



# *The Syresham Times*

*Serving the communities of Crowfield, Pimlico and Syresham*



## **Hallowe'en Night in Syresham!**

50p (where sold) *Village of the Year winners 2008-10, 2013, 2015*

November 2016



### ***From the Editor's desk***

Nearly another year gone by, and the regular weather patterns dictate the seasons and ways of life. In the background global warming and climate change remain an issue. Are we all doing our bit to protect future generations from damaging climatic conditions? Are we friends of those little grey caddy bins and putting them out each week?

The village will soon be celebrating Christmas and the New Year, and then 2017 will be upon us.

Brexit approaches, or does it? The US is locked in one of the most bitter elections for the Presidency, and the Middle East is still wracked with conflict, hatred, death and destruction. When will there be a more peaceful time? One that better reflects an atmosphere of no conflict and of better understanding of each other's needs and philosophy?

In this edition we remember Lance Lewens, recently moved away from Bell Lane and who passed away in August. Much earlier in the year we heard of the passing of Mrs Beaumont of Crowfield; and in recent weeks, the funeral took place of Chris Bardzil who moved away from High Street, with her family to Norfolk several years back. Our thoughts are with those who have lost loved ones.

*Ian Draper, November 2016*

## ***What's in this issue?***

- 3 National Award for Jack Colby
- 3/4 Lance Lewens remembered
- 5 Bacau to Syresham - a dog's life; ACRE Oil; Garden Group
- 6/7 County Councillor's report
- 7 Gems, Women's Group
- 8 Sports and Social Club
- 9 Syresham School
- 10 Friendship Club; History Society
- 11 Chapel News
- 12 Call My Wine Bluff; Mistaken Identity?
- 13 Horticultural Show, Parish Council, Pocket Park
- 14 From the Rector
- 15 Crossword by Vintage Port;
- 16 Village Diary
- 17 From the Rector; Friends of St James

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***Hallowe'en Celebrations 2016***

*Lesley Sambrook Smith*

***Copy Deadline for our next issue:-  
January 30<sup>th</sup> 2017***

## **JACK COLBY WINS A NATIONAL AWARD**

Jack is a member of Pimlico Light Railway and is very keen on railways in general and has just started building his own 5" gauge locomotive but has very limited workshop facilities.

So when a Myford metalworking lathe was offered by the magazine *Engineering in Miniature* as a prize for a deserving young person committed to the hobby, it seemed an ideal opportunity to put his name forward.

So it was that we entered him in the competition envisaging a great deal of interest as the prize had a value in the region of £5,000! But we all thought he had as good a chance as any of the entrants.

It was with great delight that we heard the news that he had won against stiff competition, decided by a panel of distinguished model engineers at the headquarters of the magazine near Warwick.

Jack was kept in the dark until it was announced at the Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition during the presentation of awards and prizes on Sunday afternoon, October 16<sup>th</sup>. He was suitably stunned and it took a while to sink in.

He is following a good tradition at Pimlico Light Railway as previous winners of an other national award – Junior Model Engineer of the year – have been Ed Hornby, now studying engineering at Warwick University, 3



and Adam Dunkley, now studying engineering at Bicester College.

*John Roberts – Secretary, Pimlico Light Railway Ltd*

## **MEMORIES OF LANCE**

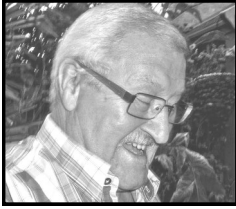
**LANCE LEWENS, JANUARY 1941 TO AUGUST 2016**

First and foremost Lance was a family man. We always came first. When we married he took on two grown up stepdaughters and we had a happy family life. We have two grandchildren John, 17 and Anna, 13 who Lance loved dearly, and he was so proud of them.

Lance was gregarious, always socially, physically and mentally active. He lived his life to the fullest, squeezing the most out of every ounce of it. And he was always up to something!

He had so many interests and hobbies and such a wealth of knowledge in so many subjects.

His list of accomplishments grew after retiring from the Prison Service, growing vegetables, (he and Roy Hawkins started up the vegetable show in Syresham again), swimming instructor, writing children's stories and reading them to the children at the primary school. He ran a DIY business for a few years, became a wood turner and carpenter, and he joined me in enjoying the Friendship Club when time permitted, alongside wine and cider making and listening to Pavarotti. He was involved in Syresham's first pantomime, Cinderella and I believe the pantomime is still going strong today. Lance really enjoyed cooking and his stir-fried



vegetables were a treat. He loved walking the dogs in Whistley Woods selecting sticks to turn into

walking sticks, and really enjoyed his time with the Brackley Male Voice Choir and the Syresham Singers.

