

# The Natterjack

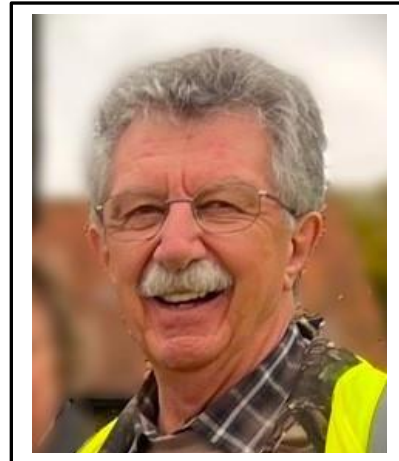
SYDERSTONE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



**Welcome to the Spring 2024 edition of  
Syderstone's Natterjack Newsletter**

## **Norman Riches – part of Syderstone’s history**

**The Natterjack caught up with Norman Riches who, at the end of last year, stepped down as Chairman of the village hall, a position he has held for the last 18 years. This is his story.**



### **NJ: What motivated you to take on the role of Chair?**

I wanted to give something back to the village.

We moved here in 2001 and not long after Gerry Taylor, who was Chair of the Parish Council (PC) at the time, asked me to help with refurbishing the village hall car park. Over the next few years, I got more involved, becoming Chairman in 2005. At that time the hall was in a fairly bad state of disrepair. One of the first challenges was to come up with a plan to get the committee working together to tackle that.

### **NJ: There’s been a lot of achievements over the years, what’s your proudest?**

In 2007 the roof was in a terrible state. It felt like a massive challenge to raise the £30,000, without which the hall would become unusable. This was a huge mountain to climb, as we only had access to small bids. Working together as a team we started small, with generous donations from the PC, local businesses and grant funds. Astonishingly, the pace began to snowball and unbelievably within just six months we had the cash! Working together, the committee were really positive and supportive, and my sense of personal fulfilment started to grow as I felt that I was making a difference for the benefit of local people.

### **NJ: What’s been the secret to the success of the village hall?**

Partnerships and relationships... with the committee, the PC, the church, local businesses, local grant providers. Without their involvement and support we wouldn’t have what we have today, a hall to be proud of which benefits the people of Syderstone.

### **NJ: What’s been the ‘standout’ thing from the last 18 years?**

Without a doubt it’s the ‘pop-up pubs’. These bring together people not only from Syderstone but from Wicken Green, Blenheim Park and beyond. People who wouldn’t necessarily have come to the village hall. As well as being a way to generate money, these events are bringing the three communities together in a new and healthy way, which is really something to celebrate!

**NJ: Thank you Norman, for your dedication and leadership over the last 18 years.**

## Syderstone Neighbourhood Plan

**Get Involved - Consultation runs from 1 March to 31 March**

**Drop in event at the village hall on 9 March 1pm to 4pm**

If you live or run a business in Syderstone now is your opportunity to voice your opinion on how the parish should develop over the next 15 years. Syderstone Parish Council is developing a Neighbourhood Plan, which will become a key planning document produced by residents to influence the future type and location of new development in the parish.

**What is a Neighbourhood Plan?** It is a way of recording the preferences and wishes of our village community in a way that should help to protect and improve it.

**Why do we need a Neighbourhood Plan?** A Neighbourhood Plan is our way of having a say in the future of our village. It will be an important document which will sit alongside the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council Local Plan. It will represent the views and aspirations of our community and can be referred to regarding local issues that are not covered by the Borough's plan.

There will be plenty of opportunities to input into the plan's development. We are running a consultation throughout March, which includes a survey that asks you about a range of topics important to residents and business owners. Each person in a household is invited to complete a survey. Copies have been posted, along with this publication, through every door in the parish.

