

Number 127

December 2020/January 2021

VILLAGE VOICE

The Dersingham Magazine



SEASON'S GREETINGS

FOR ALL YOUR GARDENING ESSENTIALS DURING LOCKDOWN.

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Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones



As I am writing this, Lockdown has just been restarted. Who knows whether this will be extended after 2nd December, just after we deliver this edition of Village Voice. Events scheduled for December have been included, in the hope that restrictions will have been eased, but you will need to check with organisers to check what is taking place.

People may feel fearful about going back into a more restricted life. Perhaps we could learn from Terry Waite, who was captured by terrorists in Beirut and held in isolation for 1,736 days. He has spoken about that time and how he coped with it. He says it's important to have a positive mindset in the current situation, that we are not **"Stuck"** at home, we are **"Safe"** at home, and by keeping ourselves safe, we are helping to keep others safe too. He has encouraged people to live for the moment in a positive way, one day at a time, and try to use the time creatively by experimenting with new activities. The latest news on the development of vaccines should also give us hope for the future.

I do believe that a very real benefit of this pandemic has been a greater sense of community within the village: people smile more when they meet on the street; within local groups every effort is being made to keep in touch with members; neighbours are helping each other out; foodbank collections are being swelled as never before. We may need to face the fact that Covid-19 is not going away in the immediate future, but if we are patient and supportive to each other, we will get through this.

My husband and I have just had a most enjoyable autumn walk on Dersingham Fen/Bog (whichever you want to call it!). It's hard to believe that it is only half a mile from the village. If it wasn't for the roar of traffic from the bypass you would think you were miles from civilisation. What a pleasant way to spend an afternoon and take a break from following the saga of the U.S. election!

We have just replaced our car with a hybrid electric vehicle which you don't need to plug in. It switches automatically between petrol and electric when required. Our petrol consumption has halved. Fantastic!!

I can't believe Christmas is just over six weeks away. Maybe because I haven't been into Lynn I'm not sensing the usual "festive frenzy". I have, however, been incredibly efficient and bought a set of Christmas cards. Now I need to write them..... I just hope we can get to see the extended family at some point, although there's always Zoom and FaceTime.

My thanks to Paul Burall, a former Chairman of the Parish Council, for the cover photograph of St Nicholas Church.□





Dear Village Voice



Glebe Road

I was fascinated to see the photograph in the September/October edition of Village Voice of Glebe Road, submitted by Robbie Bloy, as I'd never seen it before. The bungalow in the foreground is not number 15, it is number 14, as it was my childhood home and my mother still lives there. I have never known the buildings to the front of the bungalow on the land now owned by 12a and 12, as when I was growing up there in the late 60s there was a disused railway carriage where they are in the photo and the land the railway carriage was on was scrubland. I can't help with when the photo was taken but I know from the 1928 conveyance that I have for number 14 that it was already built by then. The houses behind the bungalow are indeed the ones on the unmade section of Glebe Road, which in the 1928 conveyance is called New Road and is detailed as 'not yet taken over by the local authority'. I remembered it being tarmacked during the early 70s; until then it was just a dirt track with flints and stones which I embedded into my knees on more than one occasion whilst falling off my bike on it as a child. I would love to know more about the photo if anyone has further information.

Su Harris



Re the photo of Glebe Road sent in by Robbie Bloy in last month's issue, I think the date of this is in the early to mid 1920s. When I moved there in 1957 all of the road was still unadopted and a quagmire in the winter. The field on the left was a builder's yard and a vegetable plot; on the right, just before the corner bungalow, can be seen the ends on profile of what was a roofed railway carriage, used, I believe, as a holiday retreat by relatives of the builder who was developing the area. My house on the still unadopted narrow part of Glebe Road was built in 1928 and that, along with neighbouring and opposite dwellings, aren't visible in the picture, so obviously it's before that date. The semi-detached dwellings shown are, I would think, "new build" as two more pairs were eventually built in line. In one of these lived a Mr. and Mrs Wilson when I arrived and Mrs Wilson could remember our house opposite being built after she moved in, which means hers was most likely built around 1926/27. Lots of water under the bridge since then with extensions to houses and gardens built on. The Glebe is now an entirely different picture.

John Bocking, 20 Glebe Road

Parish Council Chairman's Report

Coral Shepherd



Here we are again in a second national Lockdown; at least this time we know what to expect. If we all do as requested by government hopefully infection rates will fall and restrictions eased so that we will be able to enjoy a family Christmas.

Despite the current restrictions, I was able to lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the village war memorial on Remembrance Sunday. I was joined by a small number of people and I thank them for joining with me to have an impromptu ceremony. Many thanks to Mr Alan Cross who read out the names of the those who lost their lives



in both conflicts. Also especial thanks to the Guides who had left a group of specially decorated stones in memory of the fallen, a kind thought.

The Parish Council continues to meet



virtually so that we are able to make decisions on your

behalf. In the last couple of months we have looked at a few procedural issues around standards of conduct at virtual meetings and our procurement processes, the latter to ensure that we are getting best value for money when we award contracts. Our main discussions recently have been around setting our budgets for the next financial year (April 2021 to March 2022) so that we can set the precept in January.

Other discussions have been:

Consideration of another defibrillator at the northern end of the village to give coverage of the whole of the village. We are in the process of obtaining quotes and I will report further once a final decision has been made.

We have agreed to install air-conditioning in the Garden Room at the Village Centre. Those of you who use this room will be aware that it becomes unbearably hot in the summer and this will make the room much more comfortable to use.

We have looked at the government's proposals to change the planning system and have submitted our comments to them. If you are interested in seeing our response please let us know and we can send you a copy of our comments.

The government are allowing children's play areas to remain open during this second Lockdown and to reassure you all we are continuing to have it regularly cleaned and we carry out a safety inspection of the play equipment every week.

Concerning the skatepark, we were successful in obtaining a certificate of lawful development from the Borough Council to confirm that we do not need planning permission. So, we are in the process of applying for grant funding to enable the construction of the skatepark and are awaiting the results.

Finally, would you like to make a difference in the village? If so, we have several vacancies on the Parish Council. Being a Parish Councillor can be hard work, but if you are interested in what we do and would like to join us, please contact myself:

coral.shepherd@dersingham.org.uk or Sarah Bristow, our clerk. □



Dersingham Village Centre News

Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

We are certainly living in extraordinary times.

Having seen most groups return, and some activities resume, all within Covid-19 guidelines, we have been faced with another period of closure. I would like to thank group leaders, users and visitors for supporting and following our Covid-19 procedures since the Centre re-opened in July. Sadly, the Christmas Fair will not be taking place and the Jazz Supper has been postponed. Too many uncertainties have made it impossible for organisers to plan and confirm arrangements.

In early December, if permitted, the Centre will re-open and groups and activities will be able to resume. We are planning to have a Christmas Friendship Lunch on December 15th, as long as the guidelines allow, and hope to organise more events early in 2021. Tea Dances, Village Voice Live, and Sunday Socials remain on hold for the time being.

For updates and information, check notices at the Centre and around the village, and our website www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk (sign up for the weekly blog). We also have a Facebook Page and post announcements on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group.

Village Centre Lottery winners for October were numbers 13, 17, 25; the November winners are 14, 21, 55. The Lottery costs just £5 per month, is open to anyone aged 16 or over, and the proceeds help us fund new equipment and support us in delivering services. Use the pull-out leaflet at the centre of this magazine to apply.

Finally, I want to say *THANK YOU* to all the volunteers, without whose help we could not run our activities – Coffee Shops, Friendship Lunches, Village Cinema – and special thanks to the Village Centre Gardening Group who worked so hard this year, in all weathers, to improve the appearance of the outside area and enhance the Centre setting. Watch out for a beautiful daffodil show next spring!

On behalf of the trustees may I wish Village Voice readers, their families and friends, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. □



DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE

The Centre closed on November 5th and all groups, activities and events were cancelled.

If permitted, and subject to COVID 19 guidance, we will re-open the Centre early in December.

For updates and information, please –

Check Noticeboards, the Village Centre Website* and Facebook Page. (*Sign up for the weekly blog.)

Allen Tomas & Co
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT



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You can read more about how it works at www.thinkingfuel.org.uk and to read more about the work of CAN in supporting community projects visit www.communityactionnorfolk.org.uk

If you don't have internet access you could ask a friend or relative to go through the information with you – or call 01362 698216 and we'll answer your questions.□

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Dersingham Library

Due to the current COVID-19 situation the libraries in Norfolk will have been completely closed to the public from 6pm on Wednesday 4th November until further notice.

Customers can still access a wide range of library services from the Norfolk County Council website
www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries

For the latest information please follow us on:

Twitter: @NorfolkLibs

Facebook: @NorfolkLibrariesUK

Instagram: norfolklibraries

All items currently on loan will be automatically renewed and no further charges incurred from 4/11/2020□



What's Online for adults on Zoom



Reading Friends

every Tuesday at 7pm

Just a Cuppa - Babies and Toddlers

Tuesday 11am

Knit and Natter

every Wednesday at 2pm

Author Q & A

monthly Wednesday at 8pm

Online Book Club

monthly Wednesday at 8pm

Just a Cuppa - Bumps and Babies

Thursday 11am

Find out more

visit our What's On section at <https://norfolk.spydus.co.uk/> or email libraries.iconnect@norfolk.gov.uk

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Norfolk County Council

In memory of Walter Blaney

It is with great sadness that I have to tell you that Walter died, aged 84, on Thursday 22nd October. He was diagnosed only six weeks before with pancreatic cancer. The pain relief control and support from the Marie Curie nurses and the other medical agencies was excellent. Naturally, it's been a big shock. We were both fit and well, with so many travel plans for post Covid. Fortunately I have the support of David and family as well as that from all the new neighbours in the other flats here in Cowbridge. We both have so many good memories of our twenty years in Dersingham and area. Our main regret in moving was leaving so many friends. If you feel you would like to give a donation in Walter's memory, his wish was to support the Marie Curie nurses: Marie Curie Hospice, Cardiff & Vale, Bridgeman Road, Penarth CF64 3YR.

Jane Blaney

[Walter was very involved in village life and had a keen interest in the work of various committees. He was well-known for his charity work, particularly for his support of the Norfolk Hospice at Tapping House. He raised money for this through writing two local books and his presentations at Village Voice Live of his travel films].□

Norfolk Libraries

What's online for families

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We'll share a new online Bounce & Rhyme session
every Tuesday at 10am.
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JUST A CUPPA FOR FAMILIES

We have two online groups for parents of babies (or those expecting).
Tuesdays at 11am is Just a Cuppa: Babies and Toddlers
and Thursdays at 11am is Just a Cuppa: Bump and Babies
(for those expecting or with newborns).

