

Number 122

February/March 2020

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



Blizzard at Sandringham



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Editor's Notes

The cover photo was chosen back in early January, when in fact it was very mild and with not a sign of snow. However, remembering the Beast from the East in March last year, who knows what weather still lies ahead this winter. This is in fact a colour photograph taken during a blizzard a few years ago.



Inside you'll find Judi Morgan's article on the *Dersingham Village Calendar*, the forerunner of our current magazine. When I read this I remembered that I was one of those who sat at her kitchen table folding sheets and munching biscuits, and then trudging up and down paths making deliveries. She reminded me that I also did the proof reading!

Great excitement coming up in April, when there will be abseiling down the church tower, raising funds to make St Nicholas Church more accessible for the disabled, and with the installation of suitable toilets and a kitchen. Get going with finding sponsors for your impressive leap. See p 23 for details of how to apply for the jump.



There are a couple of changes which need to be made to the *Dersingham Data* insert in the last edition of VV:

- The contact person for the Dersingham Institute Bowls Club is now the secretary Jan Rawstron. Her email address is jan.rawstron49@hotmail.co.uk and her phone number is 01485 298419.
- The West Newton Carpet Bowls Club now runs until 10pm rather than 9.15pm
- Gardening with Disabilities meets in Dersingham Village Centre on the third Friday of each month from 2pm to 4pm. For further information contact May Davey on 01485 544953, or Gloria Pantling (Secretary) on 01553 671912.

You may have read in the last Village Voice that Mrs Dolittle has been very unwell. She reports that she is feeling fine at the moment but that she will be resting on her literary laurels for a while, and will return at a later date. We wish her all the best for an excellent recovery.

ATTENTION - SCAM ALERT - ATTENTION

Be very cautious about glossy leaflets that come through the door advertising home improvement services for the house and garden (or any other services) and which just have a mobile phone number. You should not use tradesmen who do not give you a written quote of the precise work to be done without a company name, address and contact details; nor provide a written invoice. You should inspect all the work thoroughly before paying any money. There has been one such company operating in Dersingham which disappeared after not finishing a job, although paid most of the money, and leaving an appallingly low standard of workmanship.

	Diary Date VE Day Anniversary indoor street party Saturday 9th May at 7pm in Dersingham Village Centre <i>More details in the next Village Voice</i>	
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Dear Village Voice



Local wildlife and village rubbish

I'm a regular walker in Dersingham Woods; it's lovely to have such a natural wild place right on our doorstep.

Yesterday I saw seven deer in one visit - I'm learning how to creep up and get closer to watch them! Some local lads have built bike jumps in the pine plantation on steep sloping paths. I've got no problem with that, good to see them out and not sitting in front of a screen gaming, but it's a bit disappointing that I had to go back to the area twice with bags to take away the rubbish left there.



If you see the environmental protests on the news, it is often driven by the youngsters criticising us oldies for our ignorance. It looks like these guys are not budding Greta Thunbergs.... they managed to carry the sweets/drinks down to the woods so they can't say they had nothing to take home the bags and bottles/cans in.

Also, on the dog walking areas nearer the village some people are not picking up after their dogs. I'd much rather be looking around at the amazing wildlife than keeping my eyes to the ground walking through the minefield.

Hope I don't sound too much like a grumpy old man!

Tim Howard

A bit of police history

My great-great-grandfather Esau Lewis was Superintendent at Dersingham police station between 1913 and 1919 and lived in the grand house next to the station on Manor Road. I have spoken to Mike Strange and Elizabeth Fiddick, who sent me a photo of the house just before it was demolished a few years ago and were really helpful.



I am hoping that somewhere in Dersingham there are some



photos of the house around his time there, floating around or tucked away in somebody's old wardrobe somewhere!!! Well it's worth a try!!!

He became Deputy Chief Constable in 1918 and was presented with a pocket watch from his colleagues for his retirement one April evening at The Foresters Hall, Manor Road in 1919. I think he played bowls for Dersingham Bowls

Club and was in charge of the station during the zeppelin raids in 1915.

Please can anyone help?

Robert Lewis

A thank you from Geoffrey Collings Estate Agents

Thank you to all those that attended and supported our December event. We are pleased to confirm that we raised £261 from our raffle with the proceeds going to The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House. Keep an eye out for our advert later in the year as we will be holding our usual Macmillan Coffee Morning at the office in September. Happy New Year to you all from everyone at Geoffrey Collings Estate Agents.

Chairman's Report Coral Shepherd



I hope you all had a good Christmas and new year and are ready for whatever this year may bring us all. The most important upcoming task for the Parish Council is to set the precept for the forthcoming year. For those of you who are unsure what the precept is – this is the amount of money that the Parish Council requests and is given from the Council tax. We then use the money to maintain the services that we provide, grass cutting, provision and maintenance of some street lighting, dog bins, seating around the village, the play area, the war memorial, to mention a few. We have reviewed the money that we have spent so far this financial year and are in the process of deciding what money will be needed from April. The decision will have been made at our meeting on 27th January.

Looking outside the village to the wider world, the Parish Council has started to look at the issue of climate change which is one that affects us all. We have agreed to have a small working group to look at the problem and to consider what we as a Parish Council can do to make our contribution, however small, to reducing risks and even improving things. Let us not forget that much of the village is low lying and is vulnerable to increases in sea level. We will keep you updated on progress and what actions we will be taking.

Turning to more mundane issues, there are two things that I need to ask, firstly a gentle reminder that when clearing leaves from your garden please ensure that you do not sweep them into the road for the Borough and County to clear up. This could mean an increase in the Council tax but it can also make paths and roads more slippery for users during the autumn. The second reminder is that the dog waste bins around the village are only for use when taking dogs for walks and they are there to help keep our pavements clean. The Borough Council, who empty the bins every week, has reported that one bin was full to overflowing. It was thought that this was because dog waste may have been placed there from a garden. The Borough Council has confirmed that dog waste can be placed in your black bins which are emptied every fortnight, but please bag the waste in decomposable bags.

Finally, your Parish Council needs you. We do have a number of vacancies on the Parish Council and we are looking to co-opt people who are interested in local current affairs, want to serve the local community and want to be a voice for residents. If you would like to get involved in making decisions about your local community and to make a contribution to the area in which you live then please consider becoming a Parish Councillor. There are no particular qualifications but you must be registered on the electoral register and live in or within three miles of the parish and be prepared to attend monthly Council meetings and also to serve on at least one of our committees. If you are interested do have a look at our website, attend any of our meetings, or speak to me or Sarah Bristow, our Parish Clerk.

One last thing! For the 75th anniversary of both VE and VJ days there will be national celebrations in London and the Royal British Legion will be hosting veterans at these events, as well as arranging tours of Asia for those who were involved in campaigns. If you wish to attend the events there are a limited number of fully funded places for veterans and their companions. If you are interested further details are on the British Legion website - britishlegion.org.uk. □



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FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT



The proposal to merge our CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) with the four other CCGs in Norfolk and Waveney has been approved in principle by NHS England and NHS Improvement.

We are therefore on track to have a single CCG known as NHS Norfolk and Waveney from April 2020. This follows a wide ranging programme of engagement with key partners and the wider public. The ultimate aim is to help improve the quality and performance of NHS services for the people of Norfolk and Waveney, maintaining local identities, building on existing local relationships and playing a leading role in the transformational work of the Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership (STP). Merging our CCGs will also provide many other benefits, such as making better use of our resources and reducing the amount of money we spend on administration so that we can spend more on patient care. We are currently creating a single management team, working across all five existing CCGs, to reduce duplication and improve efficiency.

Stay at home if you have norovirus

It's the time of year when norovirus is circulating more in the community. West Norfolk CCG is encouraging people who become unwell with the virus to stay at home, rest and drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration. To help stop the spread of the virus people are encouraged to:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water
- Wash surfaces and towels
- Do not go back to school, work, public spaces or use public transport for 48 hours after the last symptom

For more information on how to stay well this winter visit www.nhs.uk/staywell.

Home First campaign launches across Norfolk and Waveney

The benefits of recovering in your own bed after surgery or other hospital treatment are being promoted in a campaign across Norfolk and Waveney. Cath Byford, Chief Nurse of the NHS CCGs for Norfolk and Waveney, said; "We know most patients will recover faster and better in their own homes, where they are in a familiar environment and can get back into their normal daily routines. We also know patients would rather be in their own beds than a hospital bed. This campaign aims to make them aware of what they, their family or carers can do to avoid unnecessary delays when they are ready to return home."

The 'Home First' campaign has been developed by the Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership which includes the area's five NHS CCGs, hospitals and Norfolk County Council. The campaign includes the use of animation across digital channels including social media and screens in NHS waiting rooms. You can see the animation here: <https://youtu.be/fLV7tgMGVHE>

GP surgeries open their doors to offer the flu vaccination

GP surgeries across Norfolk and Waveney are providing special clinics to offer patients their annual flu jab. Children aged between two and ten years old are being offered the nasal spray vaccination. The adult flu vaccine is offered free to those in groups at particular risk of infection and complications from flu. The groups being offered the adult flu vaccine are pregnant women, those aged 65 or over, those aged under 65 with long-term conditions, and carers. GPs are asking their patients to book a place in surgery flu clinics. Alternatively, you can visit your nearest participating pharmacy. GP surgeries are also testing atrial fibrillation in patients over the age of 65. Although flu vaccinations are available from other outlets, it is only GP surgeries who are offering the additional check

for abnormal heart rates at the same time. In addition to the atrial fibrillation and flu vaccination, applicable patients are able to receive Pneumococcal vaccines protecting patients against the bacteria *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. The vaccine can prevent some cases of pneumonia, meningitis and sepsis. A pneumococcal infection can affect anyone. However, some people are at higher risk of serious illness and can be given the pneumococcal vaccination on the NHS.

Here are just some of the things we have in place to look after people during the winter, across all of Norfolk and Waveney

Flu vaccinations * Plans and staff to manage cases of flu in care homes * Six more ambulance rapid response vehicles staffed with paramedics who can treat people at the scene and save them a trip to hospital * Extra capacity to hire more ambulances if needed * Ambulance Patient Safety Intervention Teams will ensure patients awaiting handover to hospital are well looked after and assessed * Three additional rapid response vehicles on our roads * More than 2000 weekend and evening GP/nurse appointments per week * More people safely assisted in their first call to 111 (more call handlers and more clinicians in the Clinical Assessment Service) * More therapy resource in hospitals and community teams to help people get home sooner and live as independently as possible at home * Social care Trusted Assessor Facilitators are working with residential homes to help people return to their home from hospital * Additional 16 adult mental health inpatient beds opened in Norwich.

West Norfolk area plans include:

Enhanced and enlarged Ambulatory Emergency Care Unit within Queen Elizabeth Hospital * Enhanced and enlarged discharge lounge at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to help people return home sooner * Continuation of specialist community beds including end of life care * Enhanced virtual ward to support admission avoidance and to return home soon * Nurse-led clinic to support homeless people and a night shelter, reducing their reliance on hospitals * Continued funding for SOS bus project which offers help and advice to people in crisis or needing assistance * More people in mental health crisis teams * Schemes relating to frailty, COPD and asthma will identify those at risk, and help to proactively manage their condition with them to reduce needing urgent and emergency care * Additional thirty beds to increase capacity at the hospital. □



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The West Norfolk Members' Group invites you to a brief AGM followed by an illustrated talk by

Robert Hawkes

Breckland

Managing for Woodlark, Stone Curlew and wider biodiversity

Thursday 27th February at 7.30pm

Bugs on the Move

How insects and other invertebrates find food, mates and habitats

by Dr Ian Bedford

Thursday 26th March at 7.30pm

Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall, Austin Street
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And before *Village Voice* there was the *Village Calendar*.....

Judi Morgan

I always enjoy reading the *Village Voice* and was amazed that I had been doing so for twenty years. This started me wondering if there was anyone around who remembers the forerunner of this magazine, the *Dersingham Village Calendar* being posted through their letter boxes?

It originated from an idea I had back in 1982 to produce a booklet for the whole village, keeping everyone up to date with what was going on with the various organisations. The idea gathered momentum outside the school gates in Pell Road where I floated the idea and managed to get offers of help with distribution. The whole venture was funded by local trades people, much as the *Village Voice* is today.

I did all the typing on a PC and with 'graphics' drawn by an artist friend. No Mr Google to help then. The completed newsletter was then taken to a printer in Pott Row.