Links to access the surveys are given below. You can contact the neighbourhood plan group at [syderstoneparishcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:syderstoneparishcouncil@outlook.com) if you would like another copy of the survey. **There will be a drop in event at the village hall on Saturday 9 March 1pm to 4pm where people from the steering group will be on hand to answer any questions you have about completing the survey.**

Business Survey:



<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PHWX1B/>

Resident Survey:



<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/3QBMN6/>

**Deadline for responses 31 March**

**Drop off your completed copies of the survey at the village hall or church**

## **An update on what the parish council are working on...**

**...from Dawn Niemann, Chair of Syderstone Parish Council**

I thought it might be helpful to give you a flavour of some of the things that the Parish Council (PC) does. We are working hard on the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) which you can read about on page 3; this is a vital piece of work for the village which is being progressed with tremendous help from NP Steering Group. We're also starting to look at an Emergency Plan for Syderstone too. More about this in another issue of The Natterjack.

New planters to go next to the village 'gates' will arrive shortly. We hope to plant them up in the spring. The zip wire on the playing field has recently been serviced and some parts replaced. The field and equipment are regularly checked, and the overhanging tree has been trimmed - thanks Dave Daly.

Work to repair the TROD in Rudham Road and to remove the moss on the footpath in The Street has been scheduled by the Borough Council Highways and should hopefully be completed by March. At last, we're pleased to let you know that there will be a 30-mph roundel painted on the road as you enter The Street from Docking Road. It's been scheduled by Highways although we don't have a date yet. The Speedwatch group have held several sessions and have some new volunteers too. Hopefully the 30mph roundel will help with slowing traffic.

The PC recently discussed the issue of dog fouling in the village as some people clearly aren't using bins. Syderstone is well served with dog bins throughout the village so there really is no excuse. We wanted to make you aware of the local council reporting tool so if you see a dog fouling incident and/or have information on owners who are not picking up after their dogs, then you can report this to Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Council: [https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20094/animals\\_and\\_pests/751/dog\\_and\\_other\\_animal\\_fouling](https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20094/animals_and_pests/751/dog_and_other_animal_fouling)

In the next few months you'll also see a brand new, more modern, Syderstone PC website but in the meantime more information can be found in the minutes on the noticeboards and the current website. ([www.syderstoneparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk](http://www.syderstoneparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk))

## Syderstone Parish Councillors

Dawn Niemann – Chair	01485 576217
Dave Daly – Vice-Chair	01485 576222
Martin Bateman	07970128411
Paul Welland	01485 576249
Debs Candy	07951 317570
Sade Ojelade	07564 664886
Simon Wood	01485 576297
Parish Clerk, Sarah Harvey	01328 823391

### Parish correspondence:

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

Email: [syderstoneparishcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:syderstoneparishcouncil@outlook.com)

Website: [www.syderstoneparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk](http://www.syderstoneparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk)

### Parish Council meetings - all take place at 7.30pm:

**21 March / 18 April / 16 May**

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.

### Syderstone Community Litter Pick Saturday 17 March

Always a fabulous community event in the Syderstone calendar – our twice-yearly litter pick is on Sunday 17 March. Why not come along to the village hall at 9.45am to collect your equipment – litter ‘picks’, bin bags and hi-vis vests. Then you’ll be let loose on the streets for just under a couple of hours to rummage in the undergrowth. You’ll be amazed what you can find! At 11.30am its back to the hall for free refreshments; last time the sausage and bacon rolls were delicious! Veggie options will also be available.



There’s a trailer pick up service for the full bags and bulkier items. Last October we collected 45 bags of rubbish, along with some more unusual items, many of which sadly seemed to have been fly-tipped.

**No need to book – just turn up. Bring your own gloves.**

## St. Mary's Church News

Our Guest Service is on the 17 March at 10.00am. Everyone is welcome, why not give church a try and find out more about Christianity? Led by Nick, Chris and Barney, it will be informal and friendly.

On Good Friday (29 March) at 10.00am we host the Pilgrims Cross service with hot cross buns, then a family Easter celebration on Sunday 31 March 10.00am.

