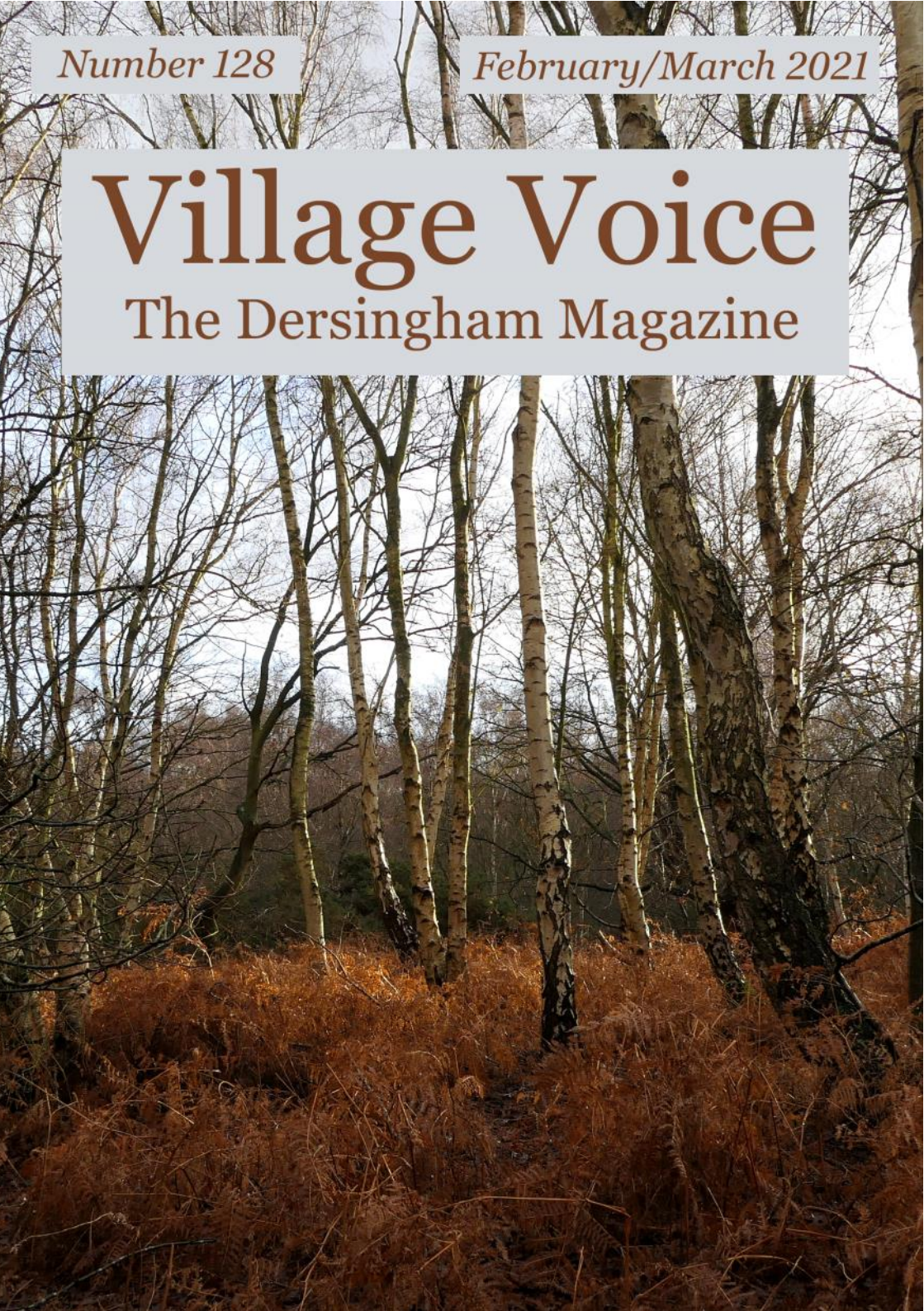


Number 128

February/March 2021

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine





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Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones



Happy New Year! Or should I say “Happier” New Year, as for many people the last one has proved to be a very difficult one. But I am now hearing of many over eighties getting their first vaccinations at one of several sites in West Norfolk, including Snettisham. As an over seventy-five I am looking forward to my turn in the not too distant future. Two particular things to remember: wait until you are contacted rather than turning up without an appointment, and don't get fooled by a scam suggesting you need to pay for the vaccination and handing over your bank details.

But enough of COVID-19 (although we still need to be extremely careful!!!) It will be nearly February when you get this edition of Village Voice through your letterbox. Time for seed trays to be brought out to clutter up every available surface. I mean to do this most years and often don't get around to it, but I think it will provide a satisfying activity this year. I gathered a lot of seeds last autumn and took a lot of cuttings. I'm hoping they will turn into some healthy plants. Already I can see bulbs beginning to shoot up, often in places that I forgot I had them. What a treat. My garden has certainly given me an enormous amount of pleasure and with so much more time spent in it than usual, I have been able to observe the almost daily changes taking place.

What has also helped to keep me sane over the last year, and now, is being able to take local walks right in the midst of natural surroundings so close to Dersingham. Every time I go the woods and the bog on the western end of the village I cannot believe this environment exists a stone's throw from the first houses. We must do all we can to protect these vital places.

March 21st may seem a long way ahead, but it comes during the period covered by this edition of Village Voice. It is the day of the national **Census 2021**. Every ten years we are asked to fill in questionnaires in order for statisticians to analyse a variety of information. This “snapshot” provides the data on which important decisions are made about where to allocate government funds, depending on the profile of local populations. It can affect the local provision of schools, healthcare, transport links and many other public services. For the first time this will be carried out online, but for those unable to access the internet, paper copies and help will be provided.

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of Village Voice. As ever, a big thank you to all our contributors who keep us in touch with what has been going on in the village and tell us of their future plans. We can also enjoy their reminiscences about times past, read informative articles on a range of subjects, tackle that fiendish crossword puzzle, pick up some gardening tips, and hopefully be entertained by a variety of other entries. They are brilliant at responding to my nagging reminder letters and we do hugely appreciate all the efforts they make to help fill these pages. My thanks also go to the outstanding production team who help with the layout, editing, and the proofreading, to those that turn out come rain or shine to deliver the magazine, and to Clanpress who are so helpful in processing the printing and delivering. Finally, my thanks go to all our advertisers, without whom we could not afford to produce this magazine.□





Dear Village Voice



Concrete Pillar and Post

In the December/January edition of Village Voice, Tony Bubb discussed the concrete pillar and small post which are located along Lynn Road opposite the Mountbatten Road turning.

There is actually a simple explanation – they are both part of the Bench Mark.

Topographical surveys are required to prepare the detailed maps of an area, showing the ground elevations relative to sea level. These surveys cover the entire country. With modern survey instruments it is possible to locate a particular point on the ground with high precision, and it is also possible to get accurate values of the elevation of the ground above mean sea level.

However, in the past, land surveyors had to carry out such surveys by hand, using standard levelling instruments and theodolites to prepare a detailed plan of the area. The surveyors had to walk from point to point along a survey track or road, measuring the distances and angles to calculate their precise location, and using an engineer's level to determine their elevation from a fixed bench mark, usually sea level. At various intervals, the surveyors would construct a Bench Mark, which could be used as a starting point for future surveys. The location of these Bench Marks would be shown on the Ordnance Survey maps of the area, and could be used by anyone who needed to prepare detailed maps of the adjacent areas. To ensure that the position and elevation of the Bench Marks could be relied upon by subsequent surveyors, the Permanent Bench Marks would either be located on structures or natural fixed features (such as massive rocks), or, as is the case in Dersingham, a Permanent Concrete Bench Mark was constructed.



The small concrete post would normally provide details of the name, location and perhaps elevation at the Bench Mark. Sometimes this information would be inscribed into the concrete post, or a brass plaque would be attached with this data. However, in our case, the larger concrete mass is the actual Bench Mark. If you look closely at the top of the pillar which is slightly tapered, you can see that a brass pin has been inserted, and it is this brass pin which is the actual data point for the survey, with its position and elevation recorded on any topographical maps of the area.

Chris Davey

Parish Council Chairman's Report

Coral Shepherd



Sadly, I have to announce that recently one of our Parish Councillors, Dick Murrell, suddenly passed away. Dick was turned ninety and regularly attended our Zoom meetings, taking an active part in discussions. He will be known to many as he had been a Parish Councillor for many years and was an active member of the Bowls Club. He was very much looking forward to receiving his vaccination so that he could get out and about again. He will be much missed by us all.

Here we are again in national lockdown number 3. If this sounds familiar, I wrote much the same for the last edition when we went into lockdown 2. Since then, we have been in tier 2, followed by tier 4 and now a full national lockdown. The recent variant of the virus is transmitting so easily that it is vital for us all to obey the government rules in order to protect the NHS and allow time for the infection rates to fall. We have set up a special coronavirus page on the Parish Council website (www.dersingham.org.uk) where you will be able to find this information. You will also find all of our meeting agendas and minutes and information about local clubs and societies.

I have been asked to mention a couple of things: firstly, the matter of dog waste, as concern has been expressed about dog waste being left on pavements and grass verges. This is just a reminder that the Parish Council has thirty-one dog waste bins around the village. When you are walking your dogs, do please take a bag with you so that you can pick up any waste and place it in the nearest bin or take it home if that is closer. You will never be far from a bin and they are emptied every week for us by the Borough Council, so I would ask that we all take care to ensure that the village remains clean.

Secondly, something that will affect us all as this year, the **census**. This is carried out every ten years by the government and has to be completed by every household in the country. Censuses are well known to those of us who research our family history, but they are used by the government to plan for services such as the NHS, education, infrastructure etc. The census will take place on 21st March and this time round will be mainly completed online. Don't worry if you don't have access to the internet as paper copies of the forms will be available. There will be a publicity campaign before the event to remind us about it and to tell us how and when to complete the forms.

Meeting virtually has become a way of life for the Parish Council and by the time you read this we will have set our budgets and precept for the next financial year. In the last edition I reported that we were considering the installation of another defibrillator at the northern end of the village. With the agreement of the owner of the building a new defibrillator will be put on the Spar shop building. Other news is that we have a new Vice Chairman of the Council, Councillor Brian Anderson, and I look forward to working with him. We also have a new contractor who will be maintaining the War Memorial Gardens, and additional planting will be carried out over the winter to supplement the existing. As I write, the government are allowing children's play areas to remain open during this third lockdown and to reassure you all, we are continuing to have it regularly cleaned.

Our other main news, especially for younger readers, is that we are a step closer to a new skatepark at the Recreation Ground. We have been awarded a grant of £66,000 by FCC Communities Foundation and I am pleased to say that this is two thirds of the funding we need. We are now in the process of applying for a number of smaller grants, which together with funding from the Parish Council will enable construction to begin this year.□



News from Dersingham Village Centre

Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

Christmas seems a long time ago now but we did our best to celebrate at the Centre. On December 15th we held a Festive Friendship Lunch, and guests enjoyed roast turkey and all the trimmings, followed by Christmas pudding and mince pies. The catering and front of house teams worked hard to safely prepare the meal, serve and clear away. We are very

grateful to the Central England Co-op, who supported the lunch with a donation.

On December 19th we held our first outdoor Carols event and served mulled wine and mince pies; luckily the rain held off. A thank you to David Collingham for organising the music and choir and leading the singing.

The Centre is closed at the moment, but we are working on events for later this year, including, but not limited to, craft fairs, Jazz Super, Open Gardens (with St Nicholas Church), Ceilidh, Christmas and New Year celebrations, and are also looking at 2022 – especially The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



We will restart our social activities as soon as it is safe and practicable, and look forward to seeing regular groups return.

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

We are currently working with the Benjamin Foundation to set up a club for children aged 8 and above. Local children and their families will be consulted and involved. We will keep you updated on progress.

Village Centre Lottery winners for December were numbers 54, 17 & 3; the January winners are 2, 42 & 70. The Lottery costs just £5 per month and the proceeds provide valuable regular income to support our activities. An application form was inserted in the last Village Voice, and I am looking forward to seeing lots of new members this year – the more members there are, the bigger the prizes!

Please stay safe and well, be kind, have the vaccination when you are called, and stick to the rules so we can get back to something approaching normal as quickly as possible.

Best wishes from everyone at the Centre.□

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Freebridge announce plans to support the community during the winter months

In November Freebridge Community Housing announced plans to provide additional support to tenants and the wider community in West Norfolk over the winter months.

Sophie Bates, Freebridge's Director of Housing said: "Given the very real concerns people have about the situation with the coronavirus pandemic, Freebridge's top priority continues to be the health and safety of our customers and our workforce. We do also understand though, that as a community housing organisation we need to work to provide additional support to our more vulnerable customers and the wider community throughout the winter months given the additional stresses and strains that coronavirus brings."

