKE YOUR S.E.A.T. has a brand new website with information about forthcoming shows and many brilliant photos from past pantos! Still a ‘Work in Progress’, there are past shows going from Treasure Island 2015 ... back to Cinderella 2007. Each show has it’s own section complete with photos, poster and programme. Please check it out on www.takeyourseatsyresham.com.

Keith Watts

PIMLICO LIGHT RAILWAY— Our 10th anniversary this year as it happens! Sundays April 24th, May 22nd, and all 4th Sundays, till September, at Pimlico House from 3.00 - 5.00 p.m. unless it is wet!

John Roberts

Crossword —thanks to Vintage Port



ACROSS

- 1 Two lines of verse (7)
- 5 Category of river (5)
- 8 Light beer (5)
- 9 A reconsideration (7)
- 10 Additions to a will (8)
- 11 Chemical element (4)
- 13 To emphasise (6)
- 15 Tropical flea (6)
- 18 Irritable (4)
- 19 To split a light beam (8)
- 22 Changing direction(7)
- 23 Minor film actor(5)
- 24 Pointed engraving tool (5)
- 25 Repaint a vehicle (7)

DOWN

- 1 Cup like cavities (7)
- 2 Encouraged (5)
- 3 Songwriter (8)
- 4 Slave (7)
- 5 Towcester’s river (4)
- 6 Spirited (7)
- 7 Pinkish violet colour(5)
- 12 Haggles (OE) (8)
- 14 Cheating, mischief (7)
- 16 Mouth of a wide river (7)
- 17 Comparatively large(6)
- 18 Part of a roof (5)
- 20 Player (5)
- 21 Frost (4)

ANSWERS—ACROSS 1 Couple; 5 Tidal; 8 Lager; 9 Reveal; 10 Codicils; 11 Zinc; 13 Stress; 15 Chigoe; 18 Edgy; 19 Diffract; 22 Veering; 23 Extra; 24 Style; 25 Respray
DOWN—1 Calices; 2 Urged; 3 Lyricist; 4 Thrall; 5 Tove; 6 Dashing; 7 Lilac; 12 Chaffers; 14 Roguery; 16 Estuary; 17 Bigger; 18 Eaves; 20 Actor; 21 Rime