Then came the social side of the magazine - folding the printed article, whilst drinking coffee and munching biscuits round the kitchen table. It took a while but we chatted as we worked, so it wasn't such a chore. Everyone left with enough to do their particular road and we had volunteers to deliver the rest.



I called it a day in December 1986 when the last issue was printed and I returned to part time work.

Looking at the smart *Village Voice* today, I take some pride in the fact that maybe it was the *Village Calendar's* humble beginning that sowed the seed of today's village magazine.□

The West Newton Carpet Bowls Club

We meet every Tuesday evening at the West Newton Village Hall from 6.45 pm to 10.00 pm.

The 2020 season began on Tuesday 7th January and runs until April when we have a break until September, then play weekly until December.

We extend a friendly invitation to anyone who would like to come and try it. We have three carpets and play three games each evening with a tea and biscuit break after the second game.

All welcome.

Further details from the secretary Ian Jenkins: 01485 542432 or the chairman Trevor Riches: 01485 543706□



Dersingham Tennis Club

Do you like the outdoors?

Are you active but wish to be fitter?

Would you like to dust off your tennis racquet and mix with people and make friends?

Would you therefore like to come along to the tennis courts, in Dersingham, on the playing fields, and take up tennis either again or for the first time. Visit the website clubspark.lta.org.uk/dersinghamtc for a few more details and contact information.

There are two courts, recently refurbished and in really good condition; they are now a joy to play on and are no longer slippery even after prolonged rain. They are floodlit, which means that members can play all year round, daytime and evening, whichever suits you best, and members often tog up in the winter and enjoy a weekly game of tennis in the evening – once out there and with an extra layer of clothes on, it really can be wonderful to play after work/putting the children to bed.

Single person membership only costs £40, and there are very favourable rates for couples and families.

Most years there has been coaching, which members or non-members can have at an additional cost to the club membership. We are looking to have coaching again in the 2020 season, which may extend to include additional levels depending on coach availability.

Members who wish to, can join a WhatsApp group to ensure that someone will be there to play if you live in a neighbouring village and want to ensure a game.

If you really feel like it, you could join the teams, which play in the West Norfolk League in the summer. This year we had a very successful season:

The Men's team won Division 2, and were undefeated in their matches.

The Ladies' A team came 2nd in Division 1, and the Ladies' B team came 3rd (I think!) in Division 2.

The mixed team had their first season in Division 1 and had a very successful middle of the table result.

So we look forward to welcoming you to try it out and seeing if it is for you.

Dressed to Thrill at the Casino!

After the success of last year, Dersingham Tennis Club is hosting another Casino Night on 14th March. Arrive dressed to thrill 007 style and you will be given your casino currency to play the tables as the mood takes you.

This is a terrific evening for those who want a different night out, when you can imagine you are in the fast moving gambling halls of Monte Carlo where Bond is playing for the highest stakes. Well, we won't quite be doing that but enter into the spirit of the evening and you can imagine anything is possible.

The supper provided by the Tennis Club will, if last year is anything to go by, be as memorable as the fun to be had at the tables.

See you there!□



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Butterfly report for 2019

Brian Anderson



2019 was notable for its weather. February saw a temperature of 20.6° - an all-time record for the month. The temperature dropped back a bit to the long-term average in March, April and May. In June it warmed up and July turned hot at the end of the month with an all-time record temperature of 38.7° being recorded at Cambridge Botanic Gardens. The rest of year was closer to average but the autumn was very wet with more records (this for rainfall) being broken in October. The variability of the weather clearly had an influence on the butterfly populations - for instance, a lower count of Speckled Woods in the autumn. The most notable event was the big influx of Painted Ladies, of which more below. Some of you reading this attended the Village Voice Live talk given by Andy Brazil (Norfolk Recorder for Butterfly Conservation). I will make an occasional reference to some of his remarks.

Below are comments on selected species:

Skippers

These dinky little butterflies have never been common on the old railway line transect or the wider countryside survey and 2019 was no exception - just a few Large and Small Skippers.

Whites

The Brimstone was equally uncommon. The Large White dropped back to its usual level but the Small White, even though less numerous than in 2018, was still well above the average for the transect - 96 records as against the 44 record average. The Orange Tip was down a bit but the Green-veined White was at the highest count since the transect records started in 2012.

Blues, Coppers and Hairstreaks

It was a disappointing year for the Common Blue, Brown Argus and Small Copper - none at all were seen on the transect - the first time since recording started. All these species may have suffered from the desiccation of caterpillar food plants in the hot summer of 2108. Holly Blue numbers were respectable although it's worth noting that the seven records were almost entirely of the spring brood - my long predicted decline due to parasitism may now be making itself felt.

The brighter note was the Green Hairstreak. When Andy Brazil gave his talk he noted that no records existed for the Green Hairstreak in the tetrad (a 2 x 2 km square) covering the village area, although a member of the audience reported a sighting this year. By the



Green Hairstreak

end of the flight season I had three confirmed records for the village area. The first was from the garden of a former Parish Councillor on Fern Hill (she probably doesn't know as it was reported by someone working at the house!). The second was from Viceroy Close and the third from our own garden. Our own experience of this butterfly is that we see it in ones and twos but it can form quite large colonies. The Norfolk transect coordinator's report shows 134 recorded at Scolt Head in 2018 - this number was so big I thought it was a typo but it was true enough. The Green Hairstreak is our only truly green butterfly. Butterflies such as the Green-veined White and the Orange Tip have an appearance of green but microscopic examination reveals a fine tessellation of

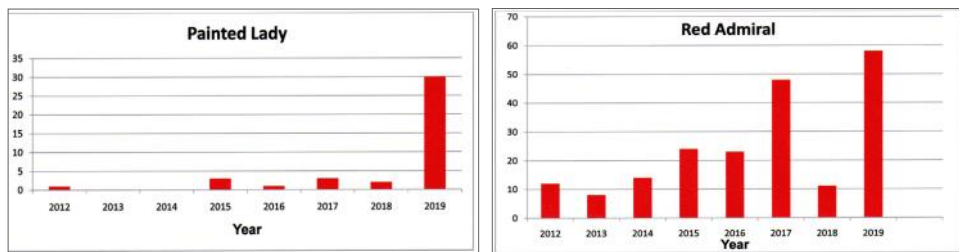
yellow and black scales. The Green Hairstreak produces its green by optical interference - in a manner rather similar to the colours on your credit card hologram. I dealt with this topic in more detail in an article on butterfly wing colours back in Village Voice 98 (bet you don't remember!).

Aristocrats and Fritillaries

Sadly, the Small Tortoiseshell had another bad year. With only seven records, this is the lowest count since 2012. Andy Brazil said that a microscopic parasitic fly was probably to blame - it hitches a ride on the adult female and then lays its own eggs on the butterfly eggs, which the fly larvae then eat. If further research confirms this it will at least provide an explanation of what has been a mystery for a number of years.

The Peacock and Comma had a slightly better year.

But there were large numbers of Painted Ladies and Red Admirals. As my recent article on the Painted Lady made clear, we get large influxes about every decade or so. In June some friends visiting us went to the Snettisham RSPB reserve and told us they had seen about ten Painted Ladies over a short period of time - this was the first clue that a large influx was likely. And so it proved - the chart shows the yearly transect count from 2012. The results from the Wider Countryside and Garden surveys gave similar increases. The early sightings were of quite faded individuals, indicating that they had migrated from quite a distance. Later specimens were generally much brighter - there seems to have been a second migration from closer to our shores, reinforced by home-bred individuals. The local results seem to have been replicated nationwide, as Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count, held in July and August, showed an increase in Painted Lady sightings of 2,498 percent over 2018. Over 420,000 Painted Ladies were reported by over 113,000 people across the country. If the Painted Ladies were common, the Red Admirals were even more so. Red Admirals are similar to Painted Ladies in their migration pattern, but the numbers over time are much steadier. That being said, 2019 was still the best year for Red Admirals since the transect recording started, as the chart shows. This result too was evident in our other local surveys.



For the last two years I have reported sightings of the Silver-washed Fritillary in Ken Hill Wood at Snettisham. They were there again in 2019 and we can also report that they have arrived in the gardens of Sandringham House - two were seen taking nectar from Buddleia on 2nd August. At his talk, Andy Brazil confirmed that this species is still spreading and will likely to be found in most sizeable woods in Norfolk.

Browns

Sightings on the transect were near average for the Speckled Wood and Ringlet, and there were modest increases in Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper numbers.

I would to thank Chris Selby and Jenny Murray for their early sightings of Painted Lady, and Glen Hughes, and Roger and Sue du Bois for Green Hairstreak sightings. And thanks again to Roger and Sue for the photograph of a Green hairstreak in their garden. □



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Sandringham News

Garry Marsden

It is an exciting time as work continues at the Visitor Centre and Country Park with contractors starting in earnest on the building interiors as I write. The shop entrance will be changed from two doors to one door giving additional internal space. The interior will be a combination of made to order shop fittings and found items. The shopping experience will be truly unique and unlike any other shop of its kind. The goods that we will sell are being developed and, in many cases, will be locally sourced and all will be connected to the area, the Royal Family or Sandringham itself. Many of the products that you will be able to buy from the shop will not be available anywhere else.



The café interior will also change, but again the use of local materials and found items will retain the same country, comfy feel but with a modern twist. The materials and colours have all been carefully chosen. We'll be keeping a section of the café dog friendly too as so many of our Country Park friends are dog owners.

In the car parks we have been felling many of the old conifers in the north car park that had seriously outgrown their useful life. These trees will be replaced with new deciduous species that will provide a more diverse habitat for wildlife as well as create a much nicer environment for visitors when they park. The arboretum is coming on as well with most of the weed trees now removed and the process of planting some 400 different trees from around the world has begun. A circular path will be established within the Arboretum along with interpretation which will make this a fascinating addition to all that the Country Park offers.



Going back to the car parks, the charge for these will come into effect late in February, and car park season tickets will be available online from 1st February, costing £40 for the year. The car park income will be used to develop and maintain the Country Park for the future and it has been interesting to hear what developments people would like to see. A better playpark for the youngsters, waymarked trails that have activities along the way, facilities for dogs, improvements to the car parks, electric car charging points, lighting; these are just some of the ideas that have been suggested.

The 2020 season starts on 3rd April and I am sure it will be here before I blink! We have some great events happening in 2020 including Proms in the gardens with fireworks finale and spitfire flypast, Jools Holland, outdoor theatre including Alice in Wonderland and Romeo and Juliet, or for the sporty amongst you how about RunSandringham? A staggering one thousand runners entered the all new half marathon in just ten days! Then of course we have all the old favourites from Living Heritage and the marvellous Flower Show; let's hope it is not quite as hot this year.

That's just a sample of what we are up to at Sandringham. To find out more head on over to the website www.sandringhamestate.co.uk and sign up for our newsletters to keep abreast of the latest happenings. □

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Gardening with Disabilities May Davey



Making Gardening Easier wishes all Readers a happy and healthy 2020. We look forward to an interesting year of talks and outings and look forward to welcoming lots of new members.

At our 15th November meeting we enjoyed a Christmas tea after an informative talk by Marianne Charles on how to look after plants given as Christmas gifts.



Christmas Tea at DVC



Marianne Charles

Our Christmas dinner was at Knights Hill Hotel on 13th December. Lots of people dressed in bright Christmas jumpers and some thirty members and their friends joined us for a traditional Christmas dinner. Lovely raffle prizes! Thank you to everyone who donated them.



Our 2020 programme, arranged by our new Speaker Finder, Sue Neil, began with a talk by Master

Composters on 17th January. On 21st February Philip Kew of Kew Lawn Care will give us tips on how to keep turf and lawns in excellent condition.

Our AGM is on Friday 20th March at Dersingham Village Centre. The annual subscriptions will be due. There will be a nice tea afterwards in the Hub.

We always welcome new members and guests. Our new permanent venue is Dersingham Village Centre. Tea and a raffle ticket cost only £2.00 at the door. The annual subscription is £12.00. Come and see how you like us. We meet at 2.00pm and end by 4.00 pm.

