

The Natterjack



SYDERSTONE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER EDITION

2026



Welcome to the Summer edition of *The Natterjack*!

We hope you enjoy catching up on local news, events and community updates from around the village.

Proudly funded by the Parish Council, *The Natterjack* is your newsletter — so if you have any local news, memories, photographs or updates to share, we would love to hear from you.

As always, we would particularly love to receive local photographs for future front covers, whether they are village scenes, countryside views or community events. Please include your name so we can credit your image where possible.

Please Contact: Sarah Harvey

Tel: 01328 823391 | E: clerk@syderstone-pc.gov.uk

AUTUMN EDITION DEADLINE for contributions 10th August 2026



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'.

Syderstone Community >

Private group · 1.1K members



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

SYDERSTONE PARISH COUNCILLORS

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

Parish correspondence:

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

Email: clerk@syderstonepc.gov.uk

Website: www.syderstonevillageandpc.info

Parish Council meetings - all take place at 7.30pm: The next meeting dates are, **17th June and 16th July. The Parish Council does not meet in August.**

Please note that the Parish Council meeting to be held on the 17th June will take place on a Wednesday as opposed to a Thursday evening.

For up to date information for meetings please visit the Parish Council website - www.syderstonevillageandpc.info

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

An update from Dawn Niemann, Chair of Syderstone Parish Council

Parish Council Vacancy – Co-option Opportunity

The Council currently has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor and would warmly welcome applications from anyone interested in getting involved.

Being a Parish Councillor is a rewarding way to support the village, contribute to local decisions, and help shape the future of the community. No previous experience is required — just an interest in the village and a willingness to take part.

Further information and an application form can be downloaded from the Parish Council website or requested by emailing the Parish Council. If you would like to find out more about the role, please do get in touch — we would be very happy to have an informal chat.

Volunteers Needed

Bloodgate Hill Planters

The Council is also looking for volunteers willing to help with the upkeep and watering of the planters on Bloodgate Hill. Even a small amount of help would be greatly appreciated and would help keep the entrance to the village looking attractive for residents and visitors alike.

Community Emergency Plan Adopted

The Parish Council has recently formally adopted its new Community Emergency Plan. The plan has been developed to help coordinate local support and communication in the event of an emergency affecting the village, such as severe weather, flooding, power outages, or other major incidents. The Council would like to thank everyone who contributed their time and local knowledge towards its preparation.



Community Litter Pick

Thank you to everyone who took part in the recent community litter pick. Although volunteer numbers were lower than in previous years, a considerable amount of litter was still collected from around the village. The Council is very grateful to all those who gave up their time to help keep Syderstone tidy.

Street Lighting Electricity Contract

The Parish Council has recently reviewed and renewed its street lighting electricity contract following advice and quotations obtained through its energy broker. Members agreed to move to a new fixed-term contract arrangement to help provide greater cost certainty and assist with longer-term budgeting for the Council's street lighting services.

Play Area – Future Planning

Following recent inspection reports, the Council has started to explore possible future replacement options for the ageing timber multi-play equipment within the play area. At this stage, this is simply an initial appraisal process to help inform longer-term maintenance planning, budgeting, and potential future funding opportunities. The existing equipment remains in use and continues to be regularly inspected.

As part of this early process, the Council would also be very pleased to hear from residents, parents, and children about the types of equipment or play features they would like to see included in the future. Any suggestions or ideas would be warmly welcomed.

Residents may also be aware that the Parish Council had previously submitted a funding application for the provision of a new playing field shelter. While that original application is no longer progressing in its current form, the Council is now exploring whether it may be possible to develop a broader project incorporating both a new shelter and future replacement play equipment as part of a wider improvement scheme for the recreation ground.

The Council hopes that this approach may strengthen future funding opportunities and deliver greater long-term benefit for the community. Further updates will be provided as discussions progress.

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH

Unfortunately at present there are no further events planned for fund raising for St Mary's. The Catering Committee is sadly down to two people and we don't have the capability to organise events with so few on the committee. If anyone feels they would like to support us and join the Committee please contact Julie Goddard on 07515 648928.