Activities planned for the next few months include:

- * making regular welfare telephone calls to tenants over the age of 60, including daily calls, and some home visits, to our more vulnerable tenants,
- * providing additional financial and welfare support,
- * providing additional advice and guidance to people who have become unemployed as a result of the knock-on effects of coronavirus – we have taken on a number of additional employees to help do this,
- * facilitating urgent temporary accommodation requests from partner organisations,
- * identifying suitable empty properties for use as isolation units,
- * providing support to partner organisations in respect of the supply of food parcels for those in need, *and*
- * a programme of activities for young people to keep them active and entertained.

Sophie Bates, Freebridge's Director of Housing said: "We will achieve some of these activities through the work of our teams here at Freebridge, however some of them will be achieved through working in partnership with other organisations across West Norfolk including the Purfleet Trust, the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, the Prince's Trust, St Edmunds Academy, Lily, West Norfolk Mind and the College of West Anglia."

"Freebridge's vision is to support a better West Norfolk and we know that by making a concerted effort to support the community during the winter months we can help make a real difference."

Details of specific activities will be announced over the next few months.

If the meantime if you have any concerns or questions please do get in touch with our Customer Service Team on 03332 404 444, or email them at enquiries@freebridge.org.uk

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Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society

In March households across the country will be asked to take part in **census 2021**.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

"A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed," Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said. "This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That's why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them."

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit census.gov.uk ☐



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Next in our series - Monday February 8th at 2.00pm

The Housekeepers' Tales: Women who really ran the English Country House. - Tessa Boase

Working as a housekeeper was one of the most prestigious jobs a 19th and early 20th century woman could want – and also one of the toughest. A far cry from the fiction of Downton Abbey, the real life housekeeper was up against capricious mistresses, low pay, no job security and gruelling physical labour. Until now, her story has never been told.



Our lecture in March Monday 8th at 2.00pm

Edward Seago, From Circus to Sandringham. - James Russell

Like LS Lowry, oil painter and watercolourist, Edward Seago (1910-74) was immensely popular but overlooked by critics; today the best of his landscapes look fantastic, while his life story is full of interest. He mixed in aristocratic circles, making friends among the Royal family; a colourful wartime career and a trip to Antarctica aboard the Royal Yacht add to this fascinating account.

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Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

Christmas at Dersingham Primary School felt very different this year for children, parents and staff. The children still had the pleasure of making Christmas decorations, celebrating with a special Christmas lunch, albeit in their own bubble, and learning Christmas songs for the end of term celebrations, which were shared via Zoom. Instead of a Nativity play, parents and children experienced an outdoor Christmas trail retelling the Nativity story through decorated Christmas trees, quizzes, music and poetry. The climax was a socially distanced Santa, in a purpose built outside grotto. A change to the norm, but equally magical!

Each class has been working hard on a number of topics this term, ranging from keeping themselves and their friends healthy in Year 1 to discovering the multitude of bones and muscles in the human body in Year 3. The arrival of a giant egg and a strange family of Querks sparked imaginations with the younger children, who then went out and about to learn about natural and unusual habitats.



Children in Need



Christmas jumper day



Iron Man, Year 3



Searching for Microhabitats, Year 2

The school's amazing Forest area has been well used, from creating maps, scarecrows and garlands in Year 2, to larger scientific exploration by the older children. Classes have been on long rambling walks through the woods and made the most of the incredible learning opportunities at Sandringham. The Nursery children, now settled at

the main site, have been busy exploring the outdoor spaces and their enthusiasm for learning is infectious!



Nursery scavenger hunt

Children from across all Year groups took part in Black History Month, learning about important historical figures such as Rosa Parks and the topical Black Lives Matter campaign. Dressing up and raising funds for Children In Need also helped children focus on the wider world.



Year 3 making skeletons

Across all key stages, quality texts with strong cross curricular links remain a top priority in our creative curriculum. Display boards around the school have been blossoming with beautiful artwork, stories, recounts and information reports, creating a stunning environment to pique curiosity and a love of learning.

Fitness remains a top priority, and although children have not been able to compete in the School Games at outside venues, all children have had the opportunity to take part virtually, with Dersingham being top of the Tri-Golf leader board for a number of weeks! The active mile, cross country, sports hall athletics and gymnastics have helped to keep the sporting spark alive across the school.

With another national lockdown and the prospect of half a term of online lessons, the teaching staff have been busy producing work on DB Primary, our forum to stay connected with families and support them with their learning, as well as preparing packs to be sent home. Each bubble still remains open, with staff diligently caring for key workers' and vulnerable children on a daily basis.

The dedication of staff and Governors, along with the incredible support from parents and the wider community, will ensure we make it through the next few gruelling months and we are bound to come out smiling the other end in true Dersingham spirit! □

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A Thank You from Vida GP Partners, Vida Healthcare

Dear patients of Vida Healthcare, we wanted to write to you to thank you for your patience and support over the last year. It has been an incredibly difficult time for all of us. COVID-19 has had an incredible global impact and we are hoping that the next few months and the vaccine will bring fresh hope and a return to some normality in our lives. We wanted to share with you some of what we have been doing behind the scenes to ensure that we are fully prepared and robust to move into the New Year with fresh aspirations for delivery of care.



At the start of the initial lockdown in March we transferred all incoming queries to telephone consultations and, depending on clinical need, were able to call patients into the surgery and see, as well as treat them with appropriate PPE protection. We continued to offer baby checks, vital injections, cervical screening and blood tests for monitoring of medication and chronic illnesses. We continued to provide GP and nurse appointments, via telephone, video, online and face to face appointments.

Once the first lockdown was eased we were able to resume all surgical and orthopaedic services which continued through the second lockdown. There was a surge in demand in July and August and this coincided with illness amongst various members of staff, resulting in long telephone waits and we apologise for this. Within a month or so we managed to recruit new members of staff to facilitate the telephone calls and take messages from you via online access through the patient portal of our clinical system. We continue to encourage patients to register online and in this way you can have a direct consultation with us and we can deal with your concerns as promptly as we can.

We are investing in new telephone systems which should link all sites, so that if one site has difficulties another site can help. We have members of staff moving across sites to provide cover and access for patients, and we have recruited more nurses and administrative staff to support patient care.

You may feel that the doors are not open in the way that they were and we appreciate that this is very difficult and feels like a barrier between us, however we are accessible via online messaging <https://www.vidahealthcare.nhs.uk/online-services> and via telephones from 8.15 am to 6.00 pm weekdays. We are also running clinics on occasional Sundays in order to catch up with our patients. We have maintained service throughout both lockdowns but the delivery of care is being done in different ways. We continue to review and change processes to make sure we can meet your needs, and although a lot of the consultations are done via telephones and video calls, when we see you in the surgery we try and make sure that we do all the necessary tests in one visit, which reduces the need to make multiple appointments for different tests and procedures.

We have been fortunate enough to be able to deliver over 5200 flu injections and will continue with this process over the coming months. We have also offered our sites to the CCG for COVID-19 vaccinations, to ensure that we continue to do our best for you. We continue to look at the best use of our premises and we are in discussions with the CCG about how we can make our Fairstead site fit for patient care again, and as soon as we have more information about this we will be in touch with our patients.

COVID-19 vaccinations have started; all patients will be contacted and offered this when it is their turn. Finally, we would like to wish you all the best for the New Year, and the best health from all of the doctors and staff at Vida Healthcare.□

Grants available from the WRVS Benevolent Trust

The Trust offers grants for past or present volunteers or staff of Royal Voluntary Service, WRVS or WVS to help during a time of urgent need or crisis, when they find themselves in difficult circumstances which impact badly on their quality of life, health or wellbeing. The Trust considers applications for grants to help them through this difficult time. The Trust does not provide cash grants.

Past grants have provided:

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How to apply

To apply for a grant, you will need to be a past or present volunteer or staff member of Royal Voluntary Service, WRVS or WVS with at least one year's service, and have a fairly limited income.

- * Complete an application form (or get someone to do it for you)
- * Application forms are available on our website www.wrvsbt.org.uk
- * Submit it to the Trust either by email or post (the address is on the form)
- * The Trustees meet three times a year, but applications are considered in between meetings so there is no delay in responding to applicants

Tens of thousands of people have volunteered or worked for us over the years; maybe you, maybe your grandparent, parent, aunt, uncle, friend or neighbour. The Trust is here to help eligible applicants. Please help us to spread the word about our grants.□

Ingoldisthorpe Village WI Lesley Geer, President

I would usually start my first message for a new year with 'Happy New Year', but this year that does not seem appropriate, so instead I'm saying, 'I wish you a peaceful New Year and may you keep well and be as content as you can be in these current times.'

Not being able to get together we sent every member of Ingoldisthorpe Village WI a Christmas card and small gift to show we were thinking of them. The card was a photo taken from one of our Christmas parties, a memory to make us all smile.

We, like others, continue to keep in touch with our members as much as restrictions allow, with newsletters, phone calls and a 'library' of books and puzzles.

Although we cannot at present do all the 'normal' things that occupy our time, we can look forward to the coming of spring and a vaccine (even if it is not imminent !)

On behalf of Ingoldisthorpe Village WI, stay safe, keep well, and hold onto a little more patience.□

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Norfolk Coast Partnership Small Grant Fund

Small changes can make a big difference and we would like to support your projects through our small grant fund.

The cash, from sales of posters, greetings cards, cycle maps and a book of poetry and pictures from local people, is already being ploughed back into taking care of the area of outstanding natural beauty through the fund.

Grants of between £500 and £3,000 are now available for local community projects which bring environmental, economic, social or educational benefits to the Norfolk Coast and its communities. Projects encouraging people of differing ethnicities, age groups and accessibility needs to experience and enjoy the area are particularly welcomed. The funding has already enabled installation of a boardwalk at Natural Surroundings in Bayfield, near Holt, which improves the site for visitors by re-instating all-weather access to the River Glaven and the riverbank hide, and making the path through the wet woodland a lot easier and safer to use.

We are grateful to all those who have purchased our products, and the shops and outlets that have stocked them. The profits are all being spent on restoring and protecting the coast we look after, and now we've built up sufficient funds, we're keen to hear ideas for how the money can be spent. Do get in touch with us if you think of a project you could take forward. For further information or to discuss project ideas, please contact the fund facilitator, Helen Timson, helen.timson@norfolk.gov.uk or telephone: 01328 850541.

Examples of suitable projects might be schools looking to enhance their outdoor learning area for wildlife, sensory needs or vegetable growing; care homes wishing to incorporate wildlife areas into their grounds for residents to enjoy; parish biodiversity projects or schemes facilitating non-motorised transport for visitors/locals.

Our merchandise range includes *Walk with me*, a book of community photographers and poems, a poster and card featuring a specially commissioned Robert Gillmor linocut, and the Norfolk Coast Cycleway leaflet which offers a route close to the Norfolk coast exploring its beautiful villages and quieter lanes. These items are for sale in local shops around the area and from our online shop at www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/shop/



We continue 2021 with Zoom meetings and our next one is on Monday, February 15th at 2.00 pm, when Steve and Carol Robson - Fools Gold - will make a musical presentation.

Hunstanton u3a Home Site has more details and how to join us with Zoom Link.

u3asites.org.uk/hunstanton

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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.

Water users: if you use the rivers and streams to dog walk, kayak, fish or even swim in, you could be spreading invasive species which are estimated to cost the British economy £1.7 billion a year. Our native crayfish, the white clawed crayfish, is close to extinction due to a crayfish plague carried on invasive crayfish, angling nets and water sports equipment. Apart from this, there are animals and plants which are highly invasive and extremely damaging to our rivers and wildlife. The animals and their eggs latch on to dog fur, wellington boots and nets, and plant roots or seeds can be carried on paddle boards, fishing nets and any other equipment. For this reason, it is absolutely essential that after every trip to the river or lake you follow the **Check, Clean, Dry** procedure. **Check** your equipment for any obvious animals. **Clean** your equipment with hot soapy water. **Dry** your equipment for at least forty-eight hours before entering another watercourse.

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 □



Little Discoverers

Katie Fisher, Chairwoman

Little Discoverers is a charitable organisation that provides specialist advice and support, three days a week, for parents of preschool aged children with movement learning development delays or difficulties. Little Discoverers provide a free service for around twenty-four families in the West Norfolk area. The parents/carers attend one two-hour session a week, which includes the use of music, singing, signing and fun to encourage a child's motor development.

They provide a unique and holistic form of early education inspired by methods used at the Peto Institute of Conductive Education in Hungary. Their specifically trained staff work together in groups of up to eight children with their parent/carer.

For further information email chair@littlediscoverers.co.uk, call 07805 427044 or see the website www.littlediscoverers.co.uk.



Snettisham Gardening Club

sends

Best wishes to all our members for 2021

We sadly remain unable to hold our meetings at present. We are, however, pleased to advise that all who hold 2020 Membership Cards are able to use them in 2021 at Wards Nurseries and Moulam & Horn, who have very kindly agreed to accept 2020 membership cards.

Any further information can be obtained from Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.