He wrote and directed a play about the Syresham Martyr, John Kurd which was performed in St James Church. He was keen on all sports and loved watching it all on TV in the Sports Club with Roy Hawkins, John Whitehead, Micky Beecher and many others whose company he enjoyed. All of us who knew Lance well will recall him for certain aspects of his life in Syresham for a long time to come.

We made our move to Church Langley in good time, as we realise in retrospect, to be near our family and enjoy their closeness for the time he had left. His death has left us all so devastated, it all happened so quickly but there will never be another like him. His spirit will remain with us always, as will our love for him. We all miss him so much.

*Sylvia Lewens*

**BACAU TO SYRESHAM – AVA’S JOURNEY**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of March in a shelter in Bacau (in Romania) a litter of 5 crossbreed puppies was born. One was a beautiful girl, called Ava. She spent the first four months of her life knowing only a pen, an earth floor and a couple of humans.

Then one day, she and her brothers and sisters were put into a crate in a car and taken to a vet. They were de-flea’d, wormed, given injections including rabies, and put back in a crate and then driven from Bacau to the English channel.

After a ferry ride they spent 2 days in DEFRA quarantine. On Saturday morning 30<sup>th</sup> July, 3 people arrived in another car, popped her into another crate, and brought her to a new home—here in Syresham!

Can you imagine how scared she was?

At first she would simply lay on the floor under the table. She had never been in a house; doorways were scary, and she didn’t know grass. There were so many noisy machines in and out the house and so many people about.



We sat on the pavement as lorries and tractors passed by. We stroked her to show her that it was all alright. If she is really freaked she sits behind you with one

paw on your leg for security. She soon learned that butterflies are not Ninjas of doom, and started to chase them! Although she still dives to the floor like a starfish when something new appears.

Everyone we have come across on our strolls around the village has been so kind and friendly, helping us with her socialising, thank you for that. She loves to sit next to you with one paw on your leg or arm for comfort, and has started learning to play and bark.

Bacau and the rest of Romania have an

enormous street dog problem. Hundreds upon hundreds are living off what they can scavenge from bins and rubbish. But a Banbury based charity is doing its best to try to help. <http://www.sadiessdr.org/> and they go out to Bacau at least once a month. They teach them how to build and run proper shelters. They are working with the Mayor of Bacau to run a spaying and neutering programme they bring in over 40 puppies a month, yes 40 a month!!! We are really grateful to Peta and Lesley for bringing Ava to safety and into our home, she has our hearts already. Please come and say hello to her if you see us on our walks together.

*Beck Barton (High Street)*

### **GARDENING GROUP**

The members of the Gardening Club enjoyed a delightful walk in Evenley Wood in August. In September Stephen Ashpole told us 'Why Organic Gardening' and then we had a very welcome return of John Gibson who gave a bulb planting demonstration and sold some of his excellent spring bulbs.

But the highlight of the autumn was a visit to Michael Heseltine's wonderful gardens and Arboretum in Thenford (some of the group had gone before us in June). On a warm sunny day, the whole place looked spectacular. We hope to return in April to view the gardens in their Spring colours. Non-members will be most welcome to join us - you will not be disappointed!

*Chris Munsey*

### **MUMS AND TOTS GROUP**

We've had lots of fun at Mums and Tots this term. The children have thoroughly enjoyed stacking the large bricks and watching them topple over; modelling with playdough; building with stickle bricks and dressing up as princesses and pirates.

It has been lovely to see all the enthusiastic toddlers coming over to the craft table, all eager to get started and before I've even had time to finish setting up!

The art and craft activities have been linked to the theme of Colour, Shape, Pattern and Texture.



So far the children have made yellow ducks, circle piggies, stripy tiger masks, blue wavy sea pictures, patchwork elephants, spotty ladybirds or leopards and yummy trifles.

There will be even more creative fun coming up in the next few weeks, including another visit from the fantastic *Spotted Chicken Ceramics Studio* from Wappenham. Where the children will be painting Christmassy decorations and using their hand or footprints to make treasured keepsakes.

We will be making cards, decorating cakes and having a party all before Christmas.

So if you are a mum, a dad, a grandparent or childminder with a

baby or toddler, why not come and join the fun on term-time Wednesday mornings between 10:00 and 12:00?