The usual Services are ongoing, with fortnightly Eucharists on a Friday at 10.00 am.

Contemplative Prayer Group once a month on a Tuesday at 2.30 pm.

Praise Service once a month on Sunday afternoon at 4.00 pm.

AWA Morning Service once a month on a Sunday morning at 10.00 am.

Details of our regular services and events are all on the noticeboard outside the Church and on the Benefice website.

Website **www.creakesbenefice.org**

For information:

Fr Clive Wylie* - mobile: 07480 065 063,

Email: rector@creakesbenefice.org (*not available Mondays)

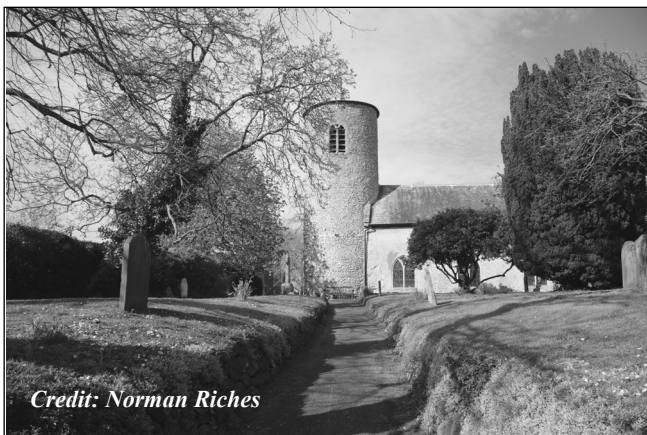
Church Warden Mr Paul Offord - 07443 873 686

Email: pauljeanne@btinternet.com

PCC secretary Mrs Julie Goddard - 07515 648928

Email: julia.a.goddard@gmail.com

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



Credit: Norman Riches

Volunteers Needed – Blenheim Park Academy

Blenheim Park Academy is currently looking for volunteers from the local community to join its Local Academy Committee.

This rewarding voluntary role helps support the leadership of the academy and contribute to the future of local children and young people. No previous experience is necessary, as training and support are provided.

*Anyone interested in finding out more is encouraged to contact Governance Manager Penny Folkard at: **Penny.folkard@admtrust.org.uk***

Old Syderstonians Reunion 11th April 2026

2026 marks the 20th year that the reunion has been running.

There was a good turnout, including one lady Carole Gilham nee Havers who has attended every reunion since their inception in 2006 – a fantastic achievement. It was also nice that Avril and Malcolm were able to come along as well. Everyone was on good form identifying some new photos, relaying interesting stories and meeting up with old friends.

We missed Ken Edge who continues to have health problems, he is one of the founder members and compiled and edited the 'The Syderstonian' newsletter for many years – we wish him well.

The next reunion is on Saturday 3rd October at 2pm in the ARVH.

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

SYDERSTONE COMMUNITY ARCHIVE

It's springtime and now is the opportunity to sort out your collection of Syderstone photographs. The archive would love to add to its collection family (christenings, weddings, birthdays etc) sporting (football, cricket, darts) and general images of Syderstone especially from the 1960's onwards. If you have any, we can copy them and return the original.

Webster's Yard – did you, or any relative live there? If so, please get in touch, we are trying to compile a history of the yard.

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

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

Have you ever wondered what happens at a modern WI? Here at Stanhoe and Barwick WI - whether you enjoy 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 meetings include:

4th June - Baby Basics (Maggie Anderson)

2nd July - Annual Summer Party (members only)

Why not come along and see for yourself? Visitors are always welcome. Contact **stanhoebarwickWI@gmail.com** for more details.

PILATES AT AMY ROBSART VILLAGE HALL—SUMMER 2026

All abilities welcome. If you haven't tried Pilates before, please feel free to come along and give it a go!

Sessions will run on **Mondays:**

1st, 8th, 15th June

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th July

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th August

7th September

Sessions: 5pm and 6pm, 50 minutes per class, including a mindful relaxation at the end.

