

The Syresham Times

Serving the communities of Crowfield, Pimlico and Syresham



May Queen and her
Consort 2016

Our Great Ouse in rather full flow!

50p (where sold)

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

May 2016



From the Editor's desk

Spring has finally arrived and everywhere is looking greener and more colourful especially with the blossoms coming out. The signs of Spring are many and varied and they lift our spirits as the gloomy winter days recede. Mind you, its still not very warm yet!

The village responded well to the call for a Petition against the withdrawal of the NCC subsidy for the No 8 Bus Service.

We look forward to meeting the representative from Stagecoach Buses who will be addressing the Annual Parish Meeting on May 18th—do come along to the Village Hall to hear more, and to put your views.

News on the proposed development on High Street/Main Road is gathering pace, and fund raising for the new Village Hall continues.

April went out with a bit of a chill—it is not unusual to have a cold snap just as we get to May Day! And some well-timed rain too!

The traditional May Day parade and May Pole Dancing sneak up on us as the year evolves. It is good to retain the wonderful tradition each year.

Well done to Mrs Clough and the School, ably supported by Friends of the School and hearty congratulations to the new May Queen and May King.

Ian Draper, May 2016

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Photographs in this edition are provided by — Tina Bedding, Ellen Summers, Keith Watts, Ian Draper

Cover Photograph:-

The River Great Ouse in flood—March 9th

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

THE GREAT WAR AND THE MEN WHO WOULD STAY AT HOME

Doing some research recently on a family history website, I discovered the Military Tribunals for Northamptonshire, covering the period 1916-18. I entered Syresham as the place of residence, and fifteen names and a variety of details emerged.

Prior to 1916 when the Military Service Act, came into force and conscription was introduced, men volunteered or were coaxed into active service. Many saw it as their duty to defend King and Country. Some were Conscientious Objectors and were appallingly treated because they stood out for peace and non-violence, indeed many were executed as cowards.

Certificates of Exemption could be issued, in cases where a successful claim was made before a local Military Tribunal for exemption on the grounds of essential work, or for more specific reasons, including health. However despite several applications, not all were successful, and many were temporary.

Of the fifteen men whose names are listed in the Northamptonshire Records for this village, two main categories emerge in their claims: the importance of their contribution to local or family businesses, and for a smaller group who claimed 'work of national importance' or exempted occupations.

In several cases, it seems that the status of dependents including

elderly relatives were considered to be of some importance, as well as the need to protect established family businesses from collapse. However many of these claims were considered to be unacceptable or were rewarded only with temporary exemptions.

Those who were involved in timber work, tree-fellers for example, claimed to be doing 'work of national importance'. Syresham still being a woodland settlement will have given them hope to claim their work was essential to national needs.

Other 'essential work' included farm business, shop-keeping and deliveries particularly of milk, coke and coal.

Fred Allen (19) claimed business hardship as a grocer. His application was rejected and he was eventually enlisted. Fred's brother Harry (18) however, claimed his work as a van salesman for groceries and provisions to be of national importance—he was given temporary exemption until 31st May 1917.

Henry Coy (38) was granted temporary exemption, claiming closure of his mother's business if he was conscripted. Frank Herbert Friday (40) had his claim relating to his aged mother's needs, dismissed but was later recorded as working in the munitions industry—no doubt in Banbury?

Ralph Gee (22) had his application supported by a petition from local 'allotment holders' who appealed for him to remain at home!

William Jarvis (36 and a Master Butcher) claimed serious family and business hardship. His case was adjourned till December 1918.



William John Whitehead (34, milk cart driver) claimed 'essential business' and was awarded temporary exemption without further appeal. It was noted that his employer had 'already let many men go'.

The case for Herbert George King, (23) of the King's Brewery family, was made on medical grounds, although details are not provided. This appeal for re-exemption was never actually heard prior to the end of conflict. Presumably he remained at home and at work.

William White (age 45), Inn Keeper, claimed time to close his business but his appeal was dismissed in June 1918 and he was called up, 27th July 1918.

Clearly during those years as more and more men served and many thousands never returned, those left at home in the latter years tried to secure exemption where they could. The system was understandably harsh and many were naturally disappointed not to be allowed to remain here in Syresham on 'other duties'.

Editor

SPEEDING MOTORISTS

A recent Press Release has confirmed agreement between the County Council and Northants Police to take

action over speeding on the county's roads.



'Operation Fix it' is currently being consulted across the county, following concerns raised over speeding issues in several locations across the county.

New technology including mobile average speed camera systems and night-time enforcement equipment will be introduced. The project is intended to make residents feel safer, and less threatened. Speeding traffic can devastate families through injury and the death of loved ones.

Northants PCC and County Council

COUNCILLOR SIMON MARINKER, SNC



The South Northants net budget for this year is £11.8m. Core funding from the Government has been reduced once again by £600k and the funding squeeze on local government will continue until 2020.