- **Praise Services, 2nd Sundays at 4pm: 10 Mar/14 April/12 May**
- **Morning Worship, Sundays at 10am: 17 Mar/21 April/19 May**
- **Friday Communion at 10 am: 8, 22 Mar: 5, 19 Apr: 3, 17, 31 May**

There are lots more services, celebrations and a lent discussion group. Simply look at the Creakes Benefice website, keep your eye on social media and old-fashioned notice boards!

Thank you also to everyone who supported our recent soup and pancake lunch at the village hall. We raised £475 for much-needed church funds. There is also a coffee morning on Saturday 16 March (10am – 12 noon) at 20 Appledore Drive, Wicken Green with cakes, cards and jams on sale. Also look out for news of a St Georges Day lunch coming soon in April.

### Contact details:

Father Clive: [clive.wylie@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:clive.wylie@dioceseofnorwich.org) 01328 823293

Website: [www.syderstone.org](http://www.syderstone.org)

Churchwarden: Paul Offord 01485 578218

PCC Secretary: Julie Goddard 07515 648928 [julia.a.goddard@gmail.com](mailto:julia.a.goddard@gmail.com)

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## News from Stanhoe Methodist Church

All are welcome at our Sunday morning services, which are at 11am:

10th March (Mothering Sunday) Includes Holy Communion.

24th March (Palm Sunday)

31st March (Easter Sunday)

14th & 28th April

12th May (includes Holy Communion)

28th May

On Good Friday morning, we look forward to welcoming pilgrims from the Student Cross organisation, who left Leicester on 23rd March on a walk of witness, carrying a heavy wooden cross, and who will call into our church for rest and refreshments, before finally finishing their pilgrimage at Walsingham that same evening.

**For further information**, contact the Church Stewards: Judith Chaloner on 01485 578630 or Elizabeth MacLeod on 01485 578392 or the Minister: Rev Dr Richman Ncube on 01485 570232.

### THE NATTERJACK

The Natterjack is published quarterly. If you have information you would like to include, please contact its editor, Caz Appleby [cappleby@outlook.com](mailto:cappleby@outlook.com)

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# **AMY ROBSART VILLAGE HALL - (ARVH)**

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## **News!**

For the first time, with the appointment of Fay Woods as Book Club representative, all the groups using the hall have a representative on the Village Hall Committee. We also have two other new members: Caz Appleby has taken over as Arts and Crafts representative and Jim Carr has joined us as a co-opted member, bringing youth and enthusiasm to the team. This brings the total number of members on the committee to 12, including four elected members. The Committee also appointed Chris Little, Treasurer, to be Chair until the AGM in April.

With six new members in the past six months there are lots of ideas about what we do in the future. But it's not just our views we want to hear - it's yours.

What can we do to improve what is happening at your village hall?  
The Pop-up Pub has been a great recent initiative, but have you got more ideas?

In April we have our AGM (see page 11). Why not come along, meet the current committee, hear our reports, see who is standing for election/re-election and let us know your ideas for the future.

## **The ARVH Management Committee**

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

<b>Chris</b> Little	Chair/Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurerARVH@outlook.com">treasurerARVH@outlook.com</a>	01485 578270
<b>Gerry</b> Taylor	Vice Chair/St Mary's Church rep/Money Club		01485 578524
<b>Wendy</b> Little	Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretaryARVH@outlook.com">secretaryARVH@outlook.com</a>	01485 578270
<b>Sheila</b> Riches	Booking Mgr	<a href="mailto:sheilarriches@btinternet.com">sheilarriches@btinternet.com</a>	01485 578171
<b>Martin</b> Bateman	Parish Council representative		
<b>Anita</b> Taylor	Coffee Morning representative		01485 578524
<b>Tim</b> Chaloner	Bowls representative		01485 578630
<b>Martin</b> Niemann	Local History Group rep		07837 183048
<b>Faye</b> Woods	Book Club representative		01485 576395
<b>Gary</b> Garford	Co-opted		
<b>Caz</b> Appleby	Art & Craft representative		07817 803221
<b>Jim</b> Carr	Co-opted		



## What's going on at the Village Hall?

Your village hall hosts all sorts of activities. 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 all events.**