RSPB
Carrie Carey

Wildlife from your Window

My brain is foggy and I'm definitely finding it harder to concentrate on tasks in hand. At the time of writing, I am stationed at my impromptu desk in the spare room with the occasional sound of a car humming down the road. Working from home is very different to sitting in my office on the nature reserve and it brings to mind how much nature lifts and inspires me during the day.

We love our reserves. They are places to find solace, respite from hectic schedules, to enjoy quiet moments *and* those filled with squawks, cackles, croaks, calls and booms. Heathlands, salt marsh, woodlands and reedbeds are all theatres where wildlife enacts the circle of life, and we are used to having front of stage views. Now that we are spending more time indoors, how can we incorporate the sights and sounds of nature into our day?

Balconies and gardens are ideal starting points. As spring unfurls little will have changed for the insects, birds and animals that visit our green spaces and now is the perfect time to relish their emergence from the cold snap of winter. I love to watch nature as she shakes off her wintry coat; bluebells, primroses and campions come into flower, peppering barren soil with vivid colour, and young tree shoots reach out, arching their way to the sky. Bird song sounds more vigorous and the drama of rekindled



Long-tailed tit

or new love interests unfolds as both sexes prepare for the mating season. A mature hedge outside my kitchen is the perfect haven for small birds such as house sparrows, dunnocks and blue tits. They perch in its depths waiting for the right moment to make an incursion on the nearby bird feeders. It's fascinating to watch as they flit to and fro, grabbing a kernel or seed head or snacking quickly on the suet cakes. An offering of mealworms brings in the robins and the larger and more impressive starlings. At one point I had so many starlings on the feeder that it broke under their weight, scattering mealworms over the emerging daffodils.

If you have a pond in your garden, then start looking out for toad spawn as early as February. Evidence suggests that these amphibians are breeding earlier each year, particularly if the preceding winter has been mild. Toads return to ancestral ponds to lay strings of jelly-like spawn, but only remain in the water during the breeding season, so the window to spot them can be quite small.

You won't need a pond to catch early returning bumblebees. Queens who have survived the winter will hasten to your garden or balcony searching for spring flowers. They'll also be looking for a suitable nesting site such as an abandoned bird box, the corner of a

shed or a hole in the ground. Other bees queuing up for the best residence are solitary bees. As their name suggests, they make individual nests in tunnel-like abodes such as dead wood or bamboo canes. An ideal activity to introduce children to the natural world is to have them make a bee B&B and the RSPB has produced a simple how-to guide.

I hope that by the time this article is published, restrictions will be lifted and we'll be able to travel further afield to see nature in action. However, we can invite wildlife onto our own green patches by following these other simple ideas:

Find a neglected corner of your garden and build a bug hotel. Use old bricks, roof tiles and/or pipes and pack with straw or garden waste. This will encourage a diversity of critters to take residence and, in turn, will attract predating birds.

Turn a disused dustbin lid into a bird bath, partly fill it with pebbles to help curious beetles and other invertebrates escape.

Make a simple bird feeder from discarded milk cartons or squash bottles. You can even make your own birdy seed cake; that's a top favourite with my feathered visitors.

Sow wildflowers, plant fruit bushes or, like me, let a corner of your garden go wild. My husband loves the fact that a portion of our lawn has been given over to rough grasses, so much less lawn to mow!



Garden ponds

For lots more ideas, tips and advice go to www.rspb.org.uk/wildchallenge. Finally, do pop into our social media accounts (@RSPB Titchwell) for regular news and updates.

We are always on hand to help you connect with wildlife, whether you're looking at it through a window, from a balcony or out on a walk.

RSPB reserves are once again affected by national lockdowns. Although Snettisham and Titchwell are both open, it is for the exclusive use of local residents who want to use our reserves for their daily, essential exercise.□



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Snettisham Salvation Army

Mavis Jones



Are you dreaming of a future holiday? Not just dreaming but planning one in the hope that you will be able to travel. All holidays take a great deal of planning. Firstly, the type of holiday you want: sun seeking, sightseeing or just a rest somewhere quiet. But it doesn't matter the type of holiday, they all need planning.

The last holiday I went on was to Scotland, touring in a caravan. When going on a journey I always like to know exactly where I am going and the route I am going to take. On this holiday we had to go on the Glasgow by pass. If you have never been round it, it is quite an experience. I wasn't driving but I had looked at the map and thought I knew the way around, but we decided to put our destination in the satnav to be on the safe side. It was a good job that we did because we seemed to be constantly changing motorways and sometimes we seemed to be going the wrong way. But we still followed the directions from the satnav. Yes, we did arrive safely at our destination, but I would never have navigated us round the maze of roads.

Jesus came to earth to show us the way in our lives. In John, chapter 14, Jesus said, 'I am the way'. He said that there is no other way to God but through him. He came to earth, was crucified, and sacrificed himself for each one of us. The disciples found it difficult to grasp what Jesus was telling them in order to fully understand 'the way'. It is to trust in Jesus to show us that way. This is one journey we take where we can never get lost.

Contact details: Alison.kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk_ Tel: 01485 579079□



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Water

Brian Anderson

Everybody is familiar with water. It falls from the sky as rain or snow and forms streams, rivers, lakes and oceans. It covers 71 per cent of the Earth's surface. It is widespread throughout the observable Universe. We drink it, bathe in it, wash with it, cook with it, irrigate our crops with it, journey across it. All of this we do without giving water a second thought. Our bodies are 65 per cent water.



It has been regarded as special since before recorded history. At Flag Fen near Peterborough, an important Bronze Age site, large numbers of metal objects have been found that have clearly been consigned to the water as offerings. It seems likely that the people of the time regarded the water as the door to the underworld and the domain of the ancestors. Ancient civilisations have venerated water in the form of rivers - ancient Egypt, the civilisations of the Indus valley, and ancient China are examples. The Chinese regarded it as a fundamental of creation and it was venerated in Taoism and in animist beliefs. The classical world regarded water as one of the four elements or essences, a belief that persisted right through the medieval period in Europe. But it was during the Enlightenment and the scientific revolution that it was realised that water is a most peculiar substance.

Oddity 1: Let us look at boiling point. Water boils at 100° Celsius. It is an astonishingly high figure for such a light molecule (H_2O - probably the only chemical formula known to nearly everybody). Similar molecules like methane and ammonia have much lower boiling points (-161.5°C and -33.3°C respectively). As I will detail later, this factor is crucial for the existence of life on Earth and its possible existence elsewhere in the Universe.



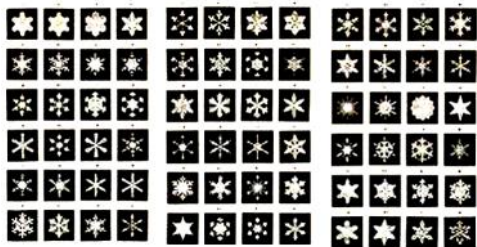
Oddity 2: If we now turn to how water freezes, we come across another strange feature unique to water. With most materials density increases as it is cooled. With water this remains true until the temperature reaches 4°C, at which point it begins to expand. This expansion continues until well below freezing point. The result of this is profound - ice forms on the top of a pond or lake and

in arctic regions even the sea. When other liquids freeze they do so from the bottom up as the cooler liquid, being denser, sinks through the warmer fluid.

It has been claimed that life on Earth would be impossible without this "top freezing", since aquatic organisms would freeze through, rather than being insulated by a layer of ice on the top surface. This is an exaggeration as tropical regions do not freeze and have never frozen, except perhaps during the early history of the earth ("Snowball Earth" 650 million years ago). Even so, some organisms have evolved techniques to survive being frozen through, generally by using sugars as anti-freeze. I concede that if water did freeze from the bottom up life would have evolved very differently. The decrease in density with temperature has another effect, as anyone who has had a burst pipe will attest! There is an expansion of approximately 9 per cent. This applies enormous pressure, enough to burst a pipe or even crack a rock.

Ice itself has peculiarities. On the surface of the Earth, ice forms hexagonal crystals. In the upper atmosphere ice forms cubic crystals. At higher pressures other crystal structures are formed. As of 2019, 17 such structures have been identified. Water, along with many other liquids, can be *supercooled*. That is, it can be cooled below the normal freezing point without actually freezing. Where water is unusual is that under some conditions, layers form where water behaves as though it is two different liquids. If water is frozen *very* rapidly, it forms amorphous or "glassy" ice without any crystal structure. Other liquids also do this, but water, true to type, has two versions of this. In one glassy ice forms at -140°C. When the ice is warmed to about -120°C it melts to a very viscous liquid before crystallising. At very high pressures and at -196°C crystalline ice forms a high density glassy ice, quite different to the first version.

Oddity 2A: It is widely known that snowflake crystals are unique (or at least no identical pairs have ever been observed). They share a common pattern in that they have a six-fold symmetry of equally branched arms. These branches branch and branch again producing a bewildering array of different patterns. It was in 1610 that Johannes Kepler (better known for his astronomical work) asked, "Why always six-sided?" He concluded that the constituent components of the crystal (which he assumed were tiny spheres of frozen moisture) must naturally form structures of hexagonal symmetry. This was a formidable insight given that Kepler knew nothing of atoms. However, it completely fails to explain the multiple branching that we see. The continuing mystery is why the branches are identical - it has been proposed that crystal lattice vibrations bounce back and forth like standing waves in an organ pipe, providing a degree of coordination. The other mystery is why the crystal is confined to one plane when three dimensions are available. Neither of these issues are fully explained. Under polar or high altitude conditions snow can form granular or



prismatic shapes, presumably because of the very low temperatures. As well as snow we also get frozen rain and hail. Frozen rain is exactly what it says it is - rain that freezes on its direct path to the ground. Hail is different. It may begin as frozen rain but as it descends it gets caught in updraughts and rises back through the cloud, gathering another layer of ice. The more times this happens, the bigger the

hailstone gets. Normally hailstones are no larger than 10mm across (about 0.4 inches) but some huge hailstones have been recorded measuring 130mm (just over 5 inches!). A hailstone that size falling from an average thundercloud would hit the ground at about 230 km per hour (145 mph).

Oddity 3: Water has a considerable ability to dissolve things. It has been called the *Universal solvent*. Although this is an exaggeration, it does dissolve a surprising range of substances. For example, it will dissolve salt, sugars, simple alcohols, a large range of other organic chemicals and gases, including, most importantly, oxygen, without which fully aquatic life would be impossible. Crucially, it mediates or enables most of the biochemical processes in the creation and maintenance of life, including the multiplicity of processes in our own bodies. Life would not exist (*as we know it*, to use a familiar science fiction trope) without it. It is for this reason that exo-biologists (those who search for life on other worlds) are constantly looking for planets in the "Goldilocks Zone" - that is, planets that lie at a distance from their stars where water can exist as a liquid.

It is surprising that all these oddities have the same root cause - the structure and behaviour of the water molecule. This is even more surprising as the water molecule is just two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen and so very simple isn't it? Well, actually no. The hydrogen and oxygen atoms form a V shape at a fixed angle but there are also lone pairs of electrons from the oxygen, making a triangular pyramid. For those vaguely familiar with the *planetary model* of the atom, electrons whirl around the nucleus like planets around a sun. This model is now regarded as too simplistic but it'll do for us. This provides a variety of ways in which water can pack and move both as a solid and a liquid and explains why so many properties are peculiar. It may help to imagine the molecules like sky-divers who link hands in different ways (rings, lines and stars). It doesn't explain snow crystals though, and many of the fine details of water's behaviour still need fuller explanation. *I'm sorry for a perhaps too deep diversion into the science but I felt I had to put it in for completeness!*

I suppose that it was to be expected that as the research on water became more widely known, the quacks and snake oil salespeople would get in on the act. You don't have to look very far before you find examples of what the New Scientist calls *fruitlooper* - adverts for water activated by "cosmic fields" or "quantum-activated oxygen-enriched water". Perhaps the oldest and most persistent of these is homeopathy, where the allegedly active ingredient is diluted to the extent that there is nothing of it left in the water. Claims that the water has a "memory" of what was dissolved fails completely to understand the structure and behaviour of liquid water. There is also "health" advice from some rather weird people. I read one article that recommended drinking your body weight of water each day. In old units it means that a 10 stone person would have to drink over 70 pints a day - that's three pints every hour - no allowance for sleeping. That's nuts!

The dihydrogen monoxide hoax

Between 1983 and 1997 a number of hoaxes were perpetrated (largely by students) regarding the dangers of dihydrogen monoxide. Among the dangers of this compound were: the risk of suffocation, its contribution to acid rain, the risk of blistering from hot vapour, its contribution to corrosion and landscape erosion...and so on through a list of about twenty hazards.

It doesn't take much to deduce that dihydrogen (two hydrogen atoms) monoxide (one oxygen atom) is H_2O - that is, water.

So the next time you have a shower or drink a cup of tea, just reflect on the uniqueness of the substance you are using!□



Join Dersingham Rovers FC



Do you have experience in ground keeping or are you a very keen gardener with a few hours during weekdays to spare and want to help the club with ensuring the Pastures is in a fantastic condition for sport all year, if so then we have the job for you.

