

# The Natterjack



SYDERSTONE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the Autumn 2024 edition of  
Syderstone's Natterjack Newsletter

## Syderstone Parish Councillors



Dawn Niemann – Chair	01485 576217
Dave Daly – Vice-Chair	01485 576222
Paul Welland	01485 576249
Debs Candy	07951 317570
Sade Ojelade	07564 664886
Simon Wood	01485 576297
Vacancy	
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.syderstonevillageandpc.info](http://www.syderstonevillageandpc.info)

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

19 Sept / 17 Oct / 21 Nov / 12 Dec

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.

### THE NATTERJACK

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



## An update from Dawn Niemann, Chair of Syderstone Parish Council



You'll have no doubt noticed the new additions at the village gates - our planters are now in position and full of plants. There are currently three pairs - at the gates in Mill Lane, Creake Road and The Street. There's a small team looking after them and huge thanks go to Simon & Trish Wood, Michael & Julie Parker and Jan Simkin. Thanks too to Simon and Martin Niemann and Jen Morgan for preparing the sites. There will be a new set of gates on Ashside soon and planters are ready to go there too which will be looked after by Linda & Chris Pearse. Thanks to everyone who donated compost and plants and I'm sure more plants would be welcomed in future.

There's a new 30 roundel on the road as you enter the village on The Street as an extra reminder of the speed limit for those who need it!

Work continues on the Neighbourhood Plan and the results of the survey have now been collated and presented to the Parish Council. The team are now working on the next stage.

We have a vacancy for a new councillor, so if you're interested in learning more the details are on the website [www.syderstonevillageandpc.info](http://www.syderstonevillageandpc.info).



## NATURALLY SYDERSTONE - A GAME OF GROANS

Do you remember a bizarre autumn harvest from your childhood involving vinegar, string and sore knuckles? Generations of Syderstone kids filled playgrounds with a game whose rituals were understood throughout the land. Village children knew where the horse chestnut trees stood. They recognised the huge leaves like a giant's splayed fingers. They probably didn't bother much with the gorgeous candle-like flowers in the spring. But they did watch in late summer for sight of the spiky round seed-cases that they knew grew treasure. Come the autumn kids would wait for them to ripen, fall and split open, revealing their beautiful, shiny conkers. Fresh conkers have the dark brown, rich look of expensive furniture – rosewood or cherry perhaps. Within a day the gleam on the shell would dim, but excitement would mount at what came next.

The finger-bruising 'sport' in which conkers were suspended from a piece of string and each player would try to smash their opponent's conker is now largely a thing of the past. The conkers that fall this autumn will likely lie scattered over the ground unclaimed and no cunning child will collect them and harden them in vinegar. The trees in the village remain, but something else has changed. These days, winter comes early for the horse chestnut.

Have you wondered why horse chestnut foliage turns brown while all other trees are still leaf-green? About 20 years ago, a little leaf-mining moth arrived in Norfolk that probably followed the host tree from the Balkans, but some 500 years later. Lacking natural predators here, innumerable caterpillars mine tunnels through the leaves, eating them from the inside, leaving brown husks. The good news is that the trees have done much of their photosynthesising by the time the damage is done, so they will survive to produce more generations of conkers.



## Syderstone poppy cascade “We WILL Remember them”



First there were none...



Then quite a few.....



We need a bigger box!!!!

The poppies for the planned ‘poppy cascade’ are multiplying nicely! We started off with an empty box and before long it was half full, thanks to the efforts of the Syderstone Community Arts and Crafts Group, people across the village and beyond. We now have over 20 makers who are busily knitting or crocheting poppies and at the last count we were almost up to 400! We’re aiming for about 1000 by October.

For those of you who are wondering what it’s all about, in the summer edition of The Natterjack we shared the Parish Council’s idea for a ‘poppy cascade’ from the tree at the Docking Road entrance to the village alongside our ‘Tommy’ figure for Remembrance Day in November.

### **It’s not to late to get involved!**

Caz Appleby is co-ordinating the project. Yarn is available from her, thanks to a generous donation from a villager who wishes to remain anonymous.

