

the SYSTON GREEN

Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No 168 – March 2021



Presidents Message

I hope everyone is keeping safe and staying indoors as much as possible. The way that the figures regarding the Virus are dropping I'm sure it won't be too long before we are allowed back on the green. I know we are all eager to get back on the green as soon as it is safe to do so.

I know Roger Stone is doing a great job as green ranger, but the green still needs professional work and that obviously needs paying for.

I am asking everyone to pay their membership subscriptions as soon as possible so we can carry out maintenance in the clubhouse and pay for the work on the green.

Please keep safe and I hope we are all bowling together very soon.

Pete Murray



Hello

By the time you read this, most of us will have had our first jab.

I have found the lockdown this time quite tough, probably because it is the Winter, damp, cold and horrible weather. Depressing to say the least!

Club subscriptions and competition forms are coming in, thank you for that, it is really appreciated. Keep them coming!

As mentioned in my recent letter to you all, work has been ongoing to ensure that the Clubhouse will be ready for us all to use soon. It seems such a long time ago now, but it

will be so good to see everyone.

Hope is on the horizon!!

Whatever we have to do to achieve some form of normality, we will do it together. What a delightful thought.

In the meantime, you are all in my thoughts.

My best wishes

Kate Williams
Chairman



Hi

I hope you are all keeping well, although it has been very cold lately, I feel that spring is only just around the corner and here's hoping that there will be some easing of restrictions soon.

Dave Anderton has done a great job arranging matches and let's hope that we can soon get out and start the fixtures.

I have spoken to Roger and he is willing to do the same, as last year when we were allowed outside to play. He is happy to book rinks in line with guidance from Bowls England and Government restrictions. We ran Wednesday and Saturday games, being played with 2.00 o'clock start.

The teams will be chosen on the day. Please come along at about 1.30pm if you want a game

I will keep you informed by email, as soon as we can get on the green and hope to start as soon as possible. See you all soon

Derek Renshaw
Club Captain

Top Tips for Cleaning and Maintenance Paving

Indian sandstone and limestone paving are one of the most popular landscaping products. We've pulled together our top tips for keeping them clean and maintained.

Maintaining and keeping natural paving clean

1. Sweep or brush regularly to remove dirt, leaves, and other debris. Move large items like tables, chairs, and BBQs before cleaning.
2. Remove weeds with a hoe or weeding knife to pull up from the roots.
3. Replace mortar joints to prevent weed growth. Also investigate other fillers like resin for reduction of maintenance further.
4. Use acid-free soapy water or diluted bleach water to clean. Pour soapy water or bleach solution on paving and let sit up to 15 minutes.

You may want to test a small area first. Scrub with heavy duty broom or stiff brush. Rinse with water and repeat if necessary. Make sure to think of surrounding plants and lawn and take care not to damage these.

5. For more stubborn stains you may want to use a jet or pressure washer.

Creating Depth in a Flat Garden Space

Many people think that a super flat garden is the nirvana of starting points. But if you're craving a garden full of interesting aspects and features, the evenness of the garden can actually be undesirable.

Level changes in the garden creates depth, a journey and interest – all the key elements every designer strives for in each garden. Walls are a great way to create depth in a garden.

Here are several types of walls that may be used.

1. **Upright sleepers** – Retain a bank or steep level change with sleepers set in on its end. Perfect for creating curved walls, they're installed into concrete footings and additionally supported at the back (where the soil rests) with cross supports and finished with a damp proof liner or bitumen paint for a long-lasting result. A great choice if you're wanting something more natural
2. **Brick walls** – Great for either traditional or contemporary gardens, depending on the choice of brick. Brick walls can support a large amount of earth and they're incredibly long lasting if build correctly.
3. **Linear sleepers** – Linear sleepers are used when straight walls are desired. Set in foundations like all well-built walls, these have upright support timbers to prevent bowing from the weight of the soil behind.
4. **Gabions** – These steel baskets or cages are strategically filled with stones to create a supporting wall. Coped with stone, gabions can look incredibly modern, and are popular with garden designers at high end shows such as Chelsea Flower Show. Ample space is needed as their construction is generally approx. 500m³

Your choice of retaining walls depends on the look you want to achieve and the investment you'd like to make. Sleeper walls are a popular option as they are cost effective. However, their lifespan is shorter brick versions.

Installing a pergola in your garden adds appeal to your space and home. They can serve as a focal point, define an outdoor space, provide shade as well as some protection from the elements, adding comfort and beauty to outdoor living

When deciding on structure material several factors should be weighed.

