

The Natterjack

SYDERSTONE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



St Mary's Church, Syderstone.

Competition Winner!

Many thanks to all that entered the competition to name the newsletter. The winning entry can be seen above as the new name for the community newsletter

Chris Orgill is the competition winner and wins a £10 book token. Chris has also designed the new letterhead, such was his delight at winning.

Congratulations!

In this issue:

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- The Garden
- Memories of yesteryear

Village defibrillator telephone number
01485 205100

News from the Parish Council

Syderstone give yourself a round of applause!

With COVID19 and lockdown on the horizon the Parish Council met on 19 March and the Councillors agreed to deliver a letter to all households seeking both volunteers and those who might need assistance. The letters went out very quickly and within 48 hours we had a database of approximately 70 volunteers encompassing all age groups including some children, who were all willing to assist by shopping, checking up on people, collecting prescriptions, walking dogs and generally assisting where needed. Even some of those needing help volunteered to help others in other ways if they could. We successfully applied for a grant from Norfolk Community Foundation of £500 to pay mileage and expenses such as PPE for the volunteers if required. It was a fabulous response and we're proud to say that people continue to give time and energy willingly and some lovely new friendships have been forged. A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered even if you have not yet been called upon to help. So far, we are in the fortunate position of having more volunteers than those needing help.

The Parish Council made a successful application for funding to Jacks Lane Wind Farm Community Fund to purchase solar panels for the flashing speed signs.

Upon receipt of the money these will be ordered thus relieving Mick Beauchamp of the onerous task of removing, charging and replacing the batteries frequently. The three pairs of village gates have also been ordered and Highways will be erecting them shortly.

VE Day was marked in a socially distanced way around the village and thanks go to both Fr Clive and Nick Ison for the ringing of the church bell in the evening which brought the day to a close.

Did you notice the new name and illustration of the newsletter? Having won the naming competition Chris Orgill kindly agreed to also design the header - thanks Chris!

We are fortunate to live in this beautiful village and during this very unusual time the fantastic community spirit here has really shone.

Thank you everyone.

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The Village Hall is closed for all activities **BUT** the **Village Hall Post Office is Open** Wednesday and Friday 9.30 - 12 noon (*Note change of opening hours*). **Current Social Distancing rules will apply.**

Pay your Bills: Most household bills can be paid free of charge;

Banking Services:

Free cash withdrawals, cash and cheque deposits on most personal accounts;

Car Taxation: You may not get a tax disc anymore, but you can pay your vehicle tax here;

Drop and GO: for Royal Mail items (e.g. that Amazon return!!)

AND

Greeting Cards and “One 4 All” gift cards.

Other News

Indoor Bowls

New equipment for Indoor Bowls has been purchased. This has been possible through a grant of £1000 the **Village Hall** obtained from King’s Lynn and West Norfolk Council and a substantial contribution from the **bowls organisers**. Bowls **normally** takes place on Mondays 4pm to 6pm but is currently **CLOSED**.

Phone Derek on 01485 576160 for more details.

VILLAGE HALL CINEMA

Continues to be closed.

Syderstone Community Archive Villager’s Stories and Histories

– have been collected since 2006.

Present villagers told us their stories and donated photos, memorabilia and information on both their families and Syderstone, past and present.

Over 50 Syderstone family histories have been produced;

Biographies of each of the 92 men who served in WW1 have been compiled. (*This has been incorporated into the ‘Lives of the 1st World War’ project run by the Imperial War Museum.*).

From this the Syderstone Community Archive was born. It is housed in the Village Hall. To view it, contact Sheila Riches on 01485 578171

The archive - also houses local historical documents, house histories, Royal British Legion, Syderstone Church and Parish Council records, magazine articles on Old Occupations and Professions,

Social History and dating old photographs and much more.

The WW2 project - has just started and we are looking for you or your parents or grandparents’ recollections, interesting stories and photographs relating to Syderstone during the war.

Lockdown – How was it for you?

COVID 19 – An unprecedented Global Event that has affected us all in different ways.

We’d like to capture how Covid 19 has affected the Syderstone Community.

We need your stories, photos and experiences, etc. to add to the *Village Archive*.

Please start by putting down your thoughts of how this event has affected you and your family on paper or computer – **keep original documents.**

This is a once in a lifetime event which needs to be documented.

