



The Syresham Times

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Local Election Results

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From the
Editor's
Desk



Early April saw the announcement from Buckingham Palace of the passing of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh at the age of 99, after 73 years of marriage to The Queen. The community will have expressed its feelings about the massive contribution made by the Prince. Several villagers have provided tributes here of DofE.

The local political scene has changed. The long familiar South Northamptonshire Council has merged with Northampton Borough and Daventry District Councils creating the new West Northamptonshire Unitary Authority covering all the usual local government responsibilities. We will have new Councillors in the Silverstone Ward. A total of 93 councillors were up for election on May 6th to the new Unitary Council. Three seats in each of the 31 wards have been up for election in the new Council.

Election Day was on Thursday 6th May, when voting for our new Local District Councillors, new Parish Council, and Police and Crime Commissioner of Northamptonshire took place. The results are on page 11.

The Parish Council will continue to take responsibility for those matters which are provided at community level.

I would like to express very grateful thanks to all our advertisers who have supported the magazine during these challenging times.

IAN DRAPER EDITOR - MAY 2021

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**COVER PHOTOGRAPH Abbey Road Sunrise
- Helen McIver**

**COPY DEADLINE FOR AUGUST ISSUE:-
JULY 28TH, 2021**

HRH PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH

One of many things that HRH Prince Philip will be remembered for is the Duke of Edinburgh Award



Scheme. It challenges the youth of the day, through different youth organisations and schools across the world, setting challenges, rewarding and recognising their efforts. A few Syresham residents were involved here are some of their recollections:-

ROBERT SWINFORD

In 1964 four of us boys in the Silverstone Boys Brigade signed up for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, achieving bronze, silver and gold awards. We had various projects and spent 6 months on public service, with the Auxiliary Fire Service in Towcester. We rode a Green Goddess at callout speed on A43 near Kettering. Much to the amusement of passing lorry drivers we also ran down the A5 in Towcester with 100 metres of 3" hose to a fire base.

We also had to complete several expeditions which got harder as the award level progressed. We trekked the Brecon Beacons, Derbyshire and Snowdonia. On the Watkin Path on Snowdon, I slipped and bounced quite a distance down. Luckily I landed on my pack and received only

a few minor bruises.

In 1969 we were invited to the award ceremony at Buckingham Palace. A coach load of boys together with parents made the trip. We four award winners went to the Palace each accompanied by a parent. The interior of the Palace was truly amazing.

We lined up and waited to be called.

At my turn I walked towards Prince Philip, who made eye contact, smiled and shook my hand. He only spoke to every fifth person. Later, we joined the rest of our coach party in the West End for a show. It was a truly memorable day. We even made it to the local newspaper and on television.

I will always be grateful to our leaders especially Sydney Hinton for giving us the opportunity and encouraging us all the way.

ALICE WYNESS

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is one of my favourite memories from school. As a lover of the outdoors, I had no hesitation in signing up for the bronze expedition aged 14. Despite the blisters, I thoroughly loved it and the fact that I went on to complete silver and gold is testament to that!

Through DofE, I made many great friends and developed so many skills. The organisation involved in planning the route, finding suitable food and ensuring we had all the equipment was huge. Team work was something the scheme really tests you on! Trying to remain amicable when you've had a



disagreement after 3 hours sleep and walking 25 kilometres in a blizzard—that is not always easy!

I have so many memories from those days, and not all were fun! Like when our tent blew down in the night in the Peak District! But times like those really made me appreciate the easier times, like finishing our silver expedition in glorious sunshine in Bourton-on-the-Water! I also have many happy memories of volunteering as a helper at Syresham brownies. I helped there for around 6 years, until I went to university.

I feel extremely fortunate to have been given the opportunity to take part in such a wonderful scheme and hope it continues for generations to come.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme opened up for me an outdoor world that I would not otherwise have experienced at school or elsewhere.

JEANETTE WILLIAMS

Nearly fifty years ago, my friends and I walked the Knightley Way for the Bronze "expedition" part of the DofE. It sounds quite mild but we were very young and hadn't had much experience out in the countryside. We stayed overnight at the youth hostels in Badby and Greens Norton and ended the journey at Stoke Bruerne. Being city girls, we had assumed it was easy to hop on and off buses everywhere! However, there were no buses from Stoke Bruerne late on a Sunday afternoon. We found a phone box and rang my Dad to come from Birmingham to rescue us. We had to reverse the charges so even if there had been a

bus, we hadn't allowed enough money for the fares. We learned a lot from those foolish planning mistakes and a few years later we were confident and safe in more challenging terrain such as High Peak.

I saw Prince Philip briefly in person at a Gold Award presentation at Buckingham Palace in 1978. He asked the person next to me what interests they had followed: "Breeding race horses, Sir". I remember that HRH had the grace to be attentive to the racehorse story but not so much as to make other guests feel intimidated. He was, as you would expect, charming.

FILMING THE ROYAL FUNERAL

I have been a television camera operator for 44 years and every now and then, a job comes along and you feel humbled to be asked to do it. One such occasion was to film Prince Philip's Funeral at Windsor Castle. I had actually been booked for this for over 25 years! And I am booked for the Queen's funeral too.

I was chosen to be part of a 60 plus outside broadcast unit for the BBC. 60 cameras??!! Yes! Over 60 in fact. Which sounds a lot of cameras to film a funeral, but with the three temporary studios on site, BBC, ITV and Sky, all with 5 cameras in each, that's 15 already. And there were those to film the hearse from its arrival into Windsor Park, and its journey through the castle grounds and inside St George's Chapel.