Both groups have guest speakers to talk about development, health,
local services, classes, groups, and of course we always have a chat!

All online sessions available at
facebook.com/NorfolkLibrariesForFamilies
except Just a Cuppa sessions
Please email libraries.iconnect@norfolk.gov.uk
to register your interest for these sessions.

Bounce & Rhyme also available at
youtube.com/NorfolkLibraries



Norfolk County Council



Hunstanton Community Choir

Lesley Trebbick, Chairman

Our very sociable weekly rehearsals ground to a halt in March, as Lockdown started. Never a good thing for a choir which was looking forward to rehearsing and performing at our 10th anniversary concert and ultimately our Christmas Carol sing-along. It is regrettable that these lovely events have been cancelled.

However, all is not lost. We are continuing to work behind the scenes and there is a very strong desire to return to singing and performing as soon as we can.

Rest assured, we will be back next year, stronger than ever, when we can once again contribute to the community while continuing to support local charities with the funds we raise.

We anticipate being in the hands of a new Musical Director and will welcome new members. Singing with us is great fun, sociable and you do not have to be able to read music to join us. Please keep an eye on our website hunstantonchoir.co.uk □



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What3words has divided the globe into 3m squares and given each one a unique three word address. It means everywhere can be located with just three words. For example [kite.chats.dine](#) will take you to a precise spot in a field next to the River Ouse in York.

Eighty per cent of the emergency services in the UK now use what3words to help locate exactly where a situation is taking place. It can also be used to report incidents to organisations like the National Grid, Network Rail and the Environment Agency.

To use this system you first need to download in advance the free app which is available for iOS and Android devices, so that you are ready to use it, particularly when you go away from home and where post codes are not available.

How do you use what3words in an emergency?

1. Open up the app on your phone.
2. Click the locate button and you will see the three words that identify your exact location. It works offline which is ideal for areas with unreliable data connection.
3. Share your three word address over the phone to the emergency call handler.
4. The emergency service can then coordinate a response directly to the exact location where help is needed.

To get more information and see videos on how to use the system go to what3words.com



Carole Brown Health Centre Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Barry Judd

All change at the PPG

2019 witnessed a complete reform of the structure of the PPG owing to the resignation of Chairman and Secretary and two other committee members. Despite various attempts to fill the vacancies it was decided by the remaining members that all future meetings should be organised and chaired by the senior management of Vida Healthcare, and the finances should be administered by a small group of three remaining members, namely Mr Mark Warrell (Treasurer), Mr Harry Verney and Mr Barry Judd.

PPG meetings will still be held at the Carole Brown Health Centre; all meetings are open to patients and staff of the Health Centre and are usually attended by a Trustee of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital who gives a report on hospital matters. We also try to get a representative to give a short appraisal on relevant health services, eg for dementia, diabetes, mental health and care for the elderly, etc. Over the years our fund raising events have included village quizzes, raffles and proceeds from the sale of books. Latterly our money has come from patients' donations.

What is a Patient Participation Group?

The PPG consists of representatives of the practice population (including carers of patients), who meet with the practice and provide patient experience and feedback.

The PPG meets with the practice team several times a year and plays a number of roles including

- * advising the practice on the patient perspective
- * organising health promotion events
- * communicating with the wider patient body
- * carrying out research into the views of those who use the practice and their carers
- * influencing the practice and the wider NHS to improve commissioning
- * fundraising to improve the services

How we spend our funds

Over the years various pieces of equipment have been purchased for the surgery, including ECG machines, blood pressure machines, the water dispensers in the waiting rooms, and extra automatic doors at the front of the building.

More recently, donations have been given to Heacham Car Scheme, Dersingham Day Centre, the provision of a new bus stop near the surgery, and the Falls Campaign at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, plus ongoing donations to the Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House. This year, in view of the pandemic and loss of income to the hospice, we decided to give a £10,000 donation.



Meetings will be resumed subject to Covid-19 restrictions. Details may be found on the health centre website.□

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From Antje Franke



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Google: No sir, it's Google Pizza.

Caller: I must have dialled a wrong number. Sorry.

Google: No sir, Google bought Gordon's Pizza last month.

Caller: OK. I would like to order a pizza.

Google: Do you want your usual, sir?

Caller: My usual? You know me?

Google: According to our caller ID data sheet, the last twelve times you called you ordered an extra-large pizza with three cheeses, sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms and meatballs on a thick crust.

Caller: OK! That's what I want.

Google: May I suggest that this time you order a pizza with ricotta, arugula, sun-dried tomatoes and olives on a whole wheat gluten-free thin crust?

Caller: What? I detest vegetables!

Google: Your cholesterol is not good, sir.

Caller: How the hell do you know!

Google: Well, we cross-referenced your home phone number with your medical records. We have the result of your blood tests for the last seven years.

Caller: Okay, but I do not want your rotten vegetable pizza! I already take medication for my cholesterol.

Google: Excuse me sir, but you have not taken your medication regularly. According to our database, you purchased only a box of thirty cholesterol tablets once, at Drug RX Network, four months ago.

Caller: I bought more from another pharmacy.

Google: That doesn't show on your credit card statement.

Caller: I paid in cash.

Google: But you did not withdraw enough cash according to your bank statement.

Caller: I have other sources of cash.

Google: That doesn't show on your last tax return, unless you bought them using an undeclared income source, which is against the law.

Caller: WHAT THE HELL!

Google: I'm sorry, sir, we use such information only with the sole intention of helping you.

Caller: Enough already! I'm sick to death of Google, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and all the others. I'm going to an island without internet, cable TV, where there is no mobile phone service and no one to watch me or spy on me.

Google: I understand sir, but you need to renew your passport first. It expired six weeks ago.□

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Dersingham Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb



So, another lockdown and once again we must stay at home and hunker down. We appreciate that this will be a huge challenge for some and hope that those with IT skills can help those with less knowledge to connect via Zoom, Skype and other media. Or even a good, old fashioned telephone call

Looking towards a post-Covid world, there are plans afoot to improve the facilities at the sports ground; these include a new, flood-lit training area for junior football and hopefully a revamped pavilion. Both facilities are desperately needed in order for the Committee to attract and retain teams here in Dersingham. There has been, and hopefully will continue to be an interest in local facilities, with increasing membership for both football and tennis. We must build on this interest through improving our facilities and encouraging all members of the community to see the sports ground as the great resource it is. We appreciate that some houses adjacent to the sports ground are anxious about light incursion from the training area; rest assured, there will be a curfew from 9pm at the latest. The training ground is intended for youngsters, hence there is no suggestion that the ground will be used later.

We would like to congratulate the teams that maintain the flowerbed at the end of Post Office Road and the planting around the Village Centre. These undertakings are a credit to our village and the efforts of those involved often goes unsung.

The Borough Council continues to function on a remote, internet based platform to which we are now all getting accustomed. It seems ages since we were permitted to meet in person, and we miss the physical interaction with our colleagues. Who knows when this might resume?

Planning applications continue; there have been a number of contentious initiatives, which on the whole have been settled through dialogue and an appreciation of others' concerns and needs. Those that go to arbitration cause a lot of work for the Planning Committee and the outcome is never certain, so we urge all residents to be mindful of their neighbours in proposing additions to their properties.

With best wishes for the festive season from your Ward Councillors for your good health and good spirits.□





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Why Not?



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Are you bored of being stuck indoors?
Do you want to keep active and meet new (local) people,
or just be useful?

If "yes", then **why not** join us?

We will be holding work parties on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month until February to burn the invasive rhododendron on the Common, weather permitting. We will meet at the Heath Road car park at 10.00 am. You can do as much or as little as you like, but please note it will not be suitable for young children or dogs and is undertaken at your own risk. Some basic Covid restrictions and contact details (for Track and Trace purposes) will be required.

Any queries please contact Alex Coombs
(clerk to Dersingham United Charities) by
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You can read the guidelines and any updated information about easing of restrictions, etc. on our parish website. The Sunday obligation remains suspended for the foreseeable future and people are advised not to go to Mass if they have any symptoms, however mild, or anyone who is shielding or vulnerable. The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and 11am at Sandringham Road, Hunstanton and there is a limit on the number of people allowed in. Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 10.15am at Dersingham on Wednesdays. There are quite a few changes to the way Mass will be celebrated and people should be guided by the stewards.

Our Christmas Masses hopefully will be as follows: Christmas Eve at Dersingham at 6pm, Christmas Day at Hunstanton at 10am. The Christmas Masses will be ticket only to comply with Government guidelines regarding social distancing. Please see our parish website for further information and updates and how to get your tickets.

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org

Email: parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org

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 □

Ingoldisthorpe Village WI **Lesley Geer, President**

I was really pleased we were able to have our 'socially distanced' get together in September; it was so good to see and speak with members. Not all could come and for those who did not, we made sure they were not left out, updating them about what occurred. As for now, particularly with the latest restrictions, no meetings for us for the foreseeable future.

So, it seems we go back to local walks, calls, emails, our monthly newsletter, and anything else we can think of to keep in touch. One thing we have escaped, no words to rehearse this year for our Christmas Ingolstars!

I was speaking with someone from Norfolk WI Federation and suggested we need one big celebration next year (circumstances allowing)!

As this is my last message of 2020, I wish you a very safe festive celebration. Keep well, look after loved ones and let us wish for all the events, companionship, fun and laughter to return in 2021. □

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Focus on the Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*

Brian Anderson

This is the sixth in an occasional series on the commoner British butterflies.

The Brimstone is often the first butterfly seen in spring. The bright yellow colouring of the male makes it unmistakable and is taken by some as the harbinger of better times. This is nicely summarised by Tove Jansson in *Finn Family Moomintroll*: "As everyone knows, if the first butterfly you see is yellow the summer will be a happy one..."

It is said that the name "butterfly" comes from the colour of the Brimstone male, as in "the butter-coloured fly".

The female is paler and can sometimes be mistaken for a Large White, but not, I suggest, in early March! At rest the butterfly is easily identified as it is the only British species with the hook-tip to the forewing and small reddish-brown dots in the centre of all wings. It was first described by Petiver in 1695 as the Pale Brimstone, then again as the Pale Straw Butterfly by Ray in 1710 and then as The Primrose by Rennie in 1832. Thereafter its name was settled as The Brimstone (apart from an attempt by Frohawk in 1924 to rename it the Sulphur).