Contacts: Sheila Riches: 01485 578171

sheilarriches@btinternet.com

Chris Little: 01485 578 270

treasurerARVH@outlook.com

Our Parish Councillors

Martin Bateman 01485 576124
Michael Beauchamp 01485 576262
David Daly 01485 576222
Gary Kidd 01485 578507
Dawn Niemann 01485 576217
Paul Welland 01485 576249
Clerk, Karen Orgill 01485 576079

Clerk to Syderstone Parish Council,
1 Rudham Road, Syderstone,
Kings Lynn, PE31 8SL

syderstoneparishcouncil@outlook.com

syderstoneparishcouncil@norfolkparishes.gov.uk

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Books.

The 'egg hut' near the derelict cottages has a collection of books for villagers to use. Borrow or swap, please don't just take. Let us all have use of them and make it a valuable community resource.

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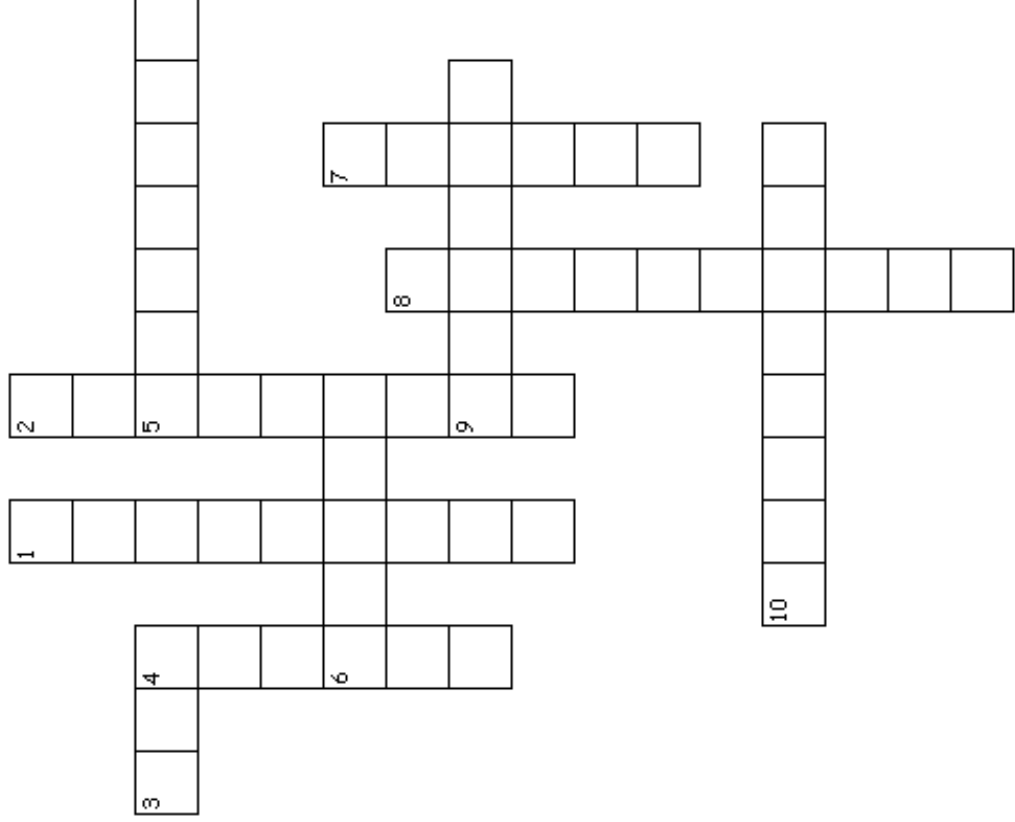
daviddaly8@icloud.com

Mobile 07778005119

Home 01485 576222

1 Mill Lane, Syderstone
PE31 8RX

Some streets in the village.



Across

- 3. How many cottages?
- 5. Tree fallen over?
- 6. Lord! A number of places with this as part of the name.
- 9. Main thoroughfare through the village
- 10. Go around looking but you won't find one here.

Down

- 1. We all come to this
- 2. Ted's on the way up!
- 4. 1066 street
- 7. Squeaky road?
- 8. Wider than it is long?