The Government has however offered a four year funding deal which was in line with the financial projections SNC had made.

Council tax rose by 2.95% this year—the first annual increase since 2010 and equivalent to £5 a month rise for a band D property. SNC has recycled 59.9% of all waste due to the blue and green bin schemes and support of residents. SNC was best in this county and in East Midlands, and 11th overall in the Country. A big thank you for your support! Towcester "sustainable urban extension" gathers pace.

TAKE YOUR S.E.A.T PRODUCTION OF ROBIN HOOD - A FAMILY REVIEW

When it comes to panto, where else would you start than with what the children thought?

Leon (seven) and William (six) said their favourite character was Robin Hood, because she saved the day. "The funniest was Will, because he was being funny with the Sheriff and the funniest bit was when he shot the chicken". Leon liked them spraying water because he got wet too.

William thought the sheriff was the funniest because at the end he fell in love with the Dame. "The best bits were when Alan tried to sing and everyone shouted 'not now Alan'".

Eddie (four) says, "I didn't like the bad guy because he was scary, but sometimes I liked him".

And mum and dad? Well, we liked pretty much everything about it. The dame was delightful, as always, with Will adding some lovely slap-stick comedy throughout, and the sheriff reminiscent of the late Alan Rickman's portrayal in the movie *Prince of Thieves*. The forest fairy was engaging and fun and (with her three friends) added a very touching and enjoyable song which, just for a moment, added something closer to theatre than panto, working really well to a deserved round of applause.

Enjoyable performances by Robin's band of men (AND WOMEN!), as well as solid displays from Robin and Maid Marian and the Babes were excellent.

Two of the key comedy characters

didn't disappoint in the form of the hopelessly bad, bad tax collectors. The duel was particularly memorable, spraying the front rows with water is now a staple of any good panto.

So the leading characters shone. The kids sparkled. Some new faces this year, acting, dancing, giving it their all and whilst part of the beauty of panto is that it's built almost intentionally on the amateur side of amateur dramatics, everyone was determined in their efforts to entertain. At no point did any part of the show make you feel awkward or want to cringe. It was professionally amateur, slickly cobbled together, creatively disorganised and masterfully madcap throughout.

On top of an already fun show, a noticeable feature this year was the ability of more of the performers to ad-lib and engage with an enthusiastic and participating audience from time to time, with a special nod to the Sheriff, the Dame and the bungling tax collectors here. This added laughs to a show that was already packed full of them and brought the audience even closer to the story.

And so, as the curtain comes down, a shout out for the curtain (and the rest of the scenery and production). Sound and lighting (including some surprise pyrotechnics!) were on the money, creating atmosphere throughout. The set design was brilliantly simple, yet drew your attention to the performers in every scene. The video introduction was clever, the quick scene changes went virtually unseen, and the talking trees in the forest were extremely

impressive.

A wonderfully silly family show, and brilliantly delivered too.

Take Your S.E.A.T...*Take a Bow!*

The Goves Family



Please Miss, it was Daisy's fault!



Continued from page 4

New house building should begin this year with first occupations due mid 2017. The Towcester relief road must be completed on or before the occupation of 1,017 homes. The approximate target date is 2022 but SNC is hoping to bring this forward.

Work has now begun at the Abthorpe roundabout on the A43 and should be complete by Autumn 2017.

Cllr Simon Marinker

COFFEE MORNING PROCEEDS

Pat, Mark, Nadine, Toy and Danny Coates thank everyone for supporting the coffee morning in March. We raised over £900 for Mesothelioma UK, in memory of Bruce Coates.

Thanks to everyone who helped, made cakes, donated prizes, and more. Thank you too for all the loving kindness over the year—we wouldn't have managed without everyone. *Nadine and Pat xxx*



We've had a busy couple of months at Syresham Preschool. The ladies quiz night was a great success, despite a rumour that a few husbands were threatening to turn up in their best dresses and heels hoping to blag a table, it all went well!

We had an Ofsted inspection in April, we are awaiting the report. Staff and committee who met the inspector were pleased with the way she embraced what she saw. She made some very positive and encouraging comments.

A wonderful morning was had by all at the Forest School in Hazelborough Woods. The children built dens, played hide and seek, swung in the trees, balanced on logs across muddy ditches, toasted marshmallows on the fire and generally immersed themselves 100% in whatever they could find—much washing of clothes later on at home was a priority!

The staff are preparing the older ones for school in September, and we have welcomed some new 2 year-olds. The children always play together so well.

We do have spaces in some of our sessions and there is still space for new children in the September 2016 intake.

If you are interested in finding out more about Syresham Preschool, or know someone who may be interested, then please do get in touch. Staff are happy to discuss individual needs and show parents the setting.