*Tina Nesbitt*

### **EARLY NOTICE OF SILVERSTONE EVENTS 2017**

12 March: Silverstone Half Marathon

14/16 April: FIA World Endurance  
Championship

7/9 July: Formula 1 British Grand Prix

25/27 August: Octo British Grand Prix  
(MotoGP)

**BRDC and Silverstone Circuit** are developing a new Heritage Experience at the circuit—check the Silverstone website for details.

### **ACRE OIL ORDERS**

***The next due date for oil orders after publication of this edition will be 23rd November.***

Northamptonshire ACRE and partners in the ACRE Network are working with Smart Energy GB to raise awareness about the benefits of smart meters.

*Did you know that even though you are off mains gas you can get a smart meter for your electricity supply?*

Once you have a smart meter, you'll only get accurate bills from your energy supplier, just as you do with your phone bill. This will mean the end of estimated bills. No more strangers coming into your home for meter readings. No more having to read the meter or work out your bill.

Contact ACRE for more information—01604-765888. *Editor*

### **FROM OUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

In May of this year I became Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways and Environment. Currently, I chair the *HS2 Liaison Group*, covering the affected villages and towns of South Northants. My Division is the most affected in the County so I am fully aware of the impact that HS2 will have on this largely rural area.

The HS2 Liaison Committee continues to provide support to its members and to hold HS2 to account as much as possible as well as working closely with our local MP.

In Terms of Highways and road repairs many of you will have noticed the deployment of *Road-Master* throughout the County. We currently have four of these teams in the County and this shows our unique approach to repairs while continuing to deliver value for money. Although not a permanent fix, it does allow us to repair larger areas quickly.

The roll out of *superfast broadband* continues across the county and hopefully phase 3 of the programme will include a solution for those directly connected to the exchange and once a preferred bidder has been identified I will push for this solution to come forward.

I have been contacted by a number of villagers regarding the removal of the local *bus services* to and from the village. The situation remains beyond our control as Stagecoach can no longer afford to run the service.

Stagecoach were approached by my officers and your Parish Council at

their meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April, regarding possible rerouting a number of journeys on the service between Silverstone and Towcester via Syresham. However on each occasion the company has stated that this would not be feasible due to the lack of time in the schedule to do so.

The County-Connect bus service, which is subsidised by the council may provide a solution to this problem. This demand-responsive service provides a link from Whittlebury and Syresham to Towcester, where you can catch a Stagecoach service to Northampton or Milton Keynes.

If you want further information regarding this service, may I suggest that you either phone the Booking Hotline on 0345 456 4474 or visit their website [www.county-connect.co.uk](http://www.county-connect.co.uk)

The County Council continues to respond to the economic challenges that it faces and although there are going to be some difficult decisions to be made I can assure you that the budget for this year and next year will balance . The pressures on Adult Social Care and Children's services continue to be enormous and this combined with dramatic cuts in government funding have proved challenging .

Finally I can confirm that I will be pledging my full Empowerment Fund for 2017/18 to assist the village with the building of the new village Hall. This amounts to £5,000.00 and as soon as it becomes available I will organise details with the Parish Council.

Elections in 2017 for County Council are not far away, I hope that I will be

able to count on your support.

If you would like to get into contact with me please e-mail me on

[IMorris@Northamptonshire.gov.or](mailto:IMorris@Northamptonshire.gov.or)

follow me on Twitter @aussielover100.

*Clr Ian Morris*

### **SYRESHAM GEMS WOMEN'S GROUP**

Syresham Gems is now officially up and running and is back in the Village Hall on the second Wednesday evening of the month. It's been a busy summer and great to see lots of new faces coming along to meetings.



In August Sallie Connery and Liz Linford gave a very enjoyable, pictorial presentation of their charity fundraising drive to Monte Carlo to raise funds for Katherine House Hospice. They even bought along some of the outfits they wore as part of the challenges they were set.

September saw us learning how to carpet bowl – some more successfully than others. I certainly found it much harder than it looked!

In October Keith Watts gave a fascinating, entertaining and very insightful talk on his 40 plus years behind the lens as a successful TV cameraman, from the early 1970s right up to the present date. Keith has worked on some very well known programmes, including Who wants to be a Millionaire and Challenge Anneka. One of his most poignant memories was filming David Bowie and Bing Crosby singing the Little Drummer Boy/ Peace on Earth.



Here's what's happening in November and December.

9<sup>th</sup> November – visit to Barn Farm Plants for a Christmas demonstration evening

12<sup>th</sup> December – Xmas evening – details tbc

We are also planning our programme for 2017 so if you have any ideas for speakers, activities or outings then do let us know!

For more information about the Group and membership please contact either Maggie Newton (850324) or Judith Shaw (850613).

