



# The Syresham Times



**MAY DAYS PAST!**



The May Queen's Procession

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**MAY 2020**



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*The Kings Head Inn*

**FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK**

As I began to put this edition together, Corona Virus and Covid-19 were little known and very distant infections in China. It has been quite scary how an invisible enemy has spread so rapidly across the globe, wreaking havoc among so many families.

So much activity in our community has been curtailed and the streets are deserted, with only occasional visitors to the shop which thankfully remains open, albeit with restrictions. Maintaining social distance of 2 metres on walks even with relatives and family is not easy.

And across the nation, calls to heed the strong advice by the experts and the politicians, seemingly went unnoticed, until it became very obvious that the law had to be tightened.

Now 6 weeks into the epidemic, the village still has an eerie silence about it, and people are very nervous of going out. All of that is understandable.

In the absence for the first time in memory of a School May Day fete and the crowning of the May Queen and her Escort, I have delved into archive photographs from the early 20th century of the traditional May Day celebrations in Syresham.

Thank you to all our contributors who have raided their memory banks with fond memories of village life.

**IAN DRAPER, MAY 2020**

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**ADVERTISING**

Russell Woolley

[thesyreshamtimes@mail.com](mailto:thesyreshamtimes@mail.com)

07772-028422

**Please send articles and pictures to**  
Ian Draper at 9 Bell Lane, SYRESHAM

[iandraper@nasuwt.net](mailto:iandraper@nasuwt.net)

Tel: 01280-850388 OR 07966-196033

*Photographs in this edition are provided by Ilse Berry, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Eames Family, Find a Grave.com, Archives, Keith Friday, Leonard Hawkins, History Society, Keith Watts*

**Cover Photographs:-**

*Maypole Dancing at the School—History Society Archives*

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE**

**NEXT ISSUE:-**

**THURSDAY JULY 30TH 2020**

## PARISH COUNCIL



The Parish Council would first of all like to thank all residents for adhering to the government guidelines during the Covid-19 crisis - helping to keep us all safe. We also express our most sincere gratitude and appreciation to all our local key workers who are working so hard - in some cases putting their own lives at risk - to keep our community functioning and help save lives.

### ***We applaud you all.***



At the start of this crisis, shortly before 'lockdown', the Parish Council's Emergency Planning Committee

met to discuss the situation and decide on a course of action to support our community. First of all we endeavoured to identify the members of the parish who, for various reasons, might experience problems with things such as shopping, obtaining medication, feeling isolated etc. They all received a letter informing them that they should contact the Parish Clerk if they needed help of any kind.

At the same time the Clerk was compiling a list of volunteers who could provide that help. The Church and Chapel were doing something similar, so we quickly liaised together in order that we could make sure that all members of our community were contacted and kept in touch with volunteers.

**we can  
help**

This seems to be working well. However, if anyone reading this still needs any assistance or information, please contact our Clerk on [parishclerk@syresham.com](mailto:parishclerk@syresham.com) There is also a list of helpful contacts published by the Clerk in this magazine for you to refer to. Please do not hesitate to use any of these services if you need to.

During this crisis the business of the Parish Council continues as usual – almost! We are meeting remotely via Zoom. This is of course new to most of us and is something of a step-up from talking to our children and grandchildren via WhatsApp and Facetime! We are getting used to it!

You will all have seen the lovely new play equipment provided by the Parish Council in the Swingfield. Sadly we have had to close the play area in accordance with government guidelines. But hopefully it will not be too long before we are able to open it again. And good news! We have managed to secure funding through the Section 106 fund from the new development for some further new and exciting equipment for the toddlers of our village. Again, hopefully it will not be too long before the installation of this can take place.

There's more good news too! The Parish Council has secured new funding for the renovation of the Pocket Park. We are sure many people have been visiting this area during their period of 'daily exercise' and you will have noticed that there is work to be done on it! Hopefully the renovation work can be carried out

before too long in order that you can continue to enjoy this area after 'lock-down'. We will also be organising some 'community events' in the Pocket Park that all residents can enjoy and participate in.

So let us all look forward with hope and expectation to a time when our community returns to normal, or at least something near it. In the meantime, keep safe and keep well.