Please contact May Davey on 01485 544953 or our Secretary Gloria Pantling on 01553 671912 for more details.□



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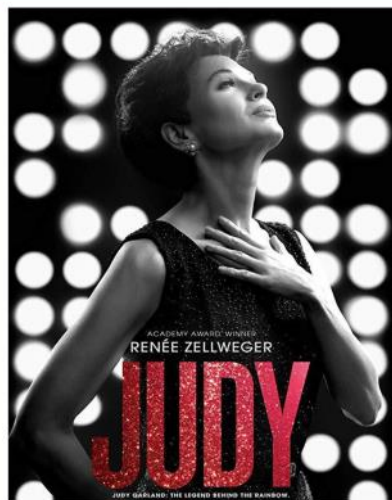
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Sponsored Church Tower Abseil

Rev Mark Capron

We are pleased to announce that on Saturday 18th April we will be organising a Sponsored Abseil down the tower of St Nicholas Church to raise money for improvements to this Parish church. These will enhance people's ability to use the church, including offering toilets for the disabled and improved accessibility, a kitchen and an improved sound and visual system.

More abseil details will be available in due course from the Church website and the church magazines. This is a quick note before Village Voice goes to press to give you advance warning to find sponsors! If you would like to challenge yourself and achieve something very different by abseiling down the outside of the church tower please do get in contact:

www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk



From Your Ward Councillors

Tony Bubb & Judy Collingham

Mid-ish January and the weather is still mild and, in our part of the country at least, reasonably benign. Long may it last. We wish all in the Ward a prosperous, peaceful and healthy New Year.

With the Councillors and administration getting back into their stride post the Christmas/ New Year period there is not a lot to report on. We continue to look at ways to improve King's Lynn, within budgetary constraints and are hoping that the various Lottery initiatives for which we are bidding will be successful. No town is immune to the rise of online retailing, but King's Lynn has bucked this trend with the opening of the flagship store, H&M, which we hope will prove a boon, attracting shoppers to spend in person and increasing footfall in the town. Valentine's Day will see the Mart opening once more with all the fun of the fair or, for some of us, all the parking spaces lost.

The enquiry into the Knights Hill development is being heard as Village Voice is in production, and the inspectors' report, due in April, will then go to the Secretary of State. Let us hope that a big dose of common sense goes with it.

It is always a pleasure to contribute to and receive the Village Voice and we hope that coverage of and submissions to the publication might extend to our neighbours in Ingoldisthorpe, Anmer and Sandringham, as we are all one Ward now. □



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Gwen Leary

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discuss the client's requirements. This can be followed by a full garden design or suggestions enabling the client to carry out the work themselves. We can offer full planting plans or advice on planting and other garden queries, be they about design, planting or hard landscaping. I work with an expert landscaping contractor, Paul, and his team, who carry out the construction and building of the garden.

In line with current thinking, my current emphasis is on informality and sustainability. My own cottage style garden has year round interest.

Mixed borders of shrubs, perennials and other structural plants help, with many plants self-seeding, giving a soft cottage garden effect. Watering the garden and the use of pesticides are avoided if possible, thus only those plants which enjoy the conditions provided remain healthy and survive. I also endeavour to have flowering plants throughout the year as a nectar source for bees and other insects. Since following a pesticide free regime, I have had few problems with garden pests as the beneficial wildlife species help to keep these in check.

Last year I was a prize winner in the Sandringham Estate gardens competition at the Sandringham Flower Show, my garden having been visited by the judges.

I have had a life-long interest in plants and gardens. I graduated from Nottingham University with a B.Sc. in Horticulture, after which I worked as a horticulturalist in Tanzania with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO). This was followed by a number of years in the agrochemical business. I then decided to follow my earlier ambition of becoming a garden designer, studying with the internationally renowned garden designer, John Brookes. A few years later I took a full-time post-graduate diploma course at one of the top colleges in the country, The Oxford College of Garden Design run by Duncan Heather. I have now been running a successful garden design business for a number of years.

Contact Details:

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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club

Jan Rawstron

There is not usually much to report at this time of year, but our green keepers have had to be alert, as due to the mild weather, our friends the moles are still active. Speaking of our green keepers, our head keeper, Dickie, was taken ill whilst working on the green back in November. It transpired that he had had a mild heart attack, but whilst in hospital contracted the MSSA virus, which has seriously affected his recovery. We all send our best wishes, and hope he will be on the road to recovery very soon. In his absence, Keith Dixon and Albert Chamberlain are doing a sterling job, and we thank them sincerely.



Our AGM was held in November, with the current committee being re-elected for another year.

Also in November we presented a cheque for £400 to the RNLI Hunstanton. Thanks to all our members who helped raise this amount through raffles, donations etc. Our charity for the 2020 season will be The Norfolk Accident Rescue Service (NARS).

St. Nicholas Church looked a picture for the Christmas Tree Festival. Our tree reflected the 100 years the club has been in existence, a great milestone.

Our green will open on Saturday 4th April for the 2020 season with a roll-up, weather permitting. After the success of the Open Day last year, we hope to hold another on Sunday 19th April. again weather permitting. Anyone wishing to see what lawn bowls is all about will be most welcome. Final details in the next issue. □

Dersingham Works Business Breakfast

Representatives from local businesses and statutory agencies, training and support organisations are invited to attend the informal, **free**, event at Dersingham Village Centre in Manor Road on **Tuesday 11th February**.

A light breakfast served at 7:30am, catered by Norfolk Concierge, will be followed by short presentations, and then there is time for informal networking before finishing at 9:30am.

Dersingham Works is supported by The Skills Service, under the auspices of the Greater Anglia, Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership, and its aims are to promote employability, develop mutual support and understanding among businesses and training and education providers, and work towards raising aspirations and employability among local residents.

To book your place contact Jacqui Farrell



Jacqui Farrell at the Skills Service
Business and Education Development Manager
The Skills Service, Opportunity Peterborough, 1st Floor, Allia Future Business Centre, London Road, Peterborough PE2 8AN
T: 07931 206628
E: jacqui.farrell@theskillsservice.co.uk W: www.theskillsservice.co.uk Twitter: @UK_skills

Norfolk Police is supporting a national campaign aiming to raise awareness of a system to help people alert police when in imminent danger but unable to speak.

The 'Make Yourself Heard' campaign, was originally launched by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) last year with support from the family of murder victim Kerry Power, Women's Aid and the National Police Chiefs' Council. Prior to her murder, Kerry made a silent 999 call thinking she would not need to speak or make a noise for police to send assistance. Sadly, her call was terminated and was not put through to the police control room because she did not know how to use the 'Silent Solution' system.

This 'Silent Solution' system, which is used by Norfolk Constabulary, enables a 999 mobile caller who is too scared to make a noise, or speak, to press 55 when prompted – to inform police they are in a genuine emergency.

Lorne Green, Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk, said: 'This is a vital service and yet it is not sufficiently known about. Pressing 55 and using the "silent solution" could literally save a person's life. Through my office and via the police I want to see this service promoted as widely as possible to ensure everyone who might one day need it knows about it.' □

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The Coastal Stroke Support and Carers Group, based in Hunstanton, aims to provide activities that improve the rehabilitation of stroke survivors and the welfare of their carers. The activities include art and craft sessions, where members are able to develop their artistic skills with the aid of local artists and teachers: classes include painting, flower arranging, mosaics, making cards and so much more.



This art session was run by Maxine Byron (a local artist), supported by volunteers, and attended by group members who produced a colourful picture of a goldfinch.

Exercise is a good way of improving mobility and we provide regular gentle exercise classes to achieve this goal.

On a simple social level, you can also come along and meet others in a similar situation, have a cup of tea or coffee and a natter if you wish. We are a friendly group and you will be made most welcome.

We meet at the Methodist Church, Austin Street, Hunstanton every Tuesday between 10:30 and 12:30. We would love to see you there.

If you have some spare time and are maybe looking to become a volunteer and would like to do something really rewarding, please come along and have a taster session at our group; you never know, it might be the thing for you.

Contact information.

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Dersingham Evening WI - Annual Report 2019

Katrina Mundy, Secretary

We started 2019 with a committee of twelve with Peg Hunter being returned as President for another year. Thanks were given to those outgoing committee members and other members who had helped make 2018 a successful and interesting year.

Dersingham Evening WI's Christmas tree for the 2018 St Nicholas Church Christmas Tree Festival was decorated with banners of Hands (these being members hands) on WI colour card. Once again members enjoyed the Christmas party with a Christmas themed quiz (supposedly easy) by Wendy Snell. Our first meet of the year began with a talk from Carl Smith, and the following presentations have varied from resuscitation techniques, Sandringham Secrets and holistic therapies to behind the scenes of a TV programme and a talk about lingerie. This year we also had a craft evening where members made their own cards. We held open meetings and invited members of other local WIs, who enjoyed the speakers plus cake! The feedback I received was that they all thought we were a very friendly, open WI.

For our birthday party in April we had a 60s theme, with food from the time such as vol au vents, Black Forest gâteau and Baby Cham to drink. Committee and members dressed in the 60s fashions. We have continued to have various sale stalls, a book stall and our competition table at every evening meet. The competition tables have been varied and included some very interesting items. We must also thank Stephanie and Alison for running the raffle during this year.

At our Resolutions meeting in May we voted for 'Don't fear the smear', but gave our delegate discretion to overturn this in favour of 'Decline of rural bus services' if necessary. This year it was our turn to send a delegate to the National Conference and Lyn Wetherill represented the group.

We also had three members attend the Norfolk Federation Annual meet in Norwich. This has been an important year for the Norfolk Federation as it is Centenary year and members have attended various celebrations for this including a service in Norwich Cathedral.

Our monthly coffee mornings have continued with some being held in the afternoon and evening and these continue to be an ideal way to meet other members. The dining group have had a successful year and have gone from strength to strength. The walking group has had walks of varying lengths and as usual ended with appropriate refreshments at a local eatery. Our two craft groups have again enjoyed a creative year with the Thursday group having a go at glass making at Langham Glass; their results were beautiful. Thanks must go to Babs for running these classes and being very patient with some of us (especially when it comes to double-sided sticky tape). The MAD group continues and still supports local charities with its knits.

We have had a good year of trips for members to enjoy, to the theatre and cinema (thanks to Diann Southgate for organising these) and trips to Norfolk Lavender, Sandringham Stud, ten pin bowling, and afternoon tea at Thaxters, with thanks to Wendy Snell for these. We have also supported Ingoldsthorpe WI in their trips and other WIs' meetings. A few of our members braved the weather and met at Sandringham for lunch to join in celebrating Norfolk Day in July. In September we held our Autumn Fair

which was very successful and well attended. Thanks go to all those who helped man stalls, baked cakes and washed up. The date is already set for next year's Fair.

We still continue to support various local charities and village activities in many ways, with members involved in the Day Centre for the Elderly, local churches' events, local choirs and other events held in the village. Our members made and donated cakes to a Big Chocolate Tea event held at the local school in aid of The Sick Children's Trust. We have welcomed new members this year and now have a membership of fifty-one. I want to take this opportunity to thank the committee and Peg for all their hard work this year and especially the support they have given me in the four years as Secretary. Thanks to you the members for your support at all events and meetings during 2019; it is all of us who make Dersingham Evening WI a successful, friendly and welcoming WI in Norfolk. Long may this continue! □

Dersingham Methodist Church **Elizabeth Batstone**

Our grateful thanks to you all for supporting our Christmas services and for helping us raise funds for Embrace the Middle East, a charity supporting children and adults in refugee camps and in places such as Palestine, Yemen and Lebanon. The magnificent sum of £443 was raised.

The new hall roof is now finished and we are pleased with the outcome. Thank you to those who had to change times and cancel events during the work.



During 2020 our usual activities will take place. The first coffee morning was on Saturday 25th January, raising funds for Methodist Missions at home and abroad. The coffee morning in February is on Saturday 29th for the flower festival fund. Saturday 28th March coffee morning is for Action for Children and Methodist Homes for the Aged. The annual flower festival to celebrate our 130th church anniversary will be from Thursday 21st to Sunday 24th May. Further details of times etc. will be in future issues of the Village Voice. We look forward to seeing you at any of our activities.

We wish you all a Happy New Year and God's richest blessing for 2020.