Male Brimstone

In its adult phase it is by far the longest-lived British butterfly. Emergence from the pupa usually occurs in late June or early July and the adult can still be on the wing almost a year later. By chance, this year (29th May) we saw a rather tattered Brimstone on the cliffs in Hunstanton and on the next day a very fresh male in our garden. This latter was very early, but the exceptional weather of the previous few weeks had probably caused the season to be advanced. The Brimstone overwinters in dense evergreen vegetation, usually holly or ivy. Ivy is especially well-suited, as the leaf shape is similar to the wing shape of the butterfly. The courtship flights are prolonged and mating occurs after the female releases a sexual pheromone, powerfully enough scented to bring other males to the scene.

The eggs are laid (usually after about two weeks maturing in the female) on Buckthorn or Alder Buckthorn and hatch after one or two weeks. Some years ago someone did distribution maps of the two Buckthorn species and also Brimstones in Norfolk; although the butterfly is a strong flier there are clearly areas of concentration around where Buckthorn grows. The eggs hatch after about a week or so. The caterpillar feeds for a few weeks and pupates away from the food plant. The mortality of caterpillars is high due to parasitic flies and social wasps and to warblers. Emergence from the pupa is about two weeks later.

The pigment on the wings seems an easy enough topic - in both the male and female the pigment is xanthopterin, derived from the uric acid in the insect's waste stream. However, that is just how our eyes see it. Butterflies, in common with many insects, can see into the ultraviolet. What Brimstones see is a clear signal, showing whether the other insect is male or female, much more strongly than the simple yellow or white. The change in UV reflectivity is achieved by optical interference generated by the wing scales.

The Brimstone has one of the longest tongues (*proboscis*) of all our butterflies (about 16mm) and is able to take nectar from flowers with deep nectaries, so is often seen on teasel or, in the case of our own garden, on runner beans. Compare this with the Gatekeeper that has a proboscis of only 8mm and is confined to feeding on flat flowers.

The Brimstone is widely but thinly distributed in the southern half of Britain, excluding mountainous areas. Its distribution beyond these shores is large, extending across Europe and Asia, apart from mountainous and arctic zones



Cleopatra



Dogface Butterfly

There are other Brimstone-like butterflies (that is, members of the genus *Gonepteryx*) - about fifteen apart from our own Brimstone. Only six have vernacular names and, with one exception, are remarkably alike in wing appearance and most have caterpillars that feed on plants of the Buckthorn genera (*Rhamnus* and *Frangula*). They are visually so similar that it did not seem worthwhile to provide illustrations. The one exception is the Cleopatra *Gonepteryx cleopatra*, where the upper forewing of the male is suffused with orange. The Cleopatra is, I think, alone among European butterflies in that the pheromone emitted by the female is the only one that can be readily detected by the human nose - it is said to smell of freesias! Some taxonomists have argued (and when did they not?) that some of these are not distinct species - some are subspecies and others merely varieties or races. It begs the question of what a species really is - the idea that a species is a collection of individuals that can breed and produce fertile offspring really doesn't wash - but that's a topic for another article [see the last edition of *Village Voice*]. There are other butterflies that mimic the Brimstone wing shape - for example the North American Dogface and the White and Yellow Angled Sulfers; and the Caribbean has the Giant and Ghost Brimstones. But all these are in different genera and have different food plants.

There are two quirky facts about Brimstones - the first is that it is the only British butterfly where we can put some kind of early limit on its original arrival in Britain. There are no traces of pollen of either Buckthorn species in deposits dating back to the start of the last interglacial. If the caterpillar food plant wasn't here, then the butterfly wasn't resident, so we can be confident that the Brimstone arrived within the last 10,000 years. The other quirky fact is that the Brimstone is the first butterfly to be the subject of fraud. In 1702 a dealer offered for sale a Brimstone with black spots on the wings and blue scallops on the upper hindwings. Petiver described it as unique in his experience. It was not surprising - close examination revealed the blue and black to be paint! □

Dersingham Gardening Tips

Jane Jestice

Well, I am writing this on Day 1 of Lockdown Number 2. I have decided to try to be much more disciplined this time around, and I have started well. If you read my last article from Lockdown 1 you will remember that basically we got nothing done every day - quite an achievement!

So, my plan this time is to give myself one job to do each day, as each day comes. The point of that being that if I fail on any given day I can push my undone or unfinished job happily into the next day.

Today I did a job we could all benefit from doing. I cleared out my greenhouse ready for the winter. I acquired some cymbidium orchids in the summer and so I needed to make room for them. I also "found" a large pitcher plant that someone had put out for free (thank you, it is beautiful), and which will over-winter in my greenhouse. I have sorted my pots and thrown away anything that I do not need or want. It looks lovely now. I have even given my husband my secateurs and trimmers to sharpen and oil.

For the first time I have decided to sow my sweet peas now. I am sowing them in toilet roll tubes. The only downside is remembering to water them through the winter, but hopefully I will be ahead of the game next spring.

I bought some new hanging baskets which are much bigger than the ones I had before, and when I hung them I discovered a lovely benefit; the baskets are now about eye-height so I can see the plants in the basket easily as well as what is hanging down. Worth a try I think.



Our walnut tree has gifted us more walnuts than we could imagine. I hope some of you have picked up the bags I left outside our gate. I usually bag up the leaves in bin-liners, water them well, punch holes in the bag and leave them to turn into leaf mould for the garden next year. This year's bags were not as good as usual because of the dry summer and I didn't think to water them!

I hope everyone is keeping safe and well and enjoying the fabulous autumn colours and listening to the skeins of geese flying over. One of the best parts of this time of year, I think, is closing the curtains in the evening and browsing through the plant catalogues, planning all the things to buy next year!□

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A Yukon Romance, Part 3 When Winter Comes..... Elizabeth Fiddick

With the arrival of December, winter has the Yukon firmly in its grip. The rivers are frozen, a blanket of snow muffles all sound and even on a clear day the sun will only rise above the horizon for an hour or so at midday. The distant sight of a traveller, well wrapped up in his caribou skin parka and trousers, with the long cloud of "breath" stretching out in the thin cold air like a mist behind his panting dog team is a sure sign the temperature is 50° below or worse. On the shortest day of the year Claude describes how he and Mary have sat down to their midday meal with the sun just rising above a distant hill and by the time they had finished, it was disappearing below the horizon. They would now benefit from the fruits of Claude's hard work in October, cutting firewood, chopping ice from the river to replenish their drinking water, fetching food from their outside store, and could settle into the warmth of their cosy cabin to see out the winter.

The only method of travel during these winter months was by dog team and Claude would cover hundreds of miles during this time. With a well stocked sled the start from home was



***Claude & Mary in
Dawson City, 1927***



Chopping firewood



Mary with dog team

always the most exciting moment. The dogs anxious to go, and on the command "Mush on boys", they would be off, in a flurry of snow, at full gallop with tails in the air, but with 400lb to pull they would soon settle down to a steady pace. However, this was certainly no old man's business as it takes considerable agility and strength to keep a heavily loaded sled upright. Claude recalls, with a wry smile, obviously remembering his own early days, how a young traveller would suffer discomfort at first, a frozen nose or cheeks, sore chafed feet after long hours on snowshoes walking anything up to twenty-five miles a day. Moreover, bacon and beans for supper every night would begin to pall after a while and a tent at 40° below zero is not the most comfortable place to sleep.

Of all his many adventures on the trail he recalls one trip made with a native Eskimo, when during a heavy snowfall they lost the trail as they approached the summit of a pass. His travel companion, however, was very familiar with the route, so was annoyed when

the leader of the pack wanted to bear left, to go “Haw” in dog-driver’s lingo. He continually corrected the dog to no avail, but as the light began to fade fast he realised that he was wrong. “All right, have your own way. Mush on”. The dogs swung sharply left and in a few minutes lower down the slope they found the trail they had used on the outward trip.

When Claude retired from the Police force he and Mary had a variety of jobs, even taking a year out to “enjoy” the civilisation of Vancouver. But the call of the Yukon was too strong. In 1944 he accepted the post of Manager at a trading post in Old Crow, the most northerly log-cabin settlement in the whole Yukon territory. It was here they spent their last Christmases in Canada.



Cabin at Old Crow



Inside the Crow trading post

About mid-December the cheery jingling of dog bells would be heard in the distance as men and women returned from their remote trapping lines to a heartfelt welcome. Claude was kept busy buying furs and tending to their needs as the little settlement once again filled with voices.

Excitement mounted as Christmas approached and together with the younger women and wide-eyed children Claude and Mary decorated the store with festoons of coloured paper, candles, tinsel and sparkling ornaments. The choicest cuts of meat had already been saved for the Christmas feasts, and luxuries such as tinned peaches, apricots, extra supplies of tea, coffee, sugar and evaporated milk suddenly appeared from hidden stores.



Trappers' Boat

On Christmas day at eleven o'clock the church bell summoned everyone to the little log church. The men came in their best Sunday suits, the women in new dresses with bright scarves, fancy beaded moccasins and mittens, the children in their caribou skin parkas. It was a never to be forgotten sight in that little northern log church. Claude played the tiny organ and “How they all sang,” he wrote later. *O Come all Ye Faithful* and other well known carols rang out across that frozen landscape. The picture that would always stay in Claude’s memory was the sight of all the small children standing wide-eyed in front of the organ, singing *Jesus loves me*.

Christmas Day to New Year was devoted to merry making. Although they slept all day, the village resounded all night with the sound of stamping feet, as the villagers danced to the music of fiddle and mandolin. The man most in demand was the fiddler who needed no music sheets but could play all night from memory. He never ran out of tunes and his energy was boundless, even when over seventy years old.

Claude had a small radio set on which they usually heard broadcasts from the large western American stations. But just occasionally they picked up the BBC and Claude recalled the thrill when they first heard Big Ben's deep throated voice, as he described it, and the pleasure of hearing the King's speech from Sandringham.

With Christmas over the next event to be looked forward to was the break-up of the ice, which usually happened in May. In all settlements, groups of men would be seen looking intently at the river. Women, comfortably seated and often knitting, would also keep glancing up to study it. There was an air of expectancy everywhere. Then suddenly there would be a loud report like a rifle shot and a shout is heard, *"It's going."*



Ice break up on the Yukon River

The ice is moving". At first there is just a slight movement but then the entire frozen surface moves in one solid mass, which gains speed, cracks and breaks, until the whole river becomes a tumbling, grinding mass of enormous ice-cakes. This can be the most worrying time as everyone wonders what sort of break up it will be. Claude tells us he has seen rivers overflow their banks, flooding homes and ruining furniture. He has seen log cabins lifted up and carried away, riverside docks and warehouses wrecked by huge cakes of floating ice. Claude and Mary, with an elderly eighty-year-old neighbour, had on one occasion to abandon house and, taking with them what food they could, walk knee deep in swirling icy water to a nearby empty building. They were marooned there for two days before a passing boat came to their rescue.

