

The Natterjack



SYDERSTONE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN EDITION

2025



Credit: D Niemann

Welcome to the Autumn edition of *The Natterjack*!

Autumn has arrived, gradually painting our fields and hedgerows in rich golds and russets, and bringing crisp, clear mornings. And if you've ever wondered why the leaves turn from green to gold, you'll find an article inside exploring the secrets of autumn's palette.

As always, *The Natterjack* shares village news, events, and stories, keeping our community connected through the seasons. Proudly funded by the Parish Council, it's your newsletter—so if you have local news, memories, or updates to share, we'd love to hear from you.

Please Contact: Sarah Harvey

Tel: 01328 823391 | E: syderstoneparishcouncil@outlook.com

WINTER EDITION DEADLINE for contributions 10th November 2025

SYDERSTONE COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

Join your neighbours for a village clean-up!

Sunday 12th October 2025

10.00am – 11.30am

Meet at the Village Hall, Syderstone

We'll provide the equipment—just bring your own gloves and wear suitable protective clothing. Rubbish will be collected outside the Village Hall.

Afterwards, enjoy **refreshments in the Village Hall** as a thank you for your hard work.

GREAT MASSINGHAM AREA COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

The Great Massingham Area Community Car Scheme provides a friendly and reliable door-to-door service for people without personal transport—and right now, they need more volunteer drivers.

If you have a car, a clean driving licence, and an interest in helping others, you could make a real difference. Volunteers are reimbursed at 45p per mile, and you can give as much or as little time as you choose.

To find out more or to join, call **01485 520823**

or email **communitycars@btconnect.com**.

Please help if you can—this service is a lifeline for many in our community.



Syderstone Community >

Private group · 1.1K members



SYDERSTONE COMMUNITY FACEBOOK PAGE

Is a great way to keep track of what's happening and share information. Want to join?

You'll need the Facebook app on your phone or tablet then search for 'Syderstone Community'.

Simply apply to join (as it is a closed group) and just answer a few questions about your connection with Syderstone.

An update from Dawn Niemann, Chair of Syderstone Parish Council

The planters at the new village gates in Tattersett Road have now been installed. Drought-tolerant plants have been planted, but most won't flower until next year. The three other sets are looking good too—thank you to everyone who has taken a moment to comment on them.

At our July meeting, the Council co-opted Andy Knight to fill the Parish Councillor vacancy. We look forward to welcoming him to his first meeting in September, and we thank the other applicants for their interest.



Credit: D Niemann

We're pleased to share that the Parish Council has recently secured £5,000 from the Jack's Lane Community Benefit Fund towards replacing the much-loved birds nest swing at the village play area. This popular piece of equipment has been enjoyed by children for many years, and the new replacement will ensure it can continue to provide safe fun for years to come. Work on the replacement will begin soon, and we look forward to welcoming families back to enjoy it.

One of the Parish Council's SAM2 speed awareness signs has developed a fault requiring significant repair. Given the age of the unit, and with an opportunity to apply for 50% funding through the Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership Scheme, the Council will be submitting a bid for a brand-new sign. If successful, the new SAM2 will help the parish continue monitoring traffic speeds and promoting road safety. Funding outcomes are expected in March 2026.

Work continues on the Emergency Plan, and the draft should be completed shortly. On the Neighbourhood Plan, the legal examiner is still in the process of reviewing the proposed plan. Once the examiner has completed their assessment and shared their findings, the proposal will move forward to a public referendum, giving residents the opportunity to have their say.

We have received a number of complaints about parking—particularly vehicles parked half on pavements and close to junctions or driveways.

This has caused problems for visibility when exiting junctions and for those using buggies or mobility aids who need access to dropped kerbs. On some occasions, cars parked on both sides of the road have made it difficult for wider vehicles, such as fire engines, to get through. Please take a moment to check that your car is parked safely and with consideration for others.

With autumn on the way, now is a good time to check any hedges or shrubs that border the pavement outside your home. Please make sure there's enough space for everyone to pass comfortably—whether they're walking, using a buggy, or getting around with a mobility aid. A quick trim can make all the difference, helping to keep our pavements safe and easy to use for all members of the community. Thank you for taking the time to help keep our village paths clear and welcoming. A big thank you goes to Ian Walker, who responded to our call for help and gave the bench near the village hall some much-needed TLC.