Dersingham Rovers Football Club are growing and are on the lookout for help with the ground maintenance. Jobs will include:

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Dersingham are one of the biggest clubs in Norfolk with 11 teams. We are progressing every season and are looking for passionate, enthusiastic, and forward-thinking individuals to help drive the club forward. If you are interested in the role and want to know more information, please contact – Harry on 07714781195 or Stefan on 07789405559 or email hcollision@premier-education.com or Smudg3000@yahoo.co.uk



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Hope is Dawning

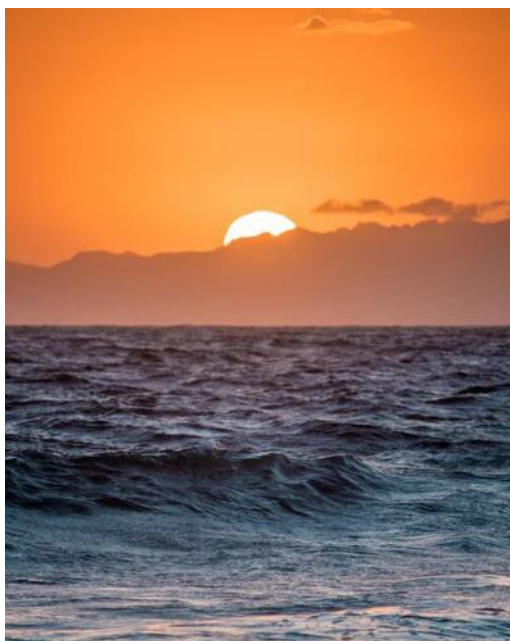
**Rev Mark Capron, Rector of Dersingham,
Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne**



As I write this it is 22nd December, the day after the shortest day; the evenings will now start to get longer, albeit steadily, and we can look forward to this and to approaching 2021 with hope. Hope that the pandemic will improve is something we can all grasp. Hope, according to the dictionary, is “a realised knowledge that something will happen”. Hope is dawning that things will be better in 2021. We have entered the miracle of mass vaccinations and we must be thankful that the vaccine has been made and through it we hope that things will improve.

Having things to look forward to can help us to have hope; with that in mind we have provisionally re-booked the Church Tower Sponsored Abseil (Saturday 15th May) and the Music in Country Churches Concerts (27th-28th July), both at St Nicholas, Dersingham. Many were looking forward to abseiling and even more preferring to watch with their feet firmly on the ground!

Hope is dawning, the sun rises to offer us a new day, the light brings us hope and a renewed optimism. Have you ever been in a nearly completely dark room and then lit a match? The impact is transformational, the light shines so brightly, impacting the surroundings. Having just had an adapted lessons and carols service, I am reminded that the final Bible reading from this is the wonderful John chapter 1. It declares that the light of the world is dawning to shine in the world of darkness and this light cannot be put out. “And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not” (King James Bible). Light offers us hope, re-assurance and opportunity. Jesus offers us life now and the sure and certain hope that we can be welcomed home with God in Heaven which comes though Jesus (John 14:1-6).



Life may still be challenging ahead, but through this time St Nicholas Church, Dersingham will continue to offer services you can watch in the safety of your home: www.dersinghamonlineworship.com (or DVD version on request).

I hope in the coming months we'll be looking at the pandemic through our rear-view mirror and able to focus on better times ahead. Looking ahead with hope: hope of being safer, hope of longer lighter evenings, hope of better weather and, importantly for so many, a hope of opportunities to meet other people in person. We will get through this – hope is dawning.

www.dersinghamonlineworship.com

www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk □



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Would you like to save lives and be at the heart of your community?

Become a Community First Responder (CFR) for EEAST.
Find out more on our website.

#WeAreEEAST 

Could you be a life saver?

Up for a new challenge? Where better to start than at the heart of your community, saving lives.

The East of England Ambulance Service (EEAST) is currently recruiting in West Norfolk for Community First Responders (CFRs) in Dersingham and the surrounding villages and we would love to hear from you.

CFRs are volunteers who work alongside colleagues from the ambulance service and respond to situations within their local community where the ambulance may take longer to arrive than the critical first few minutes following a 999 call. All volunteers are trained by EEAST to deal with life threatening situations, ranging from cardiac arrest, chest pains and stroke, to fits, falls, breathing difficulties and severe diabetic attacks.

CFRs carry an oxygen supply and defibrillator enabling them to deal with the patient immediately and to continue doing so until paramedics arrive at the scene.

There are 730 CFRs working in towns and villages across the eastern region, but we are keen to develop a First Responder presence in those areas which currently have little or no CFR support.

Lorna Hayes, Head of Community Response for EEAST, said: 'Our CFRs provide a really valuable service within their local communities, ensuring that patients receive the care they need as quickly as possible. In certain situations, a CFR being on the scene first can mean the difference between life and death. Our volunteers come from all walks of life, some are in full time employment, some are retired, and others have young children, but they all want to make a difference. I and all my colleagues are incredibly grateful for the support they provide.'

If you fancy a new challenge and would like to find out more about becoming a CFR then please visit: <https://www.eeastamb.nhs.uk/> ☐



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Are you (or is someone in your community) feeling lonely or isolated?

There is **FREE** support that could help!

Operation No Cold Shoulder is a year-long project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund running in your area from April 2020 until March 2021 and is offering the following free support;

Free Creative Wellbeing Packs

Provided by Creative Arts East for people aged 18+

A series of postal packages containing creative arts activities to try at home, including music making, crafts, movement activities and more!
No prior experience is needed.

Call Lea or Sydney on 01953 713390 or email info@creativeartseast.co.uk



Free Telephone Befriending

Provided by Age UK Norfolk for people aged 60+

Offering people aged 60 and over friendly conversation by telephone from a dedicated befriending volunteer. We call weekly for an enjoyable and stimulating chat.

Call 01603 785 223 or email befriending@ageuknorfolk.org.uk



Free Befriending Support in West Norfolk

Provided by West Norfolk Befriending for people aged 60+

Matching isolated older people age 60 and over with a volunteer befriender who can contact them on a regular basis (by phone during lockdown) – supporting socially isolated older people and their carers in West Norfolk.

Call 01553 763500 or email info@wnbefriending.org.uk



Would you like to help lonely or socially isolated neighbours?

The project is offering free support for communities who would like to set up Good Neighbour Schemes in their area where volunteers help those most in need in their neighbourhood with practical support.

Free help to set up Good Neighbour Schemes

Provided by Community Action Norfolk (CAN)

Step-by-step support, advice, a resource pack and funding support to help a scheme get up and running along with ongoing advice and support including an option of online training sessions.

Call Tracey on 01362 545024 or email tracey.allan@communityactionnorfolk.org.uk



Dersingham Evening WI

Maggie Guest



The WI committee have planned a year of interesting meetings for members, but obviously we are currently not able to proceed. We will get going again as soon as possible and need to incorporate our postponed Annual Meeting one evening, but here are just some of the delayed plans that we **hope** to produce for members when guidelines permit!

We are all looking forward to hearing Shirley Webb telling us about dressing to suit our body shape, using style and colour to give confidence.

Speaker, John Vigar, titles his talk 'Bedrooms, Banquets and Balls', which relates to the English country house.

Chris Boxall speaks about Houghton Hall.

Later in the year, which should be more certain, we have booked a group of three theatrical ladies to perform one of their short plays. These ladies are excellent and not to be missed.

Rachel Greaves is a local author and talks about Ruffles the dog.

We hope to have a Birthday Party and Christmas Party. Obviously, future plans will be updated as needed.

As members have been forced to stay at home, the committee wanted to send everyone a Christmas bag of little goodies. Contents included a pen, lip salve, nail file and chocolates in a pretty bag. I am sure all members would like to thank those on the committee involved preparing and delivering the bags.



It was wonderful that St Nicholas Church was able to put on a scaled down Christmas Tree Festival and we were delighted to take part as usual. This year we used old Christmas cards to cut out baubles to decorate the tree, as well as the lights and tinsel. It was very effective and thanks to Alison, Pat, Stephanie, Ann and Maggie, as well as the members who produced the baubles. Let us all hope next year the Tree Festival is even better with all the extra we have come to expect.

We hope it won't be too long until our coffee sessions, theatre groups, knitting (MAD) group, outings and dining group can get going, as well as meetings, so we can all be sociable again.

Wishing all readers of Village Voice a healthy and happy 2021

Contact: 01485 542424☐

The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle



I asked Remote Control Man today, "Why does our home get into such a mess so quickly?" and he replied, "Because it's what we're good at and we should stick to what we know." Fair enough. But it will get worse if R.C.M. gets to grips with his ultimate bad taste Christmas present: a taxidermy kit, with three mice suitably bagged and in the freezer, waiting to be seen to, stuffed and posed for posterity! If he becomes proficient, we have plenty of corpses brought in by the cat, and there is always road-kill available. I leave your imagination to conjure up the extra disruption this new hobby (if he does it) will contribute to the household havoc. I will never, ever, gain my housekeeping diploma.

I now have four hens. As you have asked, their names are Biddy, Bertha, Beatrice and Belinda. I am presented with two blue and two beige eggs every day, and as I write (New Year's Eve), they are still laying, which is a surprise. I thought hens stopped production in the winter. Mind you, it could be because of their luxury accommodation. I could not bear the thought of their sleeping outside in the cold, dark winter with, perhaps, rats nipping at their backsides.

As the dogs were ousted from their room and compound when the chickens arrived, once the cold weather came I put in the little room two old parrot cages with perches, lots of straw, and water bowls. The girls were delighted, especially as they also had a radiator on low, to stave off feet freezing on perches. I feed them in this room, and keep the door closed when they go out in the morning, so no rats are encouraged, and keep it mopped and disinfected as I don't want any chicken germs marching into the main part of the house. The only disadvantage of this rather nice arrangement is that now there is a constant trail of straw from the garage to the front door, through the hallway, down the steps, through the wardrobe room, to the Fowl Suite. Some might alter the spelling to Foul, but as R.C.M remarked, we should stick to what we are good at....



I may have mentioned that my memory is bad these days, so Biddy, who has qualified as Matriarch and Delegate of Important Matters, keeps me up to scratch just before dusk approaches. She jumps up onto the flat roof of their room, and peers in a window that looks down from there into our sitting room. She politely pecks on the glass to gain my attention, and I leap of my chair crying out, "Oh God, I've forgotten to let them in again!" I loosely wrote 'leap' in that last sentence, even though I am not capable of such a feat these days. However, all this animal activity forces me to be more active than I would like to be in my dotage, which means that these days I can, actually, rise from my chair without too much of a problem. Which is wonderful.

When the dogs were banished from their room, I put them in the parrots' room. Yes, they have their own room too, with a glass partition so they can see all the goings on in our open plan untidy home. This arrangement wasn't such a good idea though, as Florence, our saluki lurcher, is prone to itchy ears, and I think the parrots' dander (a white chalky dust from the parrots' skin and feathers) made her problem worse. With the patience of

a saint, Remote Control Man heaved the enormous and heavy parrots' cage out of their room - with me being helpful by yelling, "Left a bit" - into our sitting room. Now we can all enjoy the dander to optimum effect, but Florence and Rosie can have a dust free, rather splendid room all to themselves, with sideboard, plants and a pillar upon which a silver urn reposes. (I felt it looked rather bare without furnishings.) I will put up pictures too. Florence, who believes herself to be a duchess, now poses regally upon her velvet blankets, content at last.

The parrots are thrilled with their new position in life, as they love to be close to us, and also they can now watch the TV. The more loquacious one is currently brushing up his burping renditions, calling out Merry Christmas (I write this before the old year is out) and then laughing like a drain. They keep us thoroughly entertained.

Mr. Barnaby Conker Brown, our brown cat, now provides us with his company as the weather is cold, wet and freezing, so it is lovely in the evenings to have an open log fire blazing away and all these animals and birds tucked up with us, contented and entertaining us. It's small wonder the house is never neat and tidy.

....

Since I had chemotherapy (and so far, touch wood, I am still in remission) my hair is growing back, but instead of being dead straight and blonde, it is curly and white! I am coming to terms with my new look, but feel I now look like an old lady with a perm but WTF (modern idiom again) I am glad to be alive.

I wish you all the best for the New Year, and let's hope it is a better year for all of us. 2020 was a dodgy one, wasn't it. Keep safe, keep washing your hands, and smile!□



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Winter

Gerald Warnes

I am now in my eighties and often think back to winters past.

I remember the winter of 1947. I was then only seven years old, but I well remember the depth of the snow that year. It was on 21st January that year that the very cold spells started. Many large drifts of snow formed, blocking the railways carrying the coal to the power stations. Domestic supplies of electricity were badly affected, reducing supplies to nineteen hours per day and many industrial supplies were cut off completely. This badly affected public morale and the Minister of Fuel and Power, Emanuel Shinwell, became a scapegoat; he received death threats and had to be placed under police guard.