Call, text or WhatsApp Caz on 07817 803221 or email:

[cappleby@outlook.com](mailto:cappleby@outlook.com)

### **Book Exchange - in the former telephone box on The Street**

Many thanks for your help in keeping the book exchange supplied with suitable, popular, books. It has been well used this summer, by visitors and locals, and is much appreciated. It's especially good to see the children rifling through their boxes and going off in great excitement, books in hand and it certainly adds to the village amenities.

## **STOP PRESS! The village hall is not changing its name!**

### **Information from the village hall management committee**

There has been a lot of talk recently about the village hall changing its name. We want to put this right - it is not happening.

The facts: when the village hall management committee was first set up in 1976 the trustees who managed the hall at that time registered it with the Charity Commission as 'Syderstone Village Hall (known locally as Amy Robsart Village Hall)'. This is what it is still registered as ([Charity overview, SYDERSTONE VILLAGE HALL \(KNOWN LOCALLY AS AMY ROBSART VILLAGE HALL\) - 271842, Register of Charities - The Charity Commission](#)).

So in fact it has two names, a legal name (Syderstone Village Hall) and a working name or what it is known locally as (Amy Robsart Village Hall). Both are correct although most people around here only know it as Amy Robsart Hall.

We have been surprised by the strength of local feeling for keeping the Amy Robsart name. It's great to know that the hall is so important in the eyes of many of the villagers and we want it to stay as a vital place for people to meet up and keep Syderstone the diverse and vibrant community that it is.

Part of managing the hall on behalf of the community is making sure it has enough cash to keep it going. To do this the trustees are looking at ways to bring in different types of groups and activities so we can secure the hall's future by increasing its use. The national cycling group who used the hall during August, bringing us vital income, is one example that our marketing is working.

One of the issues with the name Amy Robsart Hall is that people who are not local don't know where it is. We've asked around and people even in Docking had no clue where it was (one thought it was on the old air base). Our thinking to get around this is to use the name 'Syderstone' in the hall's name.

We think that this is where the confusion about changing the name came from.

So to make sure that the hall remains here for our community, from time to time, where we are trying to reach people beyond Syderstone and its immediate area, you may see the name Syderstone Village Hall (Amy Robsart) being used. We are simply trying to get people to understand where it is, not change its name.

For legal documents such as policies, insurances, licences, banking, minutes etc, our legal name, registered with the Charity Commission (Syderstone Village Hall) will be used. But for local and historic purposes, our working name Amy Robsart Village Hall will continue to be used.

# AMY ROBSART VILLAGE HALL, SYDERSTONE

Registered Charity No. 271842

We are delighted to be able to tell you about a new session that is taking place at the village hall on the third Wednesday morning of every month. Tech Skills for Life will be on hand to teach skills that will make technology easier to use and give people the confidence to use their phone, tablet or the internet safely. The sessions are free and one-to-one. More on page 7.

We have had notice from The Post Office that as from 1<sup>st</sup> September they will no longer be able to provide the Friday morning opening hours at the village hall. This is due to a wider review of outreach services by the Post Office. The Wednesday opening times will not change. The key message here – if we want to keep our Wednesday village post office – is ‘use it or lose it.’

And finally, another success story – the Committee was successful in obtaining a grant from Jacks Lane Wind Farm that will enable the hall to provide the missing heating in the recently refurbished annexe. Thank you to Norfolk Community Foundation(NCF) and all those who supported the successful bid.

**The Village Hall Management Committee**

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>Chris Little</b>	Chair	<a href="mailto:ChrisLittle-Chair@outlook.com">ChrisLittle-Chair@outlook.com</a> 01485 578270
<b>Caz Appleby</b>	Vice-Chair/ Communications Manager/Arts & Crafts rep	<a href="mailto:cappleby@outlook.com">cappleby@outlook.com</a> 07817 803221
<b>Fay Woods</b>	Secretary / Book Club representative	<a href="mailto:favid.woods@btopenworld.com">favid.woods@btopenworld.com</a> 01485 576395
<b>Martin Niemann</b>	Treasurer/ Local History Group representative	<a href="mailto:martinniemann@btinternet.com">martinniemann@btinternet.com</a> 07837 183048
<b>Tim Chaloner</b>	Booking & Events Manager / Bowls representative	<a href="mailto:tchaloner2@icloud.com">tchaloner2@icloud.com</a> 01485 578630
<b>Martin Bateman</b>	Property Manager	07970 128411
<b>Gary Garford</b>	Improvement Programme & Funding Manager	07306 049024
<b>Jim Carr</b>	Community Liaison	07791 905054
<b>Anita Taylor</b>	Coffee Morning representative	01485 578524
<b>Gerry Taylor</b>	St Mary's rep/Money Club	01485 578524
<b>Simon Wood</b>	Parish Council representative	01485 576297