SYDERSTONE PARISH COUNCILLORS

Dawn Niemann – Chair	01485 576217
Dave Daly – Vice-Chair	01485 576222
Paul Welland	01485 576249
Debs Candy	07951 317570
Simon Wood	01485 576297
Kimberly Jordan	kimberlyjordan.syderstonepc@gmail.com
Andy Knight	07973 741098
Parish Clerk: Sarah Harvey	01328 823391

Parish correspondence:

By post: Byanoak, Leicester Road, South Creake, NR21 9PW

Email: syderstoneparishcouncil@outlook.com

Website: www.syderstonevillageandpc.info

Parish Council meetings - all take place at 7.30pm: The next meeting dates are, **18th September/16th October/20th November**

Members of the public are welcome and there is an opportunity to make comments or ask questions of the Council during the first part of the meeting.

BOOK EXCHANGE UPDATE – A SPRING CLEAN

The Book Exchange is being well used during these summer months, as it often is, especially by visiting children. We are very grateful to all who donate books.

In May, we had our annual spring clean, turning out all the books and cleaning them and the shelving and interior. We also took the opportunity to take out books that were obviously out of date or in poor condition. Thanks to Jennifer H. and Sue C. for their help, and more thanks are due to Jennifer who keeps the children's book boxes well supplied, by scouting round the local charity shops.

Thanks to the village hall committee for lending us the long tables.

Elizabeth M



SYDERSTONE COMMUNITY ARTS AND CRAFTS GROUP

Autumn term starts on Wednesday 10th September 2025 (1.45pm – 4.15pm) and we meet every Wednesday until 17th December, with a one week break on 29th October. Group meetings are held at the Amy Robsart Village Hall.

The term fee is £21 which includes refreshments.

New members are welcome. Just bring along whatever you're working on.

For more information contact **Jan Simkin** (jansmkin@gmail.com)

OLD SYDERSTONIANS REUNION

The next reunion will be held in the Amy Robsart Village Hall on Saturday 4th October 2025 start 2pm.

All are welcome—bring your Syderstone family photos (any era) for identification, ask about local family history, and enjoy tea and chat with knowledgeable residents and partake in our renowned raffle.

Sheila Riches: sheilarriches@btinternet.com / 01485 578171.

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH

The Contemplative Prayer Group meets on Tuesday 9th September at 4 pm. The following one is on Tuesday 11th November at 4 pm. Do come along and join us, you will leave feeling refreshed and rejuvenated. We are all very friendly and there will be tea and cakes afterwards.

There will be a Pet Service at St Mary's on 14th September so come and bring your pets for a blessing; this will be at 4 pm.

On Friday 3rd October at 6 pm there will be Harvest Festival followed by supper. Tickets available nearer the time.

Our Autumn Fair is on Saturday 22nd November 10.30 to 2.30 pm.

Details of our regular Eucharist, Praise Services and Morning Worship Services are all on the Noticeboard and in the Benefice Calendar.

Website **www.creakesbenefice.org**

For information:

Fr Clive Wylie* - mobile: 07480 065063 or email rector@creakesbenefice.org (*not available Mondays)

Church Warden Mr Paul Offord - 07444 873686

PCC secretary Mrs Julie Goddard - 07515 648928

**Serving the communities of Barmer, Blenheim Park, Syderstone
& Wicken Green**

STANHOE METHODIST CHURCH

We are your local Methodist Church - not far away in Stanhoe, and all are welcome to our services at 11am on Sunday mornings.

Normally these are held on alternate Sundays, except for this year's Harvest Festival - see below:

Dates for September to November 2025:

7th, 21st September: Worship Services

28th September Harvest Festival

12th, 26th October: Worship Services

9th, 23rd November: Worship Services

For more information contact our Minister: Rev. Dr. Richman Ncube on 01485 570 232; or local Church Stewards: Judith Chaloner on 578 630; Elizabeth MacLeod on 578 392.

**STANHOE & BARWICK WI – first Thursday afternoon of the month
2.00pm at Stanhoe Reading Room**

Have you ever wondered what goes on at a modern W.I? Here at Stanhoe and Barwick WI - whether you are into crafts, cookery or even campaigning, whether you're looking for friendship, fun or fascinating speakers - we have all that and so much more.