**CLLR CHRISTINA MUNSEY**

### **IF YOU NEED HELP JUST ASK**

**FOR PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION IN SYRESHAM, PIMLICO AND CROWFIELD—FOR DETAILS ON WHERE TO FIND HELP DURING THE COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.SYRESHAMVILLAGE.COM](http://WWW.SYRESHAMVILLAGE.COM)**

**FOR ASSISTANCE DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CLERK on 01280 851178 or by email to**

**[parishclerk@syresham.com](mailto:parishclerk@syresham.com)**

**Parish Council office hours have been extended to 8.30am - 5.30pm weekdays. In an emergency out of office hours, please leave a message and the Clerk will contact you.**

### **I AM SELF-ISOLATING, WHERE CAN I FIND HELP?**

The Parish Council is aware that during the current COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic many residents may need to self-isolate and as a result may find they are unable to obtain necessary groceries and medicines. If you do not

have anyone who can assist you, **please contact the Syresham Parish Clerk, Samantha Hosking (01280 851178, [parishclerk@syresham.com](mailto:parishclerk@syresham.com)).**

The Parish Council is coordinating local volunteers who are willing to help their neighbours during this difficult time and we will be able to find someone to help you.

Also, if you are on your own and feeling lonely or worried, neighbours have already volunteered to call people for a chat, so just contact the Parish Council and we can link you up with someone.

If you are on Facebook, the Syresham Villagers Facebook page is also a good place to find neighbours who would be willing to help.

You can also ask for help and advice by contacting **Northamptonshire County Council's Coronavirus dedicated support line - 0300 126 1000 (option 5)**

### **WHERE CAN I FIND OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT ADVICE?**

For the latest advice and updates from central government, please use the following link:

**<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>**

For the latest advice and updates from Northamptonshire County Council, use the following link:

**<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates/Pages/default.aspx>**

(If you don't have access to the internet and have specific queries, please either call the NCC support line



or the Parish Clerk who will advise you on how to contact the right departments.)

**ARE ANY LOCAL FOOD SHOPS OFFERING A DELIVERY SERVICE?**

**SYRESHAM SHOP AND POST OFFICE**

- Business as usual, shop and post office are open with slightly revised opening hours: Mon-Fri 7.30am-5pm, Sat 8am-1pm. Please note maximum 2 customers in the shop at any one time; please wait outside if the shop is busy, keeping 2 metres away from other people.

If you can't get out and need food, please call Ruth on 01280 850210 and she will happily deliver.

Ruth is also stocking locally homemade ready meals for sale in the shop or for delivery.

**KINGS HEAD PUB** - are offering take-away and meal delivery services. Serving Syresham, Pimlico, Crowfield, Biddlesden, Wappenham, Blakesley, Brandon, Slapton and more. To pre-order, call 01327 857306 or 01280-63010

**BRACKLEY BUTCHERS** are offering a delivery service for the elderly or self-isolating. Items available will be meat, cooked and frozen ready to cook pies, eggs, vegetables and cheese and bread. All orders require 48 hours notice and will incur a small delivery charge to cover costs. The service will rely on the truly needy requesting home delivery as it is likely we will be facing our own pressures in staffing in the not too distant future.

All home deliveries to be paid for over the phone or via our website. Please see below for the order form and contact details.

[Brackley Butchers Delivery Order Form](#) (PDF, 230 Kb)

**CAKED IN BREAD (BRACKLEY)** - are offering a delivery service on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays between 9am -2pm. To place an order, call 01280 308081. Cash only on delivery, minimum order £7.50. Full range of loaves and rolls.

**SILVERSTONE BREWERY** - Order local beers online at <https://silverstonebrewery.co.uk/our-shop/> Syresham orders only collection point - Village Hall car park Tuesdays and Fridays between 10am and 6pm.

**DOWNTON DINER** Are delivering fruit and veg boxes (£20 or £25 options). Available for delivery in Brackley, Bicester, Banbury and all the villages in between. Call 01280 702581.

**BRACKLEY WINES** - Call 07980 211676l to place an order. They will be out and about again this week delivering every day directly to your front door for FREE to Brackley and surrounding areas. Further afield is available for a small charge. Delivery is zero contact.

**GREATFIELD PLANTS** - Home delivery available. To order call 01295 760236, [contact@greatfieldplants.co.uk](mailto:contact@greatfieldplants.co.uk) <https://greatfieldplants.co.uk/>

**IF YOU LIVE NEAR SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT HAVE EMAIL OR INTERNET, PLEASE OFFER TO PRINT OFF THESE PAGES OF ADVICE**

## OTHER SERVICES

**ANGLIAN WATER SUPPORT** - some residents, including those people who are self-isolating due to Coronavirus, can register for free to receive additional practical support from AW's Priority Services.

Some of the help available by being on the Priority Services Register includes; help with reading the water meter, a knock and wait service where AW will wait longer for the door to be answered when visiting, and a scheme to protect people from bogus callers and scams.