Towards the end of February there were also fears of a food shortage as supplies were cut off and vegetables were frozen into the ground. Mid-March brought warmer air to the country which thawed the snow lying on the ground. This snowmelt rapidly ran off the frozen ground into the rivers and caused widespread flooding. More than 100,000 properties were affected, and the British Army and foreign aid agencies were required to give humanitarian aid.

I can remember my father having to dig a tunnel in the garden to enable us to get to the lavatory that was at the bottom of the garden. Not a very pleasant journey, but a necessary one to take!



Emanuel Shinwell

The winter of 1946-47 undoubtedly marks the record for the most snowfall in living memory, but it is said by many that the coldest winter was that of 1962-63: that winter it is recorded as being the coldest winter in the United Kingdom since records began. I remember that winter better for many reasons - it was the first winter of our married life and in December 1962 our first son Timothy was born.

There was a considerable amount of snow that fell that year, but what made it so memorable, weather-wise, was the amount of frost, and how bitterly cold it was. The cottage we occupied, in the grounds of Mannington Hall (our first home), had no central heating, just a coal fire in the main living room, and, again, an outside toilet attached to the end of the cottage, but with access only from outside. It was not until 6th March 1963 that we got the first frost free morning of the year, and it was later, possibly April, before the ground was frost free.

I fetched Dorothy (my wife) and son home from the Longacre Nursing Home at West Runton in our lovely old Ford Anglia. There being no heat in the car, and they both being vulnerable, worried me. I was able to purchase a heater that was fitted to the top hose of the engine, with a pipe leading from it, blowing warm air into the car. This was a success, and from what I remember, we had a safe and warm journey home.

Looking back over those times, especially the winter of 1946-47, begs the question, How did we manage? Would we manage better if we had a winter like it today? I have my doubts, when you consider the disruption caused by just a few hours of snow these days. We no longer see a man with a spade or shovel, it's got to be done using a mini digger; even graves are dug that way today. There is no doubt in my mind that it was the willingness, the hard work, and the community spirit that helped many less able to survive, something, to a large extent, that is sadly missing today.□



Gardening with Disabilities (Norfolk) - 27 Years of Achievement

Tony Kendall

The organisation was first established in 1993 by a local seedsman and journalist named Gordon Poole. He approached King's Lynn Borough

Council with the idea of setting up in West Norfolk a group which could encourage physically disabled people with an interest in gardening to meet together regularly to exchange ideas and invite speakers to help them fully enjoy the hobby, in spite of disability. His proposal was widely advertised, and after a public meeting in Lynn a society was set up under Gordon's leadership with the title 'Norfolk Association for Gardening with Disabled People'. A committee was formed and the group was invited to meet on the third Friday of every month at Park House, a hotel for disabled people on the Sandringham Estate. Unfortunately, Gordon died suddenly after only two years as chairman and was succeeded in 1996 by David Callaby. The following year the post was filled by Tony Gipp, a retired businessman who was not only a great innovator and adaptor of garden tools, but who also (in conjunction with the committee) enabled the group to become a registered charity.

Over the next decade the size and influence of the group expanded rapidly. Although it kept the word 'disabled' in its title (abbreviated locally to GDN), the emphasis was placed more and more on the positive aspects of gardening despite a physical handicap or just growing older. In 1998 the group, under Tony's supervision, produced its own video film showing members at work in their own gardens using adapted tools, and to help publicise its activities the actress Liza Goddard was appointed its first president.

Around the turn of the century, Peter Beales, the well-known rose-grower from Attleborough, became president and my late wife, Elizabeth, was appointed chairman. She and Marianne Charles, GDN's gardening adviser from the very beginning, gave frequent individual displays to gardening groups around the county and beyond. Furthermore, they were both involved in the creation by the Borough Council of the Boston Square Sensory Park in Hunstanton. Meanwhile, GDN began exhibiting at several county-wide annual gardening events, with the emphasis on providing advice and displaying adapted tools rather than selling anything. Foremost among these occasions were the Royal Norfolk Show, where the GDN stand won a gold medal in 2007, Notcutts' autumn show in Norwich, the Pensthorpe Garden Fair, and the Sandringham Flower Show.

Gardening With Disabilities

[Norfolk]



Elizabeth, with Keith Smith and Jenny Purple, tending a raised garden built by GDN at Park House.



Elizabeth in the GDN tent at the Sandringham Flower Show.

More recently the GDN management has undergone considerable change. Peter Beales has sadly died and not been replaced. Marian Smith succeeded Elizabeth as chairman in 2013, and after four years handed over to Gloria Pantling, who stepped down in 2019 to take over the post of secretary from Jennifer Purple. Jenny had served in that capacity from a wheelchair for over twenty years and undertook the job of treasurer as well for the last seven; her contribution to the success of GDN since its very early days has been immense. May Davey was elected chairman in 2019, her husband Chris is now treasurer and Sue Neil is events secretary. The monthly outings or meetings at the new Dersingham Village Centre, as well as the popular Christmas lunch at Knights Hill Hotel, continued to be regular features of GDN's programme until early 2020, when COVID-19 put a stop to everything. Unfortunately an end to the pandemic is not yet in sight, but when it eventually comes I'm sure that GDN will continue to thrive.

May Davey would welcome any queries about the organisation and future meetings:
01485-544953.□



Photo needing a home

Former editor of Village Voice, Tony Bubb, reports that when he was sorting through the old "editor's tray" the other day he came across this photo. He cannot recollect what the occasion was, who it showed and, more importantly, where it should go back to. So if you can answer any of these questions please let us know.□





Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny

Sandringham Estate

I am now going to write up a bit more about the Sandringham Estate. The major alterations to the gardens at Sandringham under King George V came after a gale in 1914. A stately avenue of limes, which had lined the drive from the Norwich Gates to the house, was uprooted by the wind, and the opportunity was taken to move the gates further from the house, to gain more privacy. The roadway

beyond the gardens was also diverted and moved further away; the site of the original roadway was grassed over and planted with Scots pines and other trees, with swathes of spring bulbs beneath them. This spacious area is now known as The Glade and, running between the Woodland Walk and Church Walk, it is perhaps the best way to approach the house from the gardens.

Work was also continued under King George V on building and repairing cottages, farmhouses and clubhouses on the estate. Building new houses in each reign and naming them appropriately became something of a tradition at Sandringham. In the village of West Newton alone, Victoria, Alexandra and Louise cottages were all built under King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. King George V built many bungalows; King George VI built Elizabeth bungalows and Victory cottages; and the Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh built Edinburgh cottages. There were two nice estate cottages built in Manor Road, Dersingham - numbers 37 and 39, by whom or when I do not know, but these two cottages were always occupied by Sandringham estate workers.

Jack Spencer of The Feathers

A gentleman got in touch with me and asked if I knew who the landlord of The Feathers Hotel was in the 1960s. Well, it was a man called Jack Spencer. He came to The Feathers from Eaton Bray in Bedfordshire in the summer of 1962. At the time I worked as a lorry driver for Moulam and Horn, seed and feed merchants of Heacham, and I remember taking Jack fifty bales of straw as bedding for his horses. Jack stayed at The Feathers until 1970. Then he took over the Garden House Hotel on Cliff Parade in Hunstanton. It had a nice ballroom that looked out over the sea, and Jack organised dinner dances and cabaret nights. After a few years Jack moved on. The building is still there but nowadays it is all flats. I think I am right in saying that Jack moved to the Ingoldisthorpe Manor Hotel in 1978. This hotel was a converted manor house with a residential and restaurant licence only until it was granted a free house licence in 1978. The hotel was destroyed by fire in 1985, though I am sure Jack had moved on by then. If any one knows more about the Ingoldisthorpe Manor Hotel, please let me know.

Villages and hamlets

Here we go with another bit of trivia. Sandringham Estate covers around about 20,000 acres, including thirteen villages and hamlets. The estate owns all the properties in some of them, and in others, like Dersingham and Great Bircham, they own just a few. The list of villages is as follows: Sandringham, West Newton, Babingley, Wolferton, Dersingham, Shernborne, Red Barn, Fring, Linghouse, Great Bircham, Flitcham with Appleton, Harpley Dams, and Anmer. Sandringham estate workers live in a lot of these properties and the others are rented out.

Samphire

Well, I see my mate Willy has come up with another good bit of Norfolk Squit. That's what living in the countryside is all about, laughter and squat. He has got it right: it's samphire not sandfire. Them posh chefs on the telly say we will just put a sprig of sandfire on this plate of food. What good is a sprig of sandfire? You want a good old bowl of hot samphire with some vinegar in the middle of the table, so you can all

muck in and use your hands to pick it up and drag it through your teeth to get it off the stalk. Do not forget the bread and butter!

The Dersingham Stone

In the December/January issue of Dersingham Village Voice, Tony Bubb asks about a very old road stone that sits opposite the Mountbatten Road/Lynn Road junction - Dun Cow Corner. I am pretty sure it is the marker stone for the end of the Kings Lynn - Dersingham turnpike. It is marked on Bryant's map of Norfolk for 1826.

Rabbit

As most of you people who read the Dersingham Village Voice know, I eat any sort of game - pheasant, partridge, hares, but my favourite, of course, is a nice rabbit. During the war, when I lived at East Winch with my mother, my granny, two uncles and an aunt, we had rabbit for tea at least twice a week. Rabbit is always tender if cooked right and you never get any fat on it. My two uncles worked on a farm so they were always bringing home rabbits. After they got called up mother would buy them from the butchers; they cost just a tanner (sixpence) each. We would have them stewed, roasted or in a nice pie. Granny would save the bones and boil them up to make soup. In Mrs Beeton's book of household management (1917) there are twenty-two recipes of how to cook rabbit and six ways of how to cook a hare. Nowadays there are not so many rabbits about, but when I was a lad the Shut-up Common and the fen were swarming with rabbits. The dogs would chase them to their burrows and then we would dig them out and, of course, when it was harvest time there were plenty of rabbits to catch when the farmer cut the corn.

Sherborne

Tony Bubb wrote a piece in the December Village Voice about the village of Sherborne, so I thought I would put in my twopenneth. In 1774 there was a pub in Sherborne called The Bell; by 1841 the name was changed to The Bull. The *Lynn Advertiser* of 15th November 1907 reported that the King (Edward VII) had gifted The Bull to the village of Sherborne for future use as a village club, and the landlady, Mrs Hooks, appointed the caretaker. Mrs Jane Hooks was still caretaker in 1912 and Mr C R Bullard of Sherborne Hall was the honorary secretary.

The parish of Sherborne covers 1,300 acres and in 1921 there were 137 people living in the village. That is about 50 more than there are today. The school was built in 1876 for the parish and the adjoining district of Snettisham Red Barn; it held 60 children and the teacher in 1925 was a Miss Annie Mitchell. In 1908, Queen Alexandra, who spent a lot of time living at Sandringham, had a bungalow constructed on Snettisham beach built with carstone from the pit at the top of Grammar School Hill. It was demolished in 1925. At one end of the bungalow was an external stack and at the other end was a door shaped like a boat standing on its end. The carstone from the bungalow was used to build the village hall at Sherborne.

I have just come across another bit of information about Sherborne. In 2001 there were only 59 people living in Sherborne and in 2011 there were still well under 100. For those that have never been to Sherborne, there are five roads leaving it, and, whichever road you take, to Snettisham, Red Barn, Anmer, Dersingham or Ingoldisthorpe, you have to go up a hill to leave the village. When we had a lot of snow, like in 1947, 1958 and 1963, Sherborne was one of the first Norfolk villages to get snowed in. Sherborne at one time had a shop, post office, cobblers and a village school, all now gone, but it is still a pretty little village. So, if you have never been there, have a ride or walk around it and take a look for yourself.

Well, that's all for now. Just keep a troshin' and take care, all the very best from the boy Dick.□

Scam Alert – Fake COVID-19 vaccine text messages – 5 January 2021

Norfolk County Council Trading Standards

We are warning about text messages circulating claiming to be from the NHS offering the COVID-19 vaccine.