Yet, serious as this could be, there was also immense excitement, for every settlement, down to the smallest Indian post, had an ice pool when everyone tried to guess the exact time of the break-up. Many different prizes were offered: a silver fox skin by a local merchant, a free meal-ticket for a week or so by the local cafe. Some pools guess on the exact minute, others on the hour. In the best known pool the winner had to guess not only the exact minute and hour but also the day and month. Two weeks before the expected time of the break-up a stout pole is erected near the middle of the river. This is connected by means of a rope to a clock, perhaps in a nearby hotel, sufficient "slack" being allowed to permit the pole to be moved some distance before the rope tightens enough to stop the clock. Each entrant purchases a ticket and has his guess entered on the ticket and on the stub. The usual price of entry was one dollar, so in an Hour Pool, if all tickets were sold, the prize was twenty-four dollars, in a Minute Pool sixty dollars. Claude wrote that in Dawson the instant the clock stopped the local fire whistle screamed the news all over the city. On one occasion the ice had moved but the clock kept going. Binoculars were called for and it was found the ice had severed the connection between the pole and the clock!

By the end of May all signs of ice have gone and the change from winter to spring is quite magical. The sound of rushing water can be heard again, crocuses appear, willows are in bud and the songs of the returning birds are heard along with the welcome whistle of the stern-wheeled steamer as it comes into sight once more. The only downside? The return of those little pests the mosquitoes. But at last summer has arrived.

It was in 1947 that Claude and Mary reluctantly left the Yukon to retire to their cottage in Dersingham. I will leave the final words to Claude: *"We had our difficulties, of course - who doesn't - but on the whole we enjoyed life tremendously and the memories of our experience at Old Crow and in the Yukon generally, will, I'm sure, give us much pleasure for many years."*



Claude & Mary in Dersingham

Following further research by Mike Strange, I now know Claude's father Britiff was born and spent his early years in North Wootton, before becoming a teacher. He married Agnes Banton in 1883 in King's Norton, Worcestershire, and Claude was born in Lichfield, Staffordshire. His three younger sisters were born in Mileham. Sometime after 1901 the family moved to Swardston, near Norwich and continued teaching. Claude emigrated in 1910. Claude's mother died in 1941 and his father died aged ninety-three in 1954.□

Hunstanton U3A

As we remain unable to hold actual meetings we are pleased to advise we are using Zoom for our monthly meetings, including a speaker. Our December meeting will be "A Virtual Christmas Party" on Monday 14th December, and our AGM will take place on Monday 18th January. Times and details will be available on Hunstanton U3A website:

u3asites.org.uk/hunstanton □

We can't cancel Christmas

Alison Kirby, Snettisham Salvation Army



There has been much talk about Christmas being cancelled this year and whilst the ways we celebrate Christmas may be cancelled or curtailed due to coronavirus restrictions, Christmas can't be cancelled as these restrictions weren't in place 2000 years ago when Jesus Christ 'became flesh and lived amongst us'.

1. Judea was not in lockdown and therefore there were no travel restrictions and so Joseph and Mary were able to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem.
2. There were no restrictions on inns and hospitality venues. People were able to mix freely with people from other households from different areas - so much so that the inn was full and Joseph and Mary had to be put up in a stable.
3. The innkeeper was able to do this as he had sufficient staff on the premises to check that they were OK - he did not have to furlough them.
4. Joseph was able to be present during the whole process of Mary's labour and Jesus' birth. He did not have to stand worrying outside.
5. There were no restrictions on choral singing - and therefore the angels were able to sing God's praises and inform the shepherds of the good news of the birth of the King of Kings.
6. There was no 'rule of six' - therefore the group of shepherds could all go together to visit the Holy Family in the stable.
7. There were no quarantine regulations for international travellers - therefore the three Wise Men were able to visit and bring their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The good news of Jesus' birth was the dawn of a new beginning - and God's love for us is the same - yesterday, today and forever - especially at this difficult time.

This Christmas is going to be hard for all of us as we can't celebrate in the way we normally do. But please do not talk about Christmas being cancelled. The heart of Christmas is very much alive in our lives and in our faith.

At the time of writing we are still in Lockdown, with no idea of what restrictions will be in place at Christmas. Things will be very different for us all this year, especially at The Salvation Army where it is unlikely our band will be carolling and there is unlikely to be any carol singing. However, we are still available to anyone who is in need, so if you or anyone you know is in need of a Christmas food parcel or if a family is in need of toys for children, please get in touch.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. God Bless.

Alison.Kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk
01485 579079
07775 717852 □





The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle

Shoes and how to look after them

I keep putting my clothes on back-to-front and don't realise until I search for something in my pockets and can't find them.... In view of this, I am extra careful but *still* get them on the wrong way round.

Reminds me of my childhood when I tried to dress myself in my tiny days. Laid my vest on the bed like Mum showed me, but no, I always got the high bit under my chin. Such frustration. Hope this isn't another sign of dementia creeping ever-forward!

I used to have a fetish for shoes, saved my money to go and buy stilettos to match my outfits. Had loads of shoes. In the Fifties we girls liked to co-ordinate our ensembles with matching bags, shoes, belts, gloves, artificial flower, so on and so forth. It was essential to look smart, matched, and like Aubrey Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe, Bridget Bardot or Gina Lollobrigida. I had no trouble in those days getting my frocks round the right way.



The reason I'm mentioning shoes is because long ago were the days when I wore stilettos - got the painful bunion and realised that from that day on, that I must wear sensible shoes. That was a bad day for me, for I always felt shoes made the outfit. However, I found Hotter Pixie boots to be my fave (see, even in my old age, I'm latching on to the modern idiom – LOL); so comfy but with a modicum of style and in many colours to allow me to co-ordinate my outfits, which I still like to do. But alas, being suede they get rather dusty and revolting, and gone are the days that I diligently brush them over with a suede brush. (Do people clean their shoes these days? It was a daily ritual in the old days. Men always had brilliant, shining shoes, and we gals would wipe our shoes over daily with Meltonian same colour shoe cream to remove any scuff marks. We also used Meltonian black polish to darken our eyelashes!) So, what did I do? Threw them in the washing machine, that's what, and hoped to goodness they didn't fall to pieces! As it happened, they all came out brilliantly, looking as good as new and tightened up too,

which was marvellous. I had a pair of (expensive) Russell and Bromley black suede boots that looked only fit for the bin, so I threw them in the machine too, expecting the worst. But no, they also came out brilliantly. All my sandals have had the treatment - all stinky and scuffed - and came up sweet as daisies. Note: If you want to try it and your shoes fall to pieces, don't blame me!

Enough about shoes. No, not finished yet, I've just thought of something else. I used to work as a solicitor's secretary in Conduit Street, in London. I hated London, for with all the crowds and daily gory accidents - people falling under trains and buses - I began having panic attacks (only they weren't 'invented' in those days so I didn't know what was happening to me), but I knew I could no longer stand the oh-so-crowded trains, buses, streets and all the weird people that abound in London. So, until I was able to find another secretarial job, I found a local job in Russell and Bromley: ooooh, that wonderful smell of leather to breathe in all day, all those gorgeous shoes to handle, and surprisingly I discovered I was an excellent sales assistant, mainly because I told customers what *didn't* suit them, what look great, and failing everything else, I'd tell them that I'd seen just what they wanted, up the road in Freeman, Hardy and Willis.

However, not all was well in this heaven. The other two sales women, both older than me, did not like me, because my role was also to type out the manager's letters, which in their eyes put me on a different level. Working on a commission basis, they didn't let me have their moneyed customers, but they did make me go and serve the 'difficult' customers. I never could, like them, stand with hands clasped and say in gushing tones, "Oh, they look so elegant, Modom," when they looked awful, so I was always truthful. One day the worst customer in the world came in and they pushed me towards her.

As my mother had insisted that I go to elocution lessons when I was small, I was able to match accents, so when they talked posh, so could I, and I suppose that helped with the difficult one who was very posh indeed. I found some shoes that looked really good on her, and mentioned there was a handbag to match (important, as I said, to 'match' in those days). She bought the handbag, and quite a lot of other items. As you can imagine, the other sales women were furious that I had notched up so much commission, and marched over to the manager and told him that I had stolen their customer and therefore, their commission. They lied through their teeth, and the man believed them, so I grabbed my things and rushed out crying, never to go back to the shop, despite the manager phoning me up and pleading for me to return - he missed his status of having a secretary. I was very much a wimp in those days.... But how I missed the smell of leather and all those beautiful shoes...

So, time for me to go. In the meantime, I shall be chucking more and more of my shoes into the washing machine, and also attempting to get my clothes on the right way. You might notice me at the Co-op one day. The only woman wearing pockets on her back!

BTW (at it again), my book, *The Magician's Daughter*, is currently in the Post Office waiting to be sold. Have a gander - you might enjoy reading it and it's great for birthday and Christmas presents!

BTW2, I was reprimanded by my handsome gardener for leaving my gardening tools out in all weathers. I know, Colin. I am a wicked woman, but I fear I will never change...