Registration is quick and easy. To find out more about Priority Services and to sign up, call Anglian Water on: 0800 919 155 or visit:

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/extra-support/priority-services/>

Alongside Anglian Water, other water and energy providers offer a priority service. If you think you may need extra help during an interruption to supply or a power cut, due to being medically dependent on electricity, or elderly or disabled or if you have specific communication needs, contact your provider to find out how they can assist you.

### AGE UK SERVICES AND SUPPORT COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

**Billing Road Offices Help and information** —8am - 5pm 01604 611200 *Telephone enquiries only*

**01604 611204** Payments line payments by card 8am - 1pm

**01604 611200** **A&E support service and Telephone befriending Carers sitting service** providing telephone support **Collaborative care** providing telephone support

**01604 604500** **Day centres temporarily closed** but support provided to clients at home

**0330 123 1014** Extra Help at End of Life open as usual

**01604 611200** Fundraising team, please get in touch, we still need your support

**01604 611200** or **07824 321 857** Handyperson service, fitting key safes and emergency work

**Currently Suspended** Home care cleaning service Gardening Toenail cutting service

**01604 611200** Kettering & Northampton Gen Hospitals support service, essential support

**01604 611200** Money management support, essential support

**0300 303 3929** or **01604 611207** Information and Advice, telephone service only

#### ONLINE EXERCISE CLASSES - FROM LOCAL INSTRUCTORS

**SEATED PILATES & MATWORK 'STRETCH AND TONE'** - Sylvie Essame usually teaches classes in Syresham. While these classes are temporarily suspended she is recording online sessions for those who would like to keep up their body conditioning while they have to stay at home. The first two of these, for a Seated Pilates class and a mat-work 'Stretch & Tone' session, are now available: <http://sylvieessame.co.uk/pilates.html>

#### LOCAL CLUBS AND EVENTS

Many local clubs and societies have suspended all meetings and events for the time being. These include Gardening, Friendship, History Society, Crafts, GEMS Women's Group, Sports Club, Coffee Shop, Brownies, Mums and Tots, Bowls Club etc. *Please contact group organisers for more information and about re-opening.*

**SAMANTHA HOSKING, PARISH CLERK**



**ST JAMES CHURCH  
INTERREGNUM**

**UPDATE**

Never in any of our lifetimes has the Church been closed, even for private prayer, but this is the situation at the end of March. It may continue but let us hope that we can soon re-open its doors to at least allow for private prayer and reflection. In Church End we applaud the NHS on Thursdays at 8.00 pm to show our appreciation of the hard work and unselfishness that health workers are showing. Many European communities are doing the same on a weekly basis. What has been heartening here is the co-operation and help that people have shown to their neighbours, and the sense of 'all pulling together' against the common enemy.

Rev John Roberts (850378) has kindly offered to be a point of contact for anyone who would like a chat. Below is a poem I received from Father Richard Hendrick OFM, a Franciscan monk, entitled **Lockdown**.

**MALCOLM ORR-EWING.  
CHURCHWARDEN**

**LOCKDOWN BY FR RICHARD HENDRICK  
OFM (FRANCISCAN ORDER)**

Yes there is fear.  
Yes there is isolation.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
Yes there is sickness.  
Yes there is even death. But  
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.  
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet  
The sky is no longer thick with fumes  
But blue and grey and clear.  
They say that in the streets of Assisi people are singing to each-other  
Across the empty squares,  
Keeping their windows open so that those who are alone,  
May hear the sounds of family around them.  
They say that a hotel in the west of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound  
Today a young woman I know is spreading fliers with her number through the neighbourhood, so that the elderly may have someone to call on.  
Today churches, synagogues mosques and temples  
Are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary  
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting  
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way  
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality  
To how big we really are.  
To how little control we have.  
To what really matters.  
To love.  
So we pray and remember that there is fear  
But there does not have to be hate



Yes there is isolation,  
 But there does not have to be  
 loneliness  
 Yes there is panic buying.  
 But there does not have to be  
 meanness.  
 Yes there is sickness, but there does  
 not have to be disease of the soul.  
 Yes there is even death.  
 But there can always be a rebirth of  
 love.  
 Wake to the choices you make as to  
 how you live now.  
 Today, breathe.  
 Listen, behind the factory noises of  
 your panic  
 The birds are singing again, The sky  
 is clearing, Spring is coming  
 And we are always encompassed by  
 love.  
 Open the windows of your soul  
 And though you may not be able  
 To touch across the empty square,  
 Sing.