Nature

Of course, the most important subject on our minds at the moment is Coronavirus. Our movements have been restricted severely and our priorities are focused on domestic issues rather than our favoured outdoor pursuits. As a wildlife author and photographer this has been a particularly frustrating time for me. But the loss of nearly so many lives in the UK to this terrible virus has made me think more than ever about the well-being of family and friends and far less about my personal interests.

‘Well-being’ has two facets: the physical aspect and also the spiritual. The former has been well-nourished by the exercise-time we have been allowed. I have rarely seen so many folk enjoying a daily walk and, if this continues after we return to our workplaces, then some good will have come from the torment we have endured. Whilst on our wanderings, the more observant will have fed their spiritual well-being by watching the myriad butterflies that have been on the wing during the splendid spring weather. I have seen 19 species in and around the village since the end of April. The dazzling colours of Orange-tip and Brimstone should bring warmth to all but the coldest of hearts. The scarce and enchanting Green Hairstreak continues to grace the Common in good numbers. Those who have Holly in their gardens may well have noticed the adorable Holly Blue fluttering around its branches. This tiny powder-blue butterfly lays its eggs on the tree’s flower buds and with diligent searching one may be surprised at just how many of these minute white ‘discs’ can be found. Miniscule they may be but they, and their resulting larvae, make a hearty meal for birds such as Blue Tit and Goldcrest.

Sand Martin, House Martin and Swallow are back for the summer and Common Swift has just arrived along with a few Cuckoo. The dawn chorus has been wonderful this year and the early risers amongst us will have been greeted by an orchestral ensemble of Blackbird, Robin, Wren, Chaffinch and Song Thrush. The latter appears to be recovering from the lows of recent years and the repeated phrases of its song are now a frequent and delightful sound. Check around large rocks in your garden.



The Song Thrush uses these as anvils to break snail shells. After the juicy contents have been removed, a collection of shell fragments is left behind and this may be the only sign of this often secretive bird’s presence.

Cuddly as they may look, Grey Squirrel are now preying savagely on nestlings so please don’t encourage the little blighters into your garden by feeding them.

The north-western half of the Common now has many wildflowers in bloom including ‘carpets’ of blue Common Field Speedwell, pink Common Stork’s-bill and ochre Sheep’s-sorrel. The road that bisects the Common is lined with Garlic Mustard on which the Orange-tip butterfly lays her eggs. Following the extremely wet winter, the ponds on south-eastern side are filled with water and toad tadpoles, both Common and Natterjack, are present.

The Perch-whisperer

Village defibrillator telephone number

01485 205100

Village defibrillator

Thanks to the efforts of Denise and Dan Bridge, along with others, the village has a fully maintained defibrillator for use in emergencies.

Recently a course was held for volunteers (see the previous newsletter). Many thanks to the East Anglia Air Ambulance for their time. **In an emergency, it is imperative that you ring 999 first**, then dial the above number. You will be put through to one of the volunteers and be given the code to the defibrillator case.

Funds are always required to maintain batteries and pads. Due to the Covid-19 situation, fundraising, like other activities has been put on hold. More information can be found on

[Syderstonecommunity.weebly.com](http://syderstonecommunity.weebly.com)

Adders

The **adder** is a relatively small, stocky snake that prefers woodland, heathland and moorland habitats. It hunts lizards and small mammals, as well as ground-nesting birds, such as skylark and meadow pipit. In spring, male **adders** perform a 'dance' during which they duel to fend off competition to mate.

One Villager spotted one on a path on the common, picked it up and removed it to the undergrowth!

Please be careful if going on the common, especially if you are walking dogs.

Who we are

This Newsletter is produced for and on behalf of Syderstone Parish Council. Any correspondence regarding the Parish Council should be sent to

syderstoneparishcouncil@outlook.com

If you wish to contribute to the Newsletter by providing an article which may be of interest to the community, please forward it to:

thenatterjacknews@hotmail.com

We reserve the right to edit any piece for publication in this Newsletter. Corrections and apologies will be made as appropriate.

Next Parish Council Meeting: 16th July. This is a virtual meeting. E mail the clerk if you want to attend.

All meetings begin at 7.30pm.

St Mary's Church News

The building may be closed but "Church" is still very much open. Fr Clive leads us in a service of Holy Communion at 10.30 am every Sunday and Evening Prayer at 5.00 pm on the first Sunday of the month. These services can be watched live on Facebook and are later uploaded to YouTube. The weekly Pew Leaflet containing the readings and prayers is emailed to all who request it from Fr Clive.