Rachel Oleś



SYRESHAM CE SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone who came to the May Day fete. The organising team all woke up and, with one accord, checked the weather forecast. With a 90% chance of heavy rain between 2.00 and 4.00 p.m., reluctantly we rolled out our wet weather plan!

The spectacle of gazebos being erected by 4 grown men caused some amusement! The hall was given a makeover and most of the stalls were set up indoors. At 1.30 p.m. Mrs. Clough set off to escort the procession from the church, while loose ends (and the gazebo in the playground) were tied up back at the school!

On arrival in a little rain King and Queen (Finley West and Isabelle Dean) were crowned in the hall. Hobby Horse was Luke Marks and the Jester was Alex Chaplin. The fete was officially opened by Mrs. Clough.

And what a great afternoon we had, despite the weather. We managed to get all of the maypole dancing done – and thank you so much to Richard Whitehead for fixing the pole for us. It was just towards the end that the weather finally took against us. So we dashed back inside for the raffle draw.

1st prize: Janet Cox, **2nd prize:** Katie Lycett and **3rd prize:** Ruth. The programme draw winner was Tierna Santhera. And the £20 prize for getting closest to the treasure in the Treasure Hunt went to Sydney (*it was down Bell Lane, in case you were wondering*).

Thank you to everyone who helped out on the day – we couldn't do it without you. Thanks also to the fantastic Friends for all their hard work these past couple of months.

We raised £2,270 which is going towards a refurbishment of the library/ computer area – hopefully you'll be able to check it out next May Day!

On a personal note, I will be stepping down as chair of the Friends at our AGM in October but I am sure that the role will be swiftly filled and we will carry on our fundraising efforts.

Dee King, Friends of Syresham School

MUMS AND TOTS

In March the children were very busy with their art and craft projects. We were visited by The Spotted



Chicken Ceramics Studio of Wappenham, where the children were involved with painting mugs, animals and plates. We made Easter cards and Mother's Day gifts with the support of

a variety of helpers. This Summer Term we focus on children's fiction and non-fiction. The children have printed and painted patterns on elephants to join in "Elmer's Parade", made symmetrical painted butterflies and sock caterpillars to link to "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and looked at the Ladybird book about our Queen. We decorated gold and silver crowns with sparkling jewels to celebrate her 90th birthday.

In the next few sessions we will be making models of clay snails relating to the book "It's Hard to Hurry When You're a Snail"; cooking pizzas to go along with the book "Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza" and creating collages of dinosaurs to tie in with the storybook "Dinosaurs Galore".

We have two visits from the Primary Education Company in our programme—for Wednesday 18th May and Wednesday 29th June. Hopefully the weather will be good for us and the children will be able to enjoy a morning of skills and games out on the field. In addition to this we will be going on a trip to the Pimlico Light Railway to have a ride on the steam

trains.

New members are always welcome—remember our doors are always open every **Wednesday during term time from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

Tina Nesbitt

SPRING BUG HUNT
SATURDAY 21 MAY - 10.30 - 12 NOON
SYRESHAM POCKET PARK
£3.50 PER CHILD
TEA, COFFEE, DRINKS AND CAKE ...!!

SYRESHAM PRE-SCHOOL



HELLO FROM YOUR RECTOR

I don't know about you, but the Queen's 90th birthday rather snuck up on me, but thankfully we get another chance to celebrate on June 12th, when we will be joining with churches across the nation to hold a special "**Service of Thanksgiving for the Life and Work of our Queen**", on June 12th at 11.15 a.m. and we hope to follow it with a special village party in honour of Her Majesty's 90th year.

While we can't promise a guest list of celebrities but we can promise room for everyone young and old, so **come along dressed in red white and/or blue and help us celebrate!**

And speaking of celebrating... St James the Great is holding it's special **Patronal Feast Day Service on July 31st** and what better way to celebrate a "Feast Day" than with a meal! So after the service we are holding a Bring and Share Feast and as there is always more than enough to go round do come along and join us, with or without your own plate of food!

And speaking of food....

Our **Pentecost Service at Helmdon at 11.00 a.m., will be followed by a Picnic on May 15th at 12.30pm** in the field opposite Helmdon Church. Everyone is most welcome!

From September onwards our 4th Sunday service is changing to a Family Service with interactive worship. The service will appeal to all ages and there will be lots of space for prams and pushchairs, please put **Family Service on September 25th** in your diary.

We are planning to hold another **Faith Breakfast** during the summer so watch out for details and if you are keen to expand your faith or are thinking about getting baptised or confirmed our monthly **Beyond Lent** group is ideal. If you would like details just get in touch and we will add you to our weekly contact list.

Finally a big "Thank You" to those of you who have signed up for our £1 a week scheme aimed at helping us meet our running costs. Your contributions are adding an extra £200 a year to our income! If you would like to sign up for the scheme do let me know.