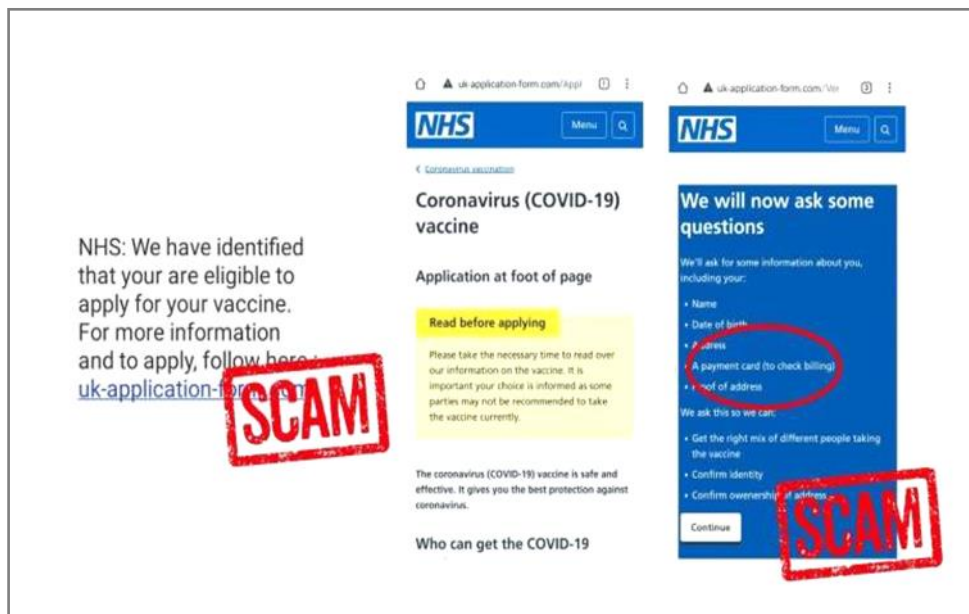
These messages are fake. Anyone following the links supplied in the messages will be taken to a fake NHS website which will attempt to gather personal and financial details.

The NHS is currently offering the COVID-19 vaccine **free** to people most at risk from coronavirus. These people will be contacted by the NHS. You will never be asked to supply financial details for the vaccination.

If you receive this or a similar text message you can report it by forwarding it to 7726.

If you have received a text message which you believe to be a scam you can also report it to us via our partners, the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on freephone 0808 223 1133.

This is what the fake message looks like:



For up to date information about COVID-10 and the vaccination programme go to the following website, which also answers many of your questions.
<https://www.norfolkandwaveneyccg.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccination-programme>.

February Phyl Jones

A seemingly insignificant little nuisance of a month. All the bright hopes that heralded the start of a new year have dwindled into a dull acceptance that nothing has really changed and the resolutions made with such fervour have long since been abandoned. They were no doubt far too ambitious in the first place.

February! Not the easiest of words to pronounce correctly, which is why it's often spelled incorrectly. If we have January, then why not February? Why put that infuriating letter *r* in the middle?

How did the month get its name? It originates from the Latin – *Februarias mensis* – 'the month of expiation.' The month when we are meant to atone for past sins. February 15th is the Roman festival of purification, by which time we should, presumably, have fully atoned!

Not having the best of reputations for congenial weather, it is known in folklore as February-fill-dyke, when we have to expect, and often get, rain, sleet and snow, causing ditches to be filled to overflowing, and when earth sticks to the boots of those careless enough to step off the firm paths. When forced to venture outdoors, we need to put on extra layers of clothing, and shroud heads and necks in hoods and scarves, and bury gloved hands deep into our pockets. Small wonder then that the constellations covering February are Aquarius – the Water Carrier, and Pisces – the Fish.

February! The month that doesn't even last as long as the other eleven, only managing twenty-eight days as opposed to thirty or thirty-one, although it does try to compensate by giving us an extra day every fourth year, known as a Leap year. Not that there seems any great advantage in that. It just creates a problem for those folk born on the 29th as they have to decide whether to celebrate the birthday a day early or a day late, and when they reach their 40th birthday to have some joker pointing out they are only ten really.

February! Not a month to look forward to and yet it has its compensations. It's the month when we see appear those harbingers of spring, the snowdrops, dainty white flowers quivering on their fine green stems, reminding us of better things to come; and on the days when the sun does break through the clouds it shines through the bare branches of the trees to light up the aconites, little tiny crocks of gold nestling in the grass below.



And who can ignore February 14th, St Valentine's Day, giving those too shy to express their love a chance to do so, and the not so shy an opportunity to announce it to the world! For those who don't need, or maybe don't wish for the help of St Valentine and whose feelings are more concerned with their stomach than their heart, there is always Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day, and which mostly falls in February!

The transitional period from the high spots of Christmas and New Year over to March, with the promise of warmth, spring and summer. That's February!□



Ward Councillors' report Judy Collingham & Tony Bubb



Well, 2021 came with no let up in the Covid situation. In fact, as we all now know, it has got worse. Guidance on this phase of fighting the pandemic is clear: we all know what to do, so let us aim for being freer by spring, and to do that we all need to abide by Government restrictions. Vaccinations are being rolled out and we would urge everyone who knows anyone who is in their nineties or eighties to make sure they are aware of the need to expect and wait for communication from the Healthcare Centre in connection with their vaccination appointments. It is also a good idea to take your NHS number with you when you attend.

Council work continues with regeneration of our towns high on the agenda of all involved in the Borough. Unfortunately we were not successful in our bid for the Future High Street Fund, which means that for the moment some of our regeneration projects will not go ahead. Hopefully we can secure funding in the future, but as you will appreciate, competition is fierce for whatever funds are available.

A task force has been established to review and contribute to our Climate Change policy and to look at how we can be greener. During this time we need to be aware of how we use masks and other forms of PPE so either we launder and reuse if possible, or, if not, ensure we are disposing of them appropriately. While CO₂ levels are down, plastic waste is increasing - an unwelcome trend.

We hope that by the time of our next edition of Village Voice the situation will be easier, but meanwhile, stay safe and let's be sure to give each other a big smile (behind your mask if necessary!) and a friendly greeting when we meet.□



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Dersingham Walking Group

Tony Bubb



Sadly, as I write, there can be no organised walks for the moment. As you see below, we have walks planned, but I have removed the dates and replaced them with numbers. We walk, when allowed, on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, so as soon as we are allowed out again, the three planned walks below can start up from the first scheduled Wednesday; but to be sure, ring the leader for confirmation. Hopefully, by the next edition of Village Voice, we will be in a position to publish actual dates again with some confidence.

Our upcoming walks will be:-

1 Wednesday 1.30pm

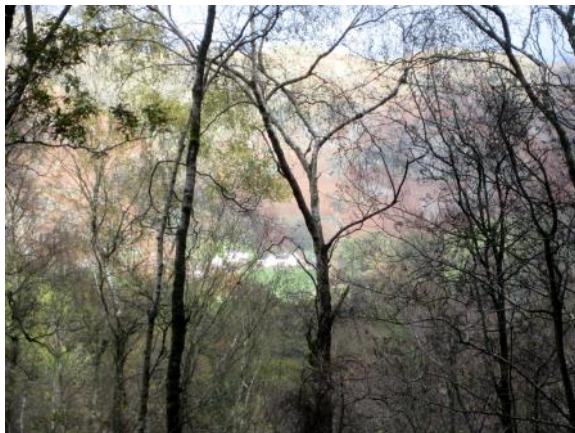
Woods, Warren, Fen and Common. A circuit around the varied terrain of Dersingham and Sandringham. Start at the old Dersingham railway station at the bottom of Station Rd. Map Reference TF680308. Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

2 Wednesday 1.30pm

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

3 Wednesday 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 road crossing. TF75285. Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.



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 Task Force

Dennis Weatherill

At the time of writing it is still deep midwinter and difficult to think of spring being just around the corner. However, when it does arrive we on the Task Force will be ready with our hoes, forks, secateurs and lots of enthusiasm to be tackling the two gardens that we maintain.

We have a small but dedicated group who manage to turn out every alternate Wednesday morning from March to November to keep the gardens tidy. It's not expected that everyone will turn up for every session (we all have families and other commitments to consider), but we always manage to leave the gardens tidier than we found them. And it's often rewarding when we receive encouraging comments from passers-by as we work.

The two gardens we maintain are at the end of Post Office Road



near the library and on Lynn Road in the children's playground.

If you would like to join us this year (Covid restrictions permitting), then please contact me, Dennis Weatherill, by email: denzilweatherill@gmail.com or phone 07482 913399 at any time. You will be made very welcome in our happy little group....well, this lot look fairly happy in their work!□



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Where is your favourite place to sit in Dersingham?

Here are a few local favourite places to sit whilst out getting that brief escape from home during this latest lockdown.

The bench on Dersingham bog offers a welcome resting spot at any time of year. However, it really comes into its own in summer, when, if you sit quietly at dusk, you may hear the distinctive churring call of nightjars and perhaps see them flying around.



Mike Reid sent in this picture of local dog walkers taking advantage of what he calls “The Royal Log”. After a plea to the Parish Council for some seating in The Warren area of Dersingham, the Royal Sandringham Sawmill kindly donated and installed this log. This has proved so successful that the Parish Council is looking into acquiring further logs.



As you go out of the village towards King's Lynn, if you look up to the left there is now a clear view of this bench at the top of the hill – there has been major clearance of bracken and undergrowth on the slope. From the top this site gives a wonderful view over Dersingham Fen/Bog and all the trees that have grown up over the years.



Do let us know your favourite resting spots, with photos if possible.□



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Sandringham Parish News

Ben Colson

Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Zoom on 13th January with five Councillors present. There was no significant new business, instead it was mainly a series of progress reports on other matters which had been raised earlier.

A149 speed reduction and safety improvements:

County Councillor Stuart Dark gave an update on progress on the scheme. We were aware that James Wild MP has been contacted by a local resident expressing concerns at the dangerous right turn from the main road towards Wolferton when coming from the direction of Dersingham. The MP had taken up the matter with Norfolk County Council which said that it would improve the road markings there, but almost certainly not include lighting in any scheme.

The latest proposed plan was circulated to Councillors, who noted that it included the speed limit remaining at 60mph, and regarding the junction changes, mainly improving existing signs and introducing cats-eyes. However, the emphasis appears to be on better control of traffic emerging from the side roads onto the main road – difficult enough already – whereas our contention has always been that the safety issue is main road traffic turning into the side roads. The Parish Council will give a considered response to the County Council.

Councillors took a vote on whether we remain of the view that the speed limit between Babingley Cross and Dersingham roundabout should be reduced to 50mph, as has been the County's earlier proposal. The meeting was unanimous that the speed limit be reduced.

Parking at Wolferton:

This continued to get worse during the third lockdown, with cars parked on junctions, three point turns being made close to a junction and blind bend, despoiling verges, and even parking across entrances to private properties. It has been suggested that the issue needs to be considered across a wider range of interests, including Sandringham Estate, Natural England and the owner of the Royal Station, for they all have some responsibility for increasing the number of visitors and therefore for finding an acceptable solution. It was confirmed at the meeting that a virtual stakeholders meeting is to be held imminently, including the Parish Council, to consider options to lessen the impact of visitors to the village and Dersingham Bog.

Raising a Precept:

A Precept is a method of raising money at parish level to finance spending by the Parish Council. It is levied for the parish by the Borough Council as part of the Council Tax demand and the law requires parishes to vote each year on whether to raise one, and if so, how much. Sandringham is one of four parishes in Norfolk not to raise a Precept, and we are fortunate that Sandringham Estate carries out many of the tasks at its own expense, therefore not costing the parish residents anything. On the other hand, having its own funds theoretically allows the Parish Council greater independence.

After a discussion, a vote was taken and it was unanimously decided not to raise a Precept for the year starting in April.

Crime - fraud:

One of the consequences of the pandemic has been a significant rise in the crime of fraud and scams. This area is not immune to them and the Police ask us to be extremely vigilant and work on the simple basis that if a letter, email or phone call doesn't seem quite right, then it isn't right. Don't take any chances, don't answer your mobile phone if it is from an unknown or withheld number (if it is genuine, the caller will leave a voicemail message for you), delete any suspect emails straight away and certainly never open attachments, and if you get a suspicious call on your landline phone just replace the receiver. The Police also ask that you contact their fraud line straight away so that it is recorded for evidence purposes. You also need to be vigilant regarding postal and van delivery fraud – treat with extreme caution.

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.

England & Wales

REPORT: contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

ADVICE: contact Citizens Advice on 0808 223 1133.

Church services

During the current lockdown, all the churches in the parish have decided not to hold services until further notice. Two within the Sandringham Group of Churches, but not part of the parish, are continuing to hold services; they are at Hillington and Castle Rising. For details of the service dates and times google Sandringham Group of Churches.

Social Clubs and other local activity centres

These are all closed until further notice.

Schools

West Newton Primary School and the pre-school playgroup in that village are both closed. The nursery at Wolferton remains open.

And finally....



The money health problem – Improving your financial future

Allen Tomas & Co.

When we have an issue with the electrics in our house, we seek out a professional - we trust that they know what they are doing. We accept that we are only human, and while we each know our own jobs well, an electrician is the safest option to look after the 'health' of our house in this situation.

If you knew how a lightbulb worked, would you re-wire the electrics in your house on your own? Or would you say to yourself it's too dangerous, that you could easily miss something and hurt yourself or others? That you "don't know what you don't know", so you entrust this task to someone who specialises in the area.

The answers above seem obvious, don't they? Now, how about we change the subject we're talking about to your finances?

You're a little uncomfortable already aren't you? This is where the problem lies for most; we are content to speak to a specialist and trust in them to do the job well when it comes to most things: the electrician above, a solicitor for buying a house, a doctor for our personal health. But when it comes to finances, lots of us think we can muddle through it ourselves; we know a little and that will do.