Happy Christmas. ☐



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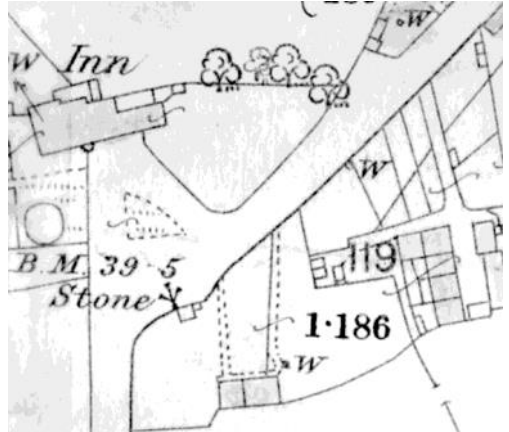
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Dersingham Questions

Tony Bubb

This stone sits opposite the Mountbatten Road/Lynn Road junction. It is a large piece of limestone and has been in this location for a long time. It is marked on the 1884 Ordnance Survey 25 inch plan and has a Bench Mark sitting beside it – the small concrete bit in the picture – which is measured at 39.5 feet above sea level. I suspect that it has been there a lot longer though, but can you suggest what it was marking?□



A bit more squit from Willy Ever

Oi wuz a readun the Willidge Voice that Oi allus do cus I hev larnt a lot fum that, loike how tu meark a headrum collander un all about butterflies. Thas suffen handy corse Oi now know when to git the spray reddy fur them little davils wot eat moi cabbages. When Oi got to moi old patna Dick Oi see he hev put in a bit of squit I sent him in 2011. So the woif, she say, "Well put you another bit in", so Oi say, "Roit, I will". So here it be. Moi ol meart George, he wuz a-plowin up on the Searchlight when this grett old car pulled up un sum bloke got out an he say, "Kin yew tell me the way to Hunston, George". Well, George he jest kept agorn, cus yew know wot he's loike. But this here bloke he kept on a shoutun, "George, kin yew tell me the way to Hunston?" But George, he dint teark no notice until he git tew the headland, when the bloke, he say, "George, kin yew tell me the way to Hunston?" So George, he say, "howd yew know moi name is George?" This here bloke, he say, "Well, Oi guesd". So George say, "Well yew kin guess the way to Hunston then", corse he's loike that as yew know. Then this here bloke's woif, she pipes up an she say, "Come along darling, the man's a fool." So George say, "Oi moit be a fewl but Oi ent lorst." You better larf, dunt yer. So cheerio tergather, an remember thass sanfer, not sandfire, and Dick, thank yer mawther fur the rabbit□

Dersingham Institute Bowls Club

Jan Rawstron

Well, our strange bowling season of 2020 has come to an end. The last Saturday Roll-Up had to be cancelled due to heavy rain, but trophies were presented for the small number of competitions which had gone ahead. The winners of these were as follows:

The winner of The Tom Ward Cup for the highest accumulated score for men in the Saturday Roll-Up was Dave Graves, and the runner-up was Graham Keeley. The winner of the Institute Cup for the highest accumulated score for ladies in the Saturday Roll-Up was Joy Kelly, and the runner-up was Mary Hearn. The Pairs Knockout competition was won by Les Allen and Graham Keeley, and in second place were Richard Bridges and Alan Coulson.



Also presented were the Award for the most improved player of the season, which went to Pat Toppin, and the Chairman's Award for outstanding contribution to the club, which was presented to Keith Dixon for his excellent work on the green.

It is usual for us to hold our AGM in early November, but due to the Covid-19 restrictions we have had to re-think this, and are currently working through the normal AGM business by email. All our current members have been contacted with the relevant reports and documents, and hopefully our business, including the election of the new committee, will be concluded by the end of December.

We normally meet each Wednesday afternoon throughout the off season for 'Winter Warmers', where we play Bingo and Darts, and generally chat over tea and biscuits, but this will not be possible this year. It will be sad not to be able to keep in touch this way.

Meanwhile, general maintenance continues on and around the green, and in the clubhouse, to keep things ticking over until next season.

Who knows what next year will bring. We have to look forward to next season with optimism, hoping that a return to more normal times will be possible. Meanwhile, we wish all the Village Voice readers, and especially our club members, a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.□



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The Wash

Carrie Carey, RSPB

Just south of Skegness lies an unspoilt stretch of coastline known as Gibraltar Point. Visualise an imaginary line drawn from here to the cliffs of Hunstanton and you've identified the fringe of The Wash. Famous for its striped cliffs on the eastern border and languid saltmarsh to the west, this shallow embayment comfortably straddles the counties of Norfolk and Lincolnshire and provides a haven for wildlife.

The Wash earned its name from the Old English word, Wase, meaning mud or slime, and from the windswept shores of RSPB Snettisham passers-by could be forgiven for thinking "There's nothing to see here". However, it's the vast expanse of intertidal mudflats that makes this coastal recess the UK's most important estuarine habitat.



From late summer onwards, this quiet estuary comes alive with the noise of tens of thousands of birds all vying for a place to roost and feed. Migrating waders flying in from Arctic tundra arrive here tired and hungry. It's on the intertidal mudflats that a veritable feast awaits. Polychaete worms and other benthic species are menu favourites, as are common cockles and blue mussels, which in their own right are commercially valuable bivalves. Young cockles are an important food source to (red) knot, which gather here each year in their tens of thousands. Known as the 'poster birds' of RSPB Snettisham, the aerial flights of knot on a super tide bring increasing numbers of visitors to the area each year.



Photo: Steve Davis

In winter, the spectacle of whirling waders gives way to the breathtaking early morning flights of pink-footed geese. Arriving from Greenland and Iceland, RSPB Snettisham is

an important stop on their UK tour. These birds feed inland on sugar beet and winter stubble and therefore are indifferent to the invertebrate banquet which lies beneath the sludge. Their interest lies in the safety and security that The Wash provides. They roost overnight on the water knowing that only a foolish predator would risk venturing out onto the mudflats in the dark of night. As the morning light breaks over the horizon, hungry geese rise from the water in large family flocks. The silhouette of thousands of birds trailing across the dawn sky is definitely worth getting out of bed for, even on a chilly morning.



The Wash is not without its challenges. Flooding, drainage and reclamation have all taken their toll. Salt marsh is naturally accreting at the expense of mudflats, winter storms alter the shape of the coastline, over exploitation of shell fishing and increasing numbers of beach users have had an impact on local wildlife. However, conservation organisations such as the RSPB are working hard with local communities to preserve and protect this treasured seascape. If you would like to learn more about the conservation work of the RSPB and how you can support us, please go to www.rspb.org.uk □





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Dersingham Walking Group

Tony Bubb



Well, we had a good start to the re-started walks programme but now we have to stop again until December (perhaps). So the November walks that were planned have now moved to December and new ones have been planned for January. If you are in doubt about any walk taking place do contact the leader the day before for the latest position.

As we did in October, we shall need to “track and trace” and remind you to practice “social distancing”, but that should not reduce the enjoyment too much.

Our upcoming walks are:-

Wednesday December 9th 1.30pm

The delights 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 Tony Bubb 01485 542638

Wednesday December 30th 1.30pm

Woods, Warren, Fen and Common: A circuit around the varied terrain of Dersingham and Sandringham. Start at the old Dersingham railway station at the bottom of Station Rd. TF680308. Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

Wednesday January 13th 1.30pm

A circular walk around the Houghton area of about 4.5 miles, with woods, fields, the Peddars Way and if we are really lucky some pigs. Start at the Peddars Way. TF757285. Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

Wednesday January 27th 1.30pm

Wolferton and the Bog. A village and country walk to finish off the month. Start at Wolferton Station. TF650285. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638

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 four and five 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 Day Centre

We have all been missing each other so much as it is a long time since Dersingham Day Centre has been able to hold meetings. So Ann and her Committee decided we all needed a treat and should use some of our funds to boost our collective mood.

It was decided that the treat would be Afternoon Tea, although of course we wouldn't be able to have it together. Petals in

Dersingham agreed to do the catering and for a couple of afternoons Maggie loaded up her car outside Petals with individual boxes containing Afternoon Teas.



Our volunteers took the boxes round to our Members' houses. Those Members who had family close by invited them to join them for tea, and those who didn't invited a volunteer to join them (all social distanced, of course). We all really enjoyed our Afternoon Tea – tasty little sandwiches, scones with individual pots of jam and cream and pats of butter, and delicious small cakes. And we never stopped talking – we had so much to catch up on!

Many thanks to Ann, her Committee and Petals for a really enjoyable afternoon. □

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Dersingham Methodist Church

Elizabeth Batstone



There was a sort of returning to some normality when the church was reopened for morning services on Sunday 11th October, led by our minister Revd Richman Ncube, although following Government guidelines our seating capacity is limited to twelve plus stewards, organist and preacher. Those present enjoyed worshipping together again, hearing the music and meeting Rich. Services have continued with different groups attending. Comments so far: 'Lovely to be back', 'It's a bit strange', 'Sorry we can't

sing', 'So pleased we can worship again'. We are getting used to wearing masks, using hand sanitiser, not having coffee after the service and not chatting for too long!

Yes, a bit strange, but we are back. If anyone would like to join us for a service please contact me on 01485 541068.

Our minister Revd Richman Ncube and his family are settling into their new life; the children are attending local schools and Rich has discovered the local bus service and has used Dersingham's Co-op!

We were saddened to hear that our former minister Revd Steve Oliver has been diagnosed with leukaemia and is currently undergoing treatment at Addenbrookes Hospital. We ask for your prayers for him at this very difficult time and also for his wife, Jill, his children and grandchildren.

Unfortunately our usual Christmas services and events will not be held, but we shall still celebrate Christmas in our hearts. There is much talk about not having Christmas this year. Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus, when he was welcomed by the poor (shepherds), the rich (wise men), troubled a king (Herod), was homeless at birth and soon a refugee in another country. This sounds like a modern day news story rather than a happening many years ago.

The meaning of Christmas is God coming into the world as a baby, not with spending lots of money on celebrations and presents. The words of one carol sum it all up: *Love came down at Christmas*. And that love continues despite what is happening around the world. May that love be in our hearts and lives this Christmas and in the New Year. □



This beauty, found by Tony Bubb, was spotted in a glade off the Drift. It was over 12" in diameter





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Sandringham Parish News

Ben Colson

Parish Council

The Parish Council held a virtual meeting on Zoom on 11th November. Much of it was simply recording for formality work which has been done during the summer and into the autumn, during which time the government and National Association of Local Councils have

recommended that Parish and Town Council meetings in person are suspended because of the pandemic.

We received an update on A149 road safety plans from our County Councillor, Stuart Dark. We were asked to reaffirm our support for a 50mph speed limit through the parish between Babingley and the Dersingham roundabout, which we did because the road is narrower here than both to the south and north of this section, and because of the number of road junctions on this stretch. Outstanding are a number of junction safety improvement proposals and the latest plans will soon be ready for the Parish Council to review.

One major new item was discussed, concerning the parking situation at Wolferton. This is not just a parking issue, but also dangerous driving (for example, three point turns on a blind bend), and litter being left, some of which is unhygienic and therefore a health hazard for others visiting the area. Much, but not all, of the attraction of the village is to access Dersingham Bog for walks, often with dogs. The problem is that since a number of events came together – including Lockdown, staycations, the stopping of parking on the Vista at Sandringham, and the imposition of car park charges there – the number of visitors to Wolferton as an alternative destination is more than the village can cope with. In a three hour period on the morning of Sunday 8th November, some five hundred cars entered the village via Station Road and exited again the same way and a number would have also done so via Church Road. In fairness, many of those were simply finding somewhere to turn round, having been to, or tried to park for Dersingham Bog.



