Number 132

October/November 2021

# Village Voice The Dersingham Magazine



The Skatepark is now open!!!



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#### Editor's Notes Jo Halpin Jones

We have a bumper edition for you this time, celebrating an explosion of activity since COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. The Village Centre is humming with activity with the resumption of the Day Centre for the Elderly, community lunches, indoor bowls, bridge club, Lavender Lacemakers, to name but a few. The Ceilidh and the Tennis Club Disco, postponed for so long, are finally taking place. And we look forward to the return of Village Cinema and Village Voice Live - details inside.

As for other upcoming events, you can watch adventurous volunteers abseiling down the Church tower on October 2nd; and we hope that many of you will turn out to help with tree planting in November – ring the Parish Council office on 01485 541465 to offer to come.

In this issue you will find coverage of village events such as the opening of the new skatepark - we enjoyed impressive displays from local skateboarders, as seen on the cover and inside - and of the autumn Dersingham Open Gardens which was blessed with good weather. Hundreds toured the gardens and the wonderful floral displays in St Nicholas Church which celebrated our newfound freedom to be *Together Again*.

We have interesting articles by Elizabeth Fiddick, Brian Anderson, Dick Jones and Allan Coleby, on subjects ranging from a bit of history of Methodists in Norfolk (including

Dersingham), to Hadrian's Wall, spoonbills and care homes. Mrs. Dolittle continues to entertain us with her anecdotes and observations, and we welcome back Dick Melton, who has found several ways round his eyesight problems and has sent in an article. Then we can read how the Brownies and Guides have spent the summer, making me wish I was young again! What fun they seem to be having. And how about volunteering as a First Responder or becoming an on-call firefighter at the Sandringham station? Details of both are inside.

Remember that the next edition will cover the Christmas and New Year period. Do let us know in plenty of time what events you are planning.□



Wild life on a flowerbed cared for by the Dersingham Task Force



# Ceilidh & Supper

Saturday October 30th 7pm

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#### Parish Council Chairman's Report Coral Shepherd

Another successful Open Gardens, a wonderful effort from all those who opened their gardens and for all those visitors. The funds raised will be a welcome contribution for the Church and Village Centre.

I am thrilled to be able to say that the Skatepark was completed and ready for use by the start of the school holidays, although it was not officially opened until last month. The ribbon was cut by the Borough Deputy Mayor, Councillor Lesley Bambridge and Joe Hipkin. The event was also attended by Alan Watkin from the Geoffrey Watling charity which kindly gave us a grant towards the project, and the leader of the Borough Council, Stuart Dark. I was amazed that the construction was done by only two men and pleased that it caused very little disruption to surrounding residents. Since completion the Skatepark has been incredibly well used by skateboarders, BMX cyclists and scooter riders alike. Now that children are back in school perhaps we oldies will be able to take a turn! I would like to thank all of those who over the last three years have worked with us, supported and cajoled us into keeping the project on track and enabling us to deliver something so much appreciated by our younger generation.

Now, there is a however - the Skatepark is constructed in concrete and when we applied for grants we agreed that we would do some carbon offsetting to equalise the environmental impact. After consideration, we agreed to do some tree planting and will be



planting just over 400 trees at The Warren. We have taken advantage of a free tree scheme run by the Woodland Trust and the trees will be delivered in November. We will be looking for volunteers to help us with the planting. Once we have a delivery date, we will put something onto Facebook and some posters on the village noticeboards. In the meantime, please ring the Parish Council office on 01485 541465 to register your interest and we'll get back to you about dates.

Parish Councillors, aided by one resident of the village (many thanks) carried out a litter pick around the village the weekend before Open Gardens; thankfully it didn't rain on us. Compared to litter picks in previous years there was only a small amount, mainly plastic bottles

and cans, but one or two strange things like a glass and bottle of beer sitting together on a grass verge and a flat screen TV! The most difficult litter to pick up were discarded cigarette ends and I have since learnt that the filter tips are made of cellulose acetate (a form of plastic) and they take over ten years to break down. Apparently, they are the most prominent source of ocean plastic, making up 38% of such waste found in seas. They also contain harmful toxins. So, if you are a smoker please think of the impact on the environment before simply discarding the end of your cigarette. Like all other waste, either bin it or take it home.

Thinking ahead, there's a date for your diary: Remembrance Day will soon be with us and as with previous years there will be a service at the War Memorial on November 11th.

Finally, in the last edition I listed all the defibrillators around the village that were available 24/7. I said that there were three: at the Dersingham Social Club in Lynn Road, at the library and at the Spar shop. I have been reminded that I forgot one and my sincere apologies for my omission - the fourth one is at Hanover Court in Holyrood Drive.  $\square$ 



#### News from Dersingham Village Centre Sue Payne, Chairman of DVCA

#### Susie Smith

Friendship Lunches resumed in August with a lovely roast chicken meal prepared by Susie, our volunteer chef, who had been producing the lunches and also helped with our fundraising events, since just after the Centre

opened. Trustees and volunteers were shocked and upset to learn, just over a week later, that Susie had died suddenly. Susie leaves big boots to fill; our thoughts are with her family.

#### **Activities & Events**

It is lovely to report that all our regular groups have now resumed.

A new initiative, Flower Classes, will have begun by the time you are reading this issue of Village Voice following a launch evening on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Tea Dances will have resumed on Friday September 24<sup>th</sup>, Village Cinema on Tuesday September 28<sup>th</sup>.

In October we have the Tennis Club Disco and the Ceilidh to look forward to, and there is a Village Voice Live talk on October 12th.

The Benjamin Foundation successfully opened the new group for children aged 8 to 11 on July 8<sup>th</sup>. After a summer break, sessions resumed on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Munchkin & Me resumed on Friday, September 17th.

Dersingham Bridge Club have moved their weekly (Tuesday evening) sessions to the Centre.

#### Coronavirus

Whilst restrictions have been lifted, and we are operating in a close to normal manner, we do ask users and visitors to be responsible and respect others while using the Centre. We have wall-mounted hand sanitisers by each entrance door and would remind you of the advice to wear face coverings, especially in busy areas.

#### **Village Centre Lottery**

The winners for July were 24, 35 & 34; August's winners are 42,38 & 24. The Lottery costs just £5 per month and the proceeds provide regular income to support our activities. The more members there are, the bigger the prizes!

#### **AGM**

The DVCA Annual General Meeting took place in July, and the following were elected to serve as Trustees for the following year: Sue Payne (Chairman), David Collingham (Vice Chairman), Tom Wheeler (Secretary), Gemma Ward (Finance Officer), Freda Ablewhite, Shirley Brooks, Graham Eley, Margaret Mann, Stephen Martin and Coral Shepherd.

#### **Volunteering Opportunities**

We have two vacancies on the Management Committee. If you feel you would like to help with future planning and shaping delivery, we would love to hear from you. Also, we welcome volunteers to help with Friendship Lunches, Coffee Shops, and larger events, plus gardening and other projects.

Keep updated on events and activities by checking notices at the Centre and around Dersingham, or visit our website <a href="www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk">www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk</a> and sign up for the regular newsletters. We have a Facebook page and post announcements on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group. If you have any questions about the Centre, volunteering, activities, or bookings, you can email:

contact@dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk or call our landline, 01485 543195, There is an answerphone in use, so please leave a message with contact details and someone will get back to you.□



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#### Dersingham Gardening Tips Jane Jestice

So, by the time you are reading this in Village Voice the summer will be over AGAIN. I really can't believe how fast time is passing!

I am trying to prepare my garden for 2021 Open Gardens this weekend and have decided to hand everyone who comes a disclaimer to explain the current state we are in!

When I am gardening I divide my garden into four sections so that I don't feel I have to tackle it all in one go. So here are my disclaimers...

Area 1 which is under a huge walnut tree: there was until very recently an approximately 12 ft by 6 ft high pile of rubble from our building works; MOST of it has gone but there is still a VERY large pile remaining. The old greenhouse in the corner is going to be replaced by a larger lean-to one - time frame unknown.



Area 2 which is basically the vegetable area plus a bit of lawn: after five years of trying I have come to the conclusion that I cannot grow vegetables of any kind successfully! I don't know why but it seems to be a fact. SO, from next year this will be my flowers for cutting area. I hope it is more successful.

Area 3 is the part of the garden seen from the house: the lawn is a disaster area, caused by one female puppy and her friends. The strategically

placed, round paving stones are to prevent visitors from breaking something by falling into the holes dug by said puppies! The little house is in need of renovation!

Area 4 is the front garden: as you may know, that is my chaos garden and right now it looks pretty awful as I have cleared it but have to leave the rest so that I get seeds germinating for next year. Already there are lupins, wallflowers and hollyhocks self-seeded.

Despite all the above, I have had a lot of pleasure all year from my garden. I have a new summer house and deck and we have repaved our patio. I have learned two things, firstly not to be too precious about my garden and to give it a bit of freedom to "do its thing" and secondly that so long as I love it, I needn't worry what anyone else thinks. We are all different and so should our gardens be.

So, whatever your garden is like, love it and enjoy it.

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**TONY MORGAN** 

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#### Salvation Army Alison Kirby

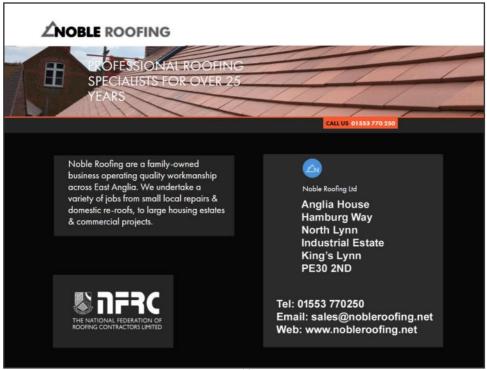
It is so good finally to be returning to normal after so many months of being in lockdown. We have been open for worship since April, but were restricted to a limited number of people and singing was not allowed.

This has, thankfully, all changed and we are now open fully. We are not limited on numbers, we are singing again and our band is back too - Hallelujah! It would be lovely to see you on a Sunday to worship with us at 11am.

We have also restarted our CAMEO Club, which stands for Come and Meet Each Other. We meet every Monday from 10.30 to 12.00 for a range of activities such as quizzes, speakers, poetry and outings, followed by a short informal time of worship and tea and coffee.

Our Tuesday morning prayer meetings have also resumed at 10am. You are most welcome to come and share with us. There is no need to pray out loud unless you want to. We are happy to pray for you if you let us know of any prayer requests. On Tuesday evenings at 7pm we meet for band practice. This is open to any brass player of any ability. For more information contact Roger on 01485 571170.

The highlight of the year for us is celebrating 125 years of The Salvation Army being in Snettisham. We are honoured that the international leader of The Salvation Army, General Brian Peddle, will be leading our worship on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Our hall will be open from Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October from 10am to 4pm with a display of memorabilia showing The Salvation Army over the years in Snettisham, and refreshments will be available. If you require any more information on any of our activities, you can contact me at <a href="mailto:alison.kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk">alison.kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk</a> or 01485 579079.





### Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Edmund Hunstanton

with St Cecilia's, Dersingham

Unfortunately, we have been unable to hold any of our normal summer social activities due to the restrictions, but hopefully, as people feel more able to socialise safely again, this will change. Look out for details on our website.

A couple of our prayer meetings have started up again. The Rosary group meet on Mondays at 2pm at St Cecilia's in Dersingham and the Mothers' Prayers group meet every second Monday at 2.30pm at Our Lady's in Hunstanton. For Parish news, including Mass times and prayer requests, please see the Parish News page on our website. For information about live streamed Masses in the Diocese and related matters, including coronavirus updates, see the Links page of our website at www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org.

People are advised not to go to Mass if they have any symptoms, however mild. Wearing masks when coming to church is still advisable and hand sanitiser is still provided.

The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and 11am at Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 10.15am at Dersingham on Wednesdays.

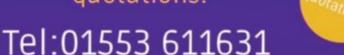
Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org. Email: parish@ hunstantoncatholicparish.org The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.

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

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#### Questions... by Antje Franke

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard when he lives in the jungle without a razor?

Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are flat?

Why do banks charge a fee on 'insufficient funds' when they know there is not enough?

Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Whose idea was it to put an 'S' in the word 'lisp'?

What is the speed of darkness?

Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up every two hours? If the temperature is zero outside today and it's going to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold will it be?

Do married people live longer than single ones or does it only seem longer?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, 'I think I'll squeeze these pink dangly things here, and drink whatever comes out?'

Who was the first person to say, 'See that chicken there... I'm going to eat the next thing that comes out of its bum.'

Why do toasters always have a setting so high that could burn the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs! If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, then what is baby oil made from?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him on a car ride, he sticks his head out of the window?

Does pushing the lift button more than once make it arrive faster?



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### Summer Fun for the Brownies and Guides Lynne Wheeler

Guides.

1st Dersingham Guides

The 2nd Dersingham Brownies enjoyed an adventure day at Holkham Hall exploring the estate.

The Brownies were all given an activity booklet which they filled in throughout the day. On arrival, the girls headed towards the lake for an I-Spy Challenge before completing a quiz on how to take care when enjoying themselves outdoors. The Brownies then took over lots of picnic benches so they could design a poster all about the Countryside Code.

At a previous Brownie meeting, a badge challenge had involved compass points and the girls were now all presented with a compass to complete their next challenge. Everyone was seated in front of the house and using the compass they needed to identify what features they could spot when they looked in particular directions. After lunch, the Brownies played wildly in the adventure playground before being taken on a tractor trailer ride around the Holkham estate. The day ended with a visit to the shop and an ice cream. Everyone had a very enjoyable time.





The end of the summer term saw two Brownies, Poppy and Lexie, achieve their Brownie Gold Award, the highest Brownies badge there is, before they join Guides in September.

The 1st Dersingham Guides took on the Guide Challenge Day at the Girlguiding Anglia Hautbois activity Centre in Coltishall. The weather was perfect. The day started off with bushcraft with the girls scavenging for wood before using a flint and steel to light a fire. The girls then needed to try and keep the fire alight! The next activity involved teamwork and heights as the girls challenged themselves to climb up the various sides of the

climbing tower. Everyone managed to reach the top and it is quite high! After lunch, when it was getting warm, was an activity which again required teamwork, but also involved water - bridgebuilding. The guides had to build a bridge using only rope and wooden poles and then cross it successfully. It was fantastic to watch the guides working together and cheering each other on before jumping in! The day ended with a series of initiative tests or puzzles to solve. Thankfully, the guides succeeded and everyone was given the Hautbois Guide Challenge badge.  $\square$ 





#### Dersingham Walking Group Tony Bubb

We have been enjoying some varied perambulations over the last few weeks with woods, commons, bird reserves and open countryside visited. Our next planned excursions neatly get split by the clocks returning to GMT with the earlier start time of 1.30pm after the change. Autumn walks are usually quite rewarding with opening views as the leaves start to fall and often with some nice sunshine.



#### Wednesday October 13th 2.00pm

Up the hill and round the coast at Burmham Overy Staithe. Start at the beach car park, TF 845 443. About 4 miles. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

#### October 27th 2.00pm

This circular autumn walk will visit the villages of both Great and Little Massingham, using part of the Peddars Way and other field-edge paths and lanes. Start from the car park on the Peddars Way, behind the Dogotel at Harpley Dams, TF 771 253. Approximately 4.5 miles. Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

#### November 10<sup>th</sup> 1.30pm

An urban walk around some of the lesser known parts of Lynn. Start at the Boal Quay car park, TF 618 196. Approximately 4 miles. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

#### November 24th 1.30pm

A circular walk on both field and woodland footpaths around Castle Rising. There may be the possibility of a visit to the tearooms at the end of the walk. Start from the Unique car park in the centre of the village, TF 666 247. Approximately 4.5 miles. Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

#### December 8th 1.30pm

Explore the many hidden corners of Snettisham and Ingoldisthorpe. Starting from the big layby near the crossroads in Ingoldisthorpe, TF 683 324. Approximately 4.5 miles. 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.

**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

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#### **West Newton Carpet Bowls**

Why wait for the next summer season? Enjoy a friendly, social game of carpet bowls during the winter, starting on Tuesday September 21<sup>st</sup>. The club plays every Tuesday from 6.45pm until 9.45pm in West Newton Village Hall.





The game can be surprisingly skilful, and the club welcomes new and old members alike, catering for all levels of expertise from beginners upwards. A good social evening is enjoyed by all which includes a mid-session break of tea or coffee and biscuits and a raffle. No need to purchase any equipment or clothing - come as you are - and dedicated carpet bowls are all supplied by the club. We can play on three rinks which caters for twenty-four bowlers at any one time.

For new members the first two sessions are free, so why not come along and try it out, you will be most welcome. You might

be surprised how enjoyable the game can be.

For more details contact the Chairman, Trevor Riches on 01485 543706, or the Secretary, lan Jenkins on 01485 542432. □



#### **Snettisham Gardening Club**

We are very pleased to advise we will be holding a Social
Meeting at the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road
on Wednesday September 29th at 7.30pm
and look forward to seeing you then.
Soft drinks will be available.
In the meantime, all those who hold
2020 membership cards may use them in 2021
at Wards Nurseries and Moulam & Horn,
who very kindly agreed to accept them.
Any further information can be obtained from

Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.



#### Dersingham Evening WI Katrina Mundy

Hoorah!! Finally, it happened: on Wednesday July 21st, we held our first indoor evening meet for over eighteen months. It was attended by thirty members who enjoyed an evening of catching up with each other and then

enjoying coffee and cake (kindly baked by committee members.) Usually at each monthly meeting members who have a birthday are given a small posy. During Covid it had not been possible to do this, so everyone received a little posy of carnations and roses, and many thanks go to the ladies who made these. To end the evening we held a raffle kindly organised by Ann and Peg and won by five lucky winners (not me again).

On July 29<sup>th</sup> Maggie hosted a coffee morning for members and for this we reverted back to our 'just turn up' approach. Eight members enjoyed this social gathering, and it is hoped that more members will feel it is safe to attend our future ones. The next one will have been on September 28<sup>th</sup> and many thanks to Christine for volunteering to hold this.



Babs organised a walk on July 23<sup>rd</sup>; unfortunately, the turnout for this was

poor but they still enjoyed a pleasant walk with refreshments at Petals on the way back. By the time you read this we shall have done a circular walk round rural Dersingham on September 24th.

We don't usually meet in August due to holidays, but the committee decided that this year



it would be nice to treat members, so on August 16th we held an afternoon tea for thirty-four members in St Cecilia's. This was catered for by Sally G and it turned into a happy, noisy occasion (I think the Pimms might have helped with this). Many went home with a "doggy bag".

Our MAD knitting group has now restarted, and we also had a theatre trip organised for August 27th when a group of ladies enjoyed *The Railway Children* at the Guildhall.

On September 15th we held an evening meet in St Cecilia's and the speaker was Rachel Greaves (a local author) and her talk was of her writing about "Ruffles the dog". Rachel is well known in the local schools for her stories about Ruffles.

October 23<sup>rd</sup> is the date of our Autumn Fair, where there will be a mixture of stalls and refreshments open to all.

As you can see, we are now getting back into a busy calendar of events for members and planning is already being done for the months ahead. Some of our future talks are as follows:

October – 'Three's Company' will be doing Tarts, Toffs and Traitors.

November - our Annual Meeting.

December – Christmas party.

January 2022 – Chris Boxall: a talk on Houghton Hall & Sir Robert Walpole.

We have gone from having a fairly empty calendar to suddenly thinking how we are going to fit everything in. (My husband wonders when we can have time together when he looks at ours!) and I am sure we are not the only ones as more groups now start to get back together. It does feel good to meet up with friends and just talk and have fun together (still being safe of course.)

If you would like to know more about the WI please phone Lyn: 01485 541257 or Stephanie 01485 542146. □







#### What is a Rector and what's involved? Rev Mark Capron

#### Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne

One question I often get asked is, "What is the difference between a rector, vicar and priest?" Officially my title is the rector, although I prefer to be more accessible and called Mark or Rev Mark. When someone offers themselves

for ministry, they are ordained by a bishop in the Church of England and become a deacon for a year and from then on use the title Reverend. A year later they are priested by the bishop. The title of rector is historic and goes back centuries, yet now there is no difference in the day-to-day role to that of a vicar. Originally the rector used to have 'the living' of the parish and with it the senior leadership role. They would also receive all the tithes coming in, which would sustain the church and the rectory. Generations ago rectors could employ a vicar to do the work instead of them - those days are far gone!

People are very important, and I am blessed with a great team in this benefice of churches; it's not about one individual as in days past, it is about utilising different people's gifts and skills for the good of the church and community. The role for me is



varied and encompasses many different aspects and responsibilities, not just church based, but also includes School Governor roles, acting as a trustee, along with regional responsibilities. There is the leading of different styled regular worship services at different churches, along with the preparation which takes care, reading, research and time. There is the privilege of visiting people, journeying with them in their life, in both good and sad times.

The church can be a building but what is more important in God's eyes is the church, as the people of God. Pastoral presence for me is encountering, meeting, being with, supporting and listening to people, whether that is in the street, in the shops or in visits. Prayer is vital for me, having committed time of prayer at the beginning and close of each day, praying for the needs of people, our communities and further afield, and, importantly, having an attitude of gratitude to God for his countless blessings. Reading the Bible is also important for me and one of my favourite books of the Bible is *Colossians*: it is Christ focused and this

verse is one of many that reminds me of an important aspect for any rector and in fact any Christian, "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful" (Colossians 4:2).

#### Sponsored Church Tower Abseil – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

The abseil is nearly upon us! There are fifty brave volunteers from among the village community who will be abseiling down St Nicholas Church tower in Dersingham. The first group will start working their way down from about 10:30am and the day will continue to about 4:30pm, with money raised supporting new disabled toilets and kitchen facilities in the church. On the day there will be refreshments available to buy. Do come along and watch this special event, it promises to be a wonderful community day.

#### **Remembrance Services**

On Armistice Day (Thursday November 11th) we will meet at the war memorial by the crossroads (Station Road) for a short act of remembrance, gathering at 10:45am for a

10:50am start. Writing this in advance, we expect to hold a Remembrance Sunday Service in St Nicholas Church on Sunday November 14th at 10:30am. You would be advised to have a face mask with you with potential large numbers and some vulnerable people in attendance.

www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk YouTube Channel: 'Dersingham Online Worship'



#### From Your Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb

As summer drifts away into autumn the village of Dersingham begins its offering of events, classes and socials to cheer on the year until Christmas. Even to date it has been hard to feel confident that events will go ahead, and uncertainty over the fate of our hospital is unsettling.

So why not join in with an activity to do something for yourself - either learn a new skill, play sport, or just meet with friends. Of course, we warmly welcome anyone outside the village, but especially our near neighbours.

We hope that everyone in the village has signed the online petition to encourage government to fund a new hospital that is so desperately needed for the Borough. If you have yet to sign, here is the link <a href="https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/590390">https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/590390</a>. We need 100,000 signatures to trigger a debate in Parliament; to date we have 10,000, so there is a way to go.

This article is being composed during Dersingham Open Gardens which hopefully will unite the village in pride at the many talents on display. Whether it be the gardens themselves, the artwork in some, the magnificent floral displays in the church (depicting

all we have missed during the pandemic) or the yard sales and bric-a-brac, there is something for everyone.

Discussion in the Borough is, amongst other issues, around Local Plans for us to control our planning requirements. The Town Deal Board is assessing priorities in connection with the Town's Fund, which will, if we can ultimately secure funding from Government, regenerate historic areas in King's Lynn and develop new initiatives.

Do get in touch with us if you have a problem with Borough services. We have recently been sorting out some problems with untrimmed growth and weeds and are always happy to help.

It is good to read in MP James Wild's recent leaflet (distributed to some homes in Dersingham), that his vision for our town is bold and unashamedly forward looking.

We hope everyone in our Ward has a relaxed "Return to School" autumn and enjoys some of the many activities on offer. Most of all, we hope everyone stays safe and healthy.



For more information, call Judy on 01485 540271



#### Norfolk Knitters and Stitchers Stephanie Coulson

Norfolk Knitters and Stitchers is a quite amazing organisation that supports groups and individuals who want to knit for charity. We have links to many charities and make all manner of things, from twiddle muffs for dementia patients in care homes, along with lap blankets, shawls and bed socks, blankets for the homeless, hedgehogs for hedgehog rescue, toy owls for the Owl Trust, beds and blankets for animal charities - notably East Winch - hats,

scarves and mitts for The Seafarers Association, Trauma Teds for children, and much, much more. Many sacks a month go abroad to support the needy, and many other charities regularly receive large quantities of knitted and stitched items.

Our aim is always to use our skills to provide things for those in need, but in doing this we also benefit so many people who take part in our groups and activities. People find support and companionship and a sense of purpose, often at a time in their lives when these things can be hard to achieve. As you would imagine, we have received a greater number of items over the last year: many of our members, particularly those that live alone, have derived comfort from knitting for others. Perhaps your family has grown up and moved away from knitted items, but if you love to knit, we can help you with needy and willing recipients for your items.

We always try to respond to requests from our members, so when people were finding it difficult to access resources, we set up our main resource centre in Norwich, which opens once every month and where members can find wool, patterns, needles, fabric and much more. We then set up further resource centres in Diss, Sheringham, King's Lynn and Lowestoft. As more people from Suffolk wanted to join in, we helped set up our sister organisation Suffolk Stitchers and Knitters, and subsequently have collaborated with a lady in Essex to help her create Essex Knitters and Stitchers.



There are now 2,248 members and 134 groups across Norfolk. No two are identical – some are in a front room with just half a dozen members, some are in community buildings with over 30 people attending every time. Groups often contact places in their locality that can use our support, such as care homes or schools. They frequently take part in local activities such as having stalls at village fetes. Not all our members are in groups, there are many that are home knitters and just come along to the relevant resource centre each month, to drop off items, buy wool and have a cuppa.

There are now many people all working voluntarily to make NKaS a success. There are teams associated with each resource centre and a central Action Group that oversees everything. Everyone has a part to play whether it's running a group, sorting the wonderful knitting and stitching that is brought in, liaising with the charities to ensure we can provide what they need, or doing one of the backroom tasks like the website or membership lists.

We've been part of some fantastic projects, such as the 15ft knitted Christmas tree, the

Knitted Pergola, the Christmas project to give all refugees in Norwich a gift, the Makers' Festival in the Forum in Norwich. We've received a City of Sanctuary award for our work with migrants in the community. But it's not necessarily the big projects that take your breath away but the little things, like the lady of over 90 struggling with arthritis who knitted a baby hat for a premature baby and who feels a real joy at being able to help someone worse off than herself. NKaS is for everyone who is interested, however old or young, skilled or novice.

I am the West Norfolk Organiser; we meet in Providence Street Community Centre on the last Friday of the month. I am hoping our meetings will get back to normal by the end of September. If you have a Knit and Natter group or just like to knit at home and you'd like to find out more, contact me on 01485 542146 or email me at <a href="mailto:stephaniecoulson70@gmail.com">stephaniecoulson70@gmail.com</a>. You can find out more about our organisation at <a href="mailto:www.norfolkknitters.org">www.norfolkknitters.org</a>

#### Our boy Dick is back!!!!!

Well now.

With a lot of help from Norfolk County Council, who have lent me a very powerful lamp, I am able to do emails again; also, I have a lot of friends and relations in the village who keep me up with what is going on. In addition, I have the help of the talking newspaper.



One of my granddaughters who lives in the village goes running a lot and she noticed that there were a lot of grass and weeds around the village sign at the Eight Mile Stone corner, so she got in touch with Dersingham Parish Council and she now informs me that the grass and weeds have been cut back. Another problem she told me about is that the bridge over the dyke by the Shut Up Common is in a bad state of repair. This bridge has been there for many years; in the springtime a Jenny wren would always build a nest under it. The bridge only needs three old railway sleepers and some chicken wire nailed on top to stop people slipping when walking on it.

My granddaughter also tells me that the Open Common is in a right old mess. When I was a lad, three old boys who lived near the common - Bob Martin, Stan Lines and Hubby Cross - would keep the common neat and tidy. When you went onto the Open Common next to Pleasant Place there was an area of grass where us boys played football; it was called Hoddy's Hole, as an old boy of that name lived in a hovel up the far corner. All of the area around the old searchlight base was just nice short grass, no heather, bushes or birch trees. Here there were many seats and a seesaw. My mother and father, who lived at Restu, No. 63 Lynn Road, would go up there every Sunday and watch the traffic coming home from Hunstanton. You had a clear view right across The Wash in them days as there were no trees in the way. My parents loved the Open Common so much that when they passed away, their ashes were scattered over the top of the Common.

All the best from Dick in Sunny Hunny. That's your lot for this time, do you keep a troshin'.  $\hdots$ 

#### Do you have income (or gains) from property? Should I operate through a limited company? Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

In the past, owning and operating investment properties through a Limited Company tended to be regarded as something of a "sledgehammer to crack a nut". Changes in the differential between personal and corporate tax rates, together with the disallowance of interest relief at higher rates for individuals, have led some to reconsider this route, but it is a decision which, once made, cannot easily be reversed, so will probably be unattractive for those who are only renting on a short term basis.

It is important to understand that a Limited Company is a legal entity in its own right, completely separate from the people who own it (shareholders) or run it (directors). In most small companies there is often a high degree of overlap between the two groups of people and in a small rental property company they will probably be identical. The directors have certain obligations as regards legal and tax compliance and their financial relationship with the company is highly regulated and enforced by a strict tax regime. A company also has limited liability, meaning that in the event of bankruptcy the exposure of the shareholders will be limited to the amounts which they initially invested (and any personal guarantees which they may have given).

The company itself is subject to Corporation Tax (CT) rather than Income Tax (IT). CT will apply to all income and capital gains made by the Company and Income Tax will apply to amounts which it pays out to directors and shareholders by way of dividend (to shareholders) or salary (to directors). The directors are officers of the company so monies paid to them as salary, wages or bonus will also potentially be subject to National Insurance Contributions (NIC). If money is loaned to the company, interest at a commercial rate can be paid without NIC deduction.

The treatment of expenses is normally the same for both an individual and a company except that mortgage interest for residential letting is restricted to basic rate only for individuals but not for companies. Interest on borrowing to fund the purchase of Furnished Holiday Let (FHL) property is fully allowable for both.

Since CT rates are usually lower than IT rates (currently the CT rate is 19%, rising to 25% in 2024, compared to a top IT rate of 45%) the short term advantage is clear. If the property is subject to a high level of borrowing, and if all the net rents are to be used to repay that borrowing, a mortgage will be cleared much more quickly within the corporate structure. However, as mentioned above, any funds withdrawn from the company by its directors and shareholders are taxed at IT rates, so if the intention is to use the revenue stream as part of one's normal living income, there will be little benefit. "Borrowing" from the company is also financially penalised (although repayment of amounts previously loaned to it is permitted). There are also heavy tax charges where a company property is occupied by a director/shareholder rent free. In addition, where a company owns a residential property worth over £500,000 there will normally be an annual "Enveloped dwelling" charge unless the property is commercially let or limited other exceptions apply.

Like individuals, companies will pay Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) on property acquisition and will always pay the 3% surcharge on residential property. In some cases, there is a 15% SDLT charge on properties costing over £500,000. SDLT (and often personal CGT) will also apply where existing properties are transferred into a new Limited Company unless they are held within an existing partnership and have been treated as a property business in the past.

Finally, where a company realises a capital gain, that gain is also subject to CT, with no "personal allowance". The tax will be charged at the CT rate. When a company is wound up, the assets passing to the shareholders will then be subject to personal CGT, so

potentially the same gains are taxed twice, although in some cases the aggregate of CT and personal CGT may be slightly less than a high rate of personal IT.

The corporate route will, then, tend only to be advantageous in three sets of circumstances:

- \*\* Where it is used to acquire a property with a high level of borrowing, with the intent that it will always remain within the corporate structure (typically a property used in a business)
- \*\* Where the owner currently has high levels of personal income but knows that in the medium term these will cease so funds can be accumulated within the company until that point (using it as a "holding tank")
- \*\* Where for some reason there is a high level of financial risk which can be ringfenced within the company to protect personal assets or where it is used as a one-off "special purpose vehicle" for a project which would be treated as a trading transaction by the participants

If any of these issues affect you and you are in need of further advice, please contact either myself or my assistant Nicola Tarry FCA, who will be pleased to talk matters through with you. You will thus ensure that you take full advantage of the reliefs available to you and also consider, for the future, how you can best structure your property portfolio.

Please contact Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton on 01485 534800 or email <a href="mailto:kate@kathryngigg.co.uk">kate@kathryngigg.co.uk</a> 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, and you should take appropriate professional advice.

# Glegg

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Regulated for a range of investment business activities by The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.



#### Recruits needed at Sandringham Fire Station

Sandringham Fire Station is staffed by on-call firefighters. These firefighters are men and women who live or work close to the station and ride the fire appliance when alerted to any fire and rescue incident. The crew consists of a watch manager, three crew managers and twelve firefighters. There are currently several vacancies that need filling.

#### Being an on-call firefighter at Sandringham

#### Average salary

£8,000 per year as rank of firefighter at Sandringham. This will vary depending on availability and call outs attended.

#### Average calls per month

2 average daytime call outs per month 2 average evening call outs per month 1 average overnight call out per month

Average call out time: 1 hour 18 minutes

#### **Training night**

Tuesday 6 - 9pm

#### Location

You would need to work or live within the area and be able to respond in a 5 minute turnout time. Sandringham Fire Station is on Dodds Hill, Dersingham, PE31 6LP

To find out more about becoming an on-call firefighter go to:

https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/safety/norfolk-fire-and-rescue-service/in-your-community/find-your-local-station/western-area/sandringham or Google: Sandringham Fire Station





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contact@dersinghamvets.co.uk



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The Norfolk Coast Dark Skies Festival is returning for its third year this autumn. With an emphasis on wildlife and the dark, a range of face-to-face and online events will include wildlife walks at night, stargazing, soundwalk, talks, podcasts and activities. The two-week long festival launches on Saturday 25th September at Thornham Village Hall and will celebrate the stunning dark skies and landscapes of the area, as well as raise awareness about issues of increasing light pollution.

We are really lucky as the Norfolk Coast is one of the darkest areas in the UK. This contributes towards the rural character and feelings of remoteness and tranquillity that we enjoy here. Our wildlife also benefits enormously from the dark night-time – whether they use it to hunt, to hide from predators, reproduce, migrate or simply to sleep like we do.

Unfortunately, light pollution can have a negative effect on our wildlife, our well-being and the rural atmosphere of the coast. Through this festival we can discover the wonders of our environment after dark and learn how we can all do our bit to preserve the night skies. We're very interested in talking to parish councils, businesses and organisations who are keen to become more dark skies friendly.

More information, event listings and booking details can be found on the Norfolk Coast Partnership website <a href="http://www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/partnership/dark-skies-festival-25-sep-10-oct-2021/1229">http://www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/partnership/dark-skies-festival-25-sep-10-oct-2021/1229</a>

More information about dark skies and what you can do can be found at <a href="http://www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/partnership/dark-skies/1120">http://www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/partnership/dark-skies/1120</a>

The Norfolk Coast Partnership (NCP) manage the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Any queries about the festival can be sent to us at <a href="mailto:aonb@norfolk.gov.uk">aonb@norfolk.gov.uk</a>

By the time you read this we will have held our first open meeting since the pandemic hit us. Hopefully we will now be able to return to our normal pattern of meetings on the third Monday of each month, held at the Community Centre. Avenue Road, Hunstanton at



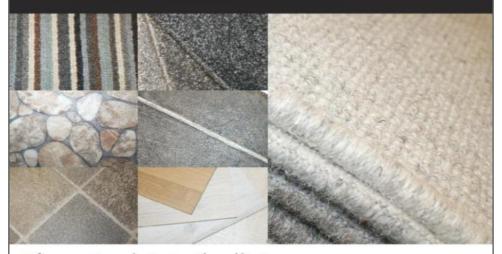
2.00pm. The October meeting on 18th October will be our AGM with a lighthearted quiz.

On Monday November 15th we will welcome Briony Bax, poet and editor of *Ambit Literary and Art Magazine*, who will be speaking about her work with a Kenyan orphanage over the last thirteen years.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Our website u3asites.org.uk/hunstanton details contacts and how to join the group.

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#### A Feast for the Eye

From Saturday 25th September to Sunday 3rd October, three prominent Norfolk artists, David Lendrum, Helga Joergens and Barbara King, will be exhibiting their paintings at the Ringstead Village Hall, West Norfolk, PE36 5JU. Individual, yet complimentary, united in their love of bold forms, colour and texture, these artists' collective display promises to be an exhilarating feast for the eye. Throughout the exhibition all three artists will be at the hall to meet and greet visitors and each will have a 'pop up' studio space in which they will be creating new works.



Evening Sky by David Lendrum

David Lendrum's abstract paintings derive from nature. Recently, he has been inspired by the clouds, water and sunsets which he sees on his daily walks near his home. He often uses diluted acrylic paint to stain colours directly into the canvas, which has been stapled to the floor. This method allows him to work on a large scale and move the paint around freely with brushes and sponges, wet into wet. During the exhibition he will be applying some of these methods on a smaller scale.

The abstract pictures by Helga Joergens are created spontaneously and developed in the drawing or painting process. She begins by drawing lines, marks or colours to indicate a composition, and as soon as an idea evolves, she follows the direction in which it takes her. The titles express her feelings, thoughts and associations when she views her completed works. She will be drawing and painting *Impromptu* during the exhibition.



Impromptu by Helga Joergens

Thistle & Alexander in the Golden Corn by Barbara King

Barbara King's latest works are a response to the natural flora in the nearby roadside verges and hedgerows. After time spent studying, photographing and sketching the changing forms and colours of these humble plants, the paintings have been created mostly in acrylic on canvas or paper. The fast-drying properties of the paint and the almost

exclusive use of palette knives and other mark-making objects enhance their textural, expressive and gestural qualities.

The exhibition is open from 10.00am to 5.00pm daily. Please be COVID aware for the safety of all. For further information please contact one of the artists at their website: www.davidlendrum.co.uk, www.helgajoergens.co.uk, or www.barbaraking.co.uk

#### Sandringham Parish Council Meeting, 8<sup>th</sup> September Tony Bubb, Chairman

Unfortunately, this meeting had to be cancelled as we were not quorate and will now have to be rescheduled. I had hoped we could discuss the poor condition of Butler's Cross. This is the stone that sits at the junction of the A149 and the road to West Newton.



The cross is medieval in date and constructed of stone in two parts, a socket stone and a shaft, standing on a platform of post-medieval bricks surrounded by a stone kerb.

The cross once marked the boundary of Rising Chase and is shown on a map of the Chase dated 1588. The name 'Butler's Cross' derives from the de Botelers who held the manor of West Hall, Babingley, from the mid-13th century. The cross is enclosed by low iron railings which are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground

beneath them is included. Attached to the railing is a cast iron plaque with an inscription recording the name of the cross and the boundary which it marked.

Sadly, the monument is in need of some TLC which needs to be discussed at Council. Hopefully, I will have a fuller report next time.

#### St Peter's Church, Wolferton Judy Scott

Thank you to Ben Colson and Tony Bubb for allowing us the use of the Royal Retiring Rooms for a very enjoyable afternoon tea with additional 'fun & games' held on Bank Holiday Monday. Thank you to all the volunteers and supporters who made this event so successful and thank you to the Washbay Fellowship for the use of the Guide and Scout field for parking. We raised over a £1,100, all proceeds to St Peter's Church.

A service is held in Wolferton on the second Sunday of each month, please check on the Sandringham Churches website for details.



#### Kevin & Neil

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#### Dersingham Day Centre Jan Holt





Well, I sincerely hope that this will be the last time I have to write that Dersingham Day Centre is still not meeting at the Village Centre! By the time you read this edition of Village Voice we hope to have resumed meetings back on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

However, on July 12th we were able to arrange for members to meet in small groups in each others' gardens for afternoon tea. The delicious sandwiches, scones, cakes, chocolates and strawberries came from Berni Beans in Hunstanton and were distributed by our volunteers.



The afternoon was very much enjoyed by everyone and was made more special by meeting up with friends they hadn't seen for such a long time.

If you would like to know more about joining Dersingham Day Centre, then please contact:

Ann Saunders on 01485 542885 or Hilary Judd on 01485 543204 or 07887486739.



Mobile: 07447748356

King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 2ND

#### Together again

Volunteers from St Nicholas Church and various community groups came together to create stunning displays to celebrate all the activities that are permitted to take place again, allowing people to finally enjoy each others' company after such a long time.

Together again took place as part of Dersingham Open Gardens, which proved to be a huge success, raising substantial funds for both the Church and the Village Centre. Visitors were full of praise for the imaginative and colourful floral arrangements.

Huge thanks go out to all the people who spent so much time in creating these wonderful displays, which remind us of the rich community activity in our village.









Knit and Natter



Lavender Lacemakers



Tennis Club



Day Centre for the Elderly



#### **Dersingham Christmas Fair**

We are doing things a bit differently this year and are going to have our Christmas Fair during the day rather than an evening. The thinking behind it is to keep a steady flow of people coming through the door over a longer period, rather than large volumes of people turning up at the same time. This should then make it less crowded and leave plenty of room for you to see what all our fabulous stallholders have to offer.

There will be a combination of small local businesses and craft stalls, giving you the



ideal opportunity to buy some unique Christmas presents whilst 'supporting local'. The stalls have all been handpicked to get the best variety of products for you; some are our favourite regular attenders but we have some amazing new ones as well. Who knew we had such a wealth of local talent!

Volunteers will also be providing tea and cake in the hub throughout the day to raise funds for the Village Centre, so please come along and support us all. □

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#### Dersingham Methodist Church Elizabeth Batstone

In the past few weeks Dersingham Methodist Church has been open and just about normal. Morning services at 10.30am have been well attended and we have enjoyed a chat over coffee after the service.

We held a special thanksgiving service on August 15th to give thanks for those of our Church family who have died, to give thanks for bringing us through a difficult time, and to look

forward with hope. The service, taken by our minister Revd Dr Richman Ncube, was well attended and we were pleased to worship together on this special occasion.

The **Bowls Club** is meeting weekly on Wednesdays at 2.00pm; the **Jigsaw Club** meets monthly on the third Thursday 9.30am – 10.30am; the **Midweek Communion service** is on the fourth Wednesday at 10.00am. You are very welcome to come and join us at any of our events.

We are pleased to be able to hold our **harvest festival service** this year on September 26th and will be collecting items for the Hunstanton Food Bank.

Planning ahead, there will be the **Christmas Fair** on Saturday November 27th, 10.00am – 11.30am with Christmas stalls, coffee and cakes. We look forward to seeing you.

These are all positive signs of looking forward with hope. For further information on any of our activities, contact me on 01485 541068 or <a href="mailto:stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com">stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com</a>. 
<a href="mailto:stewardsatdersingham@gmailto:s

#### **Dersingham Carpet Bowls**

Hooray!! Dersingham Carpet Bowls Club is finally up and running again now that COVID restrictions are relaxed.

A meeting was held on July 20th to which all members were invited.

After thanks were given to Alan and Maureen for keeping us all in the loop during the lockdown, and departed members remembered, a discussion was held as to the logistics of re-opening the weekly afternoon rollups. Matters included mask wearing, sanitising, and making sure everyone took part in the setting up and putting away of equipment. About twenty members attended and strategies were quickly agreed. Many members then remained to play a few ends and, after a somewhat erratic start, we were soon back in the swing of it all.

Weekly sessions have now re-established well with steady numbers attending. August 3<sup>rd</sup> saw a welcome visit by Len Proctor, an old friend of many members, and a fellow carpet bowler for Milton. In recent weeks we have the pleasure of two new members - Elizabeth and Bridget, and a prospective new member, John. The club meets weekly on Tuesdays from 2.30pm-5.30pm at Dersingham Village Centre.□









#### New skatepark opens

Children (and some adults!) in Dersingham are celebrating the construction of a brand new skatepark in the centre of the village, provided by Dersingham Parish Council following a generous grant of £66,062 from FCC Communities Foundation. It was officially opened on August 7th by Borough Council Deputy Mayor Lesley Bambridge, who was introduced by Coral Shepherd, Chairman of Dersingham Parish Council.

This project has been several years in the planning since the old wooden skate ramp was demolished five years ago. Keen skateboarder Joe Hipkin went to a Parish Council meeting and stood up to ask for a skatepark. A group of children then attended a workshop and came up with the design. To get technical, it includes a mini half pipe, roll-in, spine, humps and a quarter pipe bank. It is concrete so it has a quiet, smooth riding surface.

In her introduction, Coral Shepherd expressed her thanks to local parents Kirsty Hipkin and Emma Dinmore, "They were a key part of our working group, their constant enthusiasm and belief in the project were invaluable in keeping us going. Without them we would not be standing here today." She added that, "Finally I would like, on behalf of the Parish Council, to give our heartfelt thanks to our donors for their generous grants that are so much appreciated - FCC, the National Lottery, Geoffrey Watling Charity and Tesco/Groundwork.

Kirsty Hipkin and Emma Dinmore said, "it's a dream come true for the children of the village as well as the wider community. It will make a real difference to those who use it, and we are extremely grateful to FCC Communities Foundation for providing funding as we would not have been able to go ahead without its support."

FCC Communities Foundation is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community projects through the Landfill Communities Fund.













#### Dersingham Open Gardens Editor

As I was opening my own garden this year I was not able to go round taking photos over the event weekend and capture the visitors as they toured the village (except for one photo in my own garden on the day!). Instead I visited a couple of days before and found participants doing a last minute bit of weeding, getting those stripes in the lawn, and hastily planting up a bit of colour in strategic places. And the artists were still framing up paintings and getting them up on the walls. It was delightful getting a close up look at these gardens. The variety shown by Dersingham's horticulturalists is most impressive - from the meticulous to the quirky, from riotous colour to subtle greens. I thoroughly enjoyed all the garden ornamentation which often brought a chuckle.

Over the next couple of pages is a taste of what visitors were able to enjoy.

















Dersingham Open Gardens 2021











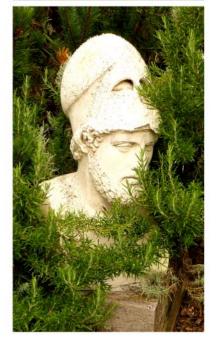












# Dersingham Open Gardens Report Jane Jestice

What a fantastic weekend! The weather couldn't have been kinder to us.

A huge thanks to everyone who opened their gardens and all of those who helped in ANY way to make the weekend so successful. And particular thanks to Judy Collingham, as always, for co-ordinating the event.

People came from far and wide, including the Highlands and the Isle of Man! The gardens were complimented and information and tips swapped liberally, as gardeners do!

A special mention to the flower arrangers who put on a spectacular and moving display in the church.

We now begin planning for next year. Keep your eyes open for upcoming news, and, as always, if you feel like opening your garden, please let us know: villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk□

#### **Sandringham News**

We have been delighted over the summer months to see the Queen Bee wildflower mix taking off in the Royal Parkland. A mix of flower seeds was sown on an area of ground specially designed to give a long season of bright colour, as well as including species which are a good source of nectar for bees. Most of the flowers are annuals and will produce seed after flowering; some will be cultivated each spring to produce the next display of flowers, and others will provide food for birds.

In the House we welcomed 92-year-old Margaret Seaman and her incredible masterpiece of "Knitted Sandringham", a collection of works inspired by the landscape,



architecture and people on the Estate, to raise money for projects at Norfolk's three NHS hospitals. Visitors to the ballroom will have the opportunity to make a donation to these projects as part of the display, which will remain in situ until September 24th 2021.

From October the Sandringham Restaurant will be offering brunch, light lunches and tea and cakes, in addition to Afternoon Tea, all of which will be available to book online via the website -

www.sandringhamestate.co.uk.

Looking ahead into the autumn and winter months, Luminate Sandringham Winter Light Trail will once again return to the Royal Parkland, from November

12th to December 19th. With captivating new installations, we hope it will be an exciting addition to the winter months. The Christmas Fair will return on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and Sandringham Shop will be filled with a range of exclusive Christmas decorations and festive items, from locally distilled Gin to preserves and chutneys perfect for celebrations

# I've Had a Dream ..... David Collingham

In my boyhood my father used to propel me to piano lessons and subsequent exams and school solo piano performances – which at the time I greatly disliked. In later life I have had a recurring dream in which I take to the stage to play from memory – and immediately blank out and forget the starting bars. Perish the thought!

Well – fast forward some sixty years, and my dream starts on a vast stage, downstage in front of a capacity audience, jet black and spotlit, singing unaccompanied Lauridsen's *O Magnum Mysterium* in Latin – all whilst walking slowly backwards, negotiating the prone body of the globe's most famous living ballet dancer.



But this was no dream: improbably, within the space of seven days, Norwich's Theatre Royal and the Halle Orchestra management assembled and rehearsed a 'scratch' nineteen-strong choir – dubbed the 'On Before" Choir – to sing live in the finale of Carlos Acosta's new UK stage show, On Before. It premiered in Norwich in July as the first post-pandemic theatrical show for about two years, before going on four around the UK.

So, as a *very* amateur choral singer, not in the first flush of youth, I found myself thrown in at the deep end under

Acosta's expert direction for a two-night sell-out show. A daunting challenge? Memorizing six minutes of haunting harmonies in Latin, singing with others with whom I had no previous acquaintance, the pressure of getting it spot on with few visual leads, strictly choreographed stage movements in addition to singing...... It had it all in spades.

I think my father would have approved. Well, where might my next dream take me? 

—



# Care Home Heroes Allan Coleby

We are now in the autumn after the summer of 2021, when the remaining Covid restrictions were whittled away until there were none in England by August 16<sup>th</sup>. Many people designated this "Freedom Day", although there were 39,000 new infections and 94 deaths on that day. On the corresponding Monday (August 17th) in 2020, there had been 3,000 new infections and only 3 deaths, because in that year there had been tough restrictions applied to any kind of social mixing, even within families.

However, now that most of us have been vaccinated (76.7% double and 87.