You may have seen that churches are **permitted to open for individual private prayer as from 15th June**. This is **only** when certain stringent regulations can be met. These involve strict rules on cleaning and sanitising, both with major costs attached and supervision amongst others; unfortunately, the advice still is that those who are deemed to belong to the vulnerable groups should not be involved in such activities as yet. This leaves many churches including Syderstone in the predicament of not having anyone young enough to comply with current guidelines.

When the advice and the situation change, we will post notices at the church and on the social media sites.

We understand that there are those who would like to be able to sit in the stillness of the building to pray but remember, God will hear your prayer from wherever you are.

Obviously all other social/ fundraising activities are currently suspended. Contact details remain unchanged.

Fr Clive; rector@creakesbenefice or 07970 875052

Churchwardens:

Chris Lewis: 01485 528555 / 07770659527

Anne Bennie: 01485 529154 / 07817 879541

Festival of Flowers 2020, 25th – 29th July

Unfortunately, this event has been cancelled due to the restrictions put in place by the Government.

Garage and 50/50 sale.

St. Mary's Syderstone Events Team is planning to 'kick start' its post lockdown fund-raising with a GRAND SALE of miscellaneous items (+ the usual refreshments & raffle, of course!). A great opportunity to get together again. Can you help? Perhaps you've been filling your socially isolated days by clearing out your lofts, sheds and spare spaces? We'd love to receive any donated good quality items for sale or you could secure a space on a "50/50" basis. *No clothing items please!*

All details re date/venue/pricing policy/etc. will be advertised as soon as possible. If you would like further information - please contact: Dizzy Goff (01485 578527) or Pam Protheroe (01485 576042)

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'Lockdown Travels in North Norfolk'

Discovering our part of the world through daily exercise – walking and cycling.

Living in the peaceful village of Syderstone in beautiful North Norfolk provides many opportunities to follow the Government guidelines on exercise with ease. Walking is something that most of us are able to do and Syderstone Common, cared for by Norfolk Wildlife Trust, is a joy to behold at this time of year. Social distancing is easily maintained by stepping aside to let others pass by safely. There is a Bridleway running through it and it's criss-crossed by a myriad of little footpaths just waiting to be explored. Since Lockdown began those walking the Common will have seen the birch, beech, oak, crab-apple, cherry, gorse and broom evolve from tight little buds into silky green leaves, pink and white blossom and startling yellow flowers, while Butterflies, birdsong and humming bees delightfully accompany the walker every step of the way.

As a special treat, for the first time in many years, the Ponds are full of water, reflecting the blue skies and green leaves whilst providing a nursery for the famous Natterjack Toads. Pingo Ponds were created at the end of the last ice age and have been left almost untouched since then. As the glaciers retreated they left hard lenses of ice pressed into the ground, with soil over the top of them. When things warmed up it caused the lenses to melt forming a depression filled with water.

For those wishing to venture a little further the map outside Amy Robsart Village Hall will lead the walker on a choice of routes, all leaving from and returning to Syderstone. A particularly pretty spot at present is the walk along the path behind the Church, turning right at the old Beech Tree and along the winding path of glorious, lacy, white cow parsley, dappled shade and a background of yellow rape.

For those anxious to travel further afield then the bicycle is the answer. With many of the local roads almost without traffic for the duration, cycling is a very pleasant mode of exercise. Keeping your social distance from other road users is the safest way to cycle after all! Leaving from Amy Robsart Village Hall down The Street one gains quite a bit of speed; soon levelling out as the Docking Road junction appears. Turning right for Docking and the world of lockdown expands, with fields, hedgerows and settlements rolling past in the turn of the pedals. After a short ride there is the option to take a brief break on the bench opposite the Pond or collect a prescription from the Surgery or call in at the Spar Shop for a Paper. Alternatively a look at any good map might inspire longer adventures – Bloodgate Hill Fort, Bircham, Rudham, Houghton, the Creakes?

Walking or Cycling? Speed and distance travelled are entirely personal but both provide so many enjoyable benefits during these difficult and peculiar times.

Linda Pearse

12 Questions with: Dawn Niemann

Chair of the Parish Council (First in a series of lighthearted conversations).