There were eighteen cars parked on the hill when this photo was taken on Sunday 8th November. Most are at the top right of the road by the brow of the hill, which is what makes it so dangerous. All at the meeting agreed that this is unsustainable and unacceptable and it was decided that a stakeholder group would be established between the Estate, Natural England and the Parish Council to seek to find an urgent solution to the problem.

Our Clerk has a new email address: sandringhampc@gmail.com. Please use this address if you want to get in touch with us.

Lockdown

As I write this we are again in Lockdown. This has meant that all public facilities have been closed until 2nd December, and it remains to be seen what restrictions will be in place from then. We are all acutely conscious that Christmas is not far away. As a result, the usual roundup of news from the Social Clubs and Wolferton Church has had to be suspended. One casualty has been the Sandringham Club at West Newton which will remain closed, at least for the winter months. Another is Park House Hotel, which had an ambitious plan for expansion and refurbishment but which will now not reopen.

The virus is still with us and will remain with us after 2nd December. Cases per one hundred thousand in West Norfolk have risen sharply in recent weeks. We may still be at the lower end of the scale – thankfully – but the key is to ensure that we all conduct ourselves in such a way that we stay there.

One particularly unpleasant side effect of Covid-19 has been the way that the criminal fraternity has seen the opportunity to try to defraud and scam us. This takes many forms, but one

highlighted recently by Norfolk Police is known as courier fraud. This involves people driving white vans watching legitimate courier deliveries to peoples' houses and then visiting to say that their colleague dropped the wrong parcel and they have been sent to take it back. Be on your guard if someone tries to do this to you and do not part with the parcel; instead take the van registration number if you can (they will probably park out of sight) and report it to the police. Here's a reminder for you.

And finally....

As we come to an end of what has been a year like no other in our lifetimes, I wish you a very merry Christmas, and a happy and above all healthy New Year.□



What to do if you think you have responded to a scam

If you do respond to a scam, whether by post, telephone, internet, email or on the doorstep, it's important that you report it quickly so that you get the right support. Don't be embarrassed to talk to friends and family to get their help – remember that you have been the victim of a sophisticated crime.

Remember - scams are a crime. Don't be embarrassed to ask for support from those around you.

If you have made a payment in response to a scam, contact your bank as soon as possible as they may be able to recover some of your money and will refund you in certain circumstances.

If you or someone else is in immediate danger because of a scam (for example, if they are being threatened by an aggressive doorstep caller), **call the police on 999.**

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Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny

A Pleasant Place

[A question about the naming of Pleasant Place was posed in Village Voice 12.6, page 14.]

Pleasant Place was so called as it was, as the name suggests, a very pleasant place to live. It was a row of four cottages with very large gardens; they were built by the Chambers Brothers around about the year 1900. When he was a boy Mr Mickleborough lived in No 75; he was a bee keeper. In No 77 lived the Porter family: Mr Porter was a carpenter. The next was occupied by the Howard family: Mr Howard was a teamster for Mr Jackson. And in the last one, next to the Common, was Joe Painter and his family: Joe was a bricklayer on the Sandringham Estate.

Just down the road a bit was another row of three cottages: Nos 65,67 and 69. These were also built by the Chambers Brothers and they were always called Chambers Row. We, the Melton family, lived in No 63 Dun Cow Lane. Most of the houses on the eastern side of Dun Cow Lane were built around 1900; the houses on the western side were built after 1920. As I said, the gardens were very big and in later years, after the Albert Victor pub closed in 1981, the Albert Victor Bowling Green and clubhouse were built on the garden of No 75 and it is still there to this very day. To get to it you go down Manor Road and up a lane next to the old blacksmith's shop.

Dersingham Commons

There are now four commons in Dersingham; before the by-pass was built there were only three. We now have the Shut-up Common, the Open Common, one area of fen of fifty acres to the south-west of the by-pass and another twenty-nine acres north-east of the by-pass. In the Dersingham United Charities report it is stated that the rhododendron bushes at the top of the Shut-up Common will be cut down and burnt. Someone has got this the wrong way round. It is the birch trees that want taking down, as many birds like blackbirds and thrushes nest in the rhododendron bushes but very few birds nest in the birch trees. If the birch trees were removed from the Shut-up Common this would encourage the skylarks, woodcock, and jack snipe to come back. Sixty years ago there were many of these birds nesting on the Shut-up Common.



There was a good picture of some gipsies (travellers) in 1949 on the grass by the Eight Mile Stone corner. A lot more grass was in that area in those days and there was also a big concrete litter bin for them to put their rubbish in. The bend was very sharp and, in the 1960s, two boys from King's Lynn on an Ariel 250 cc motorbike failed to negotiate the bend, hit the concrete bin, and the bike and the two boys slid off into the bushes. A search was made for them, then three days later a man was walking his dog near there when the dog ran into the bushes and started barking. The man went to look for his dog and he found the two boys dead. After that the corner was altered and there was less grass. Also, gipsies used to pull in and stay on the picnic area, which was a large area of grass between Sand Pit cottages and the sand pit.

Coach and Horses

As most of you know by now Sheila Roythorne has retired after being the landlady of the Coach and Horses, Dersingham from 2007 until 2020. During those years she ran a good pub with the

help of her dedicated staff and she has won many awards in the trade. I would just like to write a bit about the history of the Coach and Horses, listing the landlords. Any gap in the dates is because I could find no landlord's name.

1845 to 1846: Mrs Lynda Petchey; 1851 to 1856: William Hotchin; 1858 to 1888: Thomas Taylor, who was the longest serving landlord in the pub's history, being there for thirty years; 1891 to 1901: Alfred Hardy; 1904: Dixon Standaloft, who was also a carpenter; 1908 to 1915: Arthur Walker; 1916: Mrs Jane Walker; 1922: Fred Anthony; 1925 to 1937: William Thomas Owen. When Mr and Mrs Owen retired they went to live in an old railway carriage they did up down Pansey Drive and lived there for the rest of their lives.

Some time during the war years (1939-1945) Mrs Jane Popperwell was the landlady of the Coach and Horses; some time after the war she moved to Hunstanton and opened up a fish and chip shop called Brooklands in Beach Terrace.

1950: Albert Hurrell; 1951: Ernest Bridges; 1955: Wilfred Ernest Watson; 1964: William Link; 1964: George Hardy; 1968: Donald Isbell; 1970: Ernest Thorley.

There were many different landlords and landladies between 1970 and 2007; the only ones I can be sure of were Angie and Ray Hindly, who were there on two separate occasions, but I have no dates. In 2007 the Coach and Horses was taken over by Sheila Roythorne, who was there until 1st October 2020. The present landlord and landlady are Tommy and Christine Haughey.

All the best from the boy Dick.□

Sandringham Estate News

Garry Marsden, Visitor Enterprise Manager

Hello from Sandringham, I hope that you are all keeping well in these difficult times ?

The Country Park and toilets will remain open throughout November and beyond for all that essential exercise and dog walking !

The takeaway kiosk is closed right now for the November Lockdown, but we will review this as time passes.

The Sandringham Shop, which is bursting with wonderful Christmas gifts, is sadly closed in November, but we have a cunning plan! We are currently setting up a web shop which will allow you to "click and collect", so do keep your eyes on our website sandringhamestate.co.uk and social media!



As ever, the welfare of staff, visitors and residents remains our key concern so the difficult decision was made to re-schedule ***Illuminate Sandringham*** which will now run from 17th December 2020 to 17th January 2021 and **tickets are on sale NOW !** This will be an amazing event - outside, with lots of room to social distance and a real chance to get into that festive spirit!

Stay safe everyone and hope to see you at Sandringham soon.□



Singalong with Dersingers.uk by Steve Davis



You may have read my article on *Musical Pandemic Pursuits* earlier this year which described how, along with Melanie Dixon (Mel), who also lives in Dersingham, we had got ourselves into home recording with all the socially distanced restrictions and implications of lockdown. This was primarily for our local Church's weekly

dersinghamonlineworship.com videos which hopefully many of you will have now had a chance to watch. We have continued to operate on the same basis, even as restrictions were lifted, as we found it simply suited our separate lifestyles, although such restrictions are of course back again.

Since the beginning of October we have been working hard on recording 50 carols, songs and hymns for use during Christmas and Advent. These will become available as on-screen lyric videos to sing along to, not only as they are incorporated into the weekly dersinghamonlineworship.com videos throughout Advent, including a special online version of our annual *Tea & Carols* event, but also via a new simple website dersingers.uk which will provide links to YouTube video playlists made up from our 130+ home recordings.

With that, I'll wish a very Happy Christmas to all in Dersingham and surrounding villages covered by Village Voice and let's hope that we can look forward to returning to more joyful gatherings in the new year; but whatever you do, don't give up on singing! Feel free to make contact with either of us via: steve@dersingers.uk or mel@dersingers.uk □



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Monday 14th December 2020 at 2pm.

The Journey of the Magi: Origins, Myths and Reality - The True Story of the Three Kings. Leslie Primo

What do we want this story to mean and why is the legendary story held onto rather than the biblical tale. A journey from the 6th century through eastern and pagan roots, Illustrated with beautiful works of art and images from a vast array of artists.

Monday 11th January 2021 at 2pm.

Photographic Odyssey: Shackleton's Endurance Exhibition Captured on Camera. Mark Cottle

Many know the dramatic story of Ernest Shackleton's third expedition in 1914 to Antarctica. How the ship *Endurance* was trapped and eventually crushed by pack of ice. How the men were forced to camp on the ice on Elephant Island for over 5 months and how Shackleton sailed over 800 miles to get help.



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It's in the stars by Phyl Jones



For some reason I decided to read my horoscope in the paper this morning. I don't usually bother because how can a total stranger predict my future. Reading that I was about to have an unexpected financial gain, and my life was about to take a new turn and be full of surprises, I binned the paper. What a load of rubbish!

The post arrived bringing yet another catalogue. How I wished I'd never ordered anything from the wretched firm, but seeing an advertisement for the exact style and colour coat I'd been on the lookout for, I'd succumbed, and of course ever since, I've been bombarded with their catalogues and leaflets. Just because they are bargains it doesn't mean I can afford them.

About to throw the latest offering in the bin I noticed a flyer fall out saying I'd won a prize. It was a voucher for ten pounds, but it had to be spent within the next fourteen days.