**READ IN CHURCH BY MALCOLM ORR EWING**

***THE VILLAGE SCHOOL IN THE  
 EARLY FIFTIES***

I was evacuated to Syresham in 1940  
 to my grandparents in Broad Street  
 (right opposite King's brewery, that  
 was!) - how great to be with family.

After the war I returned to my  
 Coventry home in order to attend  
 school. However in 1951 I had reason  
 to leave home – where would I go? –  
 Syresham of course!

Naturally I attended the local CofE  
 school which had 3 classrooms  
 (eventually 4) ranging from infants to

the then leaving age of 15 years,  
 consequently there was quite a range  
 of age groups in each class.

Mr Harvey was the Headmaster and  
 my teacher until I left school in 1955.  
 He was a very fair head and I got on  
 well with him. Initially, as I started mid  
 -term, I could not attend woodworking  
 lessons in Brackley on Mondays so I  
 had to stay with all the girls and enjoy  
 country dancing, which I certainly did!  
 - but still cannot dance!!

I enjoyed all of my time at the school  
 both with the staff and students.  
 Ironically, I ended up in Coventry  
 working at a teacher training college –  
 eventually teaching Her Majesty's  
 Inspectors of schools (HMI's) how to  
 utilise Television in an educational  
 environment.

In my time at Syresham school I can  
 only recall two students (one male and  
 one female) who

passed to go to  
 Grammar School in  
 Brackley

When I left school, I  
 was apprenticed to  
 an electronic  
 engineer at the then  
 Plessey Company in  
 Towcester.



**KEITH FRIDAY**

My great grandparents owned the  
 Kings Head, and my great great  
 grandparents owned the Green Man  
 Inn – not in my time obviously.

Where the wealth went, who knows!!  
 Consequently, I still have a lot of  
 'Syresham' in me.

**KEITH FRIDAY** ([kdafriday@aol.com](mailto:kdafriday@aol.com))



## VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY—75 YEARS ON

May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945 saw the end of hostilities in Europe, after one of the most awful conflicts to hit the world.



The war continued in the Far East and the Pacific, until 15th August following the awful devastation caused by the first ever atomic bombs dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

The war came to Syresham in the form of evacuee children (See Keith Friday's article), and some



Old Park Farm, Bombed, April 1943



military activity nearby, as well as the Home Guard, Captained by Bob King. There was considerable RAF training activity in the nearby airfields. The flyers and crews from Silverstone, Turweston and other airfields were often seen in both village pubs, the local

children learning interesting songs!

The **14<sup>th</sup> (Brackley) Battalion** was raised in May 1940 as part of Towcester and Brackley Group, **Local Defence Volunteers (LDV)**. With **D Company** - in **Syresham**. They would keep watch from the Brewery Tower in Broad Street. Old Park Farm was hit, and buildings were destroyed, as German bombers ejected their bombs near the sewage works.



Village First Aid Group



Trafalgar Square

Lives changed dramatically, and rationing of food etc. was significant. The young boys were formed into a Messenger Group supporting the Home Guard. Captain King personally kitted the boys out. The village also formed a Nursing and First Aid Group—how many do you recognise? Have you noticed the First Aid sign on the Sunday School? Life under rationing was harsh, and food was in short supply. The whole nation celebrated the close of the war, and great fun was had all over the country, including In Syresham.

## ***THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE***

Four men failed to return to Syresham when the War came to an end (compared to the 33 villagers who were lost to the Great War) . They are remembered on the village War Memorial as well as the Chapel, Church and School. The men who didn't come home:

**Name, Rank, Number:** *Wallace Pennell*, Second Lieutenant, 301527

**Fell/Age:** 10<sup>th</sup> November 1943, age C.28 (born in late 1915)

**Regiment:** General List, serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> Grace Registration Unit, previously serving as a Sergeant in the Royal Artillery

**Home details:** Son of Charles and Sarah Pennell of Abbey Road. His father had served in the First World War and was a horseman/agricultural labourer, his mother was a housewife. He had a brother, Joseph.

**Buried:** Massicault War Cemetery, Tunisia, North Africa

**Part in the Second World War:** Second Lieutenant Pennell died after the fighting in Tunisia ended. It is likely he was promoted in the field and this was his first appointment as an officer. Killed on the same date, and buried in the same cemetery, is a Private William Moore of the 6<sup>th</sup> Grave Registration Unit. It is likely both men were killed whilst recovering bodies. This could have been an accident, due to booby-traps left by the retreating Germans or down to disturbing unexploded ordnance.