My camera location was on the parade ground, beside an arch leading to Horseshoe Cloister, and the famous

steps of St George's Chapel. I was to film the Land Rover hearse as it progressed on its journey. It was easy enough, although on the day, over 20 million people around the world would be watching, so I didn't want to muck it up! We rehearsed filming with all the various military units, lining up in formation. They were magnificent in their splendour. As a camera operator, I am used to being up and close, in a privileged position when filming various events. I am always in awe when I see these soldiers in formal dress, every item in pristine condition and perfect.

I have filmed members of the Royal Family before. I was lucky enough to follow The Queen and Prince Phillip around Chelsea Flower Show, when the show was opened up on a Monday evening, exclusively for them, each year.

The moment arrived, I saw the procession coming down the hill towards me— it was time for my big shot! I still get nervous on such occasions, nobody wants to make a mistake or miss a vital shot. I could see in my viewfinder, as I focussed up, the poignant gloves, belonging to the Duke, with a white ring bouquet, placed behind the gloves. This was it. Focus on the flowers and gently zoom out to reveal the Land Rover, with the Royal Household Guards in their red tunics, making a perfect backdrop. With butterflies buzzing in my stomach, I panned left as the hearse passed through the arch, with the Royal party walking behind. I couldn't resist looking away from viewfinder and watch as they walked by solemnly just a few feet

away. William and Harry weren't arguing!

I was standing next to the Chapel building where the service was taking place and wished I could be part of the crew filming inside, but that was done by remotely operated cameras, strategically placed all around the chapel.

Who will forget the sad pictures of the Queen, alone in her grief, with nobody to comfort her. It certainly brought a tear to my eye.

The next day we received thanks for a professional job and the director's words, "*I think we did him proud!*" were very apt.

KEITH WATTS, CAMERA 30

ED ORR-EWING

I completed the Duke of Edinburgh Silver award aged 16, in 2006. I found the whole award a life-changing and valuable experience that allowed me to discover new interests and talents. It helped me significantly as I built essential skills for life and work whilst it also proved a recognised mark of achievement by employers as I looked for work through and beyond University.

For the expedition, we completed a 3 day/2 night 70km walk through the Cevennes National Park in the South of France. Despite nearly 3 days of solid rain, multiple blisters and sleepless nights, it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience that helped to build lasting relationships and valuable skills.

Teamwork and leadership stood out and have definitely helped me to navigate challenging situations in life.

The award also gave me the opportunity to volunteer time to help a local community in North London as well as physically challenge myself in sporting activities.



I'm incredibly grateful for the invaluable opportunity given to me through the Duke of Edinburgh

awards and I would definitely encourage those in the future to participate!

TOM SAUNDERS (DOT'S GRANDSON)

I decided to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh award at the age of 13. I had no idea of the impact that it would have on me over the next couple of years while completing it, let alone what it would help me accomplish in later life. To help understand the impact that Prince Philip has had though the award you can just look at the numbers, in 2019 alone the award had 72,000 young adults sign up across 130 countries. I am just one of millions that this award has helped over its 65 years of operation.

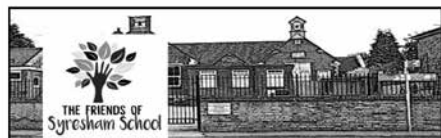
There was nothing easy about completing my gold award, however the enjoyment, satisfaction, and the memories that I gained from it were immense. This was done through the likes of volunteering with my local Scout group, helping younger children learn news skills as well as embracing their wilder sides. The expeditions was probably one of the most challenging things I have ever achieved, 5 days of solid rain on the bleak Dartmoor,

hiking 12 miles a day to the other extreme of 30+ degree heat in the Brecon Beacons! I know its hard to imagine Wales getting that hot, but it happened.

The most memorable part of the Award though had to be my trip to India. I worked with a school in the Himalayas as well as hiking in some of the most pristine wilderness there is on earth.

If you had asked me at 13 years old when I signed up for Duke of Edinburgh Award, do you think youwill live in Canada, working with children in Summer Camp, hiking up the Rocky Mountains every weekend I would not have believed you, but here I am. Without Prince Philip's commitment to this award none of these experiences would have happened, and I would not be where I am today without him. While I sadly did not get to meet him at my award ceremony at the Palace, I know he was the man behind the scenes that helped me.

THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS WHO HAVE SHARED THEIR EXPERIENCES OF A WONDERFUL SCHEME, DESIGNED TO ASSIST YOUNG PEOPLE. EDITOR



SYRESHAM CE ST JAMES SCHOOL

Well, lockdown 3 hit and with home-schooling back on the agenda The Friends of Syresham School (FOSS) team were keen to support the wellbeing of the children with some light-hearted and fun entertainment.

On Friday 5th February the children's

entertainer Lucas Jet came in for an afternoon of circus craziness. It was heart-warming to see the children smile, laugh and attempt to juggle socks – all via zoom – with their classmates. Awesome!

The FOSS arranged another Friday of family fun with our first ever Virtual Comedy Bingo Night on 19th February. The bingo lingo was on point, the drinks and snacks were aplenty, and the headgear was brilliantly bonkers. Prizes included a Wide range of hampers, for everyone, including a fab Fruit and Veg Box, kindly donated by A W Duncombe & Sons Ltd. Our thanks to Bren and Val at Comedy Bingo for a fab evening that raised £90 to help support our school.

In March, we organised a Parents Pub Quiz with maths skills, playdoh artistry and a knowledge of famous dogs all put to the test. It was great fun and a huge thank you to Claire Turnham for organising the quiz and delivering the prizes, and to the hilariously



brilliant quiz master, James. Congrats to the quiz leaders, Nerd Immunity!