Elizabeth Batstone. Tel: 01485 541068.□

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Sandringham Parish News

Ben Colson

Sandringham Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 15th January with two members of the public present. A Borough Councillor and a representative from the police also attended.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MOBILE POST OFFICE WHICH VISITS WEST NEWTON IS NOW ONLY HERE BY THE CHURCH FROM 8am to 8.30am ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS. This is a situation which concerns us greatly as there has been a 75% reduction in the amount of time the van spends in the village as well as the less convenient time of its visit. Twice, at local and national level, we have asked for publicity for it which we could circulate; twice it was agreed, and twice nothing has happened. We were invited to comment on the new time of its visit, and responded robustly that we were not happy with it, but to no avail, and the change was made without reference back to us the week after the consultation period ended. We shall continue the battle on this one, but we would not have been here had greater use been made of it on its former schedule of Monday and Wednesday visits. It is the old adage, use it or lose it.

The main good news to come from the meeting is that we voted – as we have to by law each year – on whether or not to raise a Precept. A Precept is an amount added to everybody's Council Tax demand, with the money raised being available for the Parish Council to spend on facilities and services for its residents. In the past, we have relied upon the Royal Estate to carry out things like grass cutting, and have not had to raise a Precept, and we voted unanimously to continue this arrangement for another year. So, good news, we'll not be adding anything to your Council Tax bill.

We discussed the worsening parking situation in Wolferton. We all agreed that the amount of parking on the hill on the Station Road approach into the village is growing fast, mostly because the Cliff Top car park for visiting Dersingham Bog is full. With this being like that during the winter months it will only worsen in the summer with more visitors to the Natural England site and the former Royal station. To make matters worse, in this wet weather cars parking on the verge are churning it up and when it rains the debris is carried down the hill and blocks the drains. Of course it also means that you have to drive up the hill largely on the wrong side of the road and to a blind summit, causing safety concerns. The solution will need a joint effort between the various parties, and the Parish Council will be making moves to see whether a better, safer solution can be found.

There is a growing problem with litter and some fly tipping. This seems to particularly affect the approaches to the Cliff Top car park where there is walking access into Dersingham Bog. The Parish Council will also raise this issue to see whether more can be done to deal with it.

We have done a number of other things during the past two months such as replying to four planning applications within the parish (we normally receive at most one a year!), and various consultations, perhaps the most relevant being from the Borough Council which is currently looking at the way it governs itself and considering whether or not there are better ways.

Our Parish Clerk will be standing down at the end of our year in May and we are in the process of recruiting a replacement, which at the time of writing is well under way and may have a positive outcome. We still need a seventh Parish Councillor and anybody interested can contact me to discuss what is involved. We may have a possible recruit already.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 11th March, at the Wolferton Social Club, starting at 6.30pm. You are very welcome to come along and listen to our discussions. After that the Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 13th May at 6.30pm at the Sandringham Club, West Newton. This is the meeting at which the new Chairman and Vice Chairman are voted into office for the year.

News from Wolferton

Christmas and New Year have come and gone and it is back to the normal everyday routine. The festive season saw a range of events in the village, from *Walk with Cinderella* on 14th and 15th December, the very well attended *Carols by Candlelight* on 15th December, round the village carol singing on 19th December, and seasonal parties at the Social Club on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

St Peter's Church – fundraising and refurbishment progress

As explained in the last issue, Phase 1A of the refurbishment of the North roof (that's the one facing the village) is complete and the improvement is clear for all to see. The second phase, 1B, will start sometime in the spring, once the bats have flown. When we start Phase 2 (the South roof) will depend on the level of ongoing success of the fundraising effort and the need to work around the bat season, but we hope that it will be later this year.

Phase 3 is all the other work necessary to properly restore the fabric of the building, which in parts dates back to the fourteenth century. There are two bits of good news here. Firstly, this phase brings together a number of unrelated but necessary issues and so can be progressed over a period of time when funding is available. Secondly, the National Lottery has started funding this type of work again – with more conditions to be met – and whilst it means that a new bid would have to be made, it does at least give a chance that some of the funding can be raised in this way.

Social Club news

There is a welcome and special events to be held at all three social clubs in the Sandringham Parish, which are the Babingley Club, the Sandringham Club at West Newton and Wolferton Social Club. More details in the next issue.

Sandringham & West Newton Pre-school

I have been asked to mention that the pre-school is open Monday to Friday during school terms from 9am to 12noon and is for children aged two and a half to five years. It aims to be sensitive to the needs of the children and their parents, and children are encouraged to be socially and morally aware of others around them and become confident individuals. For further details, contact sianrwells@gmail.com. □



The Shakespeares's Guildhall Trust

The Trust is campaigning to restore the Guildhall of St George in King Street, Britain's oldest working theatre, and bring it and the surrounding area back into use as an arts centre. All the details are all on our website www.shakespearesguildhalltrust.org.uk.

Now a charity, we work with the Borough Council, which holds the lease, and the National Trust, which owns the complex. We hold regular events to maintain interest in the Trust and to keep the complex alive and to fund-raise. We have just commemorated the 575th anniversary of the first play to be performed at the Guildhall and this will be followed on 23rd April with a celebration of Shakespeare's birthday - a procession through the town from the Trinity Guildhall (the Town Hall) in Saturday Market Place to St George's Guildhall. □

Hunstanton and District Camera Club

Rex Makemson, Chairman



Club members meet at 7.30pm on the first and third Thursday of each month in the Common Room of the Community Building at Orchard Close, just off Post Office Road by Dersingham Library.

The membership of the camera club is growing steadily and maintains the reputation of being a friendly, enjoyable and helpful club for all photographers, from just start ups, the keen amateur to the professional. We help each other in all aspects of photo taking and are always willing to accept new and enthusiastic members of all ages.

Our annual programme is compiled with all this in mind, and covers a variety of practical sessions, guest speakers, competitions, inter-club battles and club outings. During the summer period photographic days out are arranged at suitable venues where the more experienced members can help those that would like advice with composition and camera techniques. Some visits may also be arranged as workshops, given by well-known or specialist photographers, which have been very enjoyable as well as educational.

Included here are images taken by club members. The photo of the end of year trophy presentation shows from left to right Rex Makemson, Chris Holt, Elsie Cheesman, Andrew Beeson, Pete Sorrell (who won a number of trophies!) and Andy Leeder.

For further information visit
www.hunstantoncameraclub.co.uk □



Phobbies

Come and see what we do!

When: Every Thursday from 10am to 2pm

Where: The Social Club in Dersingham

About thirty of us meet and do a variety of craft-based hobbies: over the years these have included woodwork, embroidery, knitting, rug making, art, card making and many others as well. Most of the men and women who join us either have a disability or have become infirm in some way, but those who have no problems are welcome as well; what we all enjoy is the company of others while at the same time doing something practical. We all help each other to learn new things or to re-learn something we liked doing in the past.

Although based in Dersingham, currently our members include people from Hunstanton, Heacham, Snettisham, Docking and as far as King's Lynn. I am afraid we cannot provide transport, however, several people share lifts with each other.

Each year we have at least two sales of things we have made. These, together with raffles and a small subscription each week, pay the bills, provide lots of tea and biscuits and give us enough to have occasional treats.

If you are interested in joining us, either to finish something you have already started or to start something new, come and visit between 10am and 2pm any Thursday or contact Maggie on 01485 544865. Even if you wouldn't want to come regularly you are very welcome to just come and visit. We would be very pleased to show you what we do. □

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Finding refuge in stormy weather

As we now observe the mercury dropping ever lower and as droplets of ice regularly form from our breath in these cold mornings, we are reminded

that winter is once again upon us. Throughout history winter has often been seen as the most unwanted of the four seasons. Still today we can find that the wind, rain, cold, and overcast skies can often dampen the mood and leave us longing for those warmer months and longer, brighter evenings. Yet in our modern society the negative effects of winter have now been considerably curbed by the readiness of central heating, waterproof housing, and lighting whenever we would like it. However, despite all of these advances it remains that the news of an imminent arrival of a powerful storm can still hit us with that consistent sense of uneasiness – especially in parts of the world where storms can be seen at their very strongest.



Ludolph Backhyesen. *Christ in the storm on the sea of Galilee*

When Jesus and his disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee, just such a furious storm arose, catching the disciples unprepared and fearing for their lives. His disciples, who were soaked from the waves breaking over their boat, began to panic and cried out to their teacher for help. Yet they incredibly found him asleep and even had to rouse him. We read that following this Jesus awoke and gave just the simple command, 'Quiet, be still' to the storm and it consequently subsided. The disciples in their amazement respond with the words 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him.' (Mark 4:35-41).

We can find that both here, and in many other parts of the Bible, that God acts as a refuge during storms; both literal and figurative in nature. We will all inevitably face storms in life.

Some will be small and brief, whilst others will be much larger and can feel that they might never pass. Yet we can take comfort in the fact that we don't have to journey alone through these times. When the harshness of the waves lashes over us, and it feels, like the disciples did, that we might drown, we can know that God is but a simple call away. We can know that just a few of his words can bring a powerful sense of peace to the most unsettled of circumstances. His offer of refuge is open and available to us all. Will you take that opportunity to call to him to ask for assistance and refuge today?

St Felix Festival

As we venture into 2020 we are excited to announce the upcoming St Felix Festival. This will be a two-week celebration where we will remember of the arrival of Christian faith to this area of Norfolk by St Felix in around AD630. There will be a variety of events to enjoy across all four parishes, which will include a lecture on St Felix by a visiting lecturer, paper raft racing for children and a prayer pilgrimage in the footsteps of St Felix. The festival will be held from 15th to 30th May 2020 across the Dersingham benefice. More information will be posted to our church website as it becomes available (www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk). □

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Eco news from our local planet by LM Williams

National Tree Week (held at the end of November) marks the start of the winter tree-planting season. In 2019 millions of people showed up to plant trees across the UK. The Tree Council describes it as possibly the best show of support since 1973. To help communities plant orchards, trees and hedges, The Tree Council's *Tree Futures Grant Scheme 2020* encourages applications from schools and community groups that are planning a planting project. The project must actively involve children under the age of sixteen. Applications open in early 2020. Visit treecouncil.org.uk.

The Woodland Trust is currently taking applications from schools and communities for free tree packs. Successful applicants will receive their saplings in November 2020. Visit woodlandtrust.org.uk.

Local tree planting. North Norfolk District Council has pledged to plant 110,000 trees – one tree for every resident – over the next four years and is well under way with getting new trees in the ground. Norfolk County Council has pledged to plant a net gain of one million trees across the county in the next five years. The Borough Council continues to plant street trees in King's Lynn and seeks to incorporate a tree planting plan in its climate change proposals, acknowledging that 'trees are a vital resource in helping to combat climate change and for carbon sequestration'.



Peddars Way Oak Tree



Plant your own. The Tree Council's online *Tree Planting Guide* is an excellent how-to. You could start with a native, UK-grown seedling or sapling. Choose a tree that suits your soil, aspect and garden size and whose roots won't intrude on your or your neighbours' foundations as it grows. Aftercare is important: water, weed, and guard the tree from gnawers to help it through its first few years. The RSPB recommends planting birch, holly, rowan and crab apple to provide food and habitat for birds and insects.

The Great British Battery Hoarders. Did you know that Britons tend to hang on to their used batteries instead of recycling them? (I have a good few in the clutter drawer even though I've switched to rechargeables!) Although stashing old batteries is one way to keep them out of landfill, it's not the best option. Recycling makes it possible to recover and reuse the heavy metals inside batteries, but getting us to drop off our old batteries at retail collection points is still a challenge. The Bring Back Heavy Metal campaign offers *Where to Recycle* at bringbackheavymetal.co.uk – it's worth a browse. Several collection points are just down the road. There is one at the Co-op in Dersingham.



Coming soon, from William and Kate, The Earthshot Prize. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have announced funding for 'a decade of action to repair the Earth'. Launching later in the year, Earthshot aims to motivate all sectors of society to solve the greatest environmental problems facing us. David Attenborough narrates the preview online at earthshotprize.org. Great stuff. Check it out!□

Ingoldisthorpe Village WI

Lesley Geer, President

This is my first time of writing about what goes on in Ingoldisthorpe Village WI. We meet the third Thursday of the month (excluding August), at 7.30pm in Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall, Hill Road, Ingoldisthorpe.

By the time you read this we will have had our first meeting of 2020 and several events will be already in place: a lunch for members, presentation of the trophy to the winner of our Creative Writing Competition, and our Soup and Sandwich lunch which is put on for members of the local community. This is aside from our regular activities which continue whatever the time of year.

Our monthly meetings for 2020 are all planned with speakers covering subjects ranging from Life as a Vet, A Policeman's Lot, Walking Netball, and Basket Making, as well as our own in-house entertainment.