Then I remembered my horoscope! If I could find something in the catalogue for ten pounds, would that count as financial gain? Turning the pages, I noticed an electric can opener for £9.99. I'd been complaining for weeks that my current one needed replacing. In fact, lately, any can that didn't have a ring pull opener went straight back on the shelf. I filled in the order form, enclosed the voucher in the envelope and set off for the post office.

Approaching the main road, I could see a build up of traffic ahead, then some diversion signs which meant I wouldn't be able to follow my usual route, I'd have to turn left and go the long way round to the post office. So, as my horoscope said, my life was definitely taking a new turn! The third part of my horoscope had said my life would be full of surprises. Well, I've been driving round this town all my life so I really wasn't expecting to find any surprise here, but I did! Having parked the car in my usual place, I walked to the post office, bought a stamp, stuck it on the envelope, popped it into the letter box outside and went back to the car to find a parking ticket stuck on the windscreen. I got a surprise all right. I hadn't noticed the double yellow lines which had been painted on the road since I last visited the post office.

I might just take more notice of my horoscope in future!□

Volunteers needed to distribute Village Voice

We are always after new volunteers to help deliver the magazine. It just takes a few hours every two months and should not involve close contact with other people.

Your help would be particularly appreciated now that some of our distributors are considering retiring. It's a great way to get to know your village!

Shernborne Then and Now

Tony Bubb



Shernborne—Then



Shernborne—Now

I came across this picture of Shernborne the other day. Taken in the late thirties, it shows a pleasant view, largely unchanged today. Sadly, the attractive village sign has gone, to be replaced by the carved, uncoloured version rapidly disappearing into the bushes. Gone too are the signpost arms pointing invitingly with their fingers to the nearby villages, where as today we get a more industrial looking arrangement.

Most intriguing is the plaque under the tree, planted to commemorate the investiture of Prince Charles, and telling of the community winning the Best Kept Village competition, run by the Eastern Daily Press, in 1981 and 1983. This competition seems to be no more, with the EDP telling me that the last one was in 2009, sponsored by Calor Gas, but my source could not tell me who had won that year.

The hamlet has now lost its school and club, but still has a post box and a photography studio.

The settlement's name dates back to the Domesday Book of 1086, where it was listed as Scernebrune. The name literally means “dirty or muddy stream” and comes from the Old English words “scearn” and “burna”: the latter, later becoming “borne”, no doubt comes from the Ingol, which rises just to the west of the village. Many different spellings have existed over the centuries, with the most common alternative being Shernbourne, which was the name of the family who for many generations owned the estate.□



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Making Gardening Easier May Davey, Chairman

We are in another lockdown and we have met only once as a club since January 2020. The committee met by Zoom recently and made some decisions that will affect all our members. We have reluctantly decided to cancel this year's Christmas dinner at Knight's Hill. However, Gloria Pantling, our Secretary, has booked for Friday 17th December 2021! Surely by then we will be back to normal?

We were unable to hold our AGM in March this year, but are scheduling an AGM for 19th March 2021. We accepted three resignations from the committee and must thank Joan Hill, Athalie Fletcher and Marian Smith for their loyalty to our organisation and all the work they have done on the committee. When we do get back to normal we will need some new younger members on the committee as illness and age make such responsibilities too burdensome. Our members so enjoy the meetings and outings, so we must do everything we can to secure the future of the club.



We wish you all a very happy Christmas and good health and happiness in the New Year.

Sue Neil, our Speaker Finder and Programme Secretary, writes below about her enjoyment of club activities. She has had to cancel and rebook everyone this year. We would be lost without her. Thank you Sue.



I have sorely missed our monthly club meetings this year. I have been a member for the last six years and thoroughly enjoy the meetings and the talks we have had on a huge variety of subjects to do with gardening. I always learn something new, be it about bulb growing, how to make compost, care of indoor plants, growing roses, wildflower gardens or tree planting, to mention just a few lectures I have heard. The tea and chat with everyone afterwards is also great fun. There are normally outings to local gardens twice a year and an annual flower show, as well as a visit to a member's garden.

I am looking forward to the end of the pandemic and the garden club continuing - hopefully in 2021!

*Sue Neil
November 2020*



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Dates & Deadlines! Have you filed your 2020 Tax Return yet?

Kathryn Gigg, Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

30 DECEMBER 2020

INCOME TAX: deadline for online submission of self assessment tax returns for tax year ended 5 April 2020 for HMRC to collect tax through PAYE codes where taxpayer owes less than £3,000.

31 DECEMBER 2020

ANNUAL INVESTMENT ALLOWANCE: last day that the AIA remains at £1m before reverting to £200,000. Businesses with accounting periods spanning the reduction need to be aware of the transitional rules.

1 JANUARY 2021

VAT AND CUSTOMS DUTY: new regimes come into force following the end of the EU exit transition period, such as:

- ** The ability to use postponed accounting instead of paying import VAT;
- ** The regime for imports under £135;
- ** Imports and exports between the UK and EU (instead of acquisitions and dispatches)
- ** Change of VAT liability and place of supply for some supplies of services to EU consumers.

VAT: Zero rating of women's sanitary products comes into force.

31 JANUARY 2021

INCOME TAX: SELF ASSESSMENT FILING AND PAYMENT DEADLINE:

Filing deadline for 2019/20 personal, partnership and trust returns filed online, or for paper returns which cannot be filed online (e.g. if you work for the Royal Estate).

Those who did not file their paper return by 31 October 2020 will incur £10 daily penalties if they do not file electronically by today. File electronically to avoid a penalty.

N.B. At present the Government have not announced any extension to these filing deadlines as a result of the pandemic.

Please telephone us if you require any assistance with filing your 2020 Tax Return. At this late stage, we cannot guarantee that it will be filed ahead of the submission deadline, but our advice may be invaluable in ensuring that you make constructive progress in bringing your tax affairs up to date. Please contact us on 01485 534800 or email kate@kathryngigg.co.uk.

ITSA: Deadline for online submission of self assessment tax returns for tax year ended 5 April 2020.

ITSA: Deadline for paying self assessment deferred second payments on account and 'balancing payments' for tax year ended 5 April 2020, and the first self assessment payment on account for tax year ended 5 April 2021. Self assessment taxpayers unable to pay these amounts can agree a payment plan over an additional 12 months with HMRC.

Deadline to pay Class 2 NIC for 2019/20.

Deadline to amend a 2018/19 tax return.

Deadline to file an outstanding 2018/19 tax return to avoid a tax geared penalty.

Deadline to file an outstanding 2017/18 return to displace a determination.

Deadline to notify liability to Class 2 NICs where your self employment began in 2019/20 tax year, to avoid a penalty.

CLAIMS & ELECTIONS: 31 January 2021 is the deadline for numerous self assessment claims and elections for 2014/15 to 2019/20. Please contact us to discuss if you require advice in this regard e.g. Loss Relief Claim.

CORPORATION TAX: returns for accounting periods ended 31 January 2020 should be filed with HMRC by 31 January 2021.

GIFT AID: individuals should make a claim to backdate gift aid donations by 31 January 2021, in certain circumstances to benefit from a higher rate of tax relief.

TAX CREDITS: last day to renew tax credits for 2020/21 (if the 31 July 2020 deadline was missed and the claimant can show good cause) or to provide final income figures for 2019/20 (if renewal was done by 31 July 2020 using an estimate).

TRUSTS: deadline for registering on HMRC's Trust Registration Service if:

** A trust has been liable for income tax or capital gains tax (CGT) before, and it was liable for these taxes again in 2019/20; or

** If a trust was liable to inheritance tax (IHT), stamp duty land tax (SDLT), stamp duty reserve tax (SDRT) in 2019/20.

TRUSTS: deadline for updating the trust register where there was a notifiable change before 6 April 2020 and a tax consequence in any of the three years 2017/18 to 2019/20. Tax consequence includes income tax, CGT, IHT, SDLT & SDRT.

N.B. All information set out above current as at the date of drafting the article, 6 November 2020.

Caution: The information listed above is for general guidance only. You should neither act, nor refrain from action, on the basis of any such information. You should take appropriate professional advice on your particular circumstances because the application of laws and regulations will vary depending on particular circumstances and because laws and regulations undergo frequent change. Whilst I endeavour to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, neither I nor my firm shall be liable in damages (including, without limitation, damages for loss of business or loss of profits) arising in contract, tort or otherwise from any information contained in it, or from any action or decision taken as a result of using any such information.

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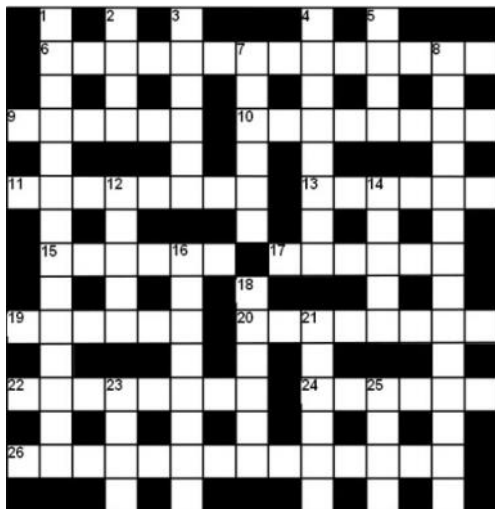
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PUZZLE CORNER

Christmas Crossword by Philip Neal

Across

- 6 Face of M & S joins fourth unknown to form Christmas partnership (5,3,3,3)
 9 Constant and peculiar bleats emanating from animal house (6)
 10 Worried Santa with composite rate tax discharge (8)
 11 Could be found around Xmas sherry or in port (8)
 13 Jo rioted recklessly (6)
 15 Look forward to turkey appetizer (6)
 17 Small step for Santa's transport (6)
 19 We and you are going to meet Her Majesty's lender (6)
 20 Old theologian leads crew up the street for scraps (8)
 22 Inland Revenue only needs a second to cover a pantomimist making a comeback as an impressionist (8)
 24 Davis and O'Sullivan for example spend a penny in Holt (6)
 26 Wash shirt pieces at sea without cold naval sighting (1,3,5,5)



Answers on page 69

Down

- 1 Seasonal greetings from Berlin (5,9)
 2 Bing left crawl to find links equipment (4)
 3 Points encompass very funny heraldic beast (6)
 4 Agree to play bridge for example (3,1,4)
 5 Phoebe escapes from swarm within (4)
 7 Features are nut crazy (6)
 8 Would this improve performance of Santa's sleigh? (F35 version) (8,6)
 12 Lubricator opens oriel after bishop left heater (5)
 14 Neutral records die in need of repair (5)
 16 Doctor Cy charts his way irritably (8)
 18 Period during which Crusoe was confused when rancour set in (6)
 21 Blade arises over unknown feeling of lethargy – after big Christmas dinner? (6)
 23 King's Lynn wont broadcast (4)
 25 Riot broke out in Kingston (4)

Sudoku

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

How can you keep your river healthy and clean?