On to May and a week-long celebration with our Mini May Day Fete afternoons in school for each class bubble, with traditional games, a bouncy castle and ice creams (and hot chocolate!) followed by Maypole dancing in the playground with

parents invited to watch their children. On Tuesday, despite the wind, rain and hail, Years 5 & 6 led a procession from the church to the school where the May King (Sonny) and the May Queen (Libby) were crowned. Despite the disappointment of not being able to hold our usual May Day fete the FOSS were pleased to be able to give the children ‘all the fun of the fete’. Again, despite all the challenges, working closely with school the help of parents, volunteers and donations, we were able to provide some much-needed fun for the children. Thank you to all who have given their time, kindly donated, joined us via Zoom sporting a jazzy wig or hat, all to support our children and the village school.

CAN YOU HELP? SPRING DIY and TIDY UP - Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th May, 7-9pm

Following the success of our DIY evenings last year and the amazing impact just a few hours of parent and community help brings, we will be holding two **SPRING DIY TIDY UP EVENINGS ON WEDNESDAY 19TH AND THURSDAY 20TH MAY, FROM 7-9PM.**

As ever there's a long list of jobs - to fit all abilities! So please do pop your name down for an hour or so, to help keep the school outdoor learning environments as lovely as they currently are! **IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP PLEASE CONTACT SARAH PATERSON ON 07971 979034.**

KELLY DALWOOD

A WARTIME EVACUEE IN SYRESHAM

Occasionally we receive messages from past residents of the village, recalling their happy days here, as a young child or just remembering their life in Syresham. The most recent such contact came from Norma Nunn (nee Nimmo), who lives in the Wimbledon area of London. She writes:-

I was evacuated to Syresham in September 1939 with my mother, two brothers and sister. Our family name was Nimmo. Mrs Cory let us live in the servant quarters, at The Gatehouse.



Except for my sister Yvonne, we all went to the village school, where Mr Williams was Headmaster. I also recall Miss Payne, plus another teacher from London, Miss Hartridge. We had classes in the Chapel at first, and we attended the Church, where I was christened. We had a lovely childhood in the village, it was a very different life from that in London.

As my uncles were called up, my six aunts were bombed out, and they came to join us living in condemned cottages with their children.

I will be 91 this year and have many happy memories of Syresham. I kept in touch with friends, some of whom have sadly passed away. I recall Pat Lovett in Bell Lane and Lilian Chapman, who married Roy Hawkins. I can remember the Butchers on the corner of Broad Street, Tanners, and Mr Allen's shop in the High Street, and The Bell Inn, in Bell Lane, with Mr Wilks. Then there was the Bakehouse and Thomas's Shop for milk, bread and

sausages. We loved that the Fish and Chip van came along once a week, that was very welcome, as food rationing was very strict, and minimal. There were several other evacuees living there.

I worked on a Saturday for Colonel Blackingstone, he lived at The Priory, and I also helped the lady at the big house on High Street, (Mrs Beresford?). She was collecting things to send to the sailors of the Merchant Navy. She was really very good to us evacuee children. Our stepfather was killed on his first voyage and three of my uncles too.

We eventually returned to London, staying with family and friends, as all our own houses were bomb damaged.

Among my friends I remember Mary Vidler and Frances Archer, from Malthouse Lane. I am still in contact with Brian and his family. I met my best friend, Betty Hunter, from Crowfield, at the school. When we reached age 12, Mr Williams got us places at Paddington Technical College. I became a court dress-maker, and when my daughters began secondary education, I took courses in English and Typing. I progressed from there eventually to become a University Registrar.

***NORMA NUNN (NEE NIMMO) SW
LONDON***

MUMS AND TOTS GROUP

After a whole year of not meeting up, we were very excited about starting the group again. We had lots of cleaning, sorting and paperwork to complete to comply with Covid rules

before we could finally open the doors. With our face masks and sanitiser spray at the ready, our first session



was a success. There were a few shy children as many of them were only tiny babies when they last saw each other! The adults were very happy to get out

and about and to meet other mums or grandparents for a chat. Even though there were some restrictions with what we were allowed to put out for the children, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The Duplo, building bricks and trundle toys are always some of the favourites. In the weeks ahead we hope to get outside, have more crafting activities available and more importantly, give our children the chance to socialise with each other, get used to being around other children and to build friendships.

If you wish to attend a session, please contact Tina - 07809-244797.

Mums and Tots is run by a voluntary group of parents and therefore there is a small charge to cover costs. At the moment we are restricted to only 15 adults so please book rather than just dropping in. Our group meets on Wednesdays during school term time from 10:00am-11:45am in Syresham Village Hall.

We look forward to welcoming new members.

TINA NESBITT

DENNIS READ,

DECEMBER 1932 TO FEBRUARY 2021



Dennis, lived in Wappenham Road for over 30 years with his wife, Brenda (nee Bray) until her passing in 2013. They were married in 1956, and eventually moved from St Albans to Chesham, Buckinghamshire, before coming to Syresham. He remained in the village doing general gardening work after retirement from the butchery trade.

Like other residents in Wappenham Road, he was asked by South Northants Council to ensure clearance of the ditch behind the bungalows. They were both worried about doing their bit, and did their best with the job.



That is till he fell into the ditch and dislocated a shoulder! He was then laid up in bed for several weeks. Need-

less to say the ditch never got cleared! With his wife he was a member of the Friendship Club, and they also played Bowls. Both were regularly at the annual village Pantomime.

Dennis's son David, and daughter, Hazel Pridgeon hope to have their ashes interred in the village cemetery some time in June, once the Covid restrictions are lifted.