1. **Appearance** – Wood gives a more rustic, natural look and feel to your garden. Wood comes in different varieties and shades and can be painted to match or complement other structures on the property. They can be stained, or colour treated. Metal can also come in different finishes and shades. Metals provide a more modern, sleek look to an outdoor space. They can also be powder-coated any colour.
2. **Cost** – Wood pergolas are generally less expensive than metal. However, metal holds its shape and can be more durable than wood which may warp, crack, bow, or twist over time.
3. **Maintenance** – Metal pergolas are basically maintenance free. Aluminium is lightweight and never rusts. Any type of metal won't splinter, sag, or twist as wood can. Wood weathers with age requiring sanding, staining, and/or re-painting. In addition, some types of wood may be susceptible to wood-damaging insects, moulds, and algae.

Before deciding on the type of pergola that is best for you think about these three factors.

Thank you to Jeff Randell and his team for providing gardening tips

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Picture of the Green – Courtesy of Catherine Voyce





Green Opening 2021

April 12th

The Green will be open from April 12th for restricted roll-ups, similar to last year, 2 people per rink on every other rink. (maximum of 6 people on the green)

Bookings can be made via Roger Stone the Green Ranger for a 2hr slot.

The Clubhouse is not open for general use.

May 17th

Up to 30 people can attend and play bowls, the Captains will no doubt organize internal matches.

The Clubhouse will be open, serving drinks at the bar, and we may even be able to organize some food!

No outside friendly matches will be played in the short term, but more information should be available in the near future.

We do have the usual fixture plan, but is likely to changes.

League matches are in the planning stage but nothing solid at the moment.

This is all subject to Government guidelines and is a fluid situation at present.

I hope this goes some way to answer your questions regarding the next couple of months.

Regards

Kate Williams

System and District Volunteer Centre



Promoting and sustaining personal independence and community and family ties through the provision of subsidised transport and other volunteer-led services.



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PRESS RELEASE

Dateline: For IMMEDIATE release

18 School Street, SYSTON, Leics LE7 1HN

Tel: 0116 2607 888 email:

admin@syston-vc.org

www.syston-vc.org

VOLUNTEER CENTRE SUSTAINS SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC

Syston and District Volunteer Centre has continued to provide support services to the local community throughout the pandemic. Volunteers have responded to requests for help with shopping and prescription collection and, with the help of a growing band of volunteer drivers, has provided personal transport to enable those in need to keep hospital and doctors' appointments.

Thanks to a grant from the National Lottery, the Centre has acquired a new wheelchair-adapted car. Quite naturally, under Covid-19 conditions, our team of volunteer drivers have been reluctant to use their own vehicles, as they would under normal circumstances. The two specially adapted cars now owned by the Centre have therefore enabled the transport needs of the local community to be met in a safe and secure manner.

In collaboration with the Syston Health Centre, volunteer drivers are currently fully engaged in transporting people to vaccination and testing centres.

Centre Manager, Andy Shelton and Transport Co-ordinator, Michael Court, have continued to work throughout, with other staff placed on furlough under Government regulations.

Sadly, the usual very popular weekly programme of trips and excursions, using the Centre's small fleet of minibuses, has had to be suspended and will remain so for the foreseeable future. This situation is causing the Board of Trustees to consider selling one of the minibuses, possibly using the income to buy another car – possibly electric – to provide greater capacity to meet individual transport needs. A recently confirmed grant from the Horace Taylor Fund is also now available to finance an extension to our fleet of vehicles.

As previously reported, thanks to a grant from the Woolfson Foundation, the Centre offices on School Street have been completely re-modelled to make them much more visitor-friendly and to enable staff to work within current COVID-19 restrictions.

Reviewing the operation of the Centre over the period since March 2020, Chairman of Trustees, Paul Lomas, says: *“The Trustees and I take great pride in the fact that, with fantastic support and commitment from our small teams of staff and volunteers, the Centre has sustained an excellent record of providing vital service to everyone in need within our local communities of Syston and surrounding villages throughout the whole period of the pandemic to date.*

We have made progress in the recruitment of additional volunteer drivers; we have expanded and upgraded our small fleet of vehicles; we have been successful in raising money through grants to fund our development plans while protecting our limited cash reserves and have developed strongly supportive links with several “partner” organisations to work to respond effectively to the challenges imposed by the pandemic.

I am confident that we are very well-placed to meet any challenge presented in the short or longer term and have used the adverse conditions imposed by the pandemic to establish a very sound base for future development.