**Name, Rank, Number:** *Robin Bury*, Lieutenant, 287459

**Fell/Age:** 30<sup>th</sup> September 1944, age 26

**Regiment:** General List, serving with "L" Detachment of the SAS

**Home details:** Son of Captain Eric and Mrs Dolores Bury. His father had served in the Royal Engineers in the First World War, being awarded a Military Cross, he died in November 1918. Lieutenant Bury's mother was remarried to Major Herbert Cory and they lived in the Gatehouse.

**Buried:** Phaleron War Cemetery, Greece

**Part in the Second World War:**

Lieutenant Bury's unit was deployed in Operation Manna, the liberation of Greece. Lieutenant Bury was killed off the coast of Salonika on a caique boat, used by the SBS to blend in and get into the coastline as easy as possible. It is believed he was killed in a friendly fire incident involving Greek partisans who thought the boat he was in contained communist fighters. He is buried in Phaleron War Cemetery just outside Athens. He is also remembered on the Monewden Church window, Memorial in Suffolk and the SAS memorial in the Highlands, Scotland. Grave of Lieutenant Bury, Phaleron War Cemetery, Athens, Greece. (image taken



from: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56552428>)

**Name, Rank, Number:** Thomas Hawkins, Private, 5890223

**Fell/Age:** 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1945, age 25

**Regiment:** 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment

**Home details:** Son of John and Alice Hawkins, husband of Frances, father of Leonard. He lived in Bell Lane with this family, moving to Abbey

Road when he married in 1942. His son, Leonard, was born in 1943. Tom picked the name himself, biking to Brackley to register the birth, and only telling his wife when he returned! Tom's brothers, Stan, Les and Roland are still living in the village today.



Tom with Leonard, 1943

**Buried:** Taukkyan War Cemetery, Burma

**Part in the Second World War:** Private Hawkins joined the Northamptonshire Regiment in 1940, training with the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion before transferring to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion who were fighting in Burma (now Myanmar). By recapturing Burma from the Japanese the British would guarantee the safety of India. The cemetery where Tom is buried was created after the War and brought in various cemeteries around Burma, including burials of men in the field. It is likely Tom was killed in action, buried by the battalion in a clearly marked location, then moved to his current resting place after the War. Tom was well known in the village and his death came as a shock to many, my grandfather always told me what a shock it was to find out as a boy in the village. It is perhaps more poignant with the war against the Japanese ending in August 1945, five months after Tom was killed.

*(Photograph with kind permission of Leonard Hawkins.)*

**Name, Rank, Number:** Amos Payne, Driver, 11417634

**Fell/Age:** 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1945, age circa 23 (born mid-1922)

**Regiment:** Royal Army Service Corps

**Home details:** Son of Joseph and Bessie Payne and brother to Esther, Dennis and Maurice who lived in a Bungalow at the bottom of Bell Lane. His father was a labourer and his mother a housewife.

**Buried:** Bari War Cemetery, Italy

**Part in the Second World War:** Driver Payne served with the Royal Army Service Corps – the logistical force of the British Army. The war in Italy ended on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1945, when the German and Italian forces officially surrendered. Amos and his fellow servicemen in Italy were nicknamed the D-Day Dodgers as they were

fighting in Italy when D-Day occurred in June 1944, meaning they were very much forgotten. Amos was killed after VE Day, on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1945 in Italy. He is buried in Bari War Cemetery on the Adriatic coastline. It could be that Amos was wounded in the ammunition explosion in Bari Harbour on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1945 and was being treated in the 98<sup>th</sup> General Hospital based in Bari. Or, as sadly was the case with many men, he died in an accident whilst driving supplies. No doubt Amos would have taken a moment of reflection on VE Day in 1945, yet he did not return to Syresham to carry on his life where he had left it on joining the army.



Image taken from: <https://www.findagrave.com/>



Residents are encouraged as much as is possible with lock-down to observe May 8th as a Day of Remembrance, for the close of hostilities.

- Decorate your windows and gardens with Red, White and Blue bunting and flags
- Pause by the Memorial Stone in Abbey Road on your walk around the village, and remember the fallen
- Maybe have a family picnic in your garden or indoors if necessary
- Join in Applause at your door on Friday 8th, 8.00 p.m. and enjoy singing along with the Vera Lynn melodies:- *We'll meet again* and *There'll be Bluebirds over the White Cliffs of Dover*

However you choose to remember VE Day, take a minute or two to remember the men of this village who gave their lives for your today.

