

The Natterjack

SYDERSTONE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Welcome to March's Syderstone Community Newsletter

It's been a long time since we had so many ponds around the village, despite the fact that it makes many areas impassable, I'm sure you can agree it also looks very beautiful.

Hopefully the weather will soon warm up and Spring will be sprung!

News from Syderstone Parish Council



Syderstone Parish Council is looking into the possibility of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for our village and is looking for volunteers to join a new parish council Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

This will be a community led plan - representing local views and aspirations, written by members of the community to help guide development, regeneration and conservation in the area whilst setting out policies in relation to the development and use of land within the village.

The parish councilors would love you to bring ideas forward and be part of the Neighbourhood Plan process which could take 18 months to two years and cumulates in a referendum which would require parishioners within Syderstone voting for its acceptance.

If you are interested or would like further information, either contact one of your Councillors direct (see page 3 for phone numbers) or contact the parish clerk direct by emailing; syderstoneparishcouncil@outlook.com or come along to May's parish council meeting where you can meet your parish councillors and discuss what is required. Your help would be very much appreciated.

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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;

Thursday 7.00pm - Annual Meeting 15th April 2021

Thursdays 7.30pm - ** 15th April ** 20th May ** 17th June **

For those younger parishioners (or young at heart) can you find 12 bunches of daffodils?

The book hut in the street has been well used, especially during lockdown. Thanks to everyone who gives it a quick tidy when passing. It has been suggested that perhaps there are a couple of people who might be kind enough to volunteer to keep an eye on it on a regular basis to keep it tidy and remove anything which is damaged, wet or unsuitable. If you think you could help please let us know syderstoneparishcouncil@outlook.com – maybe you are one of those who is already helping out!





NATURALLY SYDERSTONE

When you catch sight of what looks like a dainty dog with high heels in the dimness at dawn or dusk, does it make you crane for a better look? This tawny animal before you may have the haunches and height of a German shepherd, but it totters on tiny toes as if balancing on stilettos. Then you startle it into a lurch forward. Its feet thud on the ground, and, as it gallops away, the white flag of a tail flicked up over its rump, you realise you've caught a muntjac deer off guard.

Have you seen these deer around the village? You might have seen evidence in the arrowhead hoof prints just three centimetres long, pressed into soft ground, or you might find a scatter of dark pellets. Then again, you might have missed the evidence – these deer are prone to nipping off flower buds, so if your wallflowers fail to bloom...

Muntjac are the smallest of the four deer species living in Syderstone, and are largely solitary animals, except when the doe is staying close to her single fawn. You are most likely to see them (as well as roe, fallow and red deer) on the common at dusk, and near Barmer Farm on one of the walks from the village. Native to southern China, they were first brought to Britain as ornaments for parkland. Uh-oh, big mistake. They 'escaped' and now live wild in every county of England.

Catch those backward-pointing antlers and the smallest Dracula-wannabe fangs drooping over their bottom lip. Muntjacs are also known as barking deer, and with good reason. When a female is ready to mate (at just about any time of the year), they will bark and bark and bark again, a short, gruff call that echoes eerily across the common.



St. Mary's Church News

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

For those who haven't already heard, Fr Clive was appointed as the Rural Dean for the Burnham and Walsingham Deanery by Bishop Graham and commissioned by Bishop Jonathan in a much scaled-down service on 21st December. This appointment is in addition to his current role as Incumbent of the Creakes Benefice.

For the foreseeable future there will be no services with congregations in attendance: when this changes notices will be posted and details added to the Benefice Calendar. The Sunday Eucharist (Communion) service continues to be streamed live at 1000hrs via our Facebook page (@creakesbenefice) and later uploaded to YouTube. This has proved to be so much appreciated by people far and wide that even when restrictions are eventually lifted, the practice will be continued. (If you wish to receive the digitally circulated service booklet email Fr Clive to be added to the distribution list) To this end professional grade equipment will be installed in Our Lady St Mary's church in South Creake and we are amazed that over £6000.00 has already been donated towards the cost of installing it. The added bonus is that it can be used for many other events as well as Sunday Services.

This is the time of year when the Annual Parochial Church Meetings take place, at which Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council members are elected, along with the report of the church's activities for the past year. For obvious reasons this did not happen last year. This year the meetings for St Mary's Syderstone are scheduled for 19th March at 1900hrs. It is highly unlikely that restrictions will be lifted enough for these meetings to be held physically, even with social distancing (which in turn would put a strict limit on the number able to attend). We expect that they will be conducted as virtual meetings on Zoom: it will be possible to join in visibly via Zoom or to dial in and participate on an audio basis only. If anyone wishes to "attend" please contact me nearer the date (details below) and I

will pass on the required information - it seems a little too early at this moment. The legal notification will be posted on the church door and in the noticeboard at the correct time.