Other events/activities include a backstage tour of the Theatre Royal, tickets to see Les Miserables, trips to Bressingham and on the Boston Belle, plus more in the planning.

As always, our door is open to new members and you can be guaranteed of a warm welcome. No two WIs are the same so come along and see how we do it.□

Kathryn Gigg

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Courses at Dersingham Village Centre

Sue Payne, DVCA

Joy of Food

We were able to run three FREE courses, the last one finishing on 28th November. All the students said they had great fun and enjoyed working with others to create a variety of dishes, from pot noodle, savoury rice and quiche, to steak, scones and Victoria sponge. Sorry there is no picture of the steaks, they were all devoured quickly!



Special thanks to Linda our lovely tutor for providing quality fresh ingredients, including her wonderful home-made jam, and sharing hints and tips gained from a career in catering, both as a chef and teacher.



Joy of Food is delivered by Norfolk Community Learning, a Norfolk County Council further education programme.

We are thinking of organising other more bespoke courses, perhaps themed, e.g. canapés and tapas, cakes, one-pot dishes, curry, meat-free or around seasonal events such as Easter and Christmas.

If you are interested in improving your cooking skills or trying something new, please let us know.

Sugar Craft

Following a free taster session, Michelle Carpenter, from the Holme Cake Company, ran four workshops. A variety of Christmas cake

decorations were produced under Michelle's expert guidance. These included flowers, holly, angels, trees and Father Christmas, as the photographs show.



We will be arranging more workshops before Easter. Further information will follow in the next edition of Village Voice.□



Dersingham Evening W.I. Maggie Guest

One of our most delightful speakers recently was Penelope Watkins whose talk was titled 'Inside Out – looking at lingerie' Penelope gave a history of lingerie up to the end of the 20th century. The talk was made especially interesting with her extensive collection of actual garments; it was interesting to see how fashions and fabrics have changed over the years as well as going from hand stitching to machine.

Another enjoyable meeting saw all the members concentrating hard when we were visited by Alison from the Crafty Corner Shop at Grimston. Alison had us making a birthday card and a book mark and the room was in silence while we worked out what went where! She had done a lot of preparation for us. The shop is worth a visit for craft items.

Stephanie, who has kindly volunteered to be our President this year, continues to run the M.A.D. group at which members knit (and chatter) and the results are sent or sold for charity. The group took part in the King's Lynn Minster Christmas Fair. Stephanie also hosted the October coffee morning which was well attended, as was the November coffee morning held at Pat's home. Thanks to both hostesses as it is good to chat in a small group and get to know other members.

Babs continues to run two craft groups and she took the Thursday group to Langham Glass where they blew lovely glass baubles (all the complicated or hot work was done by the professionals). The group were all delighted with the baubles they took home. At the last craft meeting, the group made Christmas table decorations.



A last walk of the year was enjoyed by a good number on a lovely autumn day across fields, followed by a well-deserved lunch.

The annual meeting was held in November and a new committee elected. The December meet was a party with food prepared by some of the committee and the Dersingham Handbell Ringers came as entertainment.

Some of our members joined Ingoldisthorpe WI on a train trip on the Bure Valley Railway. Lunch and coach travel were included and there was spare time in Aylsham. Definitely enjoyed by all who went. Continuing with the eating theme, a large group went to Thaxters for lunch and a quiz just before Christmas. Both these events were organised by Wendy. Cyn and Lyn organised an enjoyable dinner at the Rathskeller during the local dining week. Diann runs the Theatre group and several trips are in the pipeline. Our thanks to Alison and Steph for continuing to run the raffle.



Did you see our Christmas tree in the St Nicholas Church Tree Festival? We all (nearly) made two white pop-poms, joined a large and a small one

together, then decorated them to make snowmen to hang on the tree. They looked good against the dark green of the tree.

The Norfolk Federation of WIs' Centennial Celebration held a carol service at St Nicholas Chapel in King's Lynn and seven of our members went with a candlelit decorated jar.

Meetings are held at St Cecilia's Church near the Co-op on the third Wednesday of the month (not August) at 7.15pm so just come along as someone will welcome you.

Contacts: Maggie 01485 542424, Lyn 541257, Stephanie 542146□



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Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny

NZ soldiers from Dersingham

I was doing a bit of research about soldiers that lost their lives in World War II when I came across these two brothers who at one time had lived in Dersingham and I wondered if anyone could remember them. Philip Alderton, Private 16717, 20th battalion New Zealand Infantry died on 27th

November 1941 aged 33, son of Herbert and Ellen Alderton of Dersingham.

He was buried in Knightsbridge war cemetery, Acroma, Libya; and Frederick Henry Alderton, Private 486049, 26th battalion New Zealand Infantry who died on 17th March 1944 aged 32, son of Herbert and Ellen Alderton of Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand and husband of Edna Alderton of Dunedin, buried in Cassino war cemetery, Italy.

What amazes me is that their parents were living in Dersingham in 1941, but in 1944 they were in New Zealand. They would not have flown there so they must have gone by ship, but this would have been a most dangerous journey during World War II. If anybody remembers this family or knows anything about them please let me know. What puzzles me is why, if the two brothers lived in Dersingham, did they join the New Zealand army?

Dersingham boundary

I was very interested in a letter in a magazine from a lady from Snettisham about the Dersingham parish boundary, the bird reserve, the beach and the shingle pits. The Dersingham parish boundary encloses an area three miles long and one mile wide. It starts at Ling House and ends at the last big drain (River Ingol) down the marsh, 100 yards from the old sea wall that was built in 1868 to protect the King's Lynn to Hunstanton railway line from the sea. The parish of Dersingham covers 3,573 acres of land and eight acres of water.

The land between the last drain and the old sea wall or bank is in the parish of Snettisham. This land extends as far as the Wolferton boundary. The nature reserve, the beach and the jetty are all in the parish of Snettisham, except for a small area of the shingle pits that are in the parish of Wolferton. The parish of Snettisham covers 5,592 acres of land, 16 acres of water, 37 acres of tidal water and 1,342 acres of foreshore, which I think is the largest area of foreshore in Norfolk. Dersingham has not had a beach since 1671 when there was a great flood and the sea went back to where it is today. Before the flood Dersingham was a fishing village.

As for the jetty, it was built well over one hundred years ago. At one time there was a narrow gauge railway that ran from the shingle works to the jetty, taking shingle to be tipped into barges. A jetty is built for barges, small boats and fishing vessels, whereas a pier is built for people to walk along and amusements. Most of the damage to the jetty was done by the great flood of 1953, when a lot of the railway track was washed into the pits and the causeway dividing the two pits was washed away. Before 1953 the southern end shingle pit was called Wolferton Pit and the northern end pit Snettisham Pit.



The old pumping station

Staying down the marshes, I read in the press that a new pumping station costing five million pounds has been built. (*Ed: see Tony Bubb's article in the last edition of Village Voice*). The old one had been built in 1945, so it has done good service for seventy-four years. It was opened on 2nd February 1946 by King George VI accompanied by Queen Elizabeth, Princess Margaret and one or two corgi dogs. The caretaker down the pumping station in those days

was a Mr Charlie ('Chippy') Houchen, who used to keep a fish and chip shop in the village. He kept the engines in the pump house in immaculate condition. Some of us boys would go down the pumping station and fish for eels as there were nice big ones down there. One day I fell in the drain so Chippy lent me a pair of his overalls to bike home in. You cannot fish down there now as it is out of bounds.

The Warren pond

I saw in the Dersingham Parish Council notes that over £20,000 have been spent (wasted) on trying to construct a new pond down The Drift on The Warren. There was a nice old moat (Baldings Moat) that had been there for many years; it never ran dry, not even in the summer. It always had lots of wildlife around it like ducks, geese, water hens, coot and even a swan or two. But some knowledgeable person decided to fill it in and then try and construct a new one. My father had a good old saying 'You should listen to the locals' and I do.

Coal bonanza

The chap that lives next door to me has only lived in Hunstanton for a year and he takes his dog for a walk on Old Hunstanton and Holme-next-the-Sea beaches. Whilst on these beaches the other day he saw a man with a bag picking something up from off the sand. He said, 'What is that?' and the man said, 'It is coal'. My neighbour did not believe him as it looked too shiny, so his wife said, 'Wait till we get home and then we will ask Dick'. So he came round mine and got a small bit of the black stuff out of his bag. 'What is that?' he asked. I said, 'That is coal. Did you get it off the beach?' 'Yes', he said, 'how did you know and how did it get there on the beach?'

Well it's like this. When coal started to become the main source of energy most of it was taken around the country from the north of England, Wales and the Midlands by barges on the canals, but around the coast it was delivered by sailing barges and coasters (small ships). A lot of it would get washed overboard. Barges would come in to many ports around the Norfolk coast, like Thornham (where there is still a coal barn), Brancaster Staithe, Wells-next-the-Sea and many other small ports. At Snettisham the coasters or barges would dump it on the foreshore and men would come with horses and carts and shovel it up. One day in 1936 a coal ship got in trouble in a bad storm off Snettisham on its way into King's Lynn. The crew dumped most of the coal overboard so as to get the ship on an even keel so she could get into port. As soon as the villagers knew about this, the next day they went down there with wheelbarrows, handcarts, old prams, tin baths and sacks, anything that they could put coal in. By the next day the coal had nearly all gone.

During and after World War II a lot of coal was brought down by the railways in coal wagons. Most stations like Dersingham, Snettisham and Heacham had coal yards at the stations. At Hunstanton there was a big coal yard in Seagate Road right next to the railway line. It would be bagged up, delivered to the customers and put in their coal sheds. In the very bad winter of 1947 there was a coal shortage and it was put on ration, as the ships and trains could not get through because of the ice and snow. In the 1950s and 1960s a lot of coal merchants bought lorries and went to the mines to fetch their coal and a lot of haulage contractors carried coal.

In Dersingham we had many coal merchants over the years, but when I was a boy the main ones were Mr Bird, the Nurse brothers and Mr Wilson, who delivered his coal with a horse and cart. Then other coal merchants like Co-op from Lynn and Robinson's from Snettisham would come into the villages. I don't think there was much coal delivered by barge or coaster after the 1940s so the coal that my neighbour found was no doubt on the beach lying in the sand for well over seventy years.

Well that's your lot for now from the boy Dick at Sunny Hunny. It will soon be springtime so get your hoes out so as we can go muck spreading.□

Dersingham Day Centre

A belated Happy New Year to you all from Dersingham Day Centre. We're now back to our regular Wednesday meetings after our Christmas break, with our usual activities of cards, dominoes, Scrabble, knitting and chatting.

Back in November we held our very successful Autumn Fayre when we raised an amazing £782. Many thanks to all who supported us. We were also grateful and delighted to receive a very generous donation to our funds from West Newton Carpet Bowls Club.

We celebrated the November birthdays of Margaret Rhodes and Margaret Boston. That month was also Dersingham Day Centre's 38th anniversary!

In December we participated in the Christmas Tree Festival in St Nicholas Church. Our tree was covered in teddy bears and looked very bright and colourful.

We held our Christmas party at the Village Centre on 18th December. This year, instead of catering ourselves, we asked the Village Centre team to do the honours – and they did us proud. The tables looked lovely, the meal was delicious and beautifully served and there was a great festive atmosphere. After lunch Waddo entertained us all with a Sing-along. Members and volunteers really enjoyed this and some were tempted to get up and dance. A quote from a member, 'Absolutely brilliant, first time I've got up and danced with a partner with wheels'. We finished the afternoon with tasty homemade mince pies given to us by our good friend Hazel Wolff.



On a sad note, two of our members, John Tansley and Doris Sullivan (known as Dot) passed away in December. We all miss them both.

If you would like to know more about joining Dersingham Day Centre then please contact Ann Saunders on 01485 542885 or Hilary Judd on 01485 543204 or 07887 486739.□

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Dersingham Walking Group

Tony Bubb

The first walk of the year enjoyed very good weather and was well attended by twelve hardy souls. Already there are a few spring flowers showing themselves unreasonably early so the walks to come could be good for photographers.

Our upcoming walks are:-

Wednesday February 26th 1.30pm

This local walk will take in around 4 miles of the Sandringham Woods. Start at the Dersingham village sign TF685297. Leaders: Steve and Lindsay Davis 01485 543138.