*Anyone seeking help with the problems presented by the pandemic – whatever the nature of those problems – should contact the Centre Manager, Andy Shelton (Tel: **0116 2607 888** email: admin@syston-vc.org) If we cannot offer direct assistance, we can point you in the right direction to receive the help and support that you need.*

Similarly, if you would like to offer your services as a volunteer – whether as a driver or to offer some other skill or service – we would like to hear from you to discuss the possibilities of harnessing your talents.”



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Notes to editor: Further information on this Release and/or .jpg files of photographs, Queen’s Award, Lottery Community Fund or Volunteer Centre logos, please contact Colin Grimes, Trustee Secretary/PRO (Tel: 0116 2608412: email sadvc@btinternet.com). Full details of the full range of services provided by the Centre can be obtained from SADVC Centre Manager, Tel: **0116 2607 888** email: admin@syston-vc.org or from the web site: www.syston-vc.org

LEGACY: LIFE REFLECTIONS – HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED?

Your private podcast for posterity



During recent months, we have all, perhaps, had greater cause than usual to consider our own mortality and to reflect on the varied highs and lows of our lives to date. Now, within the thoroughly modern structure of a recorded **podcast**, led by an experienced professional interviewer, individuals have the chance to “tell their own story” which can be passed, in video format, to their nearest and dearest.

Each episode - in a podcast series titled “**The Good Listening To**”- is based on a recorded Zoom. interview lasting up to one and a half hours. (Think “**Desert Island Discs**” without the music.) Through carefully crafted questions, the host seeks to demonstrate that we are all creative individuals and each of us has an interesting story to be told.

At the outset, you are invited to describe and imagine yourself relaxing in a “comfort” clearing, somewhere you feel fully relaxed. In a light-touch, conversational way, you are then encouraged to speak about things that have shaped you, things that inspire you, things that never fail to grab your attention (good and bad) and, finally in this section, reveal something that few, if any, people know about you!

The conversation then turns to the major qualities and guiding principles that you have brought into your life’s work and into other interests that you have chosen to follow, ending with a favourite quotation which has given you inspiration over time. To your life’s work and into other interests that you have chosen to follow, ending with a favourite” quotation over time.

The conversation then turns to the major qualities and **guiding principles** that you have brought into your life’s work and into other interests that you have chosen to follow, ending with a **favourite quotation** which has given you inspiration over time.

Moving towards a conclusion, the interviewer seeks from you the **best piece of advice** you have ever been given and/or some piece of **advice that you would now give to your younger self**, before ending by asking you to address the critical question of “**How would you like to be remembered?**” Throughout the whole relaxed conversational session, you remain in total control and are not obliged to provide answers to any of the questions raised should you feel in any way uncomfortable. After full editing, the dedicated, filmed podcast is uploaded to Vimeo, privately and password protected, for you to distribute as you choose to your nearest and dearest, family and friends – or to a wider audience. **Your legacy to posterity.**

Throughout the whole relaxed conversational session, you remain in total control and are not obliged to provide answers to any of the questions raised should you feel in any way uncomfortable. After full editing, the dedicated, filmed podcast is uploaded to **Vimeo**, privately and password protected, for you to distribute as you choose to your nearest and dearest, family and friends – or to a wider audience. Your legacy to posterity.

Examples of the “finished product” can be viewed through the following links. (Special terms are offered for all Members of Bowling Clubs.)

Peter Tomlinson: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1206005/7965679> and <https://vimeo.com/chrisgrimes/gltpetertomlinson1>

Reg Starkey: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1206005/6554986> and <https://vimeo.com/463394111> Stuart Cox: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1206005/7966678> and <https://vimeo.com/512904011>

If you are interested generating your own podcast for posterity, further details of the scheme can be obtained from: **Chris Grimes, Director, Second Curve, Tel: 07711 644 094; email: chris@secondcurve.uk**

COLIN GRIMES

Development

Message from the Editor

Thanks to everyone for their contributions to this edition.

Please continue to provide me with regular updates of club activities, by email, as a Word document.

Tel: 01162741755 email: suerenshaw22@gmail.com

Please let me have any items for the next Newsletter by Monday March 22nd 2021

SYSTON BOWLING CLUB

All Communications should be addressed to the Chairman of the Board of Directors

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01162604477

Email: systonbowling@btinternet.com

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY to...



Myles Clare
Jan Holmes
David Howe
Edna Loder
Geoff Measom
Rolf Meyer
Maureen Page
Ray Wood
Ivan Jordan
Stephen Rudkin
Doreen Payne
Anne Gale
Ron Lilley

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that says "Do not
disturb", I need
one that says
"Already
disturbed, proceed
with caution."**

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