Our financial well-being is ignored, we go each year missing out on tax benefits we don't know about, paying for services we don't need or understand, being exposed to large risks which will affect our family poorly, and the list goes on. We pull one lever, thinking it's better to do something rather than nothing, and we suffer the unintended consequences down the line.

So now that we know the problem, what is the solution? Which profession is it that looks after people's financial health, and what do they even do exactly? A good financial advisor will know not just where and how to invest your money, but when and for what reason. They will evaluate your circumstances, tailor your investment plan to your circumstances, factor in the flexibility you need for the future, and keep your plan on track with the wider picture. The really good ones will tailor your tax, investment and lifestyle plan to your situation, they will recommend the solutions which are in your best interests even if they aren't in theirs. They will know about wills, tax, powers of attorney, insurance, ISA's, pensions and beyond.

This year has brought finances into a new light for a lot of people; perhaps you're already thinking differently than you did last year. How far reaching are the effects of this year going to extend into your financial future? Uncertain financial times need an advisor you can be confident in, an advisor who can help you look at and understand your financial health.

What do you need to look for to know you can trust your financial advisor? An absolute must is to check they are registered with and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (the FCA). An essential for most people is that your advisor is 'independent', which means the firm doesn't restrict itself to certain providers, and instead searches the whole market on an ongoing basis to provide the best fit for their client's circumstances. Chartered Financial Planners are among the most experienced and qualified advisors in the profession. Allen Tomas & Co. is one of only around 900 firms in the country which has attained corporate chartered status for the firm itself, further distinguishing us in the field.

The only level above the prestigious title of a chartered advisor, is to be a Fellow of the Personal Finance Society (PFS). At Allen Tomas & Co. both of our directors are in the top 8.3% of members to be granted the title of Fellow as recognition of the pinnacle of professional qualification for financial advisors.□



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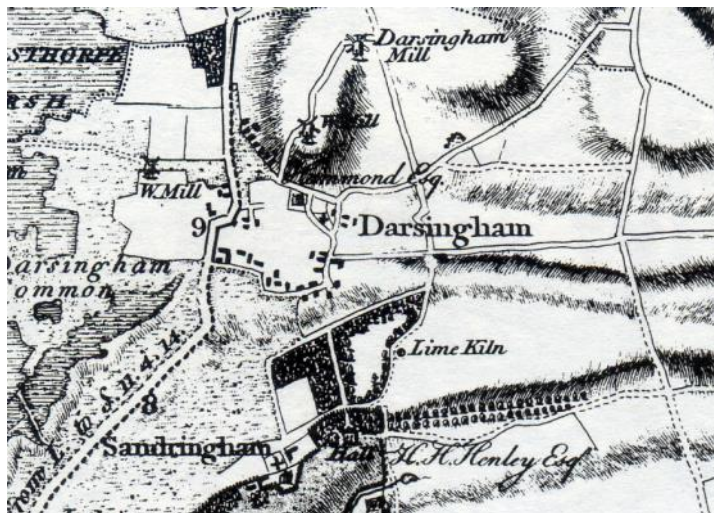
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Dersingham Questions by Tony Bubb

Doddshill Road leads up to what was once a small hamlet known as Doddshill. Located up the hill from the main village, it comprised a cluster of estate buildings dating from the mid 1800s onwards, but is now a part of Dersingham. Faden's map of 1797 shows nothing of it.



But how did the name come about? In old Norse a Dodd is a small hill and certainly there were Vikings about the place a thousand or so years ago; but the area, although elevated, is not a small hill in its own right. Possibly it belonged to a Mr Dodd, but nowhere on maps is Doddshill printed with the apostrophe needed to enforce this theory. Are we left then with the idea that it was owned by a number of or a succession of Dodds? There are a number of entries for Dodd and Dodds in the phone book, so it was, perhaps, a local name then as now.



If you can shed any light on this, or indeed have a question of your own to ask, do get in touch ☐

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Dersingham Library

We are closed again, unfortunately, but people can keep up to date with all online library events here <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/whats-on>

Hope you had a good Christmas under the circumstances; stay safe and hopefully we will be back to normal soon. Here are some of the things you can find online.

Virtually meet the author on Zoom

Zoe Somerville - 8pm Wednesday, 20th January 2021. Zoe's first book *Night of the Flood* is a literary thriller set in north Norfolk in the shadow of the Cold War, in which a love triangle turns murderous. (It's also available as an [eBook and eAudio](#)). Tickets are free but spaces are limited. To book a place on an event, email the author's name to libraries.icconnect@norfolk.gov.uk. The first fifty people will receive their personal Zoom invite.

Shut Up and Write Facebook Group

Every Tuesday at 4pm for one hour. Do you struggle to find one hour to sit down and tackle that writing project you keep thinking about? Us, too! We were going to launch a brand new Shut Up and Write weekly session at the American Library, however we are now launching online, getting ready for when we reopen. **The rules:** The event takes place at 4 pm every Tuesday and will last for one hour (and a bit). The host will post some optional prompts and word count challenges at the beginning, and then we shut up and write for sixty minutes straight. No ifs, no buts, lock the door and get on with it!

Reading Friends

Reading Friends is a Reading Agency project which aims to tackle loneliness through the proven power of reading. Each week we'll invite adults across Norfolk to relax with a cuppa and enjoy listening to a good story. Join us and we'll bring you a tale to lift your spirits and give you an opportunity to share your thoughts with others via Zoom. The sessions are:

Tuesdays 2-2.45pm

Tuesdays 6-6.45pm

Tuesdays 7-7.45pm (**fully booked**)

If you'd like to join in, email 'Reading Friends' to libraries.icconnect@norfolk.gov.uk stating the session you'd like to attend, and you'll be sent a personal invite. If you're new to Zoom, we'll also help you set things up on your computer, tablet or smartphone.

Digital Health Hub Zoom Sessions

There are lots of ways that you can use the internet to support your health and during COVID-19, it has never been more important to be able to navigate reliable health information online. We're providing **free** one to one sessions over Zoom, where we can show you how to navigate the NHS website and GP online services. The Digital Health Hub Zoom sessions are available on Wednesdays at 12.30pm. You can sign yourself up, or someone you care for. Email 'Digital Health Hub' to libraries.icconnect@norfolk.gov.uk to book your free place.

Virtual Just a Cuppa

Our Just a Cuppa chats on Zoom are back and running every weekday at 10.30am. To take part, please email libraries.icconnect@norfolk.gov.uk stating which day you'd like

to join and you'll be sent your personal invite. If you've never used Zoom, library staff will help you to get started.

Just a Cuppa for new parents

We have some special Just a Cuppa sessions for new parents, giving you the opportunity to meet other parents and learn about local groups. Sessions run every week, and some weeks we'll have special guests as well.

Just a Cuppa: Bumps and Babies

11am every Thursday on Zoom

Just a Cuppa: Babies and Toddlers

11am every Tuesday on Zoom

Email us at libraries.icconnect@norfolk.gov.uk to join.

Read my mind – Reading for Wellbeing

Join us for a relaxed and informal social event to chat about reading for wellbeing and share book recommendations. Whether it was a great book to lose yourself in, a biography, self-help book, poetry anthology or a travel book that took you on a journey without leaving your armchair. All contributions are welcome. We'll read a few excerpts aloud for you to sit back and listen to. Read my Mind is a project from Norfolk Libraries to look at the wellbeing benefits men can experience from reading and reading activities. These sessions are open to everyone. We will be meeting on Thursday 7th January at 7pm. To take part, please

email libraries.icconnect@norfolk.gov.uk
and you'll be sent your personal Zoom invite.□

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A new wealth tax – should I be worried?

**Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants,
Hunstanton**

At the beginning of December last year, the Wealth Tax Commission issued its final report on the need for and design of a wealth tax for the UK. Unsurprisingly the launch attracted a considerable

amount of press publicity. The report identified, quite correctly, that the impact of the pandemic on the level of public borrowing has been unprecedented in peacetime, and that sooner or later there will need to be a reckoning. Since the “triple lock” promise of no increases in Income Tax, VAT or National Insurance is a sacrosanct manifesto pledge, the report concludes that a one-off wealth tax should be imposed, payable over a five year period. This would follow precedents for one off taxes in the past, and would mean “sharing the burden of paying for the crisis across those with the broadest shoulders.”

This is indeed headline making stuff, but now that the dust has settled, and before taking any drastic action, there are a few factors which need to be considered:

** In July 2020, after the first wave of the pandemic, Rishi Sunak said, quite unequivocally, “I do not believe that now is the time, or ever would be the time, for a wealth tax.” This is not quite a manifesto pledge, but it is a fairly clear indication of Treasury thinking.

** The Wealth Tax Commission has no statutory authority and is a think tank set up and largely funded by university economics departments, with a self-appointed board of academics and tax professionals. It has no more statutory authority than ‘the bloke down the pub’, although its members are likely to be rather better informed.

** It is questionable whether the burden of a wealth tax really would fall wholly on those with “the broadest shoulders”. In order to raise £250Bn (about half the cost of the pandemic to date) it would look at charging tax on all individuals with wealth above £500,000. The report suggests that this would be spread across some 8.2 million individuals. There are about 32m Income Tax payers, of whom about 4.6 million pay tax at higher rates, so in very approximate terms, a wealth tax would catch about one in four taxpayers, about half of whom would be paying basic rate.

** The report identifies “a clear desire for wealth to be taxed more.” That is an unsurprising answer to a question which must be phrased as, “If more tax is needed, should it be paid by people wealthier than you?”

** Potentially a wealth tax is profoundly unfair. For example, taxing individuals rather than households might mean that two neighbours, whose circumstances were otherwise identical, might pay different amounts of tax because in one case the house is owned purely by one spouse, whereas the neighbours own their house jointly. Pension rights are also problematic, since one needs to ensure fairness between private and occupational pensions, and those whose pensions are being drawn compared to those who have an undrawn ‘pot’. If pension rights are removed from the calculation, the amount of tax raised would be probably about half that anticipated.

** Internationally, wealth taxes are generally difficult and expensive to collect. Only four European countries have a wealth tax, all at lower rates than that suggested for the UK, with eight countries having abolished the tax in recent years.

Politically, it seems fairly unlikely that even a government with a healthy majority would look to alienate 8m voters, particularly since such a tax would take a few years to organise and the first liabilities would fall due at about the time of the next General

Election. However, that does not mean that the wealthy have nothing to worry about. The 'triple lock' does not cover Inheritance Tax or Capital Gains Tax, and these taxes have recently been reviewed by bodies which DO have government accreditation. Whilst it is anticipated that the repayment of Covid debts will be a long-term process, perhaps even over more than one generation, it would not be surprising if long term measures to raise more tax from capital sources were announced at the Spring Budget. Those considering capital tax planning would do well to implement any planned measures before then – the likelihood of the regime becoming more relaxed is not high.

If, having read through the information provided above, you require advice, **please contact either myself or my assistant Nicola Tarry FCA on 01485 534800 or email kate@kathryngigg.co.uk if we can assist in any way.**

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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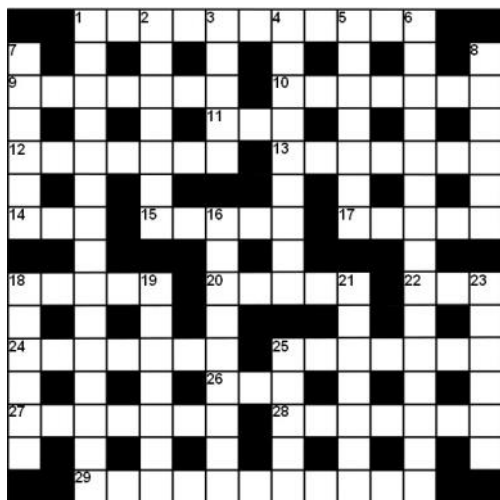
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Across

- 1 Working clay so handy during a period of peace and happiness (7,4)
- 9 Windswept contributions – but it's all Greek to me (7)
- 10 Mobile caterer required for a row of houses (7)
- 11 Maori confab (3)
- 12 Old well-developed team handle ton of scrap (7)
- 13 Key Dan used to put the Viscount in his picture (7)
- 14 Primarily everyone likes your part of lovely city (3)
- 15 Stewed dates fulfilled (5)
- 17 I soldier on as expected (5)
- 18 Promote British spectacle at summertime (5)
- 20 Good reason for officer to return and collect soldier (5)
- 22 Lonely fox? (3)
- 24 Feeling something's cooking in the gin kiln (7)
- 25 You may have come across (or down) an example of a sheep following a horse (7)
- 26 Wood used in barrel making (3)
- 27 Confine ten learners uncomfortably on back seat (7)
- 28 Distorted ratio no good for speaking (7)
- 29 Luck ran out when roadblock hemmed in juggernaut (4,7)

Down

- 1 Where musicians take a break – listening to 'Day Tripper' perhaps (7,4,4)
- 2 Soldiers drained energy from busy cleaners (7)
- 3 Looking back at island from height of boat (5)
- 4 Giant dove confused by dingo (6,3)
- 5 Initially anyone can run on New York motorway (7)
- 6 Settle unknown actor with Huddersfield Town's dog (8,7)
- 7 Pay no attention to foreign region (6)
- 8 I've left investigator to do his job (6)
- 16 Gentle ice broken but looks good on the box (9)
- 18 Bishop hobbles to see the airships (6)
- 19 Six in court but outcome insignificant (7)
- 21 A patch I used to cook a pancake (7)
- 23 Injury to U.S. lawyer playing game (6)
- 25 The morning sealed our relationship (5)



Answers on page 69

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		8	9				

Dersingham Day Centre

Jan Holt

A belated Happy New Year to you all from Dersingham Day Centre. We do hope 2021 will be a better year for us all.