My prayers and God's blessings remain with you for a good summer and please get in touch if there is anything I or the Church can do for you. St James is your Parish Church. You are always welcome to worship with us or just to enjoy the peace and quiet of this ancient community building.

Reverend Carole, 01327-860798
rectorastwellbenefice@aol.com

COUNTY MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE



County Council cuts to Library Services mean there is now only one library van to serve the entire County.

The Mobile Library will be coming to Syresham with only one stop outside the Village Hall from **11.30 a.m. until 12.00 noon on June 6th, July 13th and August 10th.**

Other dates to be announced later.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council has been working hard on behalf of the village, and has once again entered the annual Northamptonshire *Village of the Year Competition* – last year we won the Best Medium Sized Village award. On Tuesday 19th April we welcomed the three judges to the village – we showed them what goes on here in a typical year, walked them around the village and ended up with tea and cake in the village hall with the Friendship Club.

The annual litter-pick has also been carried out – this year we set aside a whole week to do this in order that people would be able to go out and clear the litter at their own convenience. The Parish Council thanks everyone who took part and helped to clear ditches, verges and slip roads of the vast amount of tin cans, bottles, cardboard cartons, plastic bottles, even a radio, tool box and lorry tyre!

At the Swingfield, we have been cutting back brambles and cleaning equipment and tables. The wooden edging boards around the equipment are in need of replacement. Once done, the bark will also be replenished.

The flowerboxes at the entrances to the village have been re-varnished and will soon be planted up for the Summer by children from the school as part of their Community help. The signs around the village have been cleaned and renovated by members of the Parish Council.

Despite frequent pleas, dog fouling continues to create a problem. The

Parish Council invited South Northants Environmental Enforcement Manager to visit on Friday 29th April, to walk the streets, pathways and verges where the incidences of dog fouling occur in order to find a solution for this problem. Most dog owners are responsible and clean up after their animals. The small minority who do not, should bear in mind that failure to clear up excrement is not only a danger to the health of children but could also incur a fine of up to £1,000 - in future the Enforcement Manager will know where to look for you!

Plans for the proposed development of 26 houses and a new village hall were put on display in the village hall for people to view and were considered by the Parish Council. Reserved Matters have now been submitted to South Northants Council.

The ***Annual Parish Meeting*** will take place in the **Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 18th May** when the Managing Director of Stagecoach Midlands will be here to tell us about future plans for the number 8 bus that serves our village. Northamptonshire County Council intends to cease to subsidise this service. Everyone is invited to come along and hear what Stagecoach has to say and to have your say on this important matter. Wine and nibbles will be served.

And finally, just a reminder that if you wish to contact the Parish Council, please do so via the Parish Clerk on 01280-851178 or by email to: parishclerk@syresham.com

Chris Munsey

RICHARD ALLEE—JULY 1956-APRIL 2016

Richard Allee was a family man. He was very proud of his children and loved 'just being' with them. He was like a magnet to his lovely grandchildren and all young people who met him responded to his natural warmth and sense of fun. He loved walking in the countryside, working in the woods and was a vital member of the Scouts.

He loved sports, especially Rugby and Cricket, being a member of the cricket club gave him hours of summer sunshine fun. He also very much enjoyed playing Rugby for Brackley in his younger days and passing on skills and tips to the younger players. He made us all laugh and smile. He would take on the family worries and pressures with grace and optimism. He was kind and generous, thoughtful and caring.

Richard liked to be called Skip because it was his Scout Leader name. He loved being a Scout Leader because it allowed him to teach. He was always teaching as he was very passionate about the things he did and liked and he wanted others to share in that passion. Not for himself, but so that other people could take his knowledge and understanding and apply it to their own lives and find their own passions and ways of doing things.

Richard also liked to fix things, he was very good at it. Whether it was his Land Rover, computers or something in the house, (usually a very creative bodge!) or people and problems. He always had time, a kind sympathetic

ear and some good analogy for how to deal with things. There is not one person in his family or friends that he hasn't picked up, dusted off and helped.

Richard's lessons, thoughts and laughter will live on forever. In the scouts when one of them closes a knife properly and doesn't slice their finger, they will think, "Skip taught me that". In the smiles and happiness of his grandchildren when they remember him chasing them or playing with them. In the lives of his children when they are able to cope with something they didn't think they could or when they remember the fun, excitement and happiness of their childhood adventures.

The memories and everything Richard has done and been will go on.

The Allee family would like to thank everyone for their caring sympathy, cards, flowers and kind words which have been a great comfort to us all at this unhappy time. We were so proud that so many people came to pay their respects to Richard on 21st April, and we thank you all for coming.