**RESEARCH CARRIED OUT BY JASON RUSH, ADDITIONAL MATERIAL, EDITOR**

## ***Lest we forget.***

*Sudoku Solutions—see page 23*

188 hard										187 medium								
4	2	6	1	3	8	7	9	5		2	8	3	1	4	6	7	5	9
7	3	9	4	2	5	1	8	6		9	7	4	5	3	2	1	6	8
1	5	8	6	9	7	4	2	3		5	1	6	9	8	2	4	3	7
2	7	3	8	9	4	5	6	1		1	9	7	2	5	3	6	8	4
6	8	5	2	7	1	3	4	9		6	2	8	7	4	5	1	3	7
9	1	4	3	5	6	2	7	8		4	3	5	6	8	9	1	2	7
5	6	2	8	4	3	9	1	7		3	5	1	4	2	9	8	7	6
3	9	1	7	6	2	8	5	4		7	6	2	3	1	4	8	9	5
8	4	7	5	1	9	6	3	2		8	4	9	6	7	5	3	1	2

**TYS CINDERELLA, FEBRUARY 2020**



*CINDERELLA'S AMAZING  
TRANSFORMATION  
DRESS—LIZ MOUNTAIN*



*PULLING  
FANNY'S NEVER-  
ENDING SOCK  
OFF*



*FANNY AND  
WYNCIETTE, THE  
UGLY SISTERS*

*BUTTONS AND  
HIS SECRET BOX*







**END OF OUR  
WONDERFUL  
CHORUS**

### **TAKE YOUR SEAT Pantomime, CINDERELLA FEBRUARY 2020**

After foolishly arranging to visit Granny and missing last year's show, we were not going to make the same mistake again! So instead we invited Granny to come and stay with us, and to join us at the Village Panto!

On Thursday evening we all set off for the Village Hall, excited to see what "Fanny" would be up to and see our school friends performing. We were greeted by the welcoming front of house team who sold us raffle tickets and served us refreshments. Then we settled down into our seats for the show to begin.

We were not disappointed, the opening scene is always a highlight for me with the clever camera trickery. Cinderella and Buttons made a great double act and my daughter was beside herself with joy every time she had to shout out "Can't touch this!" This song has now become a hit on our playlist... Old skol. As ever the singing was fantastic and there were some really fabulous performances from

Cinderella, Fairy Godmother, Griselda and the Handsome Prince Charming. The talent in Syresham is **AMAZING**.

We were so excited to see what Fanny would be up to this year, having missed her crazy antics last year ... And what a double act Fanny and Wincyette were.



**EAMES FAMILY**

They gave us endless giggles and harassed the poor unsuspecting members of the audience. The pantomime would not be the pantomime without a good "yes fanny". The young chorus seems to get bigger and bigger each year and it was great trying to spot all our school friends, a few of whom we did not recognise. Their dancing and singing was marvellous and so professional, well done to all the choreographers who put it all together. The highlight of the night for my son was The Shorties. He is still trying to work out how they did it and it still causes hilarity!

For my daughter the highlight was finding the key under her chair that the prince was looking for.

Granny, who likes to think herself as a bit of an amateur “lovey” having taken part in her own village Panto, was extremely impressed with the whole performance, especially the more technical side, set design, sound, lighting, costumes etc.

It is all so expertly put together, that it brings such a polished professional element to the pantomime, making it a truly standout performance.

Many Congratulations to Director, Keith and all the amazing team, front of house, behind the scenes and on stage.

The Syresham pantomime is one of the best nights out of the year and I highly recommend it to those who have not been before to make it a priority. We will not be missing another performance if we can help it... Can't wait till next year!

### **SARAH EAMES AND FAMILY**



**A BIG THANK  
YOU TO  
EVERYONE IN  
SYRESHAM  
WHO HAS  
HELPED IN  
THE**

**COMMUNITY AT THIS TIME OF  
GREAT DIFFICULTY.**

**ESPECIALLY TO RUTH AT THE  
POST OFFICE, AND TO THOSE  
WHO HAVE OFFERED TO HELP  
RESIDENTS SELF-ISOLATING.**

**AND TO THOSE WHO HAVE  
REGULARLY APPLAUDED THE  
EFFORTS OF NHS STAFF, CARE  
WORKERS AND KEYWORKERS ON  
THURSDAY EVENINGS.**

### **THE SYLVIE ESSAME SCHOOL OF DANCE** *Sylvie writes . . .*

I have been running dance and Pilates classes in the area for over 25 years, so it was with great sadness that I had to stop them all overnight.

I don't live in Syresham and I teach in other local towns and villages, but Syresham has always been the hub of my business and I have great fondness for the village and its residents, who have always made me feel most welcome. The village hall committee has always been really supportive.