*Maggie Newton*

## **SYRESHAM SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB**

It has been a busy few months at the Sports Club with a number of parties, themed evenings, the car boot sale and the Syresham Big Bash, along with the Club's Annual Members' Evening where we were joined by live group 'The Buddies'. It's been great to see so many people brought out by the glorious summer weather.

The cricket season ended with the first team finishing in third place of South Northants Premier League. The second team were runners-up in Division 3, and secured promotion to Division 2 for 2017 - the highest the Club has ever had a 2<sup>nd</sup> team.

The Club also won the Premier Division Knock-out cup and we were runner's up of the Wardington Knockout Cup. A fantastic season was had and the



presentation evening was thoroughly enjoyed on the last match day of the season. Awards were presented by the two team captains, and a tasty pig-roast saw the season off to a good end.

As we continue towards the Winter months, our regular events continue to be a success, with a carvery on the 2nd Sunday of the month (12pm - 2.00pm) and monthly prize quiz generally the 3rd Friday of the month.

Our next entertainment programme has now been finalised and we always welcome new members to come along. The Club function room is available for hire for events, functions and parties and we are able to offer a full entertainment/catering package where required.

*Please contact the Secretary, Adam Jeskins on (07711- 971709)*

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS:**

**Sunday Carvery** 6<sup>th</sup> Nov; 8<sup>th</sup> January;

**Monthly Quiz** Fridays 18<sup>th</sup> Nov and 16<sup>th</sup> December;

**Pie & Chips Night:** Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November;

**Chinese Food Night** Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November;

**Children's Christmas Party,** 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December;

**Christmas Prize Bingo** Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December;

**Christmas Dinner Party** Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December;

**Christmas Eve** Carols and Mulled Wine

**Boxing Day** Charity Football Match - Under 30's Vs Over 30's

**New Year's Eve** - Disco and Buffet





### **SYRESHAM ST JAMES CE SCHOOL**

I am pleased advise that the school has recently had a Statutory Inspection of the Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). The inspector was very pleased with what he saw on the day and the evidence that we presented to him. He has deemed the distinctiveness and effectiveness of Syresham St James CE School as a Church of England school to be outstanding! I am not able to share all of the report with you as it is too long so I have selected parts of the report to give you a flavour of our success.

*“The steadfast dedication and commitment of the governing body ensures the highly distinctive and effective Christian character of Syresham St James. The exemplary Christian leadership of the Headteacher creates a very caring community which enables all to flourish. The governors and Headteacher make sure the curriculum is broad, interesting and underpinned by Christian values thus developing the whole child. This provision is supported by wider pupil opportunities such as piano lessons and residential courses further developing pupils’ abilities.*

*“The six core Christian values of this school are respect, generosity, love, fairness, forgiveness and courage. They are well embedded and central to the life of the school. Pupils*

*demonstrate they understand the Christian basis of the values. The active promotion of the Christian values shapes pupils’ hopes and aspirations. It results in a caring Christian community where all are included. The Christian environment establishes conditions for learning that result in progress that is good and attainment for most pupils that is good. The school’s effective practice prepares pupils for the future by developing skills of empathy and respect for diverse and multi-cultural communities. RE has a good impact upon developing the core Christian values, upon pupils’ multicultural understanding and developing pupils spiritually.*

*“The governors prosper Syresham St James as an outward looking institution with an ethos of service. This has a mutually beneficial impact on the school, parish and community of Syresham. Examples of this include the school-led ‘Parish Praise’ and the random acts of generosity day. The outreach and collaborative work in the community includes extremely productive relationships with other church schools and the local churches benefitting the children. The hardworking rector makes a positive contribution in strengthening these links and the identity of the school as part of the Anglican family. The links with the Methodist chapel and Wolverton Mission Church develop awareness of the diverse and multicultural nature of Christianity by the pupils. One parent rightly*

*commented that, 'the school is a very strong part of the church and the community and not separate, joining us up together.' These positive relationships enable the school to make a strong impact upon community cohesion and to see itself at the forefront of the mission of the Diocese of Peterborough."*

I thank the staff, governors, pupils, parents, and all who contribute to make Syresham school such a great place for our children to learn.

*Katherine Clough, Headteacher*

### **FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

The Club recommenced in September our first speaker Mrs Shirley bringing along over 60 Teddy Bears (part of her collection) and telling stories about most of them. A very different afternoon and lovely to cuddle a really old bear again.

Chris Bazeley gave an excellent presentation on a year in the Life of Whistley Wood – so amazing what he managed to photograph every month and probably most of us wouldn't even have really been aware of these things.