1. Sweet or savoury?
Chocolate would always win. 😊
2. Lark or owl?
Both really but more often a lark.
3. Who or what would you take to a desert island?
My husband Martin as he'd make me laugh and help build a shelter... if only he wouldn't whistle whilst doing it...
4. Beer or champagne?
No contest, champagne of course!
5. What would you sing at Karaoke?
I'd spare people the pain!
6. If you had a warning label what would it say?
This girl could trip over a grain of sand.
7. Glass half empty or half full?
Overflowing.
8. If you were a superhero what powers would you like to have?
To end cruelty and violence to people and animals
9. Scone, cream or jam first?
No cream ever, butter and jam
10. Favourite beach?
We are lucky to have a choice of fabulous beaches, but I also love a Greek beach with a sun lounger and a mojito.
11. Scariest thing you've ever done?
Sat inside a car that was set on fire in a demonstration of firefighting. When the flames were up around the windows, I really hoped they'd hurry!
12. Favourite flower?
If I could only pick one it would have to be Peonies but it's really hard to just pick one.



In the garden

There doesn't seem too much need to write anything here at present. With the onset of Covid-19 and our lockdown period, the community has spent increasing amounts of time in their respective gardens. Everyone's gardens should be looking a picture! we should all experience a fantastic summer and autumn of flowers, fruit and vegetables.

One welcome addition has been the setting up of a Facebook group called Syderstone Gardeners, by Jan Simkin. The site is there for members to ask for help and advice as well as using it to get materials, tools and even plants. Well done Jan! If you are not on this group, find the group on Facebook and ask to join.

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Stanhoe Methodist Church (one of 22 churches in the West Norfolk Methodist Circuit)

Currently, our churches are all closed for worship, although, on a rota basis, we go in to clean, run the water (recommended to prevent Legionnaire's disease) and check generally on the building. Recommendations have recently come through from Methodist HQ about opening the churches for private prayer, along with advice that over 70s (amongst other vulnerable groups) should not attend. Stanhoe Methodist Church has 6 members, of whom three are over 80, never mind being over 70.

A Circuit farewell service, and tea, for Rev. Steve Oliver, our much-loved retiring minister, was to have been held on 12th July, but that is now to be held via Zoom.

Our new minister, Rev. Richman Ncube, should by now have arrived in this country with his family from Zimbabwe, but cannot travel. We could feel discouraged, and the future looks uncertain. However, we live with faith, with hope and with love. Those of us who are elderly are so thankful for the care that has been shown to us, both spiritually and practically.

We will meet again! Watch this space! We send greetings and love to all our neighbours.

Stanhoe Open Gardens

Due to the cancellation of Open Gardens in Stanhoe this year, it has been decided instead to have what we hope will be the first, and only "Virtual Open Gardens" on the www.stanhoe.org website.

The owners of the eight gardens which would have been opened are to submit photographs and descriptions of some aspect of their gardens to our webmaster, and we hope that the feature will be available to view towards the end of June, for those who are able to use the internet (see www.stanhoe.org). There is a provisional plan to hold a public exhibition in the Reading Room in Stanhoe later in the year, as well

Memories of yesteryear

Bob Beeston, of Rudham Road, writes

With the very poor weather we experienced in February this year, I recall that in July/August 1977 we were able to go boating on Syderstone Common. Older residents may recall Denis Howell being appointed Minister for Drought, an appointment which was successful as a very wet Autumn and Winter followed. In those days we had many Wicken Ponds on the common and in several of the adjoining fields hence the Wicken Pond Farm which adjoins the common. The photograph below shows my children boating on the Common in the late 1970's. This could not happen now because of the amount of groundwater that has (and is) extracted.



If anyone would like to share memories of Syderstone in the past, please make contact via thenatterjacknews@hotmail.com

Weather recording

In light of Bob's contribution, does anyone keep records of the weather in Syderstone? Do you know of anyone who has a weather station? We would like to share such information with the community if possible.

Don't forget to check the Parish Council Website – syderstoneparishcouncil@norfolkparishes.gov.uk

And also, the Facebook pages – Syderstone Community and Syderstone Gardeners.

Puzzle answers: 1. Common End 2. Heath Rise 3. Ten 4.
Norman 5. Ashside 6. Manor 7. Creake 8. Broadlands 9.
Street 10. Mill Lane