I have taught many children and students from the village to dance and, of course, numerous adults come to my Ballet and Pilates classes and more recently, to my Seated Pilates class.

It's been a great pleasure to teach in the new village hall, which many people worked hard for to become a reality. I have always enjoyed putting on our annual dance performances to raise money for the hall as it is such an important part of the community. The children benefit greatly from performing locally, both in the hall and, for the church fete.

I have put some of my classes online for the first time ever! There are now several classes available, including Jazz Body Conditioning class for adults and students. I will add more, where necessary!

Personally, I can't wait for this all to be over so that I can see all my friends, students and the many people I usually see on a regular basis. Not to mention our family! Meanwhile, take good care of yourselves.

**SYLVIE ESSAME**

## **OUR OWN VILLAGE HERO**

We have all dutifully played out our collective responsibilities over recent weeks in the face of unprecedented social pressure in the fight against Covid -19



We have all obeyed the imposed rules. We have all worried and fretted about whether we have enough food in the house and if not who will help us. During our daily excursion to get some exercise who will we see, no closer than 2 metres away of course, to exchange pleasantries with?

Residents of Syresham, I give you Ruth and the Post Office.

The woman is totally bullet proof and indomitable. In the early days of lockdown, before you could say 'Coronavirus stinks', she had sourced extra milk supplies, there was more fresh bread on the counter and extra toilet rolls appeared out of thin air. It was comforting to see and gave each of us a sense that things will be alright and we'll get through this

Open 6 days a week, whenever I walk past the PO it just always seems to be open with Ruth visible through the window doing something in the shop and talking to somebody.

She has her irascible side of course, but she's always there. Like an anchor holding the Syresham ship steady in these stormy waters. I'm a regular visitor to Ruth's for all manner of things and on occasion over the last few

weeks, she has looked tired and a bit emotionally battered but she always appears from somewhere in the shop when I walk in.

We are fortunate in Syresham to have a PO and shop. So many villages have lost theirs but ours keeps marching on come rain or shine or worldwide pandemic

We must not forget just how much Ruth does for the village above and beyond her role in the shop and PO.

Amazon parcel deliveries, sales of pantomime tickets, church 200 club subscriptions, village hall keys, forgotten your purse - pay tomorrow, coal supplies, dry cleaning drop off and pick up. The list is endless. You want to know where somebody lives, ask Ruth. You want to know when and where so and so's funeral is - she knows.

Speaking personally, I see Ruth as the Mum of the village. She is totally priceless and we must never forget just how much she does for us all

So the next time you are in the village shop, as you face towards the door to leave just turn round and say "Thank you for all you do for us Ruth."

## **ANON**

### **GARDENING CLUB**

The Gardening Club, like most other village organisations, has ceased holding meetings – sadly we do not know for how long, but please be assured that we will resume just as soon we can.



We have only been able to hold two meetings so far this year. The first was

reported on in the last edition and the second was a trip out to see the beautiful snowdrops at Coton Manor Gardens near Guilsborough, thoroughly enjoyed by all who went on the visit.

The March meeting should have been a film entitled 'A Little Chaos' about the building of the Gardens at the Palace of Versailles featuring Kate Winslett and in April we were to welcome back Chris Day from Buckingham Garden Centre to talk on 'The Gardening Influences of Beatrix Potter'. Both of these will be rearranged sometime in the future.

Once we are able to resume meetings, we will collect the subs, which will of course be adjusted accordingly. Meantime, please keep safe and keep enjoying your gardens – they will all look beautiful this year!

### **CHRIS MUNSEY**

#### **SYRESHAM VILLAGE STORE AND POST OFFICE**

I have to say a very big thank you to all the residents of the village for helping to keep the shop and Post Office running through this difficult time. I have received so many gifts and thank you messages, and very much appreciate your concerns regarding my close proximity to people in the shop.

However I am sure the alcohol intake will keep in good stead!

My very best wishes to you all—Keep Safe, Keep Well—**RUTH GROVELL**



#### **LOCK DOWN FOR THE VILLAGE CHILDREN**

Hi, I am Luca Berry. I am 11 years old in year 6 at Syresham School.



This is about what I am doing in the lockdown. It is quite hard, but I'll give it a go.

During lockdown I have been doing my school work that was set by my teachers. I have also been spending a lot more time with my family than normal.

My dad is normally away so now I get to spend more time with him and play with him more.

I am a sporty person but am not really able to do all the sports I like such as Rugby, Football, tennis and swimming.

On the 20th of March our school broke up because of COVID-19. I couldn't speak for my friends, but I think we were all a bit upset that we had to leave and we didn't really know if we would see each other again, because some of us will be going to different schools later.