**INDOOR BOWLS** (Short mat)  
Contact: Tim Chaloner (see hall list)

**Weekly**  
**Tuesday 4.00-6.00**

**BOOK CLUB**  
Contact: Kate Boote (07487 677772)

**Monthly – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday**  
**10.30 - 12.00**

**SYDERSTONE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**  
Contact: Michael Parker (07805 894284)

**Monthly – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday 7.30 – 9.30**  
**Email: [syderstoneLHG@gmail.com](mailto:syderstoneLHG@gmail.com)**

**COFFEE MORNING**  
Contact: Anita Taylor (see hall list)  
Pam's Jams & Cakes for sale

**Weekly**  
**Wednesday 10.30 – 12.00**  
**4th Wednesday of the month**

**ARTS & CRAFTS**  
Contact: Caz Appleby (see hall list)

**Weekly**  
**Wednesday 1.45 - 4.15**

**VILLAGE HALL POST OFFICE**  
Contact: Chris Little (see hall list)

**Every Week**  
**Wednesday and Friday 9.15 – 12.00**

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## Syderstone Community Archive @ ARVH

Contact: Sheila Riches (see village hall list)

The archive has recently received several photographs:

- Creake Road Council Houses soon after they were built.
- The fire on Syderstone Common late 1990's
- Syderstone snow scenes from the winter of 1977
- Syderstone Street April 14<sup>th</sup> 2000
- Syderstone Pond – when it looked its best (below)

If you have any photos of old Syderstone, its residents and/or events, please contact me, I would love to add them to our ever-growing collection.

[sheilarriches@btinternet.com](mailto:sheilarriches@btinternet.com)



### Old Syderstonians Reunion:

The next reunion is on Saturday 13 April 2024 at 2.00pm in the village hall. Everyone is welcome, whether living in Syderstone or elsewhere. If you have never been to one of these gatherings before, please come along and learn more about the village and its past and present residents. Tea and biscuits provided.

### Book Club

Syderstone Book Club meets at the village hall to discuss a wide range of contemporary and classic fiction. Meetings are very informal and members contribute as much or as little as they wish. Books are supplied by the Norfolk Library service. There is a small subscription fee to cover the cost of the hall and refreshments. Meetings are held 10.30am to 12 noon on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Everyone welcome. For further details contact Kate Boote or Fay Woods (pages 9 and 8).

### Bowls Club

Indoor bowls has restarted for 2024. We meet at the village hall on Tuesday at 4.00pm and play through until 6.00pm with a break for refreshments. All abilities welcome. First session free. More details: Tim Chaloner (page 8).

## **VILLAGE SCREEN CINEMA at the Amy Robsart Village Hall**

**Email: [syderstonecinema\\_ARVH@outlook.com](mailto:syderstonecinema_ARVH@outlook.com)**

### **Saturday 23rd March 7.30pm - THE MIRACLE CLUB (12A)**

It's 1967 in Ballygar, a hard-knocks community in outer Dublin. For the womenfolk who dream of throwing off the shackles of domestic life for a short moment of freedom, there's just one chance: to win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes. And with a little benevolent interference from their cheeky and rebellious priest, close friends Lily, Eileen, Dolly and Sheila are the 'lucky' few to win this ticket of a lifetime at their riotous local raffle night. Starring Maggie Smith, Kathy Bates and Laura Linney.

### **Saturday 27th April 7.30pm - THE GREAT ESCAPER (12A)**

In 2014, near-nonagenarian Bernie Jordan is sad to miss out on an official group outing to the D-Day anniversary in France. Encouraged by wife Rene, he sneaks out from his care home and goes on one last big adventure to cross the Channel, while reminiscing about his wartime experiences. Starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson.

**Tickets: £4.00 advance booking - pay at the door**

**Tel: 01485 578171 Email: [syderstonecinema\\_ARVH@outlook.com](mailto:syderstonecinema_ARVH@outlook.com)**

### **LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR SUMMER SEASON**

More information on the summer season's films will follow on noticeboards, mailings and FaceBook. Make sure you're on our mailing list.