Alison Allee

STANLEY UPSTONE—1920—2016

Unfortunately we missed Stan's passing in late January. Thanks to Ellen Summers for providing the photograph and this short piece about Stan. *Ed.*

Born in Turweston on 21st October 1920, Stan served in the Second World War with the Northamptonshire Yeomanry, driving tanks. In 1950 he married his beloved wife Florrie and they came to live in The Pound eventually moving to number 29. He

lived there surviving Florrie's death in July 2012, until he passed away on January 27th 2016. Stan worked for Brackley Sawmills, making deliveries all



over the country. He was a keen gardener and tended his plot until he became unable to get about in recent years.

He was also a keen cricketer and footballer playing for the village teams, with many trophies received for excellent performance.

He is sadly missed by his family and friends, but especially by nephew Roy, whom he and Florrie raised from age 8, together with brothers Nigel and Jimmy.

Ellen Summers

LIVING IN PIMLICO

We are often asked, "Why Pimlico?" and all I can do is to repeat what Maud Payne told me many years ago now.

Apparently, a distant relation of hers moved here from Pimlico in London and bought 18 acres along the main road, where he built a cottage, for each of his six children also giving each of them three acres. One of the houses is called "Three Acres" and the hamlet was known locally as Pimlico. Very confusing when further down the A43 towards Oxford there is a Pimlico Farm,

I have no idea how that happened!

Derek Hollyoake remembered Mrs. Mears walking up the drive from the filling station with tears in her eyes when he was putting the lead on the bay window roof. She came to tell him that the king had died—February 6th 1952.

We have never discovered what the origins of the piece of land on which we live are.

The Payne family owned all the land around us except our land at Pimlico House and that where filling station stood—the newer houses just above the layby.

There is a theory that it might have been used by the drovers as a holding area for their beasts when travelling the Welsh Lane. Certainly it has been a gipsy site and immediately after the Second World War was apparently used to store surplus Bren-gun carriers.

So that's how it stayed for many years. Hoppersford Farm was very much an entity on its own; it was of course the ford that crossed the stream—hence the name. Then they built a bridge, which I remember using in the early 60s on a very twisty road to Oxford and beyond. The straighter road came next which a friend of mine remembers building and desperately trying to get completed before the annual rush to the British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

There is also Kiln Farm which I imagine predates the establishment of Pimlico and may well date from the 1600s. Also the barn now called Wrighton's Barn was converted to a house – quite a change from the days when we



frequently watched barn owls using it! Traffic on the A43 used to be tolerable, certainly on the way to Towcester it was possible to pass slower traffic. Eventually some 30,000 vehicles a day were using the road and the by-pass was built. Pimlico is now a delightfully quiet little hamlet, but was no use to Steve Wilde who owned the filling station—because the new road hadn't actually closed him down and it was still accessible, he received no compensation whatsoever.

He investigated the possibility of small industrial units on the site but eventually it was sold and Pimlico increased by a further 4 houses.

So now we have Mulberry Cottage, Apple Tree Cottage, Blueberry Cottage, Pear Tree Cottage and Pimlico House. Also Three Acres, Letterbox Cottage, Veranda Cottage, Ivy Cottage, Denbrae and Roadside Cottage. Most have changed hands especially since the death of members of the Payne and Cox families. The cottages are clearly being improved and extended, they certainly have changed from the small cottages that were built by Maud Payne's forebears.

There may be more that people could add to this and it is not purporting to be a definitive history. It would certainly be interesting to learn of anything more that local people might know.

John Roberts

SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2016

The Village Hall Fundraising Committee is busy making arrangements for the Scarecrow Festival and Open Gardens Weekend that will take place on **Saturday and Sunday 18th and 19th June**. The theme for this year will be 'Books and Films' so there is wide scope for the creative imagination of the village's many scarecrow makers.

There will also be demonstration of how to make a basic scarecrow at the next meeting of *Syresham Gardening Club in the village hall at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday May 17th*. Everyone is invited to come along.

If you would like to open your garden this year or would like to offer your help during the weekend please contact us via the website www.syreshamscarecrowfestival.co.uk or ring 01280 840424. All offers of help will be most gratefully accepted.

Chris Munsey



Syresham Scarecrow Festival and Open Gardens 2016

**Saturday June 18th and
Sunday June 19th**

**The theme for this year is
Books and Films**

*Are you willing to open your
gardens for viewing or to help in
some way?*

Please let Chris Munsey know

TODAY'S DRIVERS

I am, I hope, a considerate driver. I pay my taxes and keep the insurance on my car valid and up to date. Needless to say I expect to enjoy taking my car for a spin with the minimum of fuss and hindrance. It is, however, about time the authorities did something about the inexperienced youthful drivers, the numerous aggressive van drivers and, of course, old drivers. Despite competition from young drivers and van operators who behave as though they are masters of the road, more and more of our senior citizens seem to be clogging the highways and byways.

For too long old drivers have caused havoc as they hog the left lane, stick to the speed limits, stop at stop signs for an eternity and are incredibly slow in reading traffic lights when they change. They inevitably cause inconvenience and seem to relish preventing others from doing what is normal but at least they go through the motions of being thoroughly law-abiding.