Events & Diary Dates

HAPPENING SOON	WEEKLY DIARY	FORTNIGHTLY DIARY
<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>Pancake Lunch—9th Feb Vine Cottage, Broad Street</p> <p>Robin Hood Pantomime, 17th to 20th Feb, Village Hall</p>	<p>SUNDAYS:- Chapel Service 6.00 p.m.</p> <p>Church Services—<i>please check the Astwell Benefice Diary</i></p> <p>MONDAYS:- Walking Group 10.00 a.m. <i>meet at the shop</i></p> <p>Card recycling group 7.00 p.m. <i>contact Sue Palmer</i></p> <p>Dancing Classes Village Hall— various 4.00 to 8.30 p.m.</p> <p>Yoga Classes Village Hall, 10.00-11.00 a.m.</p>	<p>THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB Alternate Tuesdays, usually Village Hall 2.30 p.m. <i>not August</i></p> <p>WEDNESDAYS (1ST & 3RD) Secret Keepers, 7-11 yr. olds 7.00 p.m. till 8.00 p.m. <i>Term time only</i></p> <p>FRIDAYS, Youth Club 11yrs+ Sunday School rooms 7.30 p.m. <i>Term Time only</i></p>
<p>MARCH</p> <p>Oil Orders: Wednesday 2nd by 6.00 p.m.</p> <p>Pre-School Playgroup Bingo Night –6.00 for 6.30 p.m.</p> <p>Mothering Sunday—6th Mar at the Church, 11.15 a.m.</p> <p>Friends of St James Quiz night Friday 11th, Village Hall</p> <p>Palm Sunday March 20th at the Church, 11.15 a.m.</p> <p>Oil Orders—Weds 30th March by 6.00 p.m.</p>	<p>TUESDAYS:- Adult Ballet, <i>Village Hall</i>, 11.00 a.m. to 12.00</p> <p>Pilates <i>Village Hall</i>, 12.00 noon to 1.00 p.m.</p> <p>Brownies, 5.45 to 7.00 p.m. Sunday School Rooms <i>Term time only</i></p> <p>Craft, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays, Sunday School, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>Circuit Training, <i>Sports Club</i> 7.15 p.m.</p>	<p>MONTHLY DIARY</p> <p>2ND SUNDAY, Sunday School & Breakfast Church 9.30 a.m.</p> <p>2ND SUNDAY—Sports Club Carvery lunch 12.00 noon till 2.00 p.m.</p> <p>1ST TUESDAY, History Society, <i>Village Hall</i> 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>3RD TUESDAY:- Gardening Club, <i>Village Hall</i>, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>2ND WEDNESDAY , Library Van, 12.00—12.20p.m. <i>Church End</i></p> <p>3RD WEDNESDAY Sports Club Cash Bingo Night, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>LAST WEDNESDAY, Parish Council Meetings , <i>Village Hall</i> 7.30 p.m.</p>
<p>APRIL</p> <p>Pre School Playgroup Ladies Quiz Night—Friday 15th, Village Hall</p> <p>Pimlico Light Railway Sunday 24th 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.</p> <p>Oil Orders— Weds 27th April by 6.00 p.m.</p>	<p>WEDNESDAYS:- Mums and Tots, Village Hall 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon <i>Term Time only</i></p> <p>THURSDAYS:- Village Hall Coffee Shop, 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.</p> <p>Bowls Club, <i>Village Hall</i>, 7.00 p.m.</p> <p>SATURDAYS:- Boys' Football, <i>Sports Club</i>, 10.00 a.m. <i>in season</i></p> <p>Football or Cricket Matches in season—<i>Check Sports Club for details</i></p>	<p>3RD FRIDAY, Sports Club Quiz Nights</p> <p>2ND SATURDAY, Friends of the Churchyard, 10.00 a.m.</p> <p>2ND SATURDAY—NCC Library Van visits 2.00 —2.40 p.m. <i>Primary School</i></p>

Brownies

Apologies to Harriet Peddar, whose photograph could not be published in the November edition. Harriet selected Whistley Wood as the place to make her Promise. Congratulations to her and all other Brownies who have made this wonderful achievement.



The number of Brownies has unfortunately dropped with a number of older girls deciding that their time at Brownies has come to an end. I thank them all for their support and the help that they have given over the years. Charlotte Sambrook Smith is one of our leavers. She has made a wonderful contribution and always joined in the planned activities and attended many Church and Chapel services carrying the flag. We will miss them all.

This term is a very short one but very busy, there are many events that we like to celebrate. 'Thinking Day' is one where we remember Brownies and Guiding across the World. This year we went for an Indian Meal as part of our celebrations. We made Valentine Cards and Mothers Day cards and look forward to our annual Easter Egg hunt.

If there are any girls coming up to the age of 7 who would like to join Brownies please contact me 01280 850382.

Do you have a special talent or hobby that you would like to share? Could you give up half an hour of your time, if so, we would love to hear from you!

Paula Green

WHAT A LOT FOR £1.00!

The school Christmas fundraiser was held on November 28th. I dutifully purchased raffle tickets and looked around at the many stalls before it was my turn to sell tickets to anyone willing to give £1.00 for a chance to win a Christmas Hamper.



When the raffle was drawn the first ticket out, wasn't mine, nor the second ticket—I wasn't expecting to win anyway! To my amazement the third draw was my ticket—the third prize hamper, and it was so heavy that I accepted the offer to carry it for me.

Then came the excitement of unpacking the goodies! There were four bottles, luxury biscuits, cheese biscuits, Waitrose butter mince pies, a Christmas pudding, boxes of chocolates, apricot jam and more!

Something caught me out however— I lifted the last bottle out and was surprised to find it was a large bottle of Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce!

I took the good bottle of wine and some of the Chocolates to the St Nicholas Fayre raffle for the church. Another bottle went to the Friendship Club at their New Year Dinner, some of the rest went towards Christmas presents or into my store cupboards.

What great value, so many lovely things, and all donated by generous parents of the school children!

With grateful thanks to all who donated such wonderful things and for all those who supported the school on an enjoyable afternoon. *Thank you all!*