An enjoyable day was spent in Evesham – first at the garden centre and then in the town. An excellent coach driver who brought us home via a scenic route appreciated by everyone.

Our harvest festival was conducted by Rev Carole Peters and John Braybrook did an excellent job auctioning off the gifts with proceeds going to MacMillan Cancer.

Sadly Chris and Nigel Munsey were unable to talk to us on October 18<sup>th</sup> but

we shall welcome them on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Club's 51<sup>st</sup> birthday will have been celebrated by the time this goes to press and we look forward to John Braybrook taking our meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup> and playing bingo on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Dot*

### **HISTORY SOCIETY**

Since the last edition, our History Society has continued its programme of talks on a wide range of topics. Attendance has been a little varied at times not least when the July meeting saw a heavy thunderstorm in the village, but nevertheless some 14 determined individuals arrived!



In July Craig Cooper, returned to Syresham and talked about his experiences in Bomb Disposal in Northern Ireland. August saw us well entertained with a guided walk around Cropredy village and the canalside.

In September, John Buckell from Northampton shared his researches on the subject of Great War Conscientious Objectors in the county.

At the October AGM, committee members were elected and a programme for 2017 was agreed. We then enjoyed a short film that recalled the great sporting achievement of an England team winning the football World Cup in 1966, but also some of the memorable events, fashions, music and news stories from the time.

In December we have a pantomime treat with some very local influence.

A very special guest speaker next March, will talk to us about life with her father—Eric Morecambe!

*Ian Draper, Chairman*

### **SYRESHAM CHAPEL**

The Season of harvest has been a great time for us realising how blessed we are in this country while so many others are starving. The whole theme of our harvest services was of supporting other people. We gathered for a traditional roast lunch ably cooked by Paula and donations of £100 supported the Katharine House Hospice.



Our harvest services were led by David Green who reminded us there would be a final harvest home. The chapel was again very beautiful and filled with so many dried goods and cans, all of which were taken to the Hope Centre in Northampton. Our offerings for the day resulted in us sending £175.00 to both The Hope centre and our twinned Church in India who have already told us the money will be spent on warm clothing and blankets for the children who attend the Church.

The Hope Centre is asking for old garden tools which are renewed and sold to a garden centre in Northampton – giving work to people. We were able to donate quite a few but if anyone would like to give old garden tools we will deliver them. Please contact any of us.

We are collecting shoe boxes filled with goods for children in Eastern Europe. They will be collected shortly to ensure that they arrive in time for Christmas.

Details of our Christmas services will be published soon and we invite anyone to join in over this season.

Owing to Catherine being involved in a car accident, the Youth Club has not met this term and secret keepers only once a month.

Breakfast church is still the second Sunday of the month at 9.30.a.m. – parents and children are welcome!

*Dot*

### **A SALUTARY TALE**

Five weeks ago we had a fire in our cellar while undertaking minor DIY work. It was quickly put out with small fire extinguishers, but we had to move out due to fire and smoke damage.

We had no home for ourselves and Bob and Elsa, the cats, but in our time of need, the wonderful people of Syresham offered help and support. We were taken in, washed, clothed and fed and a bed provided for us all. Offers of help have continued to pour in and it has been a very humbling experience—thank you to all who helped!

Since the day of the fire, I have become a very strong advocate of having at least one fire extinguisher in the house. It took over 50 minutes for the first response services to reach us, and without the three borrowed extinguishers we would have lost the house! The clean up and repairs are now well in hand, but will take another six weeks to complete.

Insurance may well cover the costs, but the extensive help from the village has been priceless! **Thank you all—**  
*Dean, Mia, Bob and Elsa*

## **CALL MY BLUFF WINE EVENING**

Join us in the Village Hall for supper and an evening of bluffing on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm**

Tables of six will be presented with six sessions of wine and they will decide which of the 'bluffers' or wine experts is telling the truth about the origin and price of the wine under examination.

Judges are Richard Jones of SH Jones, Banbury; Robin Shuckburgh, founder of Call My Bluff Wine Evenings and Bruce Smith, well known to all in Syresham and now living in Wales.

Entrance is £15 to include cheese and cold meat supper, all wine and entertainment. Wines will be available to purchase.

We need ten tables to break even and have a bit over for St James Church, so try and get up a table of friends!

*Further information and tickets from Malcolm Orr-Ewing. Tel: 01280 850218*

## **MISTAKEN IDENTITY?**

A blonde teenager, wanting to earn some extra money for the summer, decided to hire herself out as a "handy-woman". She canvassed a nearby well-to-do neighbourhood and at the front door of the first house, asked the owner if he had any odd jobs for her to do.