The major concern is that by driving in their ponderous fashion and avoiding fines and points on their licences, they are not doing their bit for the revenue of the country and therefore placing a further responsibility on other drivers.

There is a school of thought that says until old drivers can prove they are proficient at weaving in and out of traffic, using their mobiles while driving, tailgating and capable of

putting their foot down to get the most out of their vehicles, they should be banned from holding a licence. Perhaps you agree or maybe we should insist on the over eighties travelling on Public Transport. Good behaviour and sensible practices are fundamental to our highways.

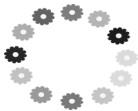
It really is too easy to build a case and blame someone else in particular the elderly for unnecessary bumps and bashes to say nothing of disastrous casualties. Whatever we should all be a little concerned about our fellow old and younger drivers turning Syresham into a race track. Perhaps it is high time we all pulled together and ensured our streets don't become a place for competing with the track at Silverstone. Maybe we should all learn from the senior citizens and SLOW DOWN before disaster overtakes us all including innocent pedestrians. These exaggerations hopefully will make us all stop and think when we are behind the wheel of a car, riding a motorbike or even just riding a bike. We cannot allow traffic risks to simply multiply especially in our delightful village!

Alan Clube

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Would anyone like their own vegetable plot, ready dug and freshly manured?

Contact Mrs. Taylor at Longmeadow Farm, Wappenham Road, 01280 850227 for more information!



The new **WOMEN'S GROUP IN SYRESHAM** has got off to a great start this year with lots of new faces coming along to the events we've organised so far.

Alan Clube entertained us in February with a witty talk and presentation based on his experiences in Africa in the 60s and 70s.

In March Lesley Nell from Greenshoots Health demonstrated the benefits of Reiki/energy healing and showed us all how to use EFT (tapping) to help deal with stressful situations. Much fun was had in April with Julia Froggat getting everyone to join in with Laughter Yoga.

An open meeting was held on April 27th to capture thoughts and ideas for establishing a more formal structure for a women's group going forward.

We talked about aims, possible activities and speaker topics, frequency of meetings, costs and commitment, and what we should call ourselves.

We have yet to find a suitable name so if you have any suggestions please email by Friday 20th May to maggie.newton@btinternet.com. The 'author' of the chosen name will get their first year's joining fee free.

The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 11th May** at 7.30p.m. at the Kings Head – speaker tbc.

Please contact either Judith Shaw on 850613 or Maggie Newton on 850324 for more information.

Maggie Newton

POCKET PARK

Sarah Whitehead has very kindly offered to host 3 BBQs at the Sports and Social Club to fundraise for the Pocket Park.



Our Pocket Park is owned by the Parish Council but is run by a small, dedicated team of volunteers. Any money raised from events and BBQs is used to cover operating costs such as petrol for mowers and strimmers, wildflower seeds and paint to renovate the decking and signs. Thanks to the fundraising work of the volunteers and Sarah, a new fence has been erected around the pond to make the area safe for both dogs and children.

The first BBQ is being held at the **Sports and Social Club on Friday 20th May** from 6.00-8.00 p.m., so hopefully see you there!

Future dates to save are **Sunday 3rd July 11.00a.m.-3.00 p.m.** (BBQ only) and **Saturday 3rd September (BBQ and Dog Show)**.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Pocket Park, please contact me on 851178.

Lesley Sambrook Smith



Following the recent success of the Easter Sunday Fun Day, Silverstone Circuit are planning another free event on *Father's Day, Sunday 19 June*. There will be a multitude of entertainment (both indoors and

outdoors) and an opportunity to drive your own car on the track! Further details will be available soon.

Calling all Texas fans!! On **Friday 8 July**, the practice day for the Formula One *British Grand Prix*, there will be concerts on the Silverstone stage with Texas headlining and a full set from Scouting for Girls. Friday tickets are only £40 for adults and provide a full day of action on track, including two Formula 1 practice sessions, followed by the concerts in the evening.

To purchase tickets or for further information please visit www.silverstone.co.uk

Information about local traffic management systems for the Formula 1 British Grand Prix will be distributed in June.

Carol Watts, Silverstone Circuit

BEWARE COLD CALLERS



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

I have received information recently about Cold Callers

operating in Syresham. There have been several people dressed in tabards such as British Legion, RSPCA, Cancer etc.- they are asking you to fill out a form for direct debit payments, requiring you to give details of your bank account.

Advice is NOT to pass on any personal details to such callers, whether written or verbal. If you wish to make such donations, then set up appropriate arrangements with your bank, and not at the doorstep.

Ruth Grovell, Syresham Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator



VILLAGE DOCUMENTARY

7 years ago, I made a documentary about our village as part of the 'Village of the Year' submission. There are still copies available in the shop and if not, Ruth will take orders. It's well worthwhile a look ... even though I say it myself!