Wednesday March 11th 2pm

A circular walk around the Houghton area of 4.5 miles. Start on the Peddars Way at TF757285. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Wednesday March 25th 2pm

The footpaths and back streets of Old Hunstanton make up this coast and countryside walk of about 4 miles. Start point is the Hunstanton Lighthouse TF 676420. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

Wednesday April 8th 2pm

Sandringham Woods again, but different woods from February's route. Start at the Dersingham village sign TF 685297. Leader: Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.

Wednesday April 22nd 2pm

The cowslips of Courtyard Farm are to be visited on this 4.5 mile walk. Start from the car park on the left of the Ringstead to Burnham road about 0.7 miles east of Ringstead, Map Reference TF 722405. Leader: Keith Starks 01485 542268.

All our planned walks will appear here in Village Voice and can also be found on our page on the Parish Council website and in the Calendar on that website. Our page is at www.dersingham.org.uk/walkinggroup.

Joining the walking group is a great way to meet some of your fellow villagers and to explore the local area. You'll probably discover footpaths that you never knew existed and maybe views that will give you a fresh appreciation of the local landscape. So if you haven't walked with the group before, why not join us for an amble through our wonderful countryside. Most of our walks are between 4 and 5 miles long and take around two hours, with a rest stop at some point. There is no cost involved, just turn up with your boots on. Dogs are welcome on most walks, provided they are well behaved and tolerant of other dogs. The leader of the walk will do his or her best to look after you, of course, but it is a condition of coming on a walk that you take responsibility for your own safety. As that great hiker Alfred Wainwright said, "Watch where you put your feet!"

PLEASE NOTE THAT the leaders are happy to organize and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety. If you want more information about any particular walk then please contact the leader.

Group coordinator: Tony Bubb Tel: 01485 542638 Email: frostytrees@btinternet.com □

Dersingham Carpet Bowls

The final months of 2019 saw club members continuing to take part in assorted leagues and matches, with varying degrees of success. Dersingham teams travelled to Runcton Holme, Hilgay, Littleport and Lynnsport, whilst teams from Wiggshall and Sporle visited us at the Village Centre.



The 13th December saw around forty members at the King William in Sedgeford for our pre-Christmas meal. Ably organised as always by Maureen, good food, good service and good company were enjoyed by all.

On 17th December we held what is becoming an annual event, our Christmas party, this year at the Village Centre. All members were asked to bring a small plate of food - sweet, savoury or nibbles - which resulted in a splendid spread. Maureen and Jenny O had concocted some fun quizzes and a raffle, which raised £68 for club funds. A target bowls competition was also held, at 50p for three woods with the winner taking home all the cash. Well done Jenny P for walking away triumphant.

There were no meetings on Christmas or New Year's Eves, but the first meeting of 2020 saw twenty-four members attend our usual afternoon of friendly competition as we all get back into the old routine



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The Salvation Army, Snettisham District

Alison Kirby



Well, December was a very busy month for us at The Salvation Army in Snettisham. Maybe you saw our band carolling at one of the many venues we visited. It was really good to be able to meet so many of you and I hope you enjoyed hearing the old familiar carols.

Our Christmas Afternoon Tea was also well attended and is now so popular we have to hold it over two days as we can't fit in everyone in one sitting! Maybe you visited our Christmas Tree Festival with village businesses and organisations decorating a tree and raising money for their nominated charity. If so, I hope you enjoyed both the trees and the welcome. Or maybe you attended our Carol Service; so many of you did that it was a bit of a tight squeeze, but we had a good time celebrating the birth of Jesus.

I would like to thank you all for your generosity in regards to donations received for our Toys and Tins Appeal. The Toys and Tins Appeal is run by The Salvation Army in Norfolk in conjunction with BBC Radio Norfolk and aims to provide food hampers and toys for those who struggle to cope at Christmas time. This year we were overwhelmed with the amount of toys and food donated to our appeal through our Community shop in Hunstanton and also left at our hall in Alma Road, Snettisham. Because of your generous donations we were able to help over fifty local people this Christmas time with food hampers and toy parcels.

The Salvation Army is often called 'Christianity with its sleeves rolled up', in other words our faith is worked out in actions. But much of what we do can only be achieved because of the generous support we receive from you, the general public.

If you didn't visit us at Christmas then there will be plenty of opportunities in the coming year to visit us. On 15th February we have a ceramic painting workshop from 10am to 12noon and on 21st March we have a Community Breakfast from 9am to 11am. No tickets needed, just pop in for a full English Breakfast for £5.

At the start of a new year I always have the urge to start decluttering and spring cleaning. Over the course of a year we can hold onto things that might be useful or we might need and then they just sit in a cupboard taking up space and gathering dust. The new year is a good time to get rid of all those things that just clutter up our homes so that we have room for things that are of more use to us.

The Bible tells us that we need to declutter our lives too. In Ephesians 4:31 Paul tells us 'Get rid of all bitterness, passion and anger. No more shouting or insults, no more hateful feelings of any sort. Instead be kind and tender-hearted to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ.' He then goes on to say in Philippians 4:8 'Fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise, things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely and honourable.' This year as you start to declutter your homes start to declutter your lives too. Get rid of all those hateful, bitter feelings and just hold onto the good things.

For more information about Snettisham Salvation Army visit our website www.salvationarmy.org.uk/snettisham.

You can contact Alison Kirby, Corps Leader, on 01485 579079 or 07775 717852; or email Alison.Kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk

The Village Centre in 2020

Judy Collingham

A very Happy New Year to all those involved in the Village Centre over this past year. The Centre has proved to be a real asset to the community, and we saw many folks come in to experience our warm welcome, some for the first time.

On Christmas Day we hosted our first Christmas Lunch which was well attended by over twenty villagers in search of a good meal and good company. Many thanks to our volunteers who gave their time to support this event.

Then we hosted our first New Year's Eve party which proved to be a huge success, with most of us tripping the light fantastic to music from decades past provided by DJ, Stephen Hayter.

The Centre was redecorated after New Year and is now spick and span ready for all our regular users in the coming year.



New activities in 2020 include extending the existing Monday Coffee Club to Thursdays each week (10am to 12 noon), and we are now holding, on the second Sunday of each month, Sunday Socials from 2pm to 4pm. Do come along and join in the fun!

Village Cinema continues to prosper and will be showing *Downton Abbey* on 25th February (7.30 for the film, but the option of a 'Downton Style' afternoon tea at 6pm booked through 01485 540644); and on 31st March is *Finding Your Feet*. Saturday 14th March sees the welcome return of Casino Night, run in association with Dersingham Tennis Club – get your tickets from the Post Office. Village Voice Live has some interesting talks on 11th February and 10th March (see back of Village Voice for details).

Thanks to all participants in the Village Lottery (see website for details). All profits are used to improve the Centre facilities. Lottery winners for December were: 6, 45, 44 and for January: 49, 33, 41.

We have been asked to provide more information on the range of regular activities taking place at the Centre. We are now hosting activities such as yoga, pilates, exercise for the over 50s, various dancing classes, lacemaking, carpet bowls, ballet, jazzercise, Zumba, mobility gym, gardening for the disabled, and our community lunches and coffee mornings. Further details of all these are on our website www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk and if you go to the website and sign up for our blog you will be automatically emailed about the upcoming events. We shall also be displaying notices on village notice boards as well as in the Centre. Come along – you will be warmly welcomed!□

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Charlie and George a short story by Allan Coleby

Perhaps the best-known and best-loved character in the village where I grew up as a child was Charlie, the village coalman. I never knew his surname, for no one ever called him by it. The man known as “Old Charlie” to the adults was “Uncle Charlie” to us children who clustered round the stable door where he fed and groomed George, the trusty black stallion who pulled his coal cart.

George was equally well-known, equally well-loved. In his prime, George was a magnificent black Suffolk stallion. He impressed all who saw him by his fine, proud stance, his massive legs, feathered towards the hoof. He pulled the coal cart with the most enormous pride. He held his head high. Reflected sunlight slid over every rippling muscle, every sinuous curve of his expansive shoulders, deep chest and strong legs. At the same time, he was full of curiosity, enjoying life immensely, attached to people, interested in everything that went on around him.

They were a popular and hard-working team. They were regarded by everyone as a permanent and essential part of the village scene, as regular and certain as the seasons, as necessary as sowing and harvest. Both were confirmed bachelors, uninterested in the opposite sex, bound together by their undying affection for each other.

Twice a week Charlie and George made the ten-mile journey to the railway yard for the coal. From years of habit, they walked in step all the way there and back. Charlie refused to add to the horse's work. “George has enough to do without pulling me about,” he said. “He has to walk, so I walk, too.”

On cold mornings, when George had to stand and wait after stamping and snorting and steaming up the street, Charlie would throw his own overcoat over the top of George's rug while he shouldered the sacks of coal along the many different alleyways and tumbled them into the many dark, gaping coalhouses and bunkers. On hot days he would stop now and then to give him a drink from a little barrel slung under the back of the dray. As Charlie held the barrel, George sucked the water through pouted lips, and blew the last drops away, spattering Charlie with froth.

When Charlie stopped for lunch, George had his, too. The close bond between them developed in George some unhorsey tastes. His capacity for pickles was remarkable. The children adored him, and if they met him on the way home from school, numerous tiny fists offered clumps of grass torn from the hedgerows. If they had called at the village shop, aptly named “The Little Wonder”, then they offered not only grass, but jelly babies and dolly mixtures. Charlie reluctantly had to make a rule that he was fed only grass.

One year George endeared himself forever to the men who were digging a trench beside his field for a water main leading to a group of new houses on William Hill. At lunch time he came among them asking for food. A horse with a taste for roast beef and pickles caused so much amusement that he earned a paragraph in the local paper.

In winter Charlie took a patent cough mixture. He was never especially ill, but he liked to have something to swear by; if he had a cold, the mixture made him better. If he had none, then it had kept him free. It was, however, an expensive time for Charlie when he thought old George had a bit of a cough. George was a crafty old thing. Just as Charlie had bedded him down for the night and was picking up his lantern to go for his own supper, George would sometimes give a little grunting cough, turn away from the hay and

hang his head. Charlie would replace the lantern and give him an extra large dose of the cough medicine. Then he would pat his neck and fondle his ears. "Steady, boy, steady. We can't have you taking a turn for the worse."

One morning Catherine Thacker broke her arm in the school playground. The teacher's car was being repaired. The grocer's van was away fetching supplies and the surgery was a mile away. As the frantic schoolteacher looked across the village green, she saw the coal cart. She carried the sobbing child across, just as Charlie came out of a farmhouse.

"I'll take her," he called. He whipped a dozen sacks of coal off the cart and dumped them in the customer's gateway. "There now," he said. "That will lighten us." He moved a stack of empty sacks, placed his coat, lining side up, over them, and helped the teacher on to the dray so that she could sit on the sacks, nursing the child. "Come on, George, old boy. We'll have to break the record this morning." And away they trundled on ambulance service.

