

The Natterjack


SYDERSTONE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Welcome to December's Syderstone Community Newsletter

Sadly, FRISC have been unable to run any activities or raise any money this year. However, we are delighted to say that the Christmas tree from Del's Nursery outside the village hall is all lit up. Unfortunately, COVID regulations didn't permit the Carol singing, band and refreshments of last year but the lights will be on for the festive season and hopefully the rest will be back next year. Huge thanks to Fr Clive for blessing the tree once again. Thanks also must go to Gerry for making a sturdy box to stand the tree in, Dizzy & Bob for their generous donation, Norman and the village hall committee for being so helpful and Paul for fitting the new socket and timer and anyone who helped in any way. Happy Christmas and fingers crossed next year we will be able to run more events!

News from Syderstone Parish Council

At the end of this rather unusual year, it's tempting to think not much has been achieved but maybe it has given us time to focus on the smaller things. Lockdown #1 saw real community spirit with lots of people helping others directly and many more volunteering to do so if needed....and the weather was amazing! When restrictions eased in the summer, we were finally able to get the village gates and solar panels installed, and restart Speedwatch. Then lockdown #2 came along, not quite so severe but still volunteers helped where necessary once more. Ongoing essential maintenance was arranged for the playing field and will be completed as soon as possible. There has been a tremendous amount of community spirit shown and despite a year of cancelled social events and activities we are still fortunate to live in such a strong community in a beautiful county. Fingers crossed for staying safe, a vaccine and progress towards a new normal next year. 

I'd like to say a huge thank you to all my fellow councillors and our clerk who, despite all having busy jobs, constantly step up quickly and cheerfully to solve problems, fix things and generally undertake jobs to keep things running smoothly. You go above and beyond. It is hugely appreciated and it also saves us all money!

Stay safe, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all. 

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Syderstone Parish Councillors



Dawn Niemann – Chair	01485 576217
Dave Daly – Vice-chair	01485 576222
Martin Bateman	01485 576124
Paul Welland	01485 576249
Gary Kidd	01485 578507
Debs Candy	07951 317570
Trudie Blackshaw	07398 267694
Parish Clerk, Karen Orgill	01485 576079

Parish correspondence to:

Hand mail: Parish clerk at 1 Rudham Road

Email: syderstoneparishcouncil@outlook.com

Website: syderstoneparishcouncil@norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Next Parish Meetings are;

Thursdays 7.30pm - ** 17th December ** 21st January ** 18th February

For those younger parishioners (or young at heart) can you find twelve snowmen?

2021 is a census year. The census date is 21 March 2021. As many people will already know it is done every 10 years and provides information to help government shape policy, allocate resources, plan services and monitor equality. For the first time it will be a digital census primarily with paper support available for those who need it. No personal information is published and information is kept anonymously for 100 years. It has been a legal obligation to complete the census since 1920 and households will be notified early next year when it's time to complete it

Cold, dark and wet outside? Why not curl up with a good book?



The book hut opposite Croybrae, The Street is full of books with more

waiting to go in, so please grab a few and enjoy them in the warm and dry!

NATURALLY SYDERSTONE



Four-and-twenty blackbirds would never make it into a pie – they’d be too busy squabbling. A mistle thrush would fight its own reflection and a song thrush will only tolerate an audience of one. Our residents are a quarrelsome lot.



By contrast, the winter thrushes that percolate into the fields and gardens of the village right now are a model of sociability, talkative and polite. Something like 1.5 million redwings and fieldfares poured into the UK from Scandinavia in early autumn, and a fair number are hanging around to spend their winter in Norfolk. If the winter turns cold, then many, many more will come here to escape a continental freeze.

Catch a thin, high “tseep” sound when you’re out and you’ve picked up the call of a redwing. You might hear their sonic beep at night as you’re walking down the street, because these birds travel under cover of darkness to avoid predators. It’s just as likely that you’ll look up during the day to find a flock in bouncy flight en route from bush to bush, tseeping away to each other. These are our smallest thrushes, and they work on a safety in numbers basis. They’re a little shy of us too. However, if we get a freeze, then desperation may bring them right into your garden to polish off the last of the ivy berries. Why not put out some bruised fruit on your lawn for them?

Fieldfares are fearless, noisy birds, chack-chacking away to each other in the treetops. When they come down to pick for grubs in the fields you can catch their upright stance and odd colour palette – look for a blue-grey head, chestnut back, grey rump, black tail, speckled front and white underparts. You wouldn’t see that kind of Scandinavian colour combo in IKEA!