DAVID READ AND HAZEL PRIDGEON, APRIL 2021

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The Parish Council has continued to hold 'virtual' meetings via Zoom during the whole of the pandemic. This has enabled us to continue our work in as near normal a fashion as possible and we have been able to conduct most of the necessary business of the council.

However, the legislation that has allowed us to meet online expired on May 6th and it will not be extended. The next meetings of the Parish Council will be face-to-face in the village hall May 19th and 26th, 2021 – I personally feel that this is a good thing as it indicates that some normality is at last beginning to return to our lives.

You may well have seen that work has been done in the Pocket Park. The path that leads around it has been relaid and benches are in the process of being put in various locations around the park. Soon there will be a smart new notice board, and the Pocket Park sign will be renovated. I am sure you will agree that the park now looks a lot smarter and more inviting, and we hope that everyone will use the opportunity to go along there to relax and enjoy the wonders that Nature has to offer. Work on the park has not finished yet, but we are certainly getting there.

At the end of April the Parish Council organised this year's annual Village Litterpick, which unfortunately had to be cancelled last year owing to the

pandemic. This event proved very successful with over 20 people taking part. The Parish Council thanks those people for the good work they did, as well as those people who have continued to pick up litter on a regular basis throughout lockdown. The parish itself and grass verges surrounding the village certainly look all the better for it.

The Parish Council is also very pleased to confirm that approval has been granted to borrow the sum of £13,000 from the Public Works Loan Board which will be repaid over a period of 3 years. This will be added to the money the Parish Council has already set aside for the purpose of providing the village with new street lighting and enable the street lighting project to go ahead before next winter and the dark nights are upon us again.

By the time this article goes to press electors of Syresham will have cast their vote for people to represent them on the new West Northamptonshire Unitary Council; the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and of course the 9 members of Syresham's Parish Council. The results of these elections are published in this edition of the Syresham Times.

Finally, just a reminder that the Parish Council provides bins for the use of the many dog owners and dog walkers in the village. As most of us already know – there is no such thing as the dog poo fairy! So please make sure you use the bins!

CLLR CHRISTINA MUNSEY

BARRY MCKAY 1941 TO 1921

Barry was well known for riding around the village and local areas on his 3 wheel scooter, which we used to call his Harley Davidson! He usually had some dogs in tow, or was picking up rubbish from ditches and lay-bys around the village.

You would have noticed over a period of time that he could no longer do this, so it would be me, or one of his lovely carers who would take him in his wheelchair, to keep up his interest in the goings on around the village and to hopefully meet people who would stop and talk to him.

It was a sad time for our family when Barry went into permanent care in June 2020, just as we were coming out of the lockdown from March, due to my having a major operation which meant I could no longer care for him. We had hoped that we should be able to continue enjoying things with him for visits, outings and pastimes, bringing him back to the Village for Coffee Mornings and Special Events. However this was not to be, and Barry spent all that time in Care without me being able to hold his hand or comfort him in any way. We spent the time on video calls and phone calls, which was not an easy solution, when the person you love is unable to speak clearly any longer.

He received the vaccine in January, but then tested positive a couple of weeks



later and was diagnosed with COVID. This brought a rapid deterioration to his general health and his Parkinson's symptoms became more pronounced.

The care he was given in Godswell Park was amazing and they treated him like one of their own. He passed peacefully away on February 6th and will always be remembered for the strong man he was, a kind man who would help anyone and one who took a huge interest in life as a whole. Always up for an adventure, taking his many photographs of his beloved birds and flowers over many years. Gone but never forgotten.

PAULINE, GARRY AND MARINA MCKAY



PIMLICO LIGHT RAILWAY

In common with lots of organisations we are having to change the way we do things.

Sadly we have made the decision not to run for the public any longer so the days of long Sunday afternoons in the sun with great refreshments and lots of trains running is a thing of the past.

However Pimlico Light Railway Ltd., will continue on a smaller scale with a number of Members' Days but only of course when the lifting of restrictions permits. On those days, Full Members will be able to invite members of their family and friends to join them as Day members but in order to control numbers, everything will be strictly by

application and those Day members who come will need to sign in and be aware of the rules of the club. This will enable the days to be more easily managed and everyone who comes will be 'known', in contrast to the days in the past when we welcomed in excess of 100 people turning up, many of whom could be total strangers.

Things move on and the way we did things in the past has sadly "Gone with regret", but we look forward to being able to provide some different ways of running PLR for its members.

JOHN ROBERTS

WELCOME TO NEW RESIDENTS

Good-day to everyone from Jim and Hazel Nesbitt. We are very happy to have recently moved

into The White Cottage, 14 Bell Lane and would like to introduce ourselves to the village.

We are both originally from South Tyneside, but have lived the last 30 odd years in a village on the West Coast of Scotland.

We have now moved south to be closer to our son and our two granddaughters, who live in Leighton Buzzard - not too far and not too near!

We also have a daughter in Brisbane, Australia. We should be there now, but due to you-know-what, we are stuck here and will miss the birth of her first child at the beginning of May.

I served for 28 years in the Royal Navy as an Engineering Artificer in Nuclear



Submarines and reached the dizzy heights of Warrant Officer. Hazel worked as a Stroke Nurse for many years.

After leaving the Royal Navy in 2008 I worked as an independent consultant within the defence industry in-between our number one hobby of travelling, both in our motorhome and as independent travellers.

Retiring in 2014 we continued our travels. Our hobbies include DIY, sailing, walking, gardening and of course our grandchildren.