Because of the lovely weather recently we have had the paddling pool out. This could have been an urge for people to go out to lakes and places where you could have fun but we managed to stay put. My dad helped me and my brother make a slide to go into the paddling pool. It was a lot of fun but around this time we would have been at Croyde (in Devon) probably surfing and camping with our friends.

This is what I have done in lockdown.

It would be good to hear what you have done.

**LUCA BERRY**

**STAY HOME    PROTECT THE NHS**  
**SAVE LIVES**

### **SYRESHAM CHAPEL**

We were very privileged a couple of weeks before lockdown to go to The Dominion Theatre to see *The Prince of Egypt* the story of the life of Moses, a wonderful afternoon to look back on.

Regretfully to comply with Government regulations we closed the Chapel but via a telephone link by splitting the congregation into two sections we can still listen to our speaker every Sunday evening. We even had a Passover service and Communion in our own homes. Thanks to Cathy and Beryl for organising this.

We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Aubrey Green. Aubrey had worshipped at our Church all his life and served in many positions. Sadly the service to commemorate his life as had to be put on hold but David has it all arranged to happen as soon as we are able.

Before lockdown the Chapel was open for anyone to go in and pray and a copy of a prayer for deliverance from the corona virus was available. Here is an extract we would love to share with you all:

*God of all Wisdom, we pray for our*



*leaders, the World Health Organization, national governments, and local leaders too – heads of schools, hospitals and institutions. Since you have positioned these people in public service for this hour, we ask you to grant them wisdom beyond their own wisdom to contain this virus, faith beyond their own faith to fight this fear, and strength beyond their own strength to sustain virtual institution through this time of turmoil.*

### **DOT**

#### **SAD NEWS IN THE VILLAGE**

It is with great regret that we report the recent passing of Syresham people.

Aubrey Green passed away in March, David Sheppard in April and Rosemary Smith died in Manchester where she lived after moving from Syresham.

Rosemary was the widow of Canon Smith, and she was a former Churchwarden and co-editor along with Dr Philip Pettit of the Syresham Times. She was 90, and had recently contracted the Corona Virus.

Leslie Windle of The Pound, has also passed.

We will carry further tributes to them in the next edition.

#### **A DIFFERENT VIEW**

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At the next election,  
Stay home  
Protect the NHS  
Save lives.

**WILLIE BENNIE**

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**SYRESHAM'S GOT TALENT**

25/26<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
Village Hall Subject to Covid-19



It is a well known fact there is a lot of talent in Syresham!

Now it's time to showcase that talent!

Take Your SEAT and Village Hall Committee are teaming up to produce a Talent Show for you to perform anything you like! We will provide a large stage, sound system and lighting ... you just need to turn up for two shows and perform to a packed audience!

Calling all societies, clubs in Syresham to get together and perform.

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Email [keithwatts55@btinternet.com](mailto:keithwatts55@btinternet.com) or ring 07831 537717

**GO ON ... DO IT!!**

**SYRESHAM'S GOT TALENT**



**NEWS FROM SILVERSTONE CIRCUIT**

For as long as possible, news on this year's F1GP at Silverstone has been held back, but now it has been confirmed that normal racing in front of the usual crowds is not going to be possible in July.

Formula 1 Racing, BRDC and



Silverstone Circuits have all confirmed that the health, safety and wellbeing of all those involved is paramount and so the racing cannot proceed as usual. All those who have purchased tickets are being advised that tickets can be carried over to next year, or a full refund will be made.

Talks are going ahead to consider ways of running "behind closed doors" events.

Silverstone Circuit has indicated that, many FREE tickets will be available for NHS and other Key workers, as a thank you for all that they have done in the current situation.

*FROM STUART PRINGLE, MD SILVERSTONE*

**2020 SCARECROW FESTIVAL**



**DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED WHEN A DATE CAN BE DECIDED**



Medium 187



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**SYRESHAM TIMES SUDOKU FROM KEITH FRIDAY**

Hard 188



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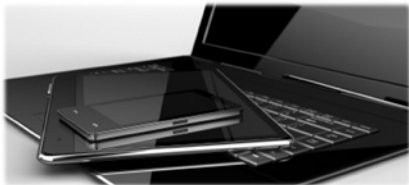
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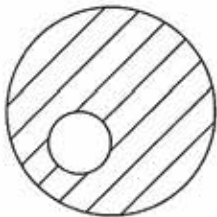
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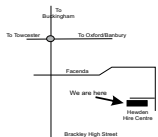


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