At Christmas, members and volunteers of Dersingham Day Centre usually celebrate with a delicious Christmas meal and wonderful entertainments. Of course this time it had to be different and our clever committee members came up with the idea of Christmas hampers. Volunteers made up hampers with lots of Christmas fare and we were each allocated two of our members to deliver to. Obviously we couldn't go in and spend time with them and had to keep social distances, but it was lovely to see them. I had an unexpected welcome when I rang one member's doorbell – it played Jingle Bells – such a nice Christmas surprise!

We look forward to the spring and hope that things will be starting to improve for everyone and that we will be able to meet up with our friends again. We will of course remember and miss Colin Carter who sadly passed away in November.

Many thanks again to Ann and her committee for keeping in touch with members and volunteers in these difficult times. □





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Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Broads Dark Skies Festival 2021

Norfolk Coast Partnership



We are very lucky to enjoy splendid night skies and dark landscapes where we live on the Norfolk Coast. These contribute to the rural character and that feeling of remoteness and tranquillity – some of the reasons why people like to come here. The lack of light pollution and resulting dark skies contribute to our health and well-being by allowing us to philosophise about our place in the universe, enjoy astronomy activities and gain a sense of nostalgia, peace and romance. In addition, scientific studies show that we need the dark to help us sleep properly, which in turn boosts our immune systems and lowers stress levels. Darkness not only brings us numerous benefits, but is necessary for wildlife to navigate during migration, hunt prey or avoid predators, pollinate night flowering plants, or simply to sleep as part of the 24 hour day/night cycle which humans also need.



The Norfolk Coast Partnership is therefore working with various organisations and businesses, including the Norfolk Broads National Park, to celebrate our night skies, and preserve them by reducing the impact of light pollution on our rural landscapes. We will be holding our 3rd Dark Skies Festival this year between **Saturday 25th September** and **Sunday 10th October 2021** and we hope you will enjoy taking part. Events will consist of a mix of online and face-

to-face activities throughout the festival fortnight. Put the dates in your diary and find out more on our Norfolk Coast Dark Skies Facebook page [@norfolkcoastaonb](#) or follow us via Twitter [@NorfolkAONB](#).

Is your community interested in preserving the night skies where you live? We are interested in working with town and parish councils and local businesses in and close to the Norfolk Coast AONB. For further information contact Kate in the Norfolk Coast Partnership staff team on kate.dougan@norfolk.gov.uk. □

Sandringham Estate News

Garry Marsden



A huge thank you to everyone who attended the recent Luminate event in the Country Park. Despite having to shut down as we all went sadly into Tier 4, the event was a great success and plans are already being made for this year.

As I write, work is continuing on the play area developments and I am very much hoping that we will be past the current hurdles come the spring and that we can once again encourage people to come and visit the Country Park.



At Sandringham we have lots of exciting plans for activities and events in 2021, but for now, more than ever, we must all stay at home and exercise locally. □



Dersingham Methodist Church

Elizabeth Batstone

Lockdown again! We were just getting used to a new way of worshipping and keeping in contact with each other, when it was back to where we were. Those attending services in December enjoyed the tradition of lighting the Advent candles, seeing the Christmas tree and the decorations. Advent reminded us that **the Light overcame the darkness**. And it is this we hold on to during these difficult times.

Our church doors may be locked and worship suspended until further notice, however, some of us have enjoyed joining worship via Zoom, WhatsApp, listening to services on the radio, or joining in televised services, especially over Christmas. Songs of Praise is also helping many to sing, lifting their spirits as well as their voices.

Our 'Keep in touch' newsletter is again produced fortnightly, either emailed or delivered. It's a good way of remembering those in the greatest need, keeping up to date with news, as well as articles, Bible readings, hymns and prayers. And just to make sure our minds are kept active, there is usually a quiz or word search!

I was listening to Radio 4 one morning whilst doing other things. I took more attention when I heard the speaker was being asked how he felt about not being able to sing hymns in church. He replied, "I love to sing, to hear singing, but we are still free to worship. There are many thousands of Christians around the world unable to do that, many living in fear. Put it into context." The speaker was a Welsh bishop.

And putting it into context is what we need to do, whether it's being unable to do the things we've always done, not being able to go where we want, not being able to sing hymns, etc. We have been amazed at life-changing scientific breakthroughs, thankful to those who work tirelessly for others, whether it's saving lives, selling food, delivering the mail, driving the buses and emptying the bins.

The darkness will be overcome by the light.

May God richly bless you in 2021, from all at Dersingham Methodist Church. □

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Word Wall by Philip Neal

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

HOUSE	ARBORIO	RELATIONS	UNTAMED
VIOLENT	BARBAROUS	CARNAROLI	CONCEAL
LIBRARY	HERB	SHRUB	DOMAIN
WILD	ANGRY	FACTORY	BASMATI

Dersingham Institute Bowls Club

Jan Rawstron

It's not often I have nothing to report, but in these strange times I'm afraid we have not had the chance to meet up with fellow members. I hope that all had a happy festive season, albeit not the usual festivities, and emerged unscathed by the coronavirus. Hopefully, now that the vaccines are being rolled out, we will eventually return to a more normal life, including getting our fresh air and exercise on the bowls green as soon as possible. I really miss the social interaction with our members, so good for the spirit! So, with that in mind, I hope you enjoy the attached photos of better times at the bowls club. □





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Dersingham Gardening Tips

Jane Jestice

A Happy New Year to you all, with every hope for a good one, even if it does take a while to get started.

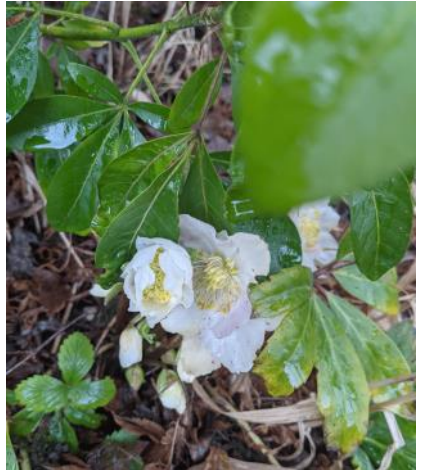
As I write I am just ending a period of self-isolation as two friends have had Covid. Someone once said to me that prison would be bearable if there was a button to get out! He was so right. Although I have been doing almost nothing and seeing almost no-one for the last eternity, the fact that I couldn't even go out for a walk was difficult.

Then the bulb, seed and plant catalogues started to come through the door! I love them and just turning the pages makes me feel happier and more optimistic. Over the years of gardening I have learnt what I aspire to and what, personally, I don't like. I am not a fan of red flowers and don't much like purple either, although I have some exceptions! I once aspired to a pastel palette garden but I seem unable to resist buying plants that don't fit this vision. So many, many pages are turned down in the catalogues.

Outside, as there isn't a lot of actual gardening to do, it is the perfect time to make life easier when spring comes. Walk round the garden, enjoy the surprises of the flowers that are out and the bulbs that are appearing and note where you have any gaps. Keep dead-heading, pulling up stray weeds and tidying up.

It is a good time to check over any seeds that were left over from last year. If I am ever unsure of whether they are viable or not, I mix them with a bit of soil and scatter them on the flowerbeds when the spring comes and wait and see. This is why my garden is chaotic!

Also, make sure you have cut off any bits of string or raffia so that all the canes are ready for use. Check the bottoms aren't split or rotten too. I have been caught out later in the year when all the long canes were sold out.



Hellebores emerging

Keep an eye on the greenhouse to make sure there is some air going through periodically to avoid mould. I am never sure what to do with my dahlias; last year I left them in the ground, this year I have lifted them. I would also love to understand pruning, as try as I might the plant I am trying to prune never seems to have a structure even vaguely like the instructions I am trying to follow. However I DO know I generally do not prune hard enough.

Don't throw away any forced bulbs, give them a second chance by cutting off the flowers and planting them out. I have a lovely clump of hyacinths that come up every year from doing that.

I am just so looking forward to being able to meet friends and enjoy their gardens over a cup of tea or a glass of wine with no social distancing and no mask.

Keep safe and stay well, and get into the fresh air as much as possible, as we all know it is good for mind and body.□

T.M. electrical

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Crossword Answers

Across

1 Halcyon days. 9 Galenic. 10 Terrace. 11 Hui. 12 Oddment. 13 Vandyke. 14 Ely.
15 Sated. 17 Meant. 18 Boost. 20 Logic. 22 Tod. 24 Inkling. 25 Anagram. 26 Elm.
27 Pillion. 28 Orating. 29 Bulk carrier.

Down

1 Holiday folk club. 2 Lancers. 3 Yacht.
4 Native dog. 5 Acronym.
6 Sealyham terrier. 7 Ignore. 8 Detect.
16 Telegenic. 18 Blimps. 19 Trivial.
21 Chapati. 23 Damage. 25 Amour.

Word Wall Answers

Rice: arborio, basmati, wild, carnaroli

Wild: angry, untamed, violent,
barbarous

Plants: herb, factory, conceal, shrub

Public; ...house, ...library, ...relations,
...domain

Sudoku Answers

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

Dersingham Bog News Natural England

**NATURAL
ENGLAND**

The start of 2021 has seen yet another national lockdown, but don't despair, January can be a great month for tree identification. By carefully looking at their twigs, buds and bark, identifying trees in winter can be easier than you think. Our reserve is home to quite a few different tree species, with two of the most common to identify being silver birch, with its unmistakable smooth white bark, and the impressive oak, with its coarse, deep-ridged bark. Silver birch tree buds have a red-brown colouring and pointed tips which are arranged alternately up the stem, whilst oak often have fat, lumpy, dark red-brown buds grouped together at the tip of the stem. Take a walk through the wooded area of our reserve and try to identify some for yourself. Also keep an eye out for sweet chestnut, Scots pine and alder. There are numerous articles around showing how spending time in green spaces and bringing nature into your everyday life can benefit both your mental and physical wellbeing, which might be what we all need in the current situation.

If you have visited our reserve recently, you may well have noticed that several oak trees near the boardwalk have been heavily pruned. Although this may look extreme, the technique used is designed to create a variety of different features within the trees - little pockets and space within the ends of broken branches and under the bark - that might otherwise occur naturally to provide the perfect habitat for species such as bats and invertebrates. We will be monitoring the success of these features over the next few years through species surveys and photography.

Although we are in lockdown, precautions have been taken to ensure that vital health and safety tasks can carry on around the reserve. The team have been busy checking the health of our black Galloway cows, whilst working extremely hard throughout the past few months removing scrub across the site (social distancing of course). It's essential to remove the scrub in order to keep this precious landscape a heathland. Not only do heathlands support many rare or range-restricted plants, invertebrates, bird and reptile species; this habitat also has both cultural and historic importance. We've also repaired wobbly handrails and loose fence posts in order to keep you safe during your visit.



Whilst hard at work, we've seen several impressive bird species, including the hen harrier and the magnificent white-tailed eagle, soaring over the bog. These eagles have been nicknamed "flying barn doors" because of their huge 8ft wingspan. These are the biggest birds of prey native to the UK and not to be missed. We regularly see and hear large flocks of brent and pink-footed geese, and occasionally tundra bean geese within those flocks, flying over the reserve during early mornings and late evenings.

Please can we politely ask that all visitors to the reserve refrain from parking along the verges and to park in the car parks provided instead. Please also continue to keep dogs on short leads and stick to the main paths throughout the reserve to reduce disturbance to our cows and other fantastic species using our site. Stay safe, stay local and enjoy what nature has to offer.□

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 129 (April/May 21)	Mon 8th March 2021	Mon 29th March 2021
No 130 (June/July 21)	Mon 3rd May 2021	Mon 24th May 2021
No 131 (Aug/Sept 21)	Mon 5th July 2021	Mon 26th July 2021

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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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The Production Team for this edition of Village Voice consists of

Editor: Jo Halpin Jones Assistant Editor: Rob Smyth

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

Printed by Clanpress Ltd, Dundee Ct, Hamburg Way, King's Lynn, Norfolk



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