In spite of virtually no fundraising events last year we managed to pay the amount asked of us by the Diocese. This year is going to be tougher: so much of our fundraising is through our meals and close contact events such as Flower Festival and Christmas Fair, events which people will be understandably reluctant to attend for some time, even if the vaccination campaign is as successful as we all hope it will be. Pam Protheroe continues to sell jams and marmalades from home. If anyone has any idea of other things, we might be able to consider please let Annie or me know.

Fr Clive Wylie: 07970 875052; email rector@creakesbenefice.org

Annie Bennie: 07817 879581 / 01485 529154

annemariebennie@gmail.com

Chris Lewis: 07770 659527 / 01485 528555 clewis81e@gmail.com



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News from Stanhoe Methodist Church

Sadly, Stanhoe Methodist church remains closed, although we did have one service during Advent, for just 5 of us, keeping socially distanced; the first one to be conducted by our new Minister, the Rev. Richman Ncube. Plans for more services in January had to be shelved, due to lock-down, but we have been joining in Circuit Zoom services, and staying in touch with each other through our Prayer Chain and telephone calls. We are sad that our annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service, in which many Syderstone Anglicans have joined in past years, couldn't take place, and hope that we shall be able to welcome you all back in 2022.

Syderstone Lock-Down Recipe Book??

Is there one? Should we have one? With many of us confined to our own kitchens racking our brains for yet another variation on vegetable lasagne or cottage pie, it occurred to me that perhaps we could share recipes, and publish them in a booklet, which we could then sell for charity (to be decided).

If you think this is a good idea, please send your recipes to me, elizabethkmacleod@icloud.com, and I will collate and edit them, and then hopefully, find someone with better technological skills than me, to help with producing the booklet. I visualise three sections: soup and starters; main meals; puddings and cakes. The recipes might need a bit of editing to make them conform to the same format, so hopefully you wouldn't mind me doing that. We should perhaps limit ourselves to not more than one recipe in each section, three in total. Please could I have all the recipes in by Saturday, 24th April? And please contact me if you could help with publishing or illustrating the booklet, or in any other way? If email is a problem, please drop written recipes through my door at 2, Lamberts Cottages, Lamberts Yard, Creake Road, when out for your usual daily exercise. Thank you

Congratulations go to our parish clerk for achieving her
Certificate in Local Council Administration

12 Questions with: Long-time resident Dizzy Goff

- 1. Sweet or savoury?** Savoury and as spicy as possible. Although I will admit to demolishing an entire box of Guylian praline shells in two sittings!
- 2. Lark or owl?** My brain worked better at night, so I must have been an owl. Now I'm a bit of both, as long as I have time to read before getting up or going to sleep.
- 3. Favourite place?** Can I cheat and have three? My conservatory, where I keep all my crafting 'goodies' and my sewing machine; Hadrian's Wall and Monet's Garden in Giverney.
- 4. Beer or champagne?** Anything that is fizzy – even carbonated water
- 5. What would you sing at Karaoke?** No 'brainer'. "I Did It My Way".
- 6. If you had a warning label what would it say?** Please do not feed this animal as it has been known to bite
- 7. Glass half empty or half full?** Definitely half full as I can't envisage ever reaching the bottom
- 8. If you were a superhero what powers would you like to have?** Right now, the ability to wipe out Covid-19 so that life could get back to a semblance of normality without restrictions and pressures. Selfishly? The ability to go back in history to get the true story!
- 9. Scone, cream or jam first?** Blackcurrant jam first, so I can pile on about an inch of lovely Cornish clotted cream
- 10. Favourite beach?** Whitsand Bay in Cornwall. So many happy memories
- 11. Scariest thing you've ever done?** I'm a bit of a coward so I avoid 'scary' if I can! Most 'dangerous' one? Confronted at 6 am on an empty train by a hysterical drug-addict waving a bicycle chain. But apparently, I'd been kind to him in Court sometime in the past and he remembered me. Phew!
- 12. Favourite flower?** Forget-Me-Not. Such an amazing colour – like a cloudless summer sky. And tenacious - try as you might, you can never completely get rid of them!

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The Village Hall Lottery / Money Club / 100 Club – whatever you call it, STARTS again in April

Most of the 100 numbers are renewed but there are always a few vacancies. Why not join our reserve list and if you get a number, it's just £12 a year? Half the money goes back in prizes and the other half helps pay to run the hall – *a main source of income at the moment*

Support the Village Hall/ feel good / win a prize?