Our next few meetings include :

September 4th – Kate Dugan: *Dark Skies*

October 2nd – Carol Marsden: *Carol's Capers – Adventuring for Charity*

November 6th – Mike Simmons: *Chocolatier – Maldon Handmade Chocolates*

December 4th – Juyna Lewis: *Christmas Traditions*

Why not come along and see for yourself? Visitors always welcome.

Contact stanhoeandbarwickwi@gmail.com for more details.

SYDERSTONE COMMUNITY ARCHIVE

A lady from California USA recently contacted us after she had been sorting out some old papers from her childhood. Her name is Donna Monir (nee Freeman).

Her father was a Captain in the USAF based at Sculthorpe c.1958-1961. Donna attended Syderstone school for c. 2 years, passed her 11+ exam, but spent her last year in the UK at the airbase school, because she did not want to go to Fakenham Grammar School.

She remembers being taught by the Headmaster Mr John Goult and of course remembers Mrs Parrott !!

She has sent a copy of a 4th Year Summer Arithmetic exam paper from 1960 and her half year school report for February 1960. both of which make interesting reading.

We have a photograph of her representing Syderstone School at the Sports Day held at Houghton Hall, probably 1960. She also recognised Sandra Pond from the photo.

If anyone remembers Donna or Sandra Pond or has any information about Syderstone school life at that time, please contact me.

Sheila Riches: sheilarriches@btinternet.com / 01485 578171

PILATES SYDERSTONE AUTUMN 2025

Pilates has proved to be very popular in Syderstone so I'm going to continue the classes into the autumn. Please come and give it a go. It's great for strengthening joints and muscles, toning and stretching.

A new term starts on Monday 29 September for 4 weeks (**Mondays 29 September, 6 October, 13 October, 20 October**), one week off then a further term of 4 sessions (**Mondays 3, 10, 19 and 24 November**).

Classes start at 5pm and 6pm, each for 50 minutes. Each session comprises a standing warm-up, followed by floorwork on the mat and a soothing relaxation at the end. Classes are suitable for anyone, but if you do have medical conditions or injuries please have a chat before you come.

Classes cost £6 drop in or £20 for four sessions in advance. You are very welcome to come and try a class before committing to regular attendance.

If you have any questions or would like to book a place in a class, please contact Sally on mobile **07837752163** or by email **sallyastorr@gmail.com**.

I look forward to seeing you in Amy Robsart Village Hall soon.

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SYDERSTONE VILLAGE CINEMA at the Amy Robsart Village Hall

AUTUMN 2025 PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER - 7.30pm - Mr Burton (12A)

It's 1942 and Richard Jenkins is at school in Port Talbot, caught between the pressures of an alcoholic father, a devastating war, and his own ambitions. A new opportunity beckons when Richard's natural talent for drama catches the attention of his teacher, Philip Burton. The young man thrives under Philip's strict tutelage and the guidance of a kindly landlady, Ma Smith. But as the acting world comes within Richard's reach, the burden of his past risks holding him back forever.

Starring Harry Lawtey, Toby Jones and Lesley Manville.

SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER - 7.30pm - Black Bag (15)

National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) agent George Woodhouse faces a challenging assignment. There's a mole in the agency with plans to activate a destructive cyber worm called Severus. George is tasked with identifying the mole. His list of five suspects includes four of his agency friends and colleagues at the NCSC, with the fifth being his beloved wife Kathryn St. Jean.

Starring Michael Fassbender and Cate Blanchett.

SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER - 7.30pm -The Penguin Lessons (12A)

Disillusioned teacher Tom Michell gets a job teaching English and Rugby in a school for rich kids in Buenos Aires. It's 1976 and Argentina is controlled by a military dictatorship, but Tom is more interested in spending time on the beach than in either his pupils or the political situation. During a weekend trip to Uruguay he rescues an orphaned penguin and smuggles it back into the school, little suspecting that this is the beginning of a personal and political awakening.

Starring Steve Coogan (and some penguins)



Doors open 7.00pm. Screening at 7.30pm.

Advance booking preferred. Tickets: £4 per film or you can purchase a season ticket for all three films for £10.50

Email: syderstonecinema_ARVH@outlook.com or call 01485 578244

Make sure you're on our mailing list by emailing us at the address above.

AMY ROBSART VILLAGE HALL, SYDERSTONE

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The ARVH is the place in our community to hold events and where groups and societies can meet. Two of our most regular groups are the Coffee Morning and the Bowls Group and both meet weekly in the ARVH.

Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning is one of our longest established groups. It is open every Wednesday morning from 10.30 to 12.00, and is run by Anita Taylor and her team of volunteers.

It is a group for the whole community of Syderstone, Wicken Green and Blenheim Park. People come to chat and to catch up on village news. There is always a warm welcome, with a chance to meet up with old friends or make new ones. Visitors to the village are also very welcome. There is a small charge of £2 for unlimited coffee or tea. There is also an optional raffle.

Coffee Morning takes place at the same time as the weekly Post Office. Why not pop in for a quick coffee at the same time?

Short Mat Bowls

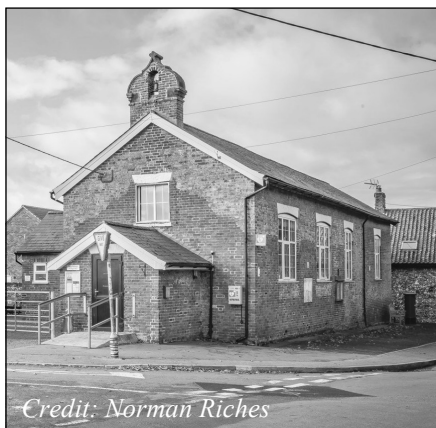
The indoor bowls group meet at 4.00 to 6.00 each Tuesday afternoon. The game is based on lawn bowls but played indoors on a foam mat. It provides not just some physical exercise but also a chance to exercise your brain. The group have purchased additional equipment to allow everyone to fully participate in the games.

The Bowls group are a lively and friendly bunch. They welcome people of all ages to pop in, see what it is like and if interested to have a go. There is a small charge of £3 per session.

If you would like more information contact one of the Bowls group, or one of the ARVH Committee.

Booking the Hall

If you are interested in booking the hall please contact **Martin Bateman, Bookings Manager (07970 128 411)**.



Credit: Norman Riches

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE AMY ROBSART VILLAGE HALL?

You are very welcome to attend any of these by contacting the named person in each case. All our groups are friendly and inexpensive. They are places to make new friends and have a relaxed and enjoyable time. See back page for village events.

PILATES

Contact: Sally Storr (07837 752163)

Weekly

Mondays 5.00 & 6.00

COFFEE MORNING

Contact: Anita Taylor (01485 578524)

Weekly

Wednesday 10.30 – 12.00

TECH SKILLS FOR LIFE

Drop in session for technology advice/help

Monthly - 3rd Wednesday

10.00 – 12.00

ARTS & CRAFTS

Contact: Jan Simkin (0779 6164824)

Weekly

Wednesday 1.45 - 4.15

VILLAGE HALL POST OFFICE

Contact: Steve Kidd (07772 613725)

Weekly

Wednesday 9.15 – 12.00

GAMES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Contact: jen@syderstonevh.co.uk

Weekly

Thursday 1.30 – 3.00

SYDERSTONE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Contact: Michael Parker (07805 894284)

Email: michaelparker1@btinternet.com

Monthly – 1st Thursday

7.30

SHORT MAT BOWLS

Weekly

Tuesday 4.00—6.00

YOGA

Contact: Jess Wells (07961 647507)

Weekly

Saturday 8.45 – 9.35

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!

We are having a grand tidy up of the Amy Robsart Village Hall , inside and out, on Saturday September 20th between 9 and 12 am.

We need lots of help from our brilliant community. Why not come along and join in - let's work together to improve our village hall!

Please bring basic tools, gardening tools and gloves if you have any.

Refreshments - bacon / sausage/ vegetarian rolls, cake and drinks provided. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Village Hall Committee

SYDERSTONE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP - Syderstone to Botany Bay

In the village archives, Sheila Riches has collected articles from old newspapers that involve Syderstone. Several of these are about crime in the village, and this story concerns one robbery.

At the start of the 1800s there were over 220 crimes that carried the death penalty, including the theft of goods valued above 5 shillings (25p). An article dated 2nd May 1835 states that James Chilvers had been charged with entering the house of Mark Doughty of Syderstone and stealing “a silk shawl, two pairs of stockings, and other articles ..”. He was remanded on charges of house-breaking.

His trial took place in August 1835. He was convicted and sentenced to death. Fortunately for James Chilvers, his sentence was subsequently reduced to transportation for life to Australia.