It documents all the activities in the village, for that year and compares photos from the past with today. It's really amazing what goes on in Syresham!

It is now out of date and is time to make another documentary, following a year in Syresham. Another tag to the documentary is to capture all the stories from the senior citizens in Syresham, who fascinate me with their tales of Syresham past and I am keen to get those stories recorded. So be warned, you story tellers ... you know who you are and I'm coming for you!

So ... I intend to follow Syresham over the next year and film as many events as possible. I also will interview various people who can tell me tales of the past.

If you can think of any ways of helping me with interviews, new events, or you have any old photos, 8mm cine film, VHS videos of the village lurking in your attic ... please let me know. But they certainly won't be after a few years and a necessary archive for the generations to come.

If anyone would like to help, please contact me on keithwatts55@btinternet.com or call 850564.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Our Annual General Meeting was held after a fish and chip lunch on 4th April and we are delighted that Sue Palmer has again agreed to be President. The committee all agreed to serve for another year. Our first meeting on April 19th was armchair fitness with Sylvie Essame which was enjoyed by everyone and we were pleased to welcome the village of the year judges to have tea with us.

Our May 3rd meeting will be *Tasting the Past* with Mrs Byast and we are on a musical holiday with Graham Kinnersley on May 17th. May 31st sees us on a Treasure Hunt again!

Do please come and join us at our meetings.

Dot



In February Andrew Jackson from Brackley Hogwatch proved an excellent speaker with many tips to encourage hedgehogs into our gardens. John Braybrook arranged an enjoyable Fun Gardening Quiz in March and certainly tested our knowledge. The April meeting was a walk to the bluebells again led by John Braybrook. Thanks to John for his help with the previous two meetings.

Our **AGM** will be held on **17th May** followed by a scarecrow making evening. Do come along and have fun and see what ideas everyone can come up with.

Dot

SYRESHAM CHAPEL



We are celebrating our 170th Anniversary over the weekend of the 28th and 29th May. On the Saturday evening there will be a visit from The

Bethany Homestead Choir—there is a warm welcome to anyone who joins us.

Looking back over our records the people who built the Chapel were mostly farm labourers who worked hard to persuade people to help them. Local farmers lent horses and carts to carry stone and brick from Crowfield. They all had a vision of what they wanted and worked hard to see their ideas come to fruition.

Do we still have the same dedication and vision of our forefathers? The anniversary was always over Whitsun weekend and they always finished their service with Praise God from whom Blessings flow and we now trust we can echo that again.

Secret Keepers still meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month during term time and Youth Club is on alternate Fridays.

Steptoe's sales are being held again, so please look for the poster advertising the next one. Thank you George and Christine for all your hard work.

Dot

**Now You Know
You Want To Sing!**



The title says it all ...

there are people in Syresham who CAN sing, probably want to sing in

public ... but just need a gentle shove to get them to do it!

Well ... Take Your S.E.A.T. (your friendly panto group—oh what fun you'll have!) would like to give you the opportunity to sing live on stage in their next panto production of ***Beauty and the Beast***.

Come on! ... Let Syresham hear your singing talents. We will make sure you sound great on the night, with professional microphones and a great sound system. You don't necessarily have to act ... but join in our show and sing some songs. You will get a real buzz I promise!

If you are vaguely or even very interested, give me Keith Watts, the Director, a ring or email and let me know, so I can gently explain what a fab time you will have! We start rehearsals in September and the show is mid-February 2017.

Check out our new website www.takeyourseatsyresham.com to wet your appetite.

Keith Watts 01280-850564

LOCAL VILLAGE NEWS

A number of smaller communities have local e-mail news services. If we had our own electronic grapevine too. How would it work?

Nationally over 80% of households are on the internet, and Syresham most probably reflects that. All that is needed to set it up is to collect email addresses of those villagers who wish to join this electronic grapevine. Details would not be shared with or displayed to anyone else, including

commercial companies. It would be free to join the service and receive.

What is its purpose? To fill a gap

Currently villagers get their local news in a variety of ways; posters on telephone poles, notes stuffed through letter boxes, notices on the shop door or the Parish Council notice board. The Syresham Times is unable to bring up-to-the-minute news 52 weeks of the year. The excellent village website on the other hand is able to do that - providing you log on to it regularly to find out what's going on; i.e. *you have seek the news*. This proposed e-mail service would bring only current village news into your inbox.

For example, A43 might be closed for overnight roadworks to the Abthorpe roundabout on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday; 2 garden sheds were broken into over the weekend; the school is teaching cycle road safety in High Street on Tuesday; Mums and Tots need some extra help this Wednesday because of holidays; this week these are topics for the Gardening club or the History Society meetings. Unless you log on to the website very regularly, these items will pass you by.