Fees: £6 per class (drop-in)

If you have any questions or would like to book a place, please contact Sally on **07837 752163** or by email at **sallyastorr@gmail.com**.

Why is Pilates good for you?

Improves posture and balance

Strengthens joints

Relieves back pain

Helps you sleep well

Increases core muscle strength

Keeps you supple

...and so much more!

AMY ROBSART VILLAGE HALL, SYDERSTONE

Registered Charity No. 271842

Chairmans Report AGM May 2026

The past year has seen this Committee rise to the challenges of running the ARVH, and members have successfully carried out their new roles.

We have experienced both highs and lows throughout the year, but have overcome everything that has been thrown at us.

The lows included the temporary loss of the weekly Post Office service, but thankfully this has now been rectified and the village once again has a postal service. Sadly, the Village Cinema proved not to be financially viable and has had to close its doors. I would like to thank Jan Simkin and the other volunteers for all their hard work over the years in running this service.

On a more positive note, the Pop-up Pub continues to be popular with both residents and visitors. The profits raised by the pub have helped support both the village hall and local charities. We also continue to support all the keep-fit organisations that use our facilities, as well as the carpet bowls club. Private bookings for the hall have also increased.

The ARVH has taken over the running of the 100 Money Club, which

again this year has a full list of members. I would like to thank Gerry and Anita Taylor, who have stepped down from running the club after many years of raising valuable income for the ARVH.

Looking ahead, we are planning an event to mark the 50th anniversary of the ARVH becoming a charitable trust, with details to be



Credit: Norman Riches

announced later. In addition, the Committee has proposed refurbishing the kitchen area and carrying out some landscaping and gardening works in the old school playground.

We welcome any ideas or comments you may have on these projects so that we can continue to provide facilities within the ARVH that the community wants and values. We have also replaced some of the seating with more suitable folding chairs and donated the older chairs to the local churches.

Onwards and upwards — the ARVH is in good shape, finances are strong, the facilities continue to improve, and the future of the ARVH looks extremely bright.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Steve Kidd (*Chair, Village Hall Committee*)

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.

COFFEE MORNING

Contact: Anita Taylor (01485 578524)

Weekly

Wednesday 10.30 – 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

SYDERSTONE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Contact: Michael Parker (07805 894284)

Email: michaelparker1@btinternet.com

Monthly – 1st Thursday

7.30

SHORT MAT BOWLS

Contact: Anita Taylor (01485 578524)

Weekly

Tuesday 4.00—6.00

SYDERSTONE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP - Syderstone Hall

Part of the charm of Syderstone are the many old buildings that remain in the village.

A notable missing building however is Syderstone Hall, which would have been one of the grandest buildings in the village and home to the Lord and Lady of Syderstone.

It is believed that the Hall was built in the middle ages and inherited by the Robsart family in the time of Henry VII. It was probably where Sir John Robsart was born in about 1495.

Sir John would have lived there until he married Elizabeth Appleyard in 1530. She was a rich widow and following the wedding Sir John left Syderstone and moved to his wife's landed estate at Stanfield Hall (near Wymondham), and it was here that their daughter Amy was brought up.

Syderstone Hall would have continued to be used but this would have become less frequent. These absences would have increased when Amy inherited the manor, following her marriage to Robert Dudley and the death of her parents.

Following the mysterious death of Amy Robert he was permitted to retain the estate until his death in 1588. The estate then passed to the Walpole family who lived at Houghton Hall, and they would have no further use for Syderstone hall.

So where was the Hall?

There is a map produced in 1720 which shows a large building located next to the lane that runs along the side of the Church. If accurate this could be the Hall. It must have been derelict though as there is nothing shown on a map of 1845, and being largely made of wood and thatch it could have quickly disappeared.

A book written in 1899 reported that the floor and hearth stones of a medieval great house were remembered as being visible under The Rectory and extending towards Hall Lane near the church. It was said that an elm was growing on either side of the door, and that candlesticks, fire irons, carved bricks and a gold coin had been found in the area.