## What's going on at the 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.**

### **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**

**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**

### **TECH SKILLS FOR LIFE**

Drop in session for technology advice/help

**Monthly - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday**

**10.00 – 12.00**

### **ARTS & CRAFTS**

Contact: Caz Appleby (see hall list)

**Weekly**

**Wednesday 1.45 - 4.15**

### **PILATES**

Contact: Sally Storr

**Weekly-see page 9**

**Email: [sallyastorr@gmail.com](mailto:sallyastorr@gmail.com)**

### **VILLAGE HALL POST OFFICE**

Contact: Chris Little (see hall list)

**Every Week**

**Wednesday 9.15 – 12.00**

### **Tech Skills for Life**

Do you struggle with technology? Wrestle with your smartphone? Worry about how to stay safe online? How to even GET online??

Tech Skills for Life can help! They are now running drop in sessions at the village hall every third Wednesday between 10.00am and 12 noon.

Tech Skills for Life is part of a partnership led by Norfolk County Council, working with local people to teach skills that will make technology easier to use and give them the confidence to use the internet safely. The sessions are free and one-to-one. No need to book – just turn up!



### **Pop Up Pub at the Village Hall – date for your diary**

Thank you to everyone who supported us in August at the village Pop Up Pub. It was fabulous to be able to use the garden on such a fine and warm evening as well as seeing the live Olympic action on the big screen.

The next Pop Up Pub will be on Saturday 14 September, with more dates to come through the autumn.

### **Pilates**

Classes continue at 5pm and 6pm at £6 per session (50 minutes each) and new members are always welcome. Call Sally Storr on 07837752163.

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 September

7, 14 October

4, 11, 18, 25 November

### **Indoor Bowls**

Indoor bowls continues on Tuesdays throughout the year. Our latest addition is a bowling ramp which allows bowlers to play from a seated position. It is already proving to be very successful in allowing more people to be included in the activity. Contact Tim Chaloner (see hall list on page 7).

### **Syderstone Community Arts and Crafts**

Autumn term starts on Wednesday 4 September (1.45pm – 4.15pm) and runs through to Christmas. New members are welcome. Just bring along whatever you're working on. We will also be running some 'learning workshops' - optional 'add-on' sessions which run alongside the usual group activities. All for just £1.50 a week. Contact Caz Appleby (see hall list on page 7).

### **ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!!!**

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**Contact Sarah Harvey**

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

## SYDERSTONE VILLAGE SCREEN CINEMA at the Village Hall

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

### Saturday 28th September 7.30pm - The Fall Guy (12A)

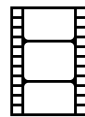
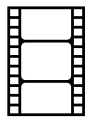
Colt Seavers is a stuntman, and like everyone in the stunt community, he gets blown up, shot, crashed, thrown through windows and dropped from the highest of heights, all for our entertainment. And now, fresh off an almost career-ending accident, this down-on-his-luck hero has to track down a missing movie star, solve a conspiracy and try to win back the love of his life while still doing his day job. What could possibly go right? Starring Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt.

### Saturday 26th October 7.30pm - Wilding (PG)

Wilding is a documentary based on Isabella Tree's 2018 memoir of how she and her husband Charlie Burrell completely overhauled the 1400-acre Knepp estate he had inherited in Sussex. The first thing they were told when they took over the land was that they would never make a go of farming it, as the soil had been impoverished by over-intensive cultivation, so the couple decided to experiment with returning it to the wild.