Norfolk Rivers Trust

In a series of articles Norfolk Rivers Trust will provide advice to help maintain the health of our globally rare chalk streams and lowland rivers in Norfolk. In times of drought and hot weather it is especially important because of the wildlife our rivers support. Endangered white clawed crayfish, brown trout, eels, and water voles are just a few of the iconic species at risk in Norfolk and you can do your bit to help protect them.

Soil management and loss

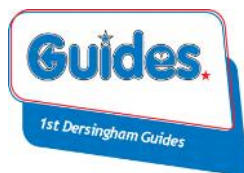
Excess soil and silt in rivers has a hugely damaging impact. Silt from road verges and field erosion cover up the gravels that fish and invertebrates require to spawn. Silt and soil carry nutrients (such as fertiliser) and pollutants (such as pesticides, oil and brake dust) into the water where they are released, damaging the fragile balance and encouraging algae blooms, resulting in dominant weeds out-competing our aquatic plants. Allowing a wide 'buffer' of long grasses, trees and shrubs along the riverbank will let water filter through, but prevent soil from reaching the stream. You can also help prevent these pollution events by blocking unused field gateways where rainwater can wash out, carrying silt and soil with it. Rather than digging grips to drain rainwater directly into the river, instead re-direct silty water into a dead-end ditch or silt trap which will allow the water to filtrate into groundwater, whilst trapping the high nutrient silt which can be reused on the fields.

If you are a landowner with riparian land and would like to talk to us about restoration and rewilding, please do get in touch with us at Norfolk Rivers Trust. We offer a wide range of services including surveys, restoration and management advice. Email info@norfolkriverstrust.org □





Dersingham Scout and Guide Units Lynne Wheeler



Dersingham Scout & Guide members from all sections were able to return to face-to-face meetings at the end of September/early October. The Scouts and Guides enjoyed some outdoor cooking, whilst Beavers and Cubs planted spring bulbs; Rainbows worked towards their Storyteller Interest badges; and 2nd Brownies supported the Samaritans' Purse Shoe Box appeal as part of their Charities Interest Badge.

The members were unable to participate in the Village Remembrance Day Service as normal, due to the current situation, but there was Guide and Scout representation on the online event. The 2nd Brownies and Beavers and Cubs painted Remembrance stones with poppies, which were placed on the War Memorial in the churchyard, and the Brownies also produced poppy pictures for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The Rainbows made their own poppy pictures and were asked to place them in their windows.

Unfortunately, due to the 2nd Lockdown, meetings are now suspended again, but we hope to resume in early December. In the meantime, the Guide units are busy with Anglia Guiding's "Under the Stars Challenge" and their leaders are e-mailing weekly activities.□





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Growing up in Dersingham

Carole Twite

My name is Carole Twite and I was very fortunate to grow up in Dersingham. I was born in January 1963 and I lived with my parents, Bernard (Bernie) and Rosemary, in the flat above Hanfords grocers/hairdressers shop in Manor Road, next to Playfords, the bakers. When my brother Paul was born four years later, we went to live at 55 Lynn Road, opposite the Drift.

My grandparents, Wallace and Gladys Twite, used to live further up Lynn Road near the Dun Cow pub. They were very much involved in village life and St. Nicholas Church, both of them being in the choir. Grandad was a keen bowls player at the green next to the church hall, as was my dad. Grandad could always be seen cycling around the village on his trade bike, often with me or my brother sitting in the carrier on the front! He used to have a hessian sack for us to sit on, which would double up as a cover to put over vegetables he was taking home from the allotment.

I lived in the village until I married and moved to Lynn.

Some of you may recognise my surname; my grandad, Wallace Twite, had a road named after him, and my dad, who was also born in the village, writes letters to Village Voice with tales of how the village used to be, and puts names to faces in old photographs. My grandad and then my dad both played football for the village team. I remember watching Dad (goalie) play matches on the pastures field. When I was quite young, Dad used to drive the coaches for Reg Houchen, and I remember riding with him to take and collect the ladies from Dersingham to other villages for their bingo and card games.

During lockdown, back in March, I decided to read all the issues of the Village Voice, from the first edition to present. Reading past stories from the VV that my dad had written, and those of his old school mate Dick Melton, I realised that my childhood in the village was very similar to theirs. We went to the same schools - the primary school opposite the Feathers Hotel and St. George's at the top of Dodds Hill - and played on the commons, but all the stories of the village are coming from people of my dad's and Dick's generation, none from people of my generation who grew up there after them. There must be some of us about who could take over the storytelling and keep old memories of the village alive!

My friends and I used to run around the old cycle track that Dad and his friends helped to make on the Shut-up Common. Even my own children ran around it when we went to visit Mum and Dad! I remember helping Grandad collect pea sticks from the Shut-up to use in his garden for peas and Grandma's sweetpea flowers.

We used to have big village fetes with floats from the different local organisations driving through the village and ending on the pastures for the prize giving of best float and fancy dress for the children. Games, raffles and tea stalls took place in the garden at Stanton's Farm behind the church.

This made me look through all my old family photos of me growing up in Dersingham, places and views no longer there, and sadly friends no longer with us. I have very happy childhood memories of growing up in Dersingham.

For the last few years, my partner and I have been lucky to be travelling through France, Spain, Portugal and Morocco in a motorhome, but I still find time to read the latest issue of Dersingham Village Voice. Keep up the good work!□

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Word Wall by Philip Neal

Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 69

HERRING	LECTURERS	NAVY	TUTORS
BULL	COVENTRY CITY F.C	FOX	BRIGHTON F.C
HUDDERSFIELD F.C	MEDITERRANEAN	ABERDEEN F.C	SKYE
ELECTRIC	PROFESSORS	ROYAL	BLACK-HEADED

Dersingham Evening WI

Maggie Guest

Our WI has had a quiet time with the restrictions imposed on us. We continued to have small Get Togethers until they became impossible. We all enjoyed the outside tea and chats and had decided to do small coffee mornings until the new Lockdown was imposed. The committee is mostly able to continue using Zoom. We are aware that not all of our members are connected to modern internet devices and we are trying to keep them in touch with typed newsletters.



Stephanie, who runs our MAD (Make a Difference) group has put together the lovely blankets, shawl and scarves made for Dersingham Day Centre by our WI group to make this colourful display. Well done to all and what a lovely, bright photo, Stephanie.

It doesn't look as if we can get much going in the immediate future, but we will do so as soon as we can. We wish everyone happy festive tidings and hope to be able to get together soon.□



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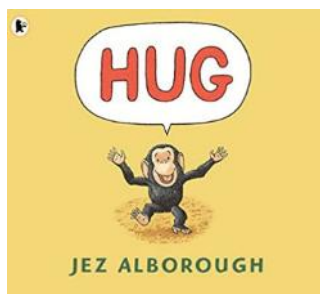
Hugs

**Rev Mark Capron, Rector of Dersingham,
Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne**



Before Lockdown No 1 began, an online survey was carried out to see how much people value interpersonal touch. The study, commissioned by the Wellcome Collection in collaboration with BBC

Radio 4, produced some interesting results. A third of people said we don't touch each other as much as we did earlier in their lives. People from 112 different countries took part in the Touch Test and it's striking that "comforting" and "warm" were among the three most common words describing hugs that people used in every region of the world. Sometimes, in grief, choosing to say nothing can be the right decision, sometimes a comforting hug speaks of support. 2020 has been a year when for many our interpersonal skills have had to adapt, from communicating more on Zoom, and reading people's body language without being able to see a face, due to the face mask.



There is a young children's book called *Hug* (by Jez Alborough). It features Bobo the chimp who goes in search of having a hug from his mum. On the way he visits lots of different animals, from elephants to hippopotamuses, then eventually finds his mum when they have a big hug. Some people say they have missed giving family or friends a hug; some, on the other hand, are not so keen on hugs or even shaking hands.

Yet, regardless of your preferences concerning hugs, communication in its varied forms remains important.

When it comes to communication, usually in this article each year, I share the Christmas services in some detail. As you would expect, planning ahead for Christmas with so many unknown variables of restrictions has kept our brains busy! What I would like to communicate is that we are endeavouring to offer a number of Christmas services leading up to Christmas Day; some will be in church with booking needed for track and trace, and some will be online. As I write this during Lockdown in November, we are hoping to offer in church a form of Christingle service, Crib Service, an adapted Carol Service, Midnight Holy Communion and Christmas Day services, obviously according to the changing Government guidelines that we receive. There will continue to be weekly online services and some additional online Christmas specials.

Please look on: www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk for all the service details, and the online services can be viewed at www.dersinghamonlineworship.com

I leave you with the reminder that God chose to speak to the lowly shepherds to tell them the good news: "An angel of the Lord appeared to them... and said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'" (Luke 2:9-12). As we celebrate somewhat differently at Christmas, the message doesn't change, 'Immanuel': God is with us! May God bless you this Christmas time. □



T.M. electrical

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Crossword Answers

Across

6 Holly and the ivy. **9** Stable. **10** Transact. **11** Schooner. **13** Editor. **15** Relish. **17** Sledge.
19 Usurer. **20** Oddments. **22** Imitator. **24** Otters.
26 I saw three ships.

Down

1 White Christmas. **2** Club. **3** Wyvern.
4 It's a deal. **5** Bees. **7** Nature.
8 Vectored thrust. **12** Oiler. **14** Indie.
16 Scratchy. **18** Course.
21 Drowsy. **23** Town. **25** Trio.

Word Wall Answers

Blues: Navy, Royal, Electric,
 Coventry City F.C. (Sky Blues)
Teachers: Aberdeen F.C. (The Dons),
 Tutors, Professors, Lecturers
Seagulls: Mediterranean, Black Headed,
 Brighton F.C., Herring
Terriers: Bull, Fox, Skye,
 Huddersfield Town F.C.

Sudoku Answers

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

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 128 (Feb/Mar 21)	Monday 11th January 2021	Monday 1st Feb 2021
No 129 (April/May 21)	Monday 8th March 2021	Monday 29th March 2021

Advertising in Village Voice

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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, at least one Mb 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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