Today, I drove the long journey back to the village, and had to start before dawn. As the earth rolled eastwards, the cold, grey sky revealed a sombre, cloudy day. Later, a heavy sadness weighed on my heart. I had been told that Charlie and George were to make their journey down the village street for the last time. The dray was immaculate, with not a speck of coal dust in sight. George's brasses shone and his harness gleamed. Proudly, he stepped the length of Swan Street and turned left by the Sugarloaves public house towards where the granite finger of the church steeple beckoned. The late afternoon was dull and doleful. This time Charlie was riding. But this was George's last delivery. We had all lost a good friend and were full of a choking sorrow.□



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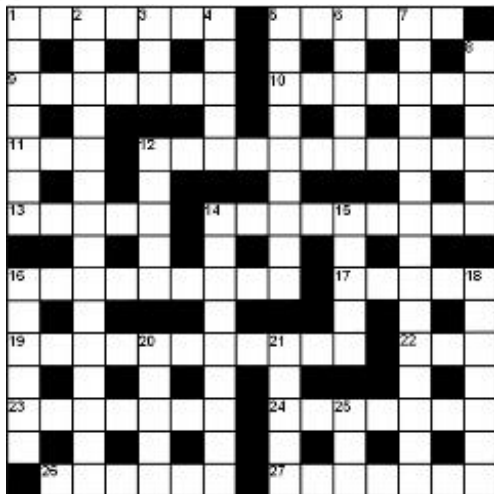
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PUZZLE CORNER

Crossword by
Philip Neal

Across

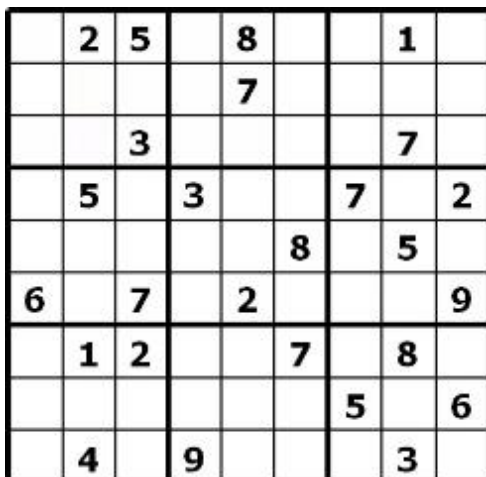
- 1 Uncovered by police inside going bonkers (7)
 5 Harry O'Sullivan (6)
 9 Ned hurt and shaken by outburst (7)
 10 Stir the porridge (7)
 11 Officer in the saddle (3)
 12 Catholic letters found in (11)
 13 Tremble to think about writhing viper (5)
 14 Uncomfortable sensation when you sadly run out of breath? (9)
 16 Digger Gardner caught between races out or palindrome (11)
 17 Latin master bearing cones (5)
 19 Four busy years around 3rd March before she completed Remembrance Day (11)
 22 Half a dance kicked by MPs (3)
 23 Ground rice rat found aberrant (7)
 24 Conflicts developed after tablets dissolved (7)
 26 Book of afterthoughts and charity (6)
 27 Sounds like an intellectual facial feature (7)



Down

- 1 Observed that despite frost windscreen remained clear (7)
 2 Twin joins hospital dept. to form denser innuendos (6,9)
 3 Inwardly Tessa did look unhappy (3)
 4 Foreign acres of white cheese (5)
 5 Couple host American husband going to church in collapsible carriage (9)
 6 Foreign language often heard at Christmas table (5)
 7 Textured ceiling disturbed near ancient city in strange leaflet outside normal hours (15)
 8 Unfinished broadcaster controls pipeline for Korea (6)
 12 Complicated dive wins ten points without the right to benefit (2,3)
 14 Which one is it under? Try three (3,6)
 15 Students in Scottish river keep score (5)
 16 Situation looking decidedly grim when he's seen through the bare aperture (6)
 18 Butcher wash and cutter (7)
 20 Initially very important to all livelihoods (5)
 21 Brother left dog rose for example to dawdle (5)
 25 Plug in and drive off (3)

Sudoku





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WORD WALL by Philip Neal

Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 65

GECKO	ACID	BARELY	MONITOR
GARAGE	JAZZ	IGUANA	RUSSET
DESERVED	RECENTLY	CAJUN	FAIR
GALA	CHAMELEON	PIPPIN	FOLK

Dersingham Bog News

Natural England



As one year ends and another year begins, it's the perfect time for reflection. In 2019 we undertook our annual period of scrub management at the Northern end of the reserve to remove scrub from the mire. Removing species such as birch and pine helps to keep areas of the reserve open whilst allowing water levels to rise.

January is the perfect time to take a walk in the countryside or your local Nature Reserve; wrapping up and getting out and about will help you to re-connect with nature.

As February approaches and the weather warms, staff and volunteers will be looking out for the first sightings of Woodlark. These birds have very distinctive long, creamy white eyebrows and arguably one of the most beautiful of all songs, which sounds a little something like '*tree tree lee-lee-leeleelee*'. Woodlarks have been heard singing at Dersingham Bog NNR (National Nature Reserve) for a number of years, returning to the site from their wintering grounds. Preferring mixed woodland interspersed with heath, clearings, or pastures makes Dersingham Bog NNR an ideal place for this ground nesting bird, and because of this it is especially important to keep dogs on leads and on the tracks at this time of year to prevent disturbance.

We have had a lot of Snipe roosting on the site, with up to forty seen in the Northern Mire. They have been spotted using the vegetation for shelter and used to breed on Dersingham Bog NNR.

If you've thought about volunteering and have any practical experience then why not get in contact using the following link VolunteerEnquiries@naturalengland.org.uk. Tasks will change seasonally and can be tailored to your interests but might include scrub removal, cutting and burning invasive plant species, fauna and flora surveys, assisting with guided walks and checking on the cattle we have on site. Volunteering will give you the perfect opportunity to use your current skills, whilst contributing to the management of your local nature reserve and meeting like-minded people.□

Hollyhocks

Brian Anderson

Was this the tallest hollyhock in Dersingham? It was 3.98 metres tall (just a shade over 13 feet). It was still flowering in early December. It was taller than some of the trees in our garden! (Ed: *can anyone beat this?!!*)

Chicken Foot Dominoes

Come and join in this fun, free game at
Dersingham Library

Alternate Fridays 10am to 12 noon

We need eight people to form a group.
Ladies and gentlemen are welcome.

Contact Margaret Boston on
01485 545941





Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

Since our last Village Voice entry, the children have taken part in several fund raising events, most notably Children in Need, where £254 was raised for very good causes and the children enjoyed dressing in PJs and bringing their teddies to school for a Bring and Buy Sale.



December saw a multitude of festive cheer in the shape of Nativity plays and pantomime style performances. The Christmas fair and service at St Nicholas Church rounded off the season beautifully for the main site, with Year 6 taking a starring role.

Reception and Nursery classes were exceptionally busy in the run up to Christmas, including a Polar Express film night and delightful Nativity, shared with parents and extended family at St Nicholas Church alongside Reverend Capron. Perhaps the most poignant part of the service was the children singing and signing *Away in a manger*. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Early Years site throughout the year, with special mention to the Friends of the School and Reverend Capron for hosting our special family service.



With a new term upon us, the children are embarking on fresh topics. Year 1 are getting into carnival mode as they learn all about Rio and the beautiful rainforest, with its vast array of colourful animals. They will be learning about festivals and celebrations from cultures around the world.

The year 2s had a great time getting to know the village and community a little better, including what it was like to attend school 100 years ago. The children have drawn maps, explored the local area and even re-opened the local supermarket. They now embark on a Towers, Tunnels and Turrets quest and are hoping to create their own woodland castles



during Forest Schools as well as using the camp fire for tasty snacks!

Year 3 have left the Savage Stone Age behind and are taking a walk on the wild side, through the dark and deadly Middle Ages. Sword and shield at the ready, pledging allegiance to King and country, they will debate the actions of Robin Hood and his Merry Men, by exploring common themes of 'helping others' and 'stealing from the rich to give to the poor'. The aim is to discover whether Robin Hood was really a hero or villain.

Year 4 are embarking on a Viking adventure, where they will learn about 'raiders' and 'traders' and what life was like in Iceland and Britain 1000 years ago.

Year 5 have based their term's work around the book *Silver Donkey*, which is set in World War I. The children have discussed not only the war itself and its causes, but also the human cost of being in the war, PTSD, and the widespread use of animals and the morality of using them.

2019 ended on a positive note on the sporting front, with children participating in a swimming gala, which saw several well-contested places. Year 4 put in an epic performance at the West Norfolk Sportshall Athletics event and the boys now go on to represent the school at the County Games finals in Norwich next month. Let's hope the New Year sees many more of our children participating in sport at every level! From all of us here at Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School, wishing you a very happy, healthy 2020! □



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World Day of Prayer this year will be held at St Cecilia's Catholic Church, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, on Friday 6th March 2020. Refreshments will be served from 10am and the Service will start at 11am. It has been prepared this year by the women of Zimbabwe and the theme is "Rise! Take your mat and walk". This is an ecumenical service, open to everyone, men, women and children of all faiths or none, so please come along and bring a friend. All the churches in the local area have representatives involved in this service, which is celebrated in over 170 countries. For further information and resources go to the website wwdp.org.uk

Many thanks go to all the volunteers involved in making both our churches look so lovely and inviting for the Christmas period, including cleaning, dressing the crib, doing flower arrangements, as well as readers and ministers etc.



Flower arrangers



There is a *Fair Trade Stall* at St Cecilia's after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of every month. Please support this very worthwhile cause by buying fairly traded goods to support families abroad trying to earn a living. For more information please contact Caroline Brooks on 01553 673069.

All social events will be well publicised in the weekly bulletins and on the website. Everyone, whether Catholic or not, is welcome to all of our services and social occasions. We have refreshments after the 11am Mass every Sunday and after 10.15am Mass every Wednesday. There are also refreshments after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of the month at Dersingham. Everyone will be most welcome.

Daily Masses are 10am in St Theresa's Convent, 27 Sandringham Road, Hunstanton, during the winter months on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday Mass is at 10.15am at St Cecilia's, Dersingham.

Sunday Masses are 9am at St Cecilia's, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and 11am at the Parish Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Edmunds, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.

If you require a Priest urgently please telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220 or email parishpriest763@gmail.com

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org

Email: parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org



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Crossword Answers

Across

1 Nudists. 5 Potter. 9 Thunder. 10 Stretch. 11 Col. 12 Encyclicals. 13 Dread. 14 Heartburn. 16 Rotavator. 17 Larch. 19 Anniversary. 22 Can. 23 Erratic. 24 Battles. 26 Psalms. 27 Eyebrow.

Down

1 Noticed. 2 Double entendres. 3 Sad. 4 Serac. 5 Pushchair. 6 Turki. 7 Extracurricular. 8 Chosen. 12 Ex div. 14 Hat tricks. 15 Tally. 16 Reaper. 18 Handsaw. 20 Vital. 21 Amble. 25 Tee.

Word Wall Answers

Lizards: gecko, iguana, chameleon, monitor

Types of pop music: acid, garage, Cajun, folk

Apples: jazz, gala, pippin, russet

Just: deserved, fair, barely, recently

Sudoku Answers

7	2	5	4	8	9	6	1	3
4	6	1	5	7	3	2	9	8
9	8	3	2	1	6	4	7	5
1	5	8	3	9	4	7	6	2
2	9	4	7	6	8	3	5	1
6	3	7	1	2	5	8	4	9
5	1	2	6	3	7	9	8	4
3	7	9	8	4	1	5	2	6
8	4	6	9	5	2	1	3	7

John Pell III of Dersingham Elizabeth Fiddick



It is quite something to remember as we walk around our village, down Chapel Road perhaps, or up over the Heath, that it has been established here since well before the Domesday Book was even thought of. Many thousands of people besides ourselves have thought of it as their home, some spending their whole lives here. For the majority the one constant, reassuring factor would be the church, which has stood at the centre of the village and of their lives for over eight centuries. If you enter the church and walk down to the altar, on your left there is a large alabaster tomb.



Study the top and you will see incised in the black marble a gentleman dressed in an Elizabethan dress gown with loose sleeves, wearing a ruff. He is bearded and his hair has one long lock hanging down in front. Facing him, also dressed in an Elizabethan gown and wearing a ruff, stands a lady with her hands clasped. These are John Pell III who died in 1607 aged 81 and his wife Margaret Overend. Beneath them on the side you will find the kneeling figures of their six sons, William, John, Valentine, Jeffrey, Thomas and Andrew. On the opposite side are their three daughters, Joan, Margaret and Elizabeth also kneeling. All nine are depicted weeping as requested by John himself in his will. Adding colour to the end of the tomb is a shield representing the Pell coat of arms alongside that of Margaret's family Overend.



The Pells were descended from a soldier who came over to England with William the Conqueror and settled in Lincolnshire. The name had previously been recorded as de Pelle as early as 1104 at the siege of Acre in the Crusades when Humphry de Pelle scaled a ladder to put out the Greek fire (an incendiary weapon) which had been thrown. It was in 1403 in the Manorial Rolls of Pakenham Manor that we find the first instance of the family here when one Allexe Pelle is recorded. But it was John III's father, also John, who moved from Willoughby in Lincolnshire to settle in Dersingham. He left his father, another John, and four brothers to marry Margaret Cletheroe, the heiress of a wealthy shipping family in King's Lynn. John II joined his father-in-law in shipping English wools to the looms of the Lowlands, becoming increasingly wealthy in the process. Consequently, he made frequent purchases of land all around this area. In 1544 he bought from one Paul Warne lands and houses in Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe, Shernborne, Sandringham, Newton and Anmer and was listed as one of the prominent merchants in King's Lynn, then the third port of England. His son, our John III, was born here in about 1527.