### Saturday 23rd November 7.30pm - The Holdovers (15)

College professor Paul Hunham, forced to stay on campus over the 1970 Christmas holidays to care for a handful of "holdover" students, befriends troublemaker Angus and grieving cook Mary in this witty retro comedy that won Best Original Screenplay at the 2023 Oscars. Starring Paul Giamatti, Dominic Sessa and Da'Vine Joy Randolph.



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

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

**Season ticket for all three films available on 28 September: £10.50**

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

**CINEMA DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: 14 DEC – film to be announced**

## 34th Old Syderstonians Reunion on Saturday 5th October 2024 at 2.00pm in the Amy Robsart Village Hall

Contact: Sheila Riches (Community Archivist) [sheilarriches@btinternet.com](mailto:sheilarriches@btinternet.com)

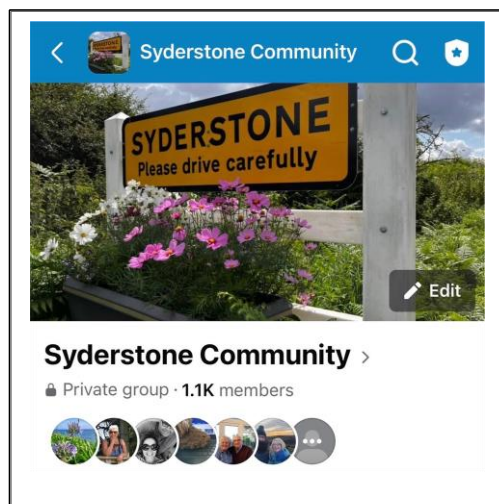
The reunions were born following the re-hanging of the restored historical photographs in the Amy Robsart Village Hall in 2005. Several residents past and present were invited to the ceremony and such was the interest in the pictures and stories being exchanged about Syderstone families and events that Avril MacArthur and I thought it would be a good idea to get these people and others together on a regular basis in order to record their memories/stories. Well the jungle telegraph worked really well and ex residents from all over the country and some abroad, were contacted and showed a real interest in getting together.

Our 2nd reunion was held in July 2006 and the hall was full of people, some of whom hadn't seen each other for many years. As a keen genealogist I wanted to gather some information on family histories, well the interest was fantastic and today I am still adding to the list of family history records in the archive.

### Syderstone Community Archive

The Syderstone Community Archive was born out of the OS Reunions. It was started with information, photographs, memorabilia and much more being donated by attendees. This still continues today with new material being added from residents and ex residents on a regular basis.

The Syderstone Local History group also works closely with the archive to produce an even more detailed history of Syderstone and its people.



### Syderstone Community Facebook page

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.

## St. Mary's Church News

There are a variety of events centred around the church this autumn as well as the regular services, all of which are informal & friendly. Everyone is welcome.

6th September: 7pm Sausage and Mash supper at the village hall (tickets from Anita Taylor – see village hall list on page 7)

8th September: 4pm Praise Service/Patronal Festival to mark our Saints day

10th September: 4pm Contemplative Prayer Group

25th October: 6pm Harvest thanksgiving festival and supper (details tba)

2nd November: 10.30am – 2.30pm Autumn Fair at the village hall

10th November: 10 am Remembrance Sunday service followed by act of Remembrance outside the church

Choir practice every Friday at 4pm everyone is welcome to join in.

Details of all Services are on Noticeboard outside St Mary's.

- **Praise Services, 2nd Sundays at 4pm: 8 Sept / 13 Oct**
- **Morning Worship, Sundays at 10am: 15 Sept / 20 Oct / 17 Nov**
- **Friday Communion at 10 am: 6, 20 Sept / 4, 18 Oct / 1, 15, 29 Nov**

### 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

A warm welcome awaits you at Stanhoe Methodist Church at our services on alternate Sunday mornings, always at 11am. This is followed by coffee and cake and a time of fellowship.

Morning worship services on 1 September, 13 & 27 October, 10 & 24 November  
Service of Holy Communion on 15 September - Rev Dr Richman Ncube  
Harvest Festival Service on 29 September – former Minister Rev Steve Oliver

**For more 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.

### Stanhoe & Barwick WI – first Thursday of the month

We are your local WI and we're thriving! We are so much more than just a monthly meeting; so far this year members have: held regular Book Club meetings, had tea and lunch at various local venues, visited Houghton Hall and gardens, held a charity walk in Holkham park, visited the theatre, attended craft workshops, had 'a go' at Docking Angling Club, via the wider WI community, heard Janet Street-Porter talk at the Theatre Royal and Mel Borwon and Victoria Derbyshire at the Royal Albert Hall and been gliding!