St. Mary's Church News

Serving the communities of Barmer, Blenheim Park, Syderstone and Wicken Green



SERVICES

Unless we are ordered to alter by Government or Diocese, we will maintain the current schedule of services outside periods of lockdown: Sundays 1000hrs; Benefice Communion (Common Worship) in OLSM South Creake

1st Sunday of month; 1700hrs Evensong (Book Of Common Prayer) in St Mary's North Creake.

Services are streamed live on Facebook @creakesbenefice and later uploaded to YouTube.

The present plan for Christmas Services is as follows:

Christmas Eve 24th December 2200hrs Benefice Christmas Communion in OLSM South Creake

(For those with mobility issues it will be possible to be dropped off near the church door even if there is no further space to park close to it)

Christmas Day 25th December 1000hrs; Family Christmas Communion St Mary's North Creake

Unfortunately, N and S Creake are the only two churches where we can seat more than about 20 people and still maintain the required distance between groups/bubbles, thus there will be no individual Parish Carol Services.

We will continue to open the Church for private prayer and quiet time on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays 10am to 4pm. NB not on Boxing Day 26th Dec.

OTHER EVENTS

We hope to be able to combine with S Creake in a scaled back Christmas Fair, possibly on 12th Dec. A notice will be posted on church gates if we can confirm this with date and times.

Reverse Advent Calendar Gifts;

Our plan is to continue with this much needed help for the Fakenham Food Bank, but in a slightly altered way while our church is closed some days. We have been advised that individuals can drop off donations at the Salvation Army in Oak Street Mondays between 1100 and 1300hrs and between 1300 and 1500hrs on Thursdays (just say from Creakes Benefice Reverse Advent). Alternatively, they would be pleased to accept cheques (made payable to Mid Norfolk Food Bank,) directly at Wellspring Church, 35 Neatherd Road, Dereham, NR19 2AE or I would be happy to arrange to collect any such cheques and get them over to the Vicarage so that Fr Clive could post them in one larger group. If you choose this option, remember if you are a UK tax payer it may be possible to enhance your donation through the Gift Aid scheme with a declaration (details on request). We hope it will soon be possible for us to meet and enjoy service and social events with each other again. Till then, take care, stay safe, have a blessed and peaceful Christmastide.

To arrange a Baptism, Wedding or other special service, contact the Rector, Fr Clive Wylie on 07970 875052 or rector@creakesbenefice.org

Churchwardens

Chris Lewis: 01485 528555 or 07770 659527

Annie Bennie: 01485 529154 or 07817 879581



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News from Stanhoe Methodist Church



We managed one morning service at Stanhoe in September, before rising Covid-19 cases caused us to close the church down again. Our one service could not include hymns, but hymns were read, and accompanied by percussion - everyone was provided with a Triangle, and encouraged to bring wooden spoons to bang. Since then, we have been continuing to maintain our Prayer Chain, so we are in constant touch with each other and with our wider Methodist community in the North-West Norfolk Circuit. If anyone drives past the church after dark, they will see the Cross inside, which we leave lit up, as a sign of hope and God's love in these dark times. In December, we have a circuit Zoom Carol Service to look forward to, and an Advent Service of Holy Communion, conducted by our new minister, Rev. Richman Ncube, who arrived from Zimbabwe with his wife and three children in September. Sadly, we are unable, because of the small size of the church and the necessity for social distancing, to invite anyone other than the 7 communicant members of the congregation to participate in services. We continue to pray for all in our local communities, and hope and pray for better times ahead.



World War 2 Project (WW2)

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.

Please ask your parents or Grandparents – Did any of them serve in the armed forces? If so, what regiment, where did they serve, what medals were awarded?

What was life like in Syderstone? What were schooldays like?

Any information please send to **Sheila Riches** (see Village Hall Committee list)

**12 Questions with: Norman Riches
Chair of Amy Robsart Village Hall**



- 1. Sweet or savoury?** Roquefort cheese is a favourite
- 2. Lark or owl?** Lark now (up early but sit around drinking coffee for a while)
- 3. Favourite place?** Boltana - village in the Spanish Pyrenees - magical!
- 4. Beer or champagne?** Definitely beer (CAMRA member) but champagne or anything else in an emergency
- 5. What would you sing at Karaoke?** "Please release me - from the stage!" or "There must be some way out of here"
- 6. If you had a warning label what would it say?** "Warning - deeper than it looks"
- 7. Glass half empty or half full?** Half full, preferably overflowing.....
- 8. If you were a superhero what powers would you like to have?** The ability to restore old buildings with a snap of the fingers
- 9. Scone, cream or jam first?** Being practical, jam first - the other way round the jam slides off if you overload it
- 10. Favourite beach?** Anywhere unspoilt and deserted
- 11. Scariest thing you've ever done?** Argued with my wife - no seriously, once gave a presentation at a major London hospital surrounded by medical experts, then took questions!
- 12. Favourite flower?** Magnolia or true autumn crocus - both fascinating

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AMY ROBSART VILLAGE HALL

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In the last newsletter we wrote about how disappointed we were because there were no hall activities, BUT, we had hoped that we might make a small start in January!!!