But there may still be remains of the Hall in the village. Any bricks from the hall , such as from the chimney and fireplace would have been reused by thrifty farmers and builders. Often the flint walls include fragments of brick as well as flint, and some of these could have come from the hall.

Michael Parker, (Chairman) Syderstone Local History Group

Email: michaelparker1@btinternet.com / 07805 894284

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Help Available Through Norfolk's Crisis and Resilience Service

Residents in Norfolk who are experiencing financial difficulties may be able to access support through Norfolk County Council's Crisis and Resilience Service (CRS).

The service is designed to help people facing unexpected hardship, including difficulties with food, energy costs or other essential household expenses. Support may include emergency financial assistance, budgeting advice, referrals for debt support, help accessing grants and, in some circumstances, assistance with essential household items. The service also works with residents to help improve longer-term financial resilience and independence.

To find out more or apply for support, visit the Norfolk County Council website and search for *Crisis and Resilience Service*, or contact Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020 if you are unable to apply online.



HIRE THE AMY ROBSART VILLAGE HALL

Looking for a venue for a party, family gathering, class or community event? The Amy Robsart Village Hall continues to be a popular and welcoming venue within the village.

Facilities include:


Easy access, Accessible toilets, Kitchen facilities, Wi-Fi,
Sound system and Large screen.

Hire from just £10 per hour for local residents.

For bookings and enquiries, please contact:

Martin Bateman (Booking Manager)

07970 128411



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NATURALLY SYDERSTONE - Pretty in Pink

If every season had its own colour, then high summer might well be declared perfect for princesses. Pink abounds in our flowers at this time of year – just pause for a minute to think of how many in gardens and the countryside are blushing beauties of a pink persuasion.

This part of Norfolk hosts three closely-related species with the least royal of names. You wouldn't be drawn by the prospect of a 'scabious', but this little dazzler used to go by the enchanting name of lady's pincushion. Time for a revival? The three Norfolk pincushions are field, small and devil's bit scabious, with the first of these the most common. They are, as the more descriptive appellation suggests, just like little pincushion flowers, held out on a slender stem. The stalks were once mashed up and used as a treatment for scabies. Who knew?



A similarly-shaded, better-known member of the same family is teasel. It sets out its basal leaves in year one, dies back and then in the second summer produces those elegant flowers, wonders of natural architecture. Though they are prickly customers, they have

certainly had their uses for humans. In former times, the heads acted as combs for carding wool, and their ability to flex still gives them an advantage over hard steel. If it should rain this summer (let's hope for just a little), the leaves will act as deep wells for water. It was said that a splash of teasel water was a cure for freckles and hay fever. Both of these sound more than a little improbable, but one thing is certain. After the pink has passed, the seeds will ripen over the autumn and the RSPB recommends them as ideal winter food for goldfinches and other seed-eating birds. But let's not wish the summer away just yet.

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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, Arts and Crafts and Coffee mornings are not included in this list (see p 9).

JUNE

1st	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall (ARVH)
4th	Stanhoe and Barwick WI	2.00pm	Reading Room, Stanhoe
4th	Local History Group	7.30pm	Village Hall (ARVH)
8th	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall (ARVH)
15th	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall (ARVH)
17th	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	Village Hall (ARVH)
19th	Mobile Library	2.10 – 2.40pm	Ashside / Village Hall

JULY

2nd	Stanhoe and Barwick WI	2.00pm	Reading Room, Stanhoe
2nd	Local History Group	7.30pm	Village Hall (ARVH)
6th	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall (ARVH)
13th	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall (ARVH)
16th	Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	Village Hall (ARVH)
17th	Mobile Library	2.10 – 2.40pm	Ashside / Village Hall
20th	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall (ARVH)
27th	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall (ARVH)

AUGUST

3rd	Pilates	2.00pm	Reading Room, Stanhoe
10th	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall (ARVH)
14th	Mobile Library	2.10 – 2.40pm	Ashside / Village Hall
17th	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall (ARVH)
24th	Pilates	5.00 & 6.00pm	Village Hall (ARVH)