Our monthly meetings continue with:

Thursday 5th September: Gill Southgate Life with my Guide Dog

Thursday 3rd October: Matt Curtis British Divers Marine Life Rescue

Thursday 7th November: Wells Community Supermarket A network aiming to give access to healthy but low-cost food

Visitors are most welcome. £5, including refreshments.

Contact Valerie for more details 01485 576261.

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**[martinniemann@btinternet.com](mailto:martinniemann@btinternet.com)**

## 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.

**5th September: Work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

**3rd October: A History of Syderstone**

**7th November: TBA**

### The Syderstone Voices Project

When the Syderstone Local History Group was being formed several people said that we should collect some of the stories about life in Syderstone directly from those residents who lived here. This would be a great way to give people who live here now or in the past a chance to share some of their own memories and stories with people now, and in the future.

The Group now has a professional sound recorder, and this has allowed us to make a start recording people's memories. So far recordings have been made by both Elizabeth Macleod and Robert (Bob) Daykin, and more people are in the pipeline.

Would you like to pass on some of your stories and memories of Syderstone and the surrounding area? It doesn't matter how long you have lived in the village all recollections are just as important. Our recording sessions last about an hour. It's quite painless and in fact has proved to be quite good fun !

If you are interested in taking part please contact Michael Parker

[syderstonelhg@gmail.com](mailto:syderstonelhg@gmail.com) or Sheila Riches [sheilarriches@btinternet.com](mailto:sheilarriches@btinternet.com)

### **Economy Storage**

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1 Mill Lane, Syderstone

## What's on ... events taking place every month

Weekly events at the village hall such as the Post Office, Indoor Bowls, Arts and Crafts, Pilates and Coffee mornings are not included in this list (see page 8 for details)

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
5th	Stanhoe and Barwick Women's Institute	2.00pm	Reading Room, Stanhoe
5th	Local History Group - War Graves	7.30pm	Village Hall
6th	Sausage and Mash Supper	7.00pm	Village Hall
10th	Book Club	10.30 – 12.00	Village Hall
13th	Mobile library	2.10 – 2.40pm	Ashside / Village Hall
14th	Pop Up Pub	5.00 – 10.00pm	Village Hall
18th	Tech Skills for Life	10.00 – 12.00	Village Hall
19th	Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	Village Hall
25th	Home-made cakes/jams at coffee morning	10.30am	Village Hall
28th	Village Cinema – The Fall Guy (12A)	7.30pm	Village Hall
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
3rd	Stanhoe and Barwick Women's Institute	2.00pm	Reading Room, Stanhoe
3rd	Local History Group - History of Syderstone	7.30pm	Village Hall
5th	Old Syderstonians Reunion	2.00pm	Village Hall
8th	Book Club	10.30 – 12.00	Village Hall
11th	Mobile library	2.10 – 2.40pm	Ashside / Village Hall
16th	Tech Skills for Life	10.00 – 12.00	Village Hall
17th	Parish Council meeting	7.30pm	Village Hall
23rd	Home-made cakes/jams at coffee morning	10.30am	Village Hall
23rd	Arts and Crafts	1.45 - 4.15pm	Village Hall
25th	Harvest Thanksgiving and supper	6.00pm	St Mary's Church
26th	Village Cinema – Wilding (PG)	7.30pm	Village Hall
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
2nd	Autumn Fair in aid of St Mary's church	10.30 – 2.30pm	Village Hall
7th	Stanhoe and Barwick Women's Institute	2.00pm	Reading Room, Stanhoe
7th	Local History Group	7.30pm	Village Hall
8th	Mobile library	2.10 – 2.40pm	Ashside / Village Hall
12th	Book Club	10.30 – 12.00	Village Hall
20th	Tech Skills for Life	10.00 – 12.00	Village Hall
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