How things don't move on. It seems like we're in the film "Groundhog Day" – each day/month being repeated with minor variations! So no restart at the hall at the moment.

BUT, the Bell tower has been repaired – we're just waiting for the return of the refurbished bell.

We've also had some responses to our article in the last newsletter "*Lockdown – how was it for you*". **We would love to have more from you.**

Good news on the vaccine announcement, perhaps we may be able to restart hall activities after Easter?

Take care and stay safe **"Merry Christmas"** the **Hall Committee**



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Norman Riches	Chair	01485 578171	normanriches@btinternet.com
Wendy Little	Secretary	01485 578270	secretaryARVH@outlook.com
Chris Little	Treasurer	01485 578270	treasurerARVH@outlook.com
Sheila Riches	Booking Manager	01485 578171	
Martin Bateman	Parish Council representative		
Gerry Taylor	St Mary's Church representative		
Cathy Wilkins	Co-opted member		
Linda Pearse	Art & Craft representative		

Village Hall Lottery

Local people have, over many years, been able to buy a number (1 to 100) for £12 a year. The money raised:

- helps maintain the hall and
- provides prizes at the monthly draw



The Lottery (100 Money Club) Draw – under Covid-19

Unfortunately, Covid-19 restrictions have prevented the draw taking place at Coffee Morning as normal. Because of this, the Amy Robsart Village Hall Committee (ARVH) arranged for it to be drawn prior to Parish Council meetings, but, currently, these take place via Zoom meetings.

In these circumstances, we have made special arrangements to have the draw **witnessed by the Chair of the Parish Council** (Dawn Niemann) whilst observing Covid-19 restrictions.

Two draws are being made each month over a 6-month period (12 draws). *These arrangements are subject to change.* The results are being displayed on the Village Hall noticeboard



Joining the Money Club. This year all the numbers are taken, but we would like to ***publicise the Money Club and have a reserve list.*** If you want to join our Money Club waiting list please contact: **Gerry Taylor (Money Club Manager) or Wendy Little (Secretary)** (see Committee list)

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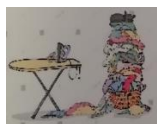


Christmas Anagrams – Rearrange the Mixed-Up Christmas Words



1. Shh Tarmac Refits	2. Hmm Saints Dig
3. Him Sweetener	4. Pa Prawn Rip Peg
5. Ask Own Elf	6. Racer Catch Smirks
7. Caste Indoor	8. Grail Fit Shy
9. Omelet Its	10. East Ion Tip
11. Nets Light In	12. Anagram Ya Wine
13. Richest Stream	14. Nearby Cars Cure
15. Name Mi Post	16. Lava Dance Trend
17. Snacker n Fine	18. A Decking Ogles Snow
19. Italic Tea Firer	20. Beor Once Geezers

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And Lastly, the Gardening Corner



I do hope everyone can look out of the window at this time of the year and see at least six plants flowering to perfection and brightening an otherwise dreary scene. If not, it is time to take a look at some of the wonderful plants that give their all throughout the winter months and many also offering wonderful fragrance.

For shrubs we have the evergreens, providing a perfect background for a stage on which species such as shrubby lonicera, mahonia, viburnum, Christmas box, hamamelis, clematis and winter jasmine can blossom. Beneath these we see the hellebores, winter heathers, daphne along with delicate cyclamen, species narcissi and even iris making their individual mark on the scene.



Berries and fruits are our natural baubles during this festive month and species such as holly, ornamental apple, cotoneaster, snowberry and pyracantha provide a perfect display. They are also food for those hungry birds and animals that have to face the rigors of the season outdoors.

Not to be left out are the leafless trees such as birches, snake bark acers, cornus and willows, now showing off their stunning bark and enhanced by the brilliant low winter sun. Even bedding plants can't be left out and on the patio any container can be filled with stunning winter pansies, violas, polyanthus or even ornamental daisies.

M Bateman – Maintenance

Your local, friendly maintenance man

No job too small

Email: Bateman1@btopenworld.com

Mob: **07970128411**

Tel: **01485 578124**