It seems likely that John II would have occupied Brookhall Manor, the old fortified Manor House that had already stood for many years in the pastures opposite the church, surrounded by the moat which can still be seen today. However, by 1553 he decided that to better reflect his growing wealth and status he needed a more prestigious modern house than the ancient outdated moated Manor. So he built an imposing house in the area where our present surgery and other businesses operate. It was surrounded by a large garden with several barns and outbuildings to store the corn, hay and straw produced from his lands. The old house with the moat was probably still used for some time but at some point was abandoned and demolished, as a map of 1720 reveals the site deserted and let as pasture to one Mr Dutton. Sadly John did not enjoy his new home for long as he died in 1555 and requested to be buried in the church. An inquisition taken in Lynn described his property as *6 messuages, 320 acres of land, 120 of meadow, 40 of pasture, 50 of furze and heath in Dersingham, Shernbourne, and Ingoldisthorpe.*



Thus John III inherited the Manors and shipping interests of his father. Moreover, in 1550 he had married Margaret Overend, an heiress to the shipping fortune of her father who was a leading magistrate in King's Lynn, so John's assets were now considerable. Three sons and a daughter had already been born as he took over and he was already active in the village, recorded as Churchwarden here in 1555. He was established in King's Lynn, becoming a member of the Council in 1550, and appointed Mayor in 1560. During his time as Mayor he was instrumental in settling a "war" between the fishermen of his local port Wolferton with the ships of Lynn to gain supremacy over the mussel shoals. He decreed that the Mayor and Councilmen should always dress in scarlet, whilst their wives should wear French Hoods. But he worked tirelessly, not only on promoting his own business interests, but also on the development of Lynn's shipping and industries. There are many records of his land transactions and shipping ventures. In 1565, when it was rumoured Spain was preparing to invade England, an inventory was made of all ships. He reported that from his Manors of 75 roofs he could put into commission "a ship of burden" with navigator and crew.

He was chosen in 1571 with Thomas Waters to represent Lynn in Parliament. A year later he successfully petitioned Queen Elizabeth I for consent to the manufacture and export of cloth in Lynn. Later in 1577 he travelled to plead Elizabeth's court to grant to Lynn Admiralty jurisdiction on its waters. He was successful so that from 1779 the Mayor and Burgesses were jointly named "Lord Admiral" of Lynn. He was indeed a formidable operator.

This became very evident in 1581 when he was involved in what we would now consider a political campaign, the "Strife of Tongues". He and his son Jeffrey, with a former Mayor and several others, spread libels and incriminating rhymes against the presiding Mayor, William Killington, and against the Vicar of St. Margaret's and that of Terrington St. John. What these unfortunate gentlemen had done to incur such treatment I have yet to discover but they took their case to the Privy Council in London in the hope of calling John to account. It would appear they were unsuccessful as no punishment was agreed and the unfortunate Mayor disappears from the records, apparently leaving John and his allies triumphant. This was not the only time John was in trouble, for in 1576 he was incarcerated in the Fleet Prison, but as yet I have not discovered his crime.

During all this time, while John and Jeffrey devoted their time to developing their shipping interests, the other brothers, William, Thomas and Andrew, managed the Manors here, while John the second son had entered the church and was appointed



Vicar at Southwick in Sussex. In 1586 Scottish pirates were attacking the coast and one of the Pell ships was lost causing John to register a claim to King James VI who would become James I of England. In 1594 Jeffrey, to enhance the family's prestige, secured approval for them to bear the Arms previously granted to his Lincolnshire cousins, depicting, *"on a green wreath with golden flowers a golden pelican with a bleeding wound in its chest"*.

John continued to acquire further property and by 1601 he had six ships named after his sons operating from the port of Wolferton. Later that same year two of his ships, *Valentine* and *John*, came into Lynn with the news that the French were preparing for war. By this time John was 75 years of age and must have been relying more and more on his sons to carry the family business.

It was in 1607 that the villagers of Dersingham learnt that John Pell, such a strong presence in their lives for so long, had died. There was without a doubt a large gathering in our church when the funeral rites were carried out by Henry Masters the vicar. Besides John's large family no doubt important persons from King's Lynn, Sandringham and perhaps even from London would have attended, so wide had been John's activities. It must have been quite an occasion too when the tomb was finally placed in the church to be admired each Sunday by the congregation.

In his will John instructed that his wife was to have and enjoy all the chambers and rooms in his "bed house" plus linen and various pans of pewter and copper. Items of silver, like the six silver teaspoons, she could use until her death when they were to go to his son William. His sons were instructed to pay annuities to her from their bequests. To the vicar Henry Masters he left his black doublet and black breeches. George Jylsson was left his leather doublet but without the buttons!!

The Pell family would continue to be an important part of our village community for nearly another 100 years, so there are still many stories to tell about them. But for now we can look at that imposing tomb by the altar and think of the energetic character that was John Pell III of Dersingham.□



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Forthcoming Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

For articles, reports of events, meetings, advertisements and details of forthcoming attractions:

Issue	Copy deadline mid-day on	Publication date
No 123 (Apr 20/May 20)	Tuesday 17th March 2020	Monday 6th April 2020
No 124 (Jun 20/July 20)	Monday 4th May 2020	Monday 25th May 2020
No 125 (Aug 20/Sept 20)	Monday 6th July 2020	Monday 27th July 2020

Advertising in Village Voice

More than 2,500 residential and business properties in Dersingham, West Newton, Wolferton and Sandringham receive a copy of Village Voice with another 600 available to subscribers, businesses and shop counters. It is also available online from our website at dersingham.org.uk. Do please support the services advertisers provide and mention where you saw their advert. Our advert prices are £22.20 for an eighth page, £34.20 for a quarter, £66 for a half and £132 for a full page. Discounts available for block bookings paid up-front. These prices include VAT. Full details and booking forms can be obtained from the Parish Office or email: villagevoice@dersingham.org and returned together with payment by mid-day of the copy deadlines given above.

Articles and Non-Profit Making Promotions for Village Voice

These should be emailed directly to the Editor:

villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk or posted to **The Editor, % Dersingham Parish Council Office** (address below), ideally well ahead of the above copy deadlines to stand a better chance of inclusion. Available space for articles is governed by both the physical limitations of the publication as well as the revenue required from advertising. We like Village Voice to be special for our primarily Dersingham readers, so articles should try to be customised accordingly and not just part of a round-robin press release to all local publications. Dates of forthcoming events mentioned must take place after the publication dates listed at the top of this page. Items/flyers purely to advertise non-profit making events should aim to fit (and be readable) within a quarter page slot. We hope you will provide photos/graphics/logos etc to accompany promotions or articles. Digital pictures need to be 300 dots per inch and preferably JPEG. **Please send photographs and logos as separate files, and not embedded in an email. For text files Word documents are preferred.**

The Editor reserves the right to amend and edit as necessary. Any contributions will be accepted on the understanding that, unless requested otherwise, names, addresses, etc, may be included and maintained on the Parish Council's database. Published material will also appear on the Parish Council website. Copyright of all articles remains with the author. The editor and the Parish Council do not necessarily agree with any opinions expressed, or the accuracy of statements made, by contributors. □

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Editor: Jo Halpin Jones Assistant Editor: Rob Smyth

Layout & Administration: Geraldine Scanlon. Finances: Sarah Bristow (Parish Clerk)

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What's On in and around Dersingham

Events held at Dersingham Village Centre (DVC)
83 Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LN are marked in bold

Most of these events are covered in more detail either in articles or advertisements within Village Voice.

FEBRUARY

- Sun 9th: **Sunday Afternoon Social. DVC 2pm-4pm**
Tues 11th: **Dersingham Works Business Breakfast. DVC 7.30am-9.30am**
Tues 11th: **Village Voice Live: Dr Paul Richards, The Minster Church, King's Lynn 1100-2020. DVC 7.30**
Wed 19th: Dersingham Evening WI. St Cecilia's Church 7.15pm
Thurs 20th: Ingoldisthorpe WI, Church Hall, Hill Road 7.30pm
Fri 21st: **Gardening with Disabilities: Philip Kew, Lawn Care. DVC 2pm-4pm**
Sun 23rd: Sandringham Farmers' Market. 10am-3pm
Sun 23rd: **Tea Dance. DVC 2pm-5pm**
Tues 25th: **Village Screen: Downton Abbey. DVC 7.30pm. "Downton Afternoon Tea" 6pm, booked through Shirley on 01485 540844**
Wed 26th: Walking Group: Sandringham Woods. 1.30pm
Thurs 27th: NWT: Robert Hawkes, managing Breckland birds. Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall, Austin Street 7.30pm
Fri 28th: **DVCA Tea Dance. DVC 2.30pm-4.30pm**
Sat 29th: Methodist Coffee morning. Post Office Road 10am-12 noon
Sat 29th: **Leap Year Quiz. DVC 7pm**

MARCH

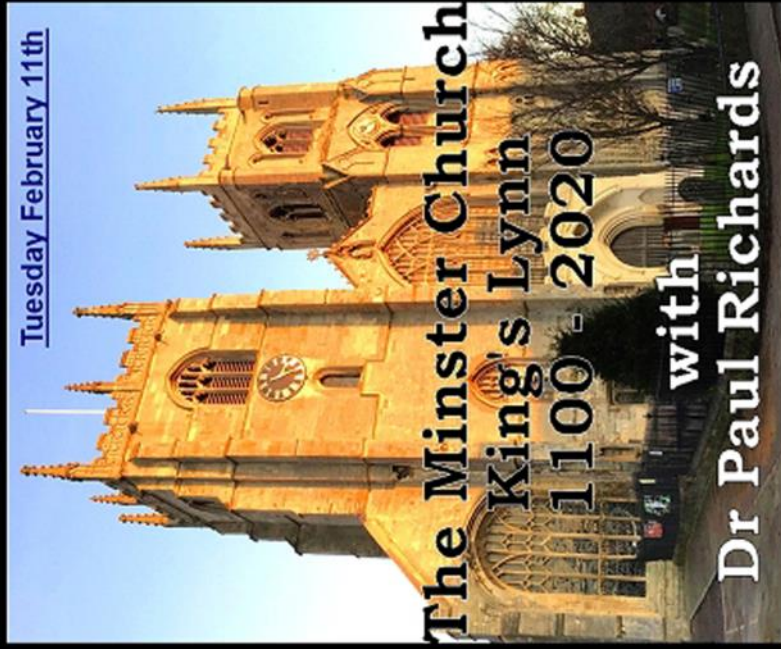
- Sun 8th: **Sunday Afternoon Social. DVC 2pm-4pm**
Tues 10th: **Village Voice Live: David Reeve, talk on Royal Protection. DVC 7.30pm**
Wed 11th: Walking Group: Houghton. 2pm
Sat 14th: **Casino & Supper Night. DVC 7pm**
Wed 18th: Dersingham Evening WI. St Cecilia's Church 7.15pm
Thurs 19th: Ingoldisthorpe WI. Church Hall, Hill Road 7.30pm
Fri 20th: **Gardening with Disabilities: AGM and Tea. DVC 2pm-4pm**
Sun 22nd: Sandringham Farmers' Market. 10am-3pm
Sun 22nd: **Tea Dance. DVC 2pm-5pm**
Wed 25th: Walking Group: Old Hunstanton 2pm
Fri 27th: **DVCA Tea Dance. DVC 2.30pm-4.30pm**
Thurs 26th: NWT: Dr Ian Bedford - *Bugs on the move*. Hunstanton Methodist Hall
Sat 28th: Methodist coffee morning. 10am-12 noon
Tues 31st **Village Screen: Finding Your Feet. DVC 7.30pm**

DVCA HOSTED EVENTS AT DVC HELD MORE FREQUENTLY

- Community lunches** held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 1pm:
Feb 4th and 18th, March 3rd and 17th. Book through Shirley on 01485 540644.
Pop-up Coffee Club now held on Mondays and Thursdays. **DVC 10am-12 noon**

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday February 11th



Dersingham Village Centre, Manor Road,
Dersingham. 7.30 pm Admission £5.00
includes refreshments & raffle

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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday March 10th

David Reeve, MVO MBE



A former Chief Superintendent with Norfolk Constabulary, David presents amusing anecdotes from when he was responsible for protecting the Royal Family in Norfolk, particularly in and around the Sandringham Estate.



Dersingham Village Centre, Manor Road,
Dersingham. 7.30 pm Admission £5.00
includes refreshments & raffle

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