"Well, I guess I could use somebody to paint my porch," he said, "How much will you charge me?" Delighted, the girl quickly responded, "How about £50?"

The man agreed and told her that the paint brushes and everything she would need was in the garage. The man's wife, hearing the conversation said to her husband, "Does she realize

that our porch goes all the way around the house?" He responded, "That's a bit cynical, isn't it?" The wife replied, "You're right. I guess I'm starting to believe all those dumb blonde jokes we've been getting by email lately."

Later that day, the blonde teenager came to the door to collect her money. "You're finished already?" the startled husband asked. "Yes, she replied, and I even had paint left over, so I gave it two coats." Impressed, the man reached into his pocket for the £50.00 and handed it to her along with a £10.00 tip.

"And, by the way," the teenager added, "it's not a Porsche, it's a Lexus!"

*Alan Clube*

## **DEALING WITH POWER CUTS**

As we move into autumn and the darker evenings approach, there's nothing more inconvenient than a power cut.

But the future is looking bright - there's now a new helpline for when the lights go out that anyone in the UK can use.

**Just dial 105 for E-On help and advice if you're caught out during a power cut.**

## **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

The issue of dog fouling continues to pose a problem in the village, despite numerous appeals to all dog owners to clean up after their pets. We realise that most dog owners act in a responsible manner and use the dog litter bins provided. However, a very small, but significant minority, do not. In our effort to solve this problem the Parish Council is providing a further dog litter bin to be located on the footpath

## REMEMBERING THE AUGUST HORTICULTURAL SHOW REVIVED BY ROY HAWKINS

A regular feature of the Sports and Social Club calendar was always the Annual Horticultural show which featured many of the skills of our villagers.

Thanks to Sarah and Anna for recalling the work done by their 'Pappy', Roy Hawkins.



Soft Toys, Needlecraft and Bake-Off!



at the rear of The Pound. We would like to thank the very community minded resident of The Pound who, for the last few months, has provided a bin to be used by dog walkers using the path, which she has emptied at regular intervals.

Another issue in the village is parking. The Parish Council requests that car owners always endeavour to park their vehicles with consideration for their neighbours, other residents and visitors using our village roads.

Two Parish Councillors attended a Training Course on Inspecting Children's Playgrounds arranged by Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association and Northamptonshire ACRE. Other Councillors have also attended meetings in the County as representatives of the Parish Council.

All Parish Councillors continue to work diligently on issues that affect the village. If you feel that there are

matters that should be brought to the attention of the Parish Council, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01280 851178 or write by email to [parishclerk@syresham.com](mailto:parishclerk@syresham.com)

*Cllr Christina Munsey*

### **SUPERFAST BROADBAND OR NOT?**

It would seem that BT Openreach are on the verge of completing the work to bring fast broadband to much (if not all) of the village. We understand that BT are now taking orders and some villagers have already secured upgrade to the new system. Talk to BT if you're interested. *Editor*

### **POCKET PARK**

A big thank you to all 10 teams who came along and supported the Pocket Park at the quiz on October 14<sup>th</sup>. It was a bit nerve wracking being the quiz master for the first time, but lots of fun! We raised a massive £161, so thank you all. Who knows, maybe I'll do it again..... *Lesley Sambrook Smith*

## From the Rectory

As I write this letter, the leaves are just starting to turn to their glorious autumn fire shades and while I'm still celebrating autumn, the shop owners and TV producers want me to rush headlong into Christmas!



Now I love Christmas as much, if not more than the next person – remember I'm the one who wears twinkly lights on their stole for the whole of December!!

But to really appreciate the meaning of Christmas we need to be like Mary and Joseph, we need to have travelled to Bethlehem, for Christians it is all about *the journey*.

That's why our Church is offering a host of ways to journey to Christmas and once we arrive, ways of celebrating Christ's birth that are traditional, fun and make it feel like Christmas is truly here.

**On November 18<sup>th</sup> we invite you to a "Wine Call my Bluff"**. As well as a fun evening of competitive wine tasting it may also be a chance for you to order some Christmas wine for presents or just for your Christmas table.

**On Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> we are holding our St Nicholas Fair** and this year we invite some local shops and craftsmen and women along to make it your one stop shop for Christmas presents. We'll also be selling and offering pre-orders of Christmas trees and have a selection of beautiful wreaths and garlands for the home. Father Christmas obviously thinks it's the place to be, as he's coming along

too! You don't even need to worry about lunch – turkey rolls and mulled wine, *and* Carols from the school will surely help to get you in the festive mood!