We look forward to joining in the social activities of the village and creating new friendships.

JIM AND HAZEL NESBITT

Any other new residents who might like to introduce themselves, please contact the Editor?

LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS MAY 2021

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FIRE & POLICE COMMISSIONER

Stephen Mold, Conservative

NEW WEST NORTHANTS COUNCILLORS SILVERSTONE WARD (3)

Dermot Bambridge (Con)

Charles Manners (Con)

Alison Mitchell (Con)

SYRESHAM PARISH COUNCILLORS (9)

THE FOLLOWING ARE ELECTED

David Cranwell, Ian Draper,

Dorothy Dunkley, Sally Earl-Davies,

David Green, Jennifer Haycock,

Adam Jeskins, Helen McIver-Bouden,

Christina Munsey

SOUTH NORTHANTS ACTIVE TRAVEL ROUTE

There has been some progress made since December; HS2 is currently looking at the feasibility of accommodating active travel routes at the Brackley A43/HS2 interface and the B4525/HS2 interface near Greatworth.

Syresham's local initiative is being considered, along with others, in the Local Structure Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans by Phil Jones Associates.

John Grimshaw & Associates have submitted a possible ATR from Brackley to High Cross. Another local parish council has included a network of active travel routes within its village, in its draft development plans. Some of their ambitions also extend beyond their boundaries towards other villages and towns which would help greatly in creating a fully connected route running parallel to the A43.

SNATRA is also in working with Climate Action-West Northants (CA-WN) to push forward with common pollution and climate change actions.

Unfortunately no authority would assist in making an application for a grant even though SNATRA have a letter in support from our local MP, Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom.

With the current emphasis on climate change and the decreasing use of fossil fuels this is exactly the right time to begin to build an active travel route in our area. It will mean all residents in the area, regardless of age or mobility

needs will be able to make short journeys safely without using a car.

Support us on Facebook, **SNATRA 43** or simply leave the car keys on the hook and walk or cycle if it is safe to do so.

**STEPHANIE BRACKPOOL
SYRESHAM FOOTPATHS**

We have tried to keep all footpaths signed and open during lockdown. More people have been out and about in Syresham; stiles are legally designed for people even if bigger dogs are encouraged to access the farmland on a leash.

A few paths have been seeded by landowners, but are still passable. These paths have been reported to NCC. The sewage works path has been reported to NCC and is the subject of spring water! If a footpath is

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS - SEE PAGE 25

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196 Hard

195 MEDIUM

not properly signed or is impassable, do get in contact with us. (01280 850659)

SOURCE OF THE RIVER GREAT OUSE, "THE OLD MOUNTAINS"

This walk from the village is about 4 miles long. Go up The Hill, starting at the bridge, opposite the Swingfield, and bear to the right, crossing the fields towards Crowfield. At the end of the horse paddock, bear right through the top of the paddock, and go across the field (about 1/2 o'clock), through a gap in the hedge, round the field (though the footpath should go diagonally across the field).



Cross the wooden bridge over the Great Ouse with care—(signed, but it can be dangerous). Follow the path to the right and head for the copse, "Manorial Earthworks". The Great Ouse springs here in wetter times; it is surrounded by a moat, and lots of fallen down trees. The official footpath crosses a summer wheat field.

Turn right after the field end and follow the track/lane. It is possible to follow the Wappenham/Astwell road back to Syresham OR turn right before the road over a wooden bridge, through paddocks, turn right along a tree'd avenue (not signed), then across a field to a wooden bridge towards a copse.

Go through the copse (signed),



and follow the signed paths back to Syresham.

GEOFF AND STEPH BRACKPOOL, (FOOTPATH WARDENS)

ELECTRIFYING IMPROVEMENT IN BELL LANE

There comes a moment in the life of every machine or appliance when it begins to show



unmistakable signs of decrepitude. Components begin to fail or require repeated attention, the rated performance is a memory, and reliable operation has become a wish rather than an expectation. Our second hand Clio was on that slippery slope. We had talked for some time about changing to an electric car, but it was always "some day", until October 2020 and the annual MOT reminder. It was then that our minds were made up for us and we started our research.

First hurdle: where to plug in? We had no off street parking and a rapid search confirmed that trailing cables across the pavement is not a legal option. We learned from an exchange of emails with the parish clerk that charge points on-street or at the village hall were a future possibility but our need was immediate. We contacted Northamptonshire Highways to investigate the possibility of reinstating the dropped kerb and off-street parking space that existed

when we moved to Syresham in 1979. (<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/parking/Pages/apply-for-a-dropped-kerb.aspx>)



They responded within a couple of weeks, had visited the site and approval granted, together with a list

of council approved contractors. We were in no doubt about which one to choose; two never responded to our requests while the one who eventually carried out the work dropped by early one morning to have a look.

In parallel we researched chargers and cars. Our electricity supplier Ecotricity, offer a single low tariff for EV owners and a discount on Rolec home chargers. With their help we were able to select and order the charge pod, a “smart” device controlled by an app and selecting the most economical time to charge, and managing the whole process. The EV Home Charge Scheme government grant of £350 from OZEV (Office for Zero Emissions Vehicles) had already been deducted from the price of the charger.

The vexed question of which car to buy also proved easier to solve than we anticipated. Discussions usually start with “range anxiety”: how far can we travel on one charge? It was our first thought too, but after testing a few different models and looking at the space we have, we knew we would prefer a smaller car in front of our bay

window. Among the more compact models, whether they travelled 100 or 200 miles on a single charge becomes less important when charged at home. After analysing our usage, we discovered that almost all our trips are of 30 miles or less, one way, exactly the same as our forebears travelled in a day by horse, so as long as the vehicle range exceeded 70 - 80 miles, we would be happy. This discovery made the choice a lot easier, and then learning that some manufacturers were at the time offering very attractive discounts, narrowed down the choice to two or three.