**2024 CINEMA DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: 25 May; 29 June; 27 July**

### **Amy Robsart (Syderstone) Village Hall Annual General Meeting Wednesday 17 April 2024 at 7.30pm in the hall**

All villagers, over the age of 18, who live within 2.5 miles of the church are invited to attend. At this meeting you can hear what the committee have been doing over the last year and take part in the election of committee members.

General information regarding the AGM is available contacting Wendy Little (Secretary) at [secretaryARVH@outlook.com](mailto:secretaryARVH@outlook.com)

Further details will be published later in March.

## **Amy Robsart Village Hall - 100 Money Club**

The 100 Money Club runs each year from April to March. Over the last 20+ years it has raised over £12,000 - £600 every year. This helps with the ongoing running costs and maintenance of the hall for the people of the village. For £12 a year people have the opportunity to win one or more of the 36 cash prizes awarded throughout the year. Three numbers, with a cash prize of £25.00, £15.00 or £10.00 are drawn on the first Wednesday of every month during the regular village hall coffee morning. Most numbers are already allocated, but there are a small changes each year. If you would like to support us, please join our reserve list. I hope you will be able to support us. Many thanks.

**Gerry Taylor (Money Club Manager – contact details - see hall list)**

# **POP UP PUB @ ARVH**

## **SAT 2 MARCH**

### **5.00PM – 10.30PM**

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## NATURALLY SYDERSTONE – THE JAZZ SINGER

By the end of this month a voice out of Africa will be singing in our little English village. Imagine it tuning up over the Sahara, sharpening its notes in the Mediterranean, then bursting into full song on the Common, in the woods, or anywhere that has trees and bushes.

Don't be fooled by the resident great tit with its metronomic "tea-cher, tea-cher" that's been going since January. This new bird, one of the first migrants to appear in the spring, is an improviser. The chiffchaff does jazz.

Try to catch sight of a singing chiffchaff in the branches and it could be any one of half a dozen olive-brown warblers. It does have a trademark change of mind that nails this species, sorting out the chiffs from the non-chaffs. As soon as it lands, it shuffles into a different perching position. Every time. But spotting a ventriloquial 10cm bird in a whole tree – especially when it comes into leaf – is not easy. Best to focus on that song.

And such a memorable song too, if you imagine a character under the bird's feathers. It knows its name consists of two syllables, but either it doesn't know the order, or it likes to play with its name. This ad hoc composer presents us with a jaunty little tune – Variations on a Chiff and a Chaff. Off it goes with a random mix of chiffs and chaffs – "chiff, chaff-chaff, chiff, chaff-chaff, chiff–".

A warming Britain is benefitting this insect-eating warbler, encouraging it to flit over Hadrian's Wall, swelling numbers to something like 1.8 million pairs. Our chiffchaffs will sing on until well into June, and then, after a lull, in September you'll hear chiffchaffs again as northern birds migrate south and are fooled by the light into thinking it's spring in Syderstone.



## Syderstone Local History Group

Syderstone Local History Group meets monthly in the village hall at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of the month and welcomes anyone with an interest in village history, its buildings, families or customs.

- 7 March** "The Village School" a talk by Sheila Riches, Syderstone's Community Archivist, followed by a short AGM
- 4 April** "Norfolk's Geese" – Nick Acheson, local author and Norfolk Wildlife Trust Ambassador, Naturalist, Conservationist
- 9 May** Topic to be confirmed. Note change of date due to elections
- 6 June** "Footpaths and Rights of Way" – Dr Sarah Spooner, Professor in Landscape History, University of East Anglia
- 4 July** An evening stroll around Syderstone

For more details about Syderstone's Local History Group, please contact Michael Parker, email [syderstonelhg@gmail.com](mailto:syderstonelhg@gmail.com) or Tel 07805 894284.

## Stanhoe and Barwick Women's Institute – every third Thursday 2pm

We're your local WI! Why not come along and find out why we've grown to 47 members, drawn from 19 different towns and villages.