James was now held, waiting for a prison ship to take him to Australia. He was probably kept on a prison hulk. These were old ships which were anchored along the coast, as featured in *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens. The convicts consisted of men, women and children, and were often kept in very grim conditions.

James was waiting for 10 months. Then, on May 5th 1836, he was loaded along with 398 other convicts onto the prison ship *Moffatt*. The journey to New South Wales took 118 days. Groups of convicts would be kept in locked cells deep within the ship, with only short periods of exercise in the open air.

He arrived in Australia on August 31st, and there his records cease. Between 1788 and 1868 some 162,000 convicts were transported in prison ships to Australia. They were required to construct public buildings, build roads, clear the land for farms and do farm work. It was a brutal life. The prisoners were guarded by soldiers, and breaking the rules was often punished with the lash.

Did he survive or even prosper, or like many others did he fail to keep going? We may never know. But think of James when you next hear a song about being bound for Botany Bay.

Michael Parker, (Chairman) Syderstone Local History Group

Email: michaelparker1@btinternet.com / 07805 894284

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NATURALLY SYDERSTONE - Colour up

Over the next few weeks we'll start to see around the village that extraordinary natural phenomenon when tree leaves change their colours, a traffic light system from green, through amber to red, as if life is shifting for the winter from go to stop. And this year – of all years – promises to be a full spectrum autumn.

Where do those colours come from? It's not as if the tree can drum up trendy "Syderstone Gold" from Farrow & Ball paint stores. One of the many astonishing facts is that the tree leaf has an in-built palette. Those dazzling yellows and oranges are there already. In the spring, the tree is pumping green chlorophyll into its leaves. The chlorophyll absorbs yellow and blue light to help it photosynthesize, but does not use green, which is reflected back and that's why the leaves look green.

Now that autumn is creeping in, there's increasingly less light and the tree senses that change. Ash trees decide the game's up and are first to drop their leaves while still green. Most species go into chemical reverse, breaking down chlorophyll, drawing those energy sugars out of the leaves and back into its trunk to store them for the winter. It is now that other previously suppressed pigments come to the fore. Carotenoids give oaks, birches, maples, limes, willows and beech their brilliant yellows. Nearly all trees of European origin show that green-yellow pattern.

What about red? Nearly all of the trees showing this colour, such as exotic maples, cherry and plum trees originate from North America or



Asia. At the onset of autumn they produce a new pigment, anthocyanin, which generates that colour. And in drought-stressed years like this one, some native species (especially rowans) do so too.

Take a walk and enjoy the light show.

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What's on ... events taking place through the month

Details of weekly events at the village hall such as Short Mat Bowls, Yoga, Games and Cards, Arts and Crafts and Coffee mornings are not included in this list (see p 11).

SEPTEMBER

4th	Stanhoe and Barwick WI	2.00pm	Reading Room, Stanhoe
4th	Local History Group	7.30pm	Village Hall
12th	Mobile Library	2.10 – 2.40pm	Ashside / Village Hall
14th	Pet Service	4.00pm	St Mary's Church
18th	Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	Village Hall
20th	Village Hall Tidy Up	9.00 - 12.00am	Village Hall
27th	Village Cinema (see p.9)	7.30pm	Village Hall
29th	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall

OCTOBER

2nd	Stanhoe and Barwick WI	2.00pm	Reading Room, Stanhoe
2nd	Local History Group	7.30pm	Village Hall
3rd	Harvest Festival & Supper	6.00pm	St Mary's Church
4th	Syderstonians Reunion	2.00pm	Village Hall
6th	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall
10th	Mobile library	2.10 – 2.40pm	Ashside / Village Hall
11th	Pop Up Pub	5.00– 10.00pm	Village Hall
12th	Village Litter Pick	10.00 - 11.30am	Village Hall
13th	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall
16th	Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	Village Hall
20th	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall
25th	Village Cinema (see p.9)	7.30pm	Village Hall

NOVEMBER

3rd	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall
6th	Stanhoe and Barwick WI	2.00pm	Reading Room, Stanhoe
6th	Local History Group	7.30pm	Village Hall
7th	Mobile Library	2.10 – 2.40pm	Ashside / Village Hall
10th	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall
19th	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall
20th	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	Village Hall
22nd	Autumn Fair	10.30 - 2.30pm	Village Hall
22nd	Village Cinema (see p.9)	7.30pm	Village Hall
24th	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall
30th	Christmas Tree Switch On	TBC	Village Hall