In the end, the final choice was down to the build quality and the driving experience, the latter being a subjective decision which we only have to justify to ourselves!

BRIAN LYNCH

AUBREY GREEN 1934 – 2020



Born in Syresham in 1934, Aubrey was the youngest son of Geoff and Annie Green and brother to Gerald and Winnie. He

attended the village school, the Sunday School twice on Sundays and was an active member of the Chapel. He regularly attended services, and was a trustee and Chairman for the George Timms Charity. In the chapel stood a solid fuel stove and it was Aubrey’s job to light this early on a Sunday during the winter months. Another responsibility he held at an early age was to walk to

the reservoir and turn on the tap which fed Kings Brewery, in Broad Street.

Aubrey was passionate about sport which he played and followed all his life. In their school days his good friend Stan Hawkins remembers them kicking a tennis ball up to school.

Aubrey played for the Banbury and District Schools Football League with friends Stan and Derek Holyoake. Three boys from one village was quite an achievement! They played against teams from Wolverhampton, Birmingham, High Wycombe and Oxford.

On leaving school he continued to play for the village team until he was called up for National Service. Returning from duty for King and country, he found Syresham no longer had a football team, so he and Derek defected to Brackley whilst Stan went to Towcester. Aubrey always maintained that he was head hunted by Brackley! A year later, the trio returned to play their football in the North Bucks League. Aubrey also represented Brackley at Badminton playing their games at Beachborough School, against teams in Wellingborough, Kettering and Northampton. Later, they carried on playing at RAF Croughton. Aubrey's passion was always cricket and in later life he liked nothing more than to watch a test match that often ended in a draw! He played his cricket for Syresham too. In those early days they played on

Graves' ground, opposite the pub and prior to the start of each game they would have to mow the wicket and mark out the boundary. The Sports Club were then fortunate enough to be given the land where they currently play and Aubrey continued his cricketing career eventually hanging up his bat in his mid-forties. He was considered by all to be a very good all-round player. He won numerous trophies and awards. When his running days were over he took up the bowls at Brackley and District Bowling Club. His enthusiasm for the game was obviously infectious as at one time brother Gerald, sons David and Jonathan and cousin Robert were all active members—it was a real family affair! Aubrey's claim to fame was beating England International Gary Harrington in the club singles.

On leaving school he took an apprenticeship as a mechanic at Alcock's Garage in Brackley. He told the story of the early days of the Silverstone Grand Prix, when they drove the cars through Brackley en route to the circuit and it would be his job and the owner Mr Alcock's to check and tune them up ready for the big event. After two years Aubrey was called up and continued his apprenticeship in the REME.

Based at Windsor Barracks he was posted out to the Suez Canal during the crisis. We were told that their ship was the last to arrive, and it was all over upon their arrival! Crossing the Bay of Biscay was a passage that Aubrey never forgot!

He resumed work at Alcock's until

Brackley Sawmills took him on as a mechanic. His love affair with Brackley Sawmills lasted a lifetime until it ceased trading.

In 1969 Aubrey married Shirley and they moved into their one and only home on the newly built Bridgewater Estate. Shirley's father thought they were stretching themselves buying the corner plot bungalow for £3,000 instead of a £2,000 smaller property. It was to be Aubrey's home for 51 years, where both David and Jonathan were born and raised.

Good days were had on annual holidays to a variety of seaside resorts, sometimes in a tent, sometimes in a caravan and then the more luxurious ones spent in a guest house or hotel!

Once the boys were grown up Aubrey and Shirley enjoyed some good times away with friends, their favourite place to visit was Germany. Latterly Aubrey would go on coach tours in this country with a group of friends.

He spent much time in the garden, doing his daily crosswords, completing jigsaws, popping out for coffee and cake and visiting Morrisons on a Monday.

Aubrey loved the bungalow and stayed with the help of his family, friends and the carers until his short time in the Horton. We all miss him greatly.

PAULA GREEN

THE RED HOUSE IS GONE

I started working at the Red House nursing home in 1989. Gillian and David Wyness owned the Red House from 1983 until 2001. Gillian gave up her career as a local district nurse and



David his job in the Foreign office, before they converted it into a 25 bed nursing home. Over the next few years they also converted the adjacent barn into a family home.

Many of the staff lived locally, mostly in Syresham and Crowfield, and they were very loyal to Gillian and David, until they retired. I have many fond memories of sing-alongs and outings with the residents, as well as all the laughs with Gillian! I went on to marry Gillian and David's eldest son.

I'm saddened to see the Red House demolished after making so many happy memories within. It certainly signifies the end of an era.

NAOMI WYNESS

WINNIE VARNEY nee Green: April 1929 – November 2020



Winnie Varney was born on the 1st April 1929, but she was certainly no fool!

In fact on thinking about Winnie, she was probably one of the most talented and gifted people I have ever known. She could turn her hand to

anything creative and had so many talents. She could knit, crochet, lace make, bake, garden, hang wallpaper, flower arrange to name but a few.

At one point she was making for almost everyone in the village and the surrounding areas particularly wedding and bridesmaids' dresses! I was a bridesmaid to two cousins who lived in Kettering and Marston St. Lawrence and she made all of those.

Linda Coy sent a letter on hearing about Winnie and said that she had made her dress, two page-boy outfits I think she said and four bridesmaids' dresses for her in 1969 and she charged the grand sum of £8. This was the equivalent to a week's wages for Linda!