Thursday 7th March: Kate Craven from Hunstanton RNLi

Thursday 4th April: Lois Capstick, holistic therapies and Neals Yard products

Thursday 2nd May: Taste the Difference. Members only this month.

The Reading Room, Stanhoe. Visitors £5 to include refreshments. Contact Valerie (01485 576261) for more details.

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<b>March</b>			
1st	Mobile library	2.10 – 2.40pm	Ashside and ARVH
2nd	Pop Up Pub : food from Green Park Kitchen	5.00 – 10.30pm	ARVH
5th	Indoor bowls (short mat)	4.00 - 6.00pm	ARVH
6th	Coffee morning	10.30am	ARVH
6th	Arts and Crafts	1.45 - 4.15pm	ARVH
7th	Stanhoe and Barwick Women's Institute	2.00pm	Reading Room, Stanhoe
7th	Local History Group - Syderstone village school	7.30pm	ARVH
12th	Indoor bowls (short mat)	4.00 - 6.00pm	ARVH
12th	Book Club	10.30 – 12.00	ARVH
13th	Coffee morning	10.30am	ARVH
13th	Arts and Crafts	1.45 - 4.15pm	ARVH
17th	Village Litter Pick	9.45 – 11.30am	Meet at ARVH
19th	Indoor bowls (short mat)	4.00 - 6.00pm	ARVH
20th	Coffee morning (home-made cakes & jams)	10.30am	ARVH
20th	Arts and Crafts	1.45 - 4.15pm	ARVH
21st	Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	ARVH
23rd	Village Cinema – The Miracle Club	7.30pm	ARVH
26th	Indoor bowls (short mat)	4.00 - 6.00pm	ARVH
27th	Coffee morning	10.30am	ARVH
29th	Pilgrims Cross service with hot cross buns	10.00am	St Marys Church
31st	Easter celebration service	10.00am	St Marys Church
31st	Easter Sunday service	11.00am	Stanhoe Methodist
<b>April</b>			
2nd	Indoor bowls (short mat)	4.00 - 6.00pm	ARVH
3rd	Coffee morning	10.30am	ARVH
4th	Stanhoe and Barwick Women's Institute	2.00pm	Reading Room, Stanhoe
4th	Local History Group – Norfolk's geese	7.30pm	ARVH
9th	Book Club	10.30 – 12.00	ARVH
9th	Indoor bowls (short mat)	4.00 - 6.00pm	ARVH
10th	Coffee morning	10.30am	ARVH
13th	Old Syderstonians Reunion	2.00pm	ARVH
16th	Indoor bowls (short mat)	4.00 - 6.00pm	ARVH
17th	Coffee morning (home-made cakes & jams)	10.30am	ARVH
17th	ARVH Annual General Meeting	7.30pm	ARVH
18th	Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	ARVH
23rd	Indoor bowls (short mat)	4.00 - 6.00pm	ARVH
24th	Coffee morning	10.30am	ARVH
26th	Mobile library	2.10 – 2.40pm	Ashside and ARVH
27th	Village Cinema – The Great Escaper	7.30pm	ARVH
30th	Indoor bowls (short mat)	4.00 - 6.00pm	ARVH
<b>May</b>			
1st	Coffee morning	10.30am	ARVH
2nd	Stanhoe and Barwick Women's Institute	2.00pm	Reading Room, Stanhoe
7th	Indoor bowls (short mat)	4.00 - 6.00pm	ARVH
8th	Coffee morning	10.30am	ARVH
9th	Local History Group	7.30pm	ARVH
14th	Book Club	10.30 – 12.00	ARVH
14th	Indoor bowls (short mat)	4.00 - 6.00pm	ARVH
15th	Coffee morning	10.30am	ARVH
16th	Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	ARVH
21st	Indoor bowls (short mat)	4.00 - 6.00pm	ARVH
22nd	Coffee morning	10.30am	ARVH
25th	Village Screen Cinema – Film TBC	7.30pm	ARVH