'So I don't want to know about Mums and Tots'. Just press delete! It is quick, paperless and is free. On the other hand avoiding the A43 tomorrow night will be useful to know. It is not a new idea. E-mail users already receive commercial information this way. This would be up-to-the-minute local news only, just for Syresham, Crowfield and Pimlico residents. I invite you to join.

Rob Dixon

Crossword —thanks to Vintage Port

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
8					9							
	■		■			■		■		■		
10								11				
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	■		■	21		■		■		■		■
22								23				
	■		■			■		■		■		
24						25						

ACROSS

- 1 Sphere of Control (Old German) (7)
- 5 Secret political clique (5)
- 8 *Not* Godenuv (5)
- 9 Black Sea country (7)
- 10 Notices (8)
- 11 Run Away (4)
- 13 Support (6)
- 15 British Opinion (6)
- 18 Express silently (4)
- 19 An outdated thing (8)
- 22 Herders in Welsh Lane(7)
- 23 Cool and distant (5)
- 24 Shout for joy (5)
- 25 Patriotic songs (7)

DOWN

- 1 Satisfies deceitfully (7)
- 2 Nobles (5)
- 3 Wanting (8)
- 4 Empress of the EU?(7)
- 5 Search carefully (4)
- 6 Trio of small countries (7)
- 7 Depart from permanently (5)
- 12 Exaggeratedly self-important(8)
- 14 Depart in haste (old Spanish)(7)
- 16 Duties on trading (7)
- 17 Highly unpleasant smell (6)
- 18 Medical student (informal) (5)
- 20 On one’s own (5)
- 21 An unpleasant threat (4)

ANSWERS—ACROSS 1 Fiefdom; 5 Cabal; 8 Boris; 9 Romania; 10 Observes; 11 Flee; 13 Favour; 15 Brexit; 18 Mime; 19 Dinosaur; 22 Drivers; 23 Aloof; 24 Cheer; 25 Anthems
DOWN—1 Fobs off; 2 Ears; 3 Destitute; 4 Merkel; 5 Comb; 6 Benelux; 7 Leave; 12 Arrogant; 14 Vamoose; 16 Tariffs; 17 Miasma; 18 Medic; 20 Alone; 21 Fear

Events and Diary Dates

HAPPENING SOON	WEEKLY DIARY	FORTNIGHTLY DIARY
MAY	<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 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>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 <i>Term time only</i></p> <p>CRAFT, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesday, Sunday School, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>CIRCUIT TRAINING, <i>Sports Club</i> 7.15 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. - 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.</p> <p>FOOTBALL OR CRICKET Matches in season—<i>Check Sports Club details</i></p>	<p>THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB Second 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 style="text-align: center;">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>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>3RD FRIDAY, Sports Club Quiz Nights</p> <p>2ND SATURDAY, Friends of the Churchyard, 10.00 a.m.</p> <p>LIBRARY VAN Village Hall, 11.30a.m. specified dates only</p>
JUNE		
<p>17th Gardening Club AGM — learn how to make a Scarecrow! VH</p> <p>18th Annual Parish Assembly Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>20th Pocket Park BBQ - Sports Club 6.00 till 8.00 p.m.</p> <p>21st Pre-School Bug Hunt – Pocket Park</p> <p>24th Pimlico Light Railway p.m.</p>		
JULY		
<p>Oil Orders deadline—Monday 1st by 6.00 p.m.</p> <p>9th Sports Club Carvery 12.00p.m.</p> <p>18th/19th Scarecrow Festival and Open Gardens</p> <p>28th Pimlico Light Railway p.m.</p> <p>Oil Orders deadline—Wednesday 1st —by 6.00 pm.</p> <p>Sunday 3rd Pocket Park BBQ, Sports Club, 11.00 till 3.00</p> <p>13th Library Van VH, 11.30</p> <p>26th Pimlico Light Railway p.m.</p>		

DESIRABLE CUT BACKS

When I was small, my mother always told me that the man of the family should walk on the outside of the pavement. This apparently dated back to those days when the upper storeys of houses projected well beyond the ground floor and was intended to protect the women and children of the family from being showered by the unmentionable items thrown from the upper windows.



Having been the only male in our nuclear family, and though I resented the interference at the time, I have been grateful that waste recycling habits have changed. I thought that I would now be able to walk around the village on the inside or the outside of the pavement, and this is largely true.

However, when walking with my wife or my grandchildren, I find myself obliged to step into the road occasionally because overhanging hedge or prize shrubs have elbowed across a third or more of the width of the pavement. While this is easy enough for me, it is much less so for parents with push chairs, those in wheel chairs or the not-so-spry.

Where such horticultural invasions are in our back gardens, we have little hesitation in mentioning the matter to our neighbour, or trimming back the offending plant. It is against the law to obstruct the footway so please think of others and trim any hedges or shrubs back to allow pedestrians unimpeded access to the pavement. *Brian Lynch*