Winnie lived her whole life in Syresham with her parents Geoff and Annie, older brother Gerald and younger brother Aubrey. She attended the village school, the Sunday School and Chapel all her life.

Starting work at the Gate House aged 14, she also worked at the Private Boys' School in Whittlebury for a number of years.

Always active in so many organisations in the village, she played her part in the community, and was probably the youngest member of the Friendship Club, and its treasurer for many years. She enjoyed the History Society meetings, was a member of the W.I., and the Scrabble nights at the Chapel. She loved Bowls Club until her knees gave way and would support quizzes, fetes and any sale going.

Winnie loved people and enjoyed

hearing what they were up to. She was interested in everything and would often ask me questions about children I had told her about after I had forgotten myself!

She lived in Bell Lane with Clarence for 52 years until his death in 2013. They loved going away on holiday in the earlier days. I find it hard to imagine them going to Cornwall on a motorbike, with Winnie riding pillion!

They had a common love of the outdoors and their garden. Clarence would tend to the vegetable patch and Winnie would be in the flower beds, something she still managed to do right up to her death.

David as a young boy would come to stay in Syresham at Bell Lane, during his school holidays, going fishing with Uncle Clarence at Thomas' Brook and being thoroughly spoilt by Aunt Win. When we had a spare evening we would walk round for a chat and a cup of tea. You were always made very welcome. All those who knew Winnie, will have special tales to tell about her, she is greatly missed.

PAULA GREEN

SYRESHAM KNITTERS

A final big thank you from the Queen Elizabeth's Adventist Children's Home,



Bulawayo,
Zimbabwe in
Africa.

The first
consignment of
jumpers has now
been released
from customs and

delivered to the children's home. The second consignment is now in transit. You managed to knit over 100 items, 75+ of these being lovely warm jumpers; the rest were cot blankets, hats of all sizes and 3 filled pencil cases. What a tremendous effort. Hopefully, we will be able to share a photograph soon.

SALLIE, SHEILA AND STEPH

NEWS FROM THE RECTORY

I think that we are emerging from lockdown in step with the world around us, emerging from winter – each time I go for a walk, or work in the garden I discover new growth – the leaves coming on the trees, the blossom in the garden, peonies I didn't know I had, cowslips, primroses, bluebells, even the humble daisy and blowsy dandelion – they are all there. I even saw a house martin on a telephone wire the other day – that is definitely a harbinger of summer.

My garden is also rewarding me for the harsh pruning we gave the shrubs last year – with climbing roses beginning to re-grow and buds appearing on the vine. In church we have just been thinking about the passage in the bible where Jesus describes himself as a vine – pruned and cared for by God in order to bear good fruit. He also says that as his followers, Christians need to be grafted on to him – as a vine is grafted onto rootstock. As parts of the vine, we also need to be pruned to bear good fruit. I think that many of us have experienced a form of pruning over the



last year – we have had to discipline ourselves to stay at home, reduce our shopping trips, give up seeing close family and friends, forego holidays, say goodbye to loved ones who have died.

As we come out of lockdown into a life where we can see our loved ones again, go travelling, do our shopping, go to church, maybe we need to look at our lives to see whether the pruning – the cutting back – has produced fruit in ourselves. Are we more appreciative of our loved ones, does the world around us seem even more precious as we travel through it, do we treasure our renewed contacts with the world around us and our communities?

My prayer for us all is that as we return to something approaching 'normal' we will hold on to our renewed delight in relationships, the world around us and our communities and work towards making all we do fruitful – so that the future is full of promise for ourselves, our communities, and our world.

Our churches are now open for worship most Sundays, so please do look out for service times and do come and join us.

If you would like to meet me – for coffee/tea in the garden or for a local walk – I would love to hear from you. Tel:- 01327-226245.

Email:- diane.whittaker@me.com

GOD BLESS, REVD DIANE

SYRESHAM VILLAGE HALL

The Trustees of Syresham Village Hall are delighted to announce that, after months of our lovely 'new' hall hardly being in use at all, we are at last beginning the process of opening up again. We hope that our village societies and much valued regular users will soon feel able to return – you will all be most welcome. We hope that parents will feel confident to book the hall for their children's parties again – this is possible now, although there are still limitations on numbers. If you would like to enquire about booking the hall during the forthcoming year, please contact the booking clerk on bookingclerk@syresham.com (07950-490411) and our booking clerk Keely will advise you. We would love to hear from you.

All being well, the weekly Coffee Shop will open up again on June 24th. Some of our regular helpers have decided to 'call it a day' – and who can blame them as most are in their 80's and 90's! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the sterling service you have given to the Coffee Shop and also the Village Hall over many years and we hope you will all still visit us as customers and enjoy the regular Thursday morning chat and a cuppa – not to mention the delicious home-made cake!! However, this also means that we really do need some new helpers. If you feel that you would like to join our 'team' and help on the rota every few weeks, I would be delighted to hear from you. If you like to bake, that is great. But even if you don't we would still very much appreciate your

help to serve the tea and coffee. Please contact me on crimunsey@hotmail.com or message me on Facebook.

We are also intending to hold our **Scarecrow Festival on the weekend of 24th and 25th July**. The theme will be 'After The Year We Have Had – Anything Goes'. We very much hope that our new village residents will join in this great fun family event. There is also a **Village Cabaret Evening** in the hall on the evenings of **30th and 31st July**. Our thanks go to Keith Watts for organising this event. I am sure he has been in contact with many of you already, but I also know that he would very much welcome more acts. If you would like to take part, Keith would love to hear from you on keithwatts55@btinternet.com. It does not matter what your act or talent is. Anything Goes. Well, almost anything! We hope to welcome you back to the hall in the very near future.

See you soon!

CHRIS MUNSEY - CHAIRMAN

**SYRESHAM ST JAMES CE
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ASTWELL BENEFICE GARDEN
PARTY
LOIS WEEDON HOUSE, LOIS
WEEDON
SATURDAY 26TH JUNE,
2.00 P.M. TILL 5.00 P.M.**

TICKETS ON SALE SOON

**SYRESHAM
CABARET
EVENING**

**Friday 30th/Saturday 31st July 2021
at the Village Hall (Boris permitting!)**

So no panto in 2020 ... so we are going to do Cabaret Show!!

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

Now it's time to showcase that talent! Old and NEW residents!

Take Your SEAT and Village Hall Committee are teaming up to produce a Cabaret 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 cabaret audience!
Syresham is gagging for live entertainment!

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

If you are interested contact Keith Watts, Show Director ...

Email: keithwatts55@btinternet.com or ring 07831 537717 to book your slot

SYRESHAM & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

Throughout the whole pandemic year, the History Society has met only a handful of times. Currently we are using online Zoom meetings. In April we were very well entertained by Mary McIntyre, who gave us a most enlightening talk about the Women in Astronomy. She traced the involvement of women in a largely male dominated science from 2,500 BC through to modern days.



Our June and subsequent meetings will hopefully be back in the Village

Hall. We have booked speakers on:-

- The use of Honey through the ages (June 2nd),
- The Carry On films, (July 7th)
- Amy Johnson the flier, (August 4th)
- Ernest Shackleton the Antarctic Explorer (September 8th)

We are planning a Treasure Hunt in the village with a tea party to follow at the Village Hall—**Sunday 1st August**, and on **Friday 29th October** we hope to run a Quiz evening. We hope to see our members and new members joining our programme of meetings.

We meet at 7.30p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. (£3.00 on the door, and £1.00 raffle tickets).

IAN DRAPER, CHAIRMAN



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RESIDENTS' EMAIL CONTACT

The Parish Council looking at an email alert system, direct to residents where required. The alerts would include parish announcements that are currently displayed on the village website (www.syreshamvillage.com) or posted on the village Facebook page.

If this type of communication would be useful, please can you send your feedback on the proposal to the Parish Clerk on 01280-851178 or parishclerk@syresham.com.

SAMANTHA HOSKING, PARISH CLERK

ADVANCE NOTICE

**SCARECROW
FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
24TH/25TH JULY 2021**

**THEME:- ANYTHING GOES, AFTER
A YEAR LIKE THAT!**

**LET'S GET THAT
SYRESHAM COMMUNITY
SPIRIT ALIVE AGAIN!**



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Village Hall, 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 26th May 2021

Guest speakers—details to be announced.

Members of public welcome subject to Covid restrictions.



If all goes well, the Sports Club will be open from **7.00pm Monday 17th May with same rules of 6 per table** or 2

households with table service only. We will of course keep you updated with all details and guidelines.

We shall be doing our monthly quiz on **Friday 21st May Starting at 7.30pm.**

Up to 6 players per team - £2.00 per player. Please confirm with Sarah 07912-784294 if you're planning on coming along with your team.

Club membership will also be taken from now:-

SINGLE £12.50 JOINT £20.00

OAP £7.00 JUNIOR £7.00

Thank you to those that have supported us in our weekend openings.

SARAH WHITEHEAD

REPORTING LOCAL PROBLEMS

To report *streetlighting faults* in Syresham parish, *issues with dog waste bins, the Swingfield or Pocket Park*, please contact the **Parish Clerk** on **01280 851178**, parishclerk@syresham.com

To report issues directly to **West Northamptonshire Council** - such as the condition of roads and pavements, rights of way, litter, fly-tipping etc., **please visit** www.fixmystreet.com.

For information about Syresham Parish including the council itself, all council services, local clubs/societies, the latest local news and

announcements, please visit:-

www.syreshamvillage.com

Please have a care for the Clerk's workload.

SYLVIE ESSAME DANCE CLASSES

As we are doing syllabus exam work, I have been able to teach children's dance classes in the village hall since 12th April, and I will now be able to re-start adult dance and Pilates classes – including seated Pilates – from the 17th May. I am really looking forward to it. Fingers crossed this date doesn't get changed, it's been a very long 5 months!

Details will be on my website:

www.sylvieessame.co.uk

SYRESHAM CHAPEL

At present we are still Zooming our Sunday Evening Service but we hope by early June that we shall be able to meet in the Chapel. The building is still open every day for anyone who wishes to go in for private prayer.



Breakfast church children were able to do the Easter story and egg hunt by families being timed so no overlap. Such a shame the children could not meet together. It is the Chapel's 175th Anniversary this year. We are hoping to celebrate later in the year and hope you will be able to share these celebrations with us.

DOT



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195 MEDIUM

SUDOKU BY KEITH FRIDAY

196 HARD

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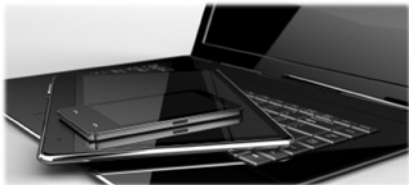


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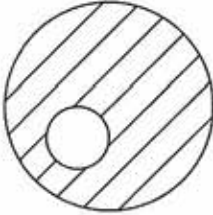
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Sunday	12pm to 5pm

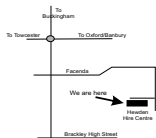
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Tel: **01280 703451**
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