**On Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> we are holding our popular and not to be missed "Nativity in the Barn" at Manor Farm**, (on the road from Wappenham to Lois Weedon). Bring the whole family to see the Christmas story told with real animals. Who could forget last year's sitting down Alpaca or our wonderfully cute donkeys! All welcome, mulled wine and mince pies will keep away the winter chill.

A list of all our services through into the New Year will be coming through your letter box very soon, but just to mention a few dates here

**Remembrance will take place on Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup>** at our new war memorial, the service is starting around 10.45am

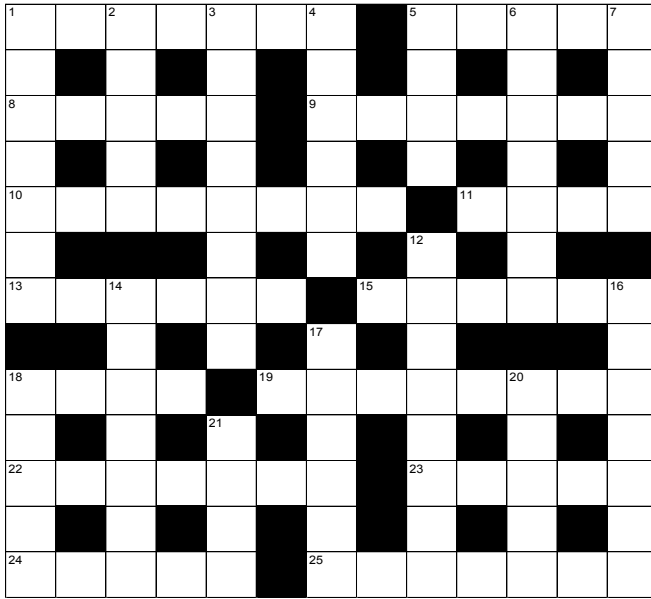
Our popular **Messy Christingle takes place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of December** at 5.30p.m. (Make your Christingles) and then 6.00p.m. for the service.

**Carols by Candlelight take place on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6.00 p.m.** Then on **Christmas Eve** we have our Family join in **Nativity with Candlelit Carols at 5.00 p.m.** and **Communion for Christmas Night at 9.30 p.m.**

**The "Countdown to Christmas" starts on Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup> at 11.00 a.m. with the Advent Countdown Service with the blessing of the Christmas Greens** – bring any greenery

*Continued on page 17*

**Crossword —thanks to Vintage Port**



**ACROSS**

- 1 She, personally (7)
- 5 Indian polite form of address (5)
- 8 Xmas visitor (5)
- 9 Pendent Ice(7)
- 10 Compliant (8)
- 11 Large wading bird(4)
- 13 Sailing vessels (6)
- 15 Transported on water (6)
- 18 Keenly enthusiastic (4)
- 19 Direction of sunrise (8)
- 22 Feeling uneasy (7)
- 23 Alert and active (5)
- 24 Decorative design (5)
- 25 Invalidate(7)

**DOWN**

- 1 Village Society (7)
- 2 Open grazing land (5)
- 3 Abnormally thin (8)
- 4 (and 5) Village club (10)
- 6 Large flatfish (7)
- 7 Support (5)
- 12 Village winter sport (8)
- 14 Village summer sport (7)
- 16 Slow and unsteady (7)
- 17 Another village club (6)
- 18 Warning of danger (5)
- 20 Excuse (5)
- 21 Embarrassing mistake (4)

**ANSWERS—ACROSS** 1 Himself; 5 Sahib; 8 Santa; 9 icicles; 10 Obedient; 11 Ibis; 13 Yachts; 15 Boated; 18 Avid; 19 Eastward; 22 Awkward; 23 Alive; 24 Mofft; 25 Nullify  
**DOWN—** 1 History; 2 Range; 3 Emaciated; 4 Friend; 5 ship; 6 Hallbut; 7 Basis; 12 Football; 14 Cricket; 16 Dodderly; 17 Garden; 18 Alarm; 20 Alibi; 21 Gaff



# Events and Diary Dates

<b>HAPPENING SOON</b>	<b>WEEKLY DIARY</b>	<b>FORTNIGHTLY DIARY</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<p><b>SUNDAYS:- Chapel Service</b> 6.00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Church Services</b>—<i>please check the Astwell Benefice Diary</i></p> <p><b>MONDAYS:-</b> Walking Group 10.00 a.m. <i>meet at Shop</i></p> <p><b>CARD RECYCLING GROUP</b> 7.00 p.m. <i>contact Sue Palmer</i></p> <p><b>DANCING CLASSES</b> Village Hall—various 4.00 to 8.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>TUESDAYS:-</b> Adult Ballet, <i>Village Hall</i>, 11.00 a.m. to 12.00</p> <p><b>PILATES</b> <i>Village Hall</i>, 12.00 noon to 1.00 p.m.</p> <p><b>BROWNIES</b>, 5.45 to 7.00 p.m. Sunday School <i>Term time only</i></p> <p><b>CRAFT</b>, 2nd, 3rd &amp; 4th Tuesday, Sunday School, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>CIRCUIT TRAINING</b>, <i>Sports Club</i> 7.15 p.m.</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAYS:-</b> Mums and Tots, <i>Village Hall</i> 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon <i>Term Time only</i></p> <p><b>THURSDAYS:-</b> <i>Village Hall</i> Coffee Shop, 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>BOWLS CLUB</b>, <i>Village Hall</i>, 7.00 p.m.</p> <p><b>SPORTS MATCHES</b> in season—<i>Check Sports Club for details</i></p>	<p><b>THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB</b> Second Tuesdays, usually <i>Village Hall</i> 2.30 p.m. <i>not August</i></p> <p><b>WEDNESDAYS (1ST &amp; 3RD)</b> <b>Secret Keepers</b>, 7-11 yr. olds 7.00 p.m. till 8.00 p.m. <i>Term time only</i></p> <p><b>FRIDAYS, YOUTH CLUB</b> 11yrs + Sunday School rooms 7.30 p.m. <i>Term Time only</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MONTHLY DIARY</b></p> <p><b>2ND SUNDAY</b>, Sunday School &amp; Breakfast Church 9.30 a.m.</p> <p><b>2ND SUNDAY</b>—Sports Club Carvery lunch 12.00 noon till 2.00 p.m.</p> <p><b>1ST TUESDAY</b>, <i>History Society, Village Hall</i> 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>3RD TUESDAY:-</b> Gardening Club, <i>Village Hall</i>, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>2ND WEDNESDAY</b> GEMS Women's Group, <i>Village Hall</i> 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>3RD WEDNESDAY</b> Sports Club Cash Bingo Night, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>LAST WEDNESDAY</b>, Parish Council Meetings , <i>Village Hall</i> 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>3RD FRIDAY</b>, Sports Club Quiz Nights</p> <p><b>2ND SATURDAY</b>, Friends of the Churchyard, 10.00 a.m.</p> <p><b>LIBRARY VAN</b> <i>Village Hall</i>, 11.30a.m. specified dates only</p>
<p>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>, St James Church Wind Ensemble, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>Sports Club Quiz evening, 18th November</p> <p>Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, Supper and Wine Call my Bluff evening—<i>Village Hall</i>, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>23<sup>rd</sup> Nov Last ACRE CH Oil order date for 2016</p> <p>26<sup>th</sup> School Christmas Fayre, 2.00 till 4.00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DECEMBER</b></p> <p>Sat 3rd—St James Church—St Nicholas Fair 12.00 till 6.00 p.m.</p> <p>Sports Club Children's Party 2.00 p.m. 11th December</p> <p>Sports Club Christmas Dinner evening 17th December</p> <p>18th—Joint Carol Service with Chapel</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>JANUARY 2017</b></p> <p>15th Village Praise and Prayer at St James Church</p>		

along to the church porch before the service – bring your advent wreaths and calendars, anything you like and get them blessed ready for Christmas.

We hope to see you at any or all of our services and events because at the end of the day, we are all waiting for the same thing – *for Christmas!* Waiting for the child that is the Light of the World to come and shine forever.

So enjoy the wait and have a very Holy and Happy Christmas full of God's blessings.

***Reverend Carole***

P.S. please remember your Church is for life, not just for Christmas!

The Rectory, The Green, Lois Weedon  
NN12 8PN Tel 01327 860798  
[carolepeters@aol.com](mailto:carolepeters@aol.com)

***FRIENDS OF ST JAMES***

Welcome

***BRACKLEY WIND  
ENSEMBLE***



The concert is in St James' Church on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30 p.m.

**Tickets £5 - under 12s FREE from Sue Palmer (850252), The Post Office or on the door.**

**Refreshments and raffle.**

**All proceeds shared between Air Ambulance, The Wind Ensemble and The Friends of St James.**

***The Christmas members' evening is on December 9th - pick up a form from the church to become a member.***