If you want to join our Money Club waiting list please contact either:

Gerry Taylor (Money Club Manager)

Wendy Little (Secretary) (see Committee list below)

One family's experience of lockdown is included in this newsletter.

We would love to have more from you. Contact Sheila or Chris

We're sorry there's no news on reopening the hall yet, please take care and stay safe.

the Hall Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Norman Riches	Chair	01485 578171	normanrriches@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 Money Club Manager (Lottery) 01485 578 524		
Cathy Wilkins	Co-opted member 		
Linda Pearse	Art & Craft representative		

2020 The year our bins went out more than we did.

My family and I were repatriated to Syderstone from Myanmar (Burma) in March 2020 on the orders of the Foreign office. With bags packed full of the new “*essentials*” (loo roll, hand-sanitisers, soap, masks, pasta and baker’s yeast) we entered the UK without a return date. We were shocked at the total absence of temperature and health checks at the airport -despite the thousands of travellers arriving from Asia on a daily basis. We opted for 2 weeks’ self-imposed isolation as the government were still acting like ‘*covidiots*’ (one of this year’s many neologisms). Quarantine for international arrivals did not start until June 8th and there is still no Covid-19 test requirement for entrance to the UK. Our quarantine period overlapped with the UK stay-at-home order on 23rd March and marked the start of the weirdest year any of us have ever known.

Our personal ‘*coronacoaster*’ has had many highs including the amazing generosity shown to us by our family and their friends in Syderstone (such as allowing us to stay in their properties – we are on house number three, baking cakes, giving us firewood, dropping off shopping and lending us bedding, books and warm clothes). We’ve clapped for the carers (banging saucepans as the weeks rolled by), enjoyed beautiful walks in the countryside and exchanged greetings from an anti-social, social distance. Above all, we’ve stayed safe.

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The lows have been as numerous as the highs – ‘doomscrolling’ the depressing statistics, mourning the thousands of fatalities, not being able to visit family and friends, uncertainty surrounding our return and job security and the never-ending zoom calls for school and work, continually trying to catch up on the 6.5hr time difference with Myanmar resulting in disorientation and an 8th day of the week – ‘Blursday’. We fled a former military dictatorship and have now willingly submitted to regulations concerning how to breathe, where to work, how to shop, who to see and what we can and cannot do. Strange times indeed.

Like most of the country we’ve found comfort in food during the lows. Thanks to online recipes we’ve become expert chefs resulting in ‘fattening our curves’ to the extent that even Joe Wickes’ lockdown PE classes couldn’t help us shift our ‘*covid kilos*’ and Captain Tom could probably outrun us. And more surprising our food magically appeared at our door, delivered by men in a white vans ...tellingly we haven’t set foot in a shop since we arrived in the UK and we are now firm converts to armchair grocery shopping. We’ve also achieved the dubious status of virtual virologists and even my 6-year-old can hold forth on ‘viral loads’ and the importance of washing your hands with soap for the time it takes to sing Happy Birthday twice. Remember birthdays? big groups of people (certainly more than 6) crammed indoors eating cake that someone had blown all over, playing games involving blindfolds but no masks and passing parcels to each other without sanitising!

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We've almost left a couple of times, we made it all the way to Heathrow in early January but were turned around at check-in due to entrance restrictions from Myanmar due to the UK variant. And again, at the end of January but the day before travel were told we couldn't fly. And now there's been a coup in Myanmar! We don't know when or if we'll get back to our home, friends, work and school there.

Arriving here 11 months ago, we thought it would be a quick stay, akin to our annual UK summer holiday visits! We have lived abroad for 23 years and never expected to live just round the corner from my parents. Since late April we have been in a bubble, my 3 children have seen their Grandparents every day, they have 'helped' mow the lawn, make cakes, wash the car and life with my parents one minute's walk away has become normal. This proximity and time together has been the *Covid-19 gift*, a silver lining, unexpected, yet wonderful.



Thanks also to everyone in Syderstone for making us welcome, for your sympathies and friendship - looks like we're here for a while longer yet.....

New Children's Play Equipment



Syderstone Parish Council would appreciate your help in identifying what new play equipment would be preferred by the children of Syderstone.

Play equipment in the children's play area will be repainted and revamped over the summertime and the parish council will be working on fund raising for new equipment but they would like your help in identifying what your children would like?

Please either contact one of your Councillors (see page 3 for phone numbers) or email the parish clerk; syderstoneparishcouncil@outlook.com or come along the next parish council meeting where you can meet your parish councillors and discuss what play equipment you and your children would like to see.

Syderstone Community Archive (at the Village Hall)

Syderstone Newspaper Articles - During the current Covid-19 lockdown I have been keeping myself busy by compiling a collection of newspaper articles relating to Syderstone ranging from 1780's – present day. *I am short of articles from 1940- present day.* If you have any stored away, (they can be of births, weddings, funerals, village events, local interest, etc.,) I would love to add them to the collection.

I can copy and return them to you if you want to keep them, or if you prefer you can choose to donate the originals to the archive.

Syderstone WW2 stories/ recollections /photographs - I would still love to see more if you have any

History of Syderstone School – I still need more info especially from 1940 - 1991. Did you attend the old school (ARVH) and /or the new one? *Who taught you, what was school life like? Just a few lines or more if you can manage it.*

General photographs of Syderstone 1940- present day needed.

All these records will be added to the Archive inventory and hopefully, one day soon, we will be able to put them on public display in the village hall

Please get in touch, many thanks - **Sheila Riches** (see Committee list - 01485 57817)



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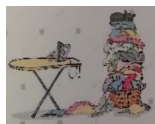
A little bit about bins and rubbish.....

There have been a few complaints about bins and the litter in the village at the moment. Due to the pandemic the two litter picks planned for last year couldn't happen. Normally those litter picks collect over 20 bags full of rubbish (as well as odd items - a car bumper and a plastic bowl spring to mind!) each time. We do not yet know whether a litter pick will be able to be held this year so the more people who are happy to continue to do this the better and thank you to you all.

With regard to the bins, the KLWNBC rules state that bins should be put out after 7pm the night before collection day and prior to 7am on collection day. Those bins must be fully closed. Overflowing bins and side waste will not be collected. This is to maintain health and safety for the crew as well as to prevent rubbish blowing around. Empty bins should then be put back to their storage place within the property by the end of collection day and not left on the street. Further information on bin collection dates, collection of other rubbish, garden waste, what goes in each bin etc can be found on the KLWNBC website www.west-norfolk.gov.uk



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And lastly, dog poo. There are 5 dog bins, designed to make clearing up after your dog as easy as possible. One by the village hall, one in Creak Road, two on the common and one in Rudham Road. They are well used by the majority of dog walkers and emptied each week. However, there are still times where quite a lot of poo is found on the footpaths. No-one likes to have to carry a full bag on a walk but it is far worse to step into a pile! We are lucky enough to live in beautiful countryside and can see much more of it if we don't have to keep looking down. A google search showed that just one gram of dog poo can contain 23 million faecal bacteria which as it dissolves slowly into the earth, and therefore the water supply, can cause cramps, diarrhoea, and kidney disorders in humans. Not to mention what happens when we or our pooches walk back into our houses with traces on feet and paws. And all because someone couldn't be bothered to bend over and clear up after their dog! Big thanks to all those dog walkers who regularly pick up "extras" and who don't mind offering a bag to someone who might have forgotten theirs.



BT Telephone Box on The Street

BT are decommissioning the telephone box; would you like to consider it as a book/seed swap or do you use it and want to keep it as a telephone box? Email the parish clerk at syderstoneparishcouncil@outlook.com

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BRIDGE STREET, FAKENHAM

And Lastly, the Gardening Corner



Spring, the busiest time of the gardening calendar, seeds to set, plants to harden off, winter digging to complete as well as keeping on top of those weeds but thankfully the days are lengthening and don't forget - the clocks go back Sunday 28th March. But do watch out for those late frosts!

Scatter general-purpose fertiliser over flower beds and around roses, shrubs and hedges as well as cabbages and other brassicas on the vegetable patch. Now is the perfect time to plant snowdrops 'in the green' and dead-head daffodils and other spring bulbs but leave the foliage to die back naturally.

Finish off pruning roses by the end of March, start sowing hardy annuals outdoors, plant lilies and other summer flowering bulbs in pots and borders. Try sowing native wildflower seeds in trays or modules to produce plants for your own mini-meadow.

On the vegetable patch you could try warming the soil with fleece for early sowings of peas, broad beans, beetroot and potatoes. Don't forget to force rhubarb by covering it with a forcer or upturned dustbin or bucket.

Why don't you start a seed swap with friends/neighbours or visit Syderstone Gardeners Facebook page for more inspiration?

M Bateman – Maintenance

Your local, friendly maintenance man

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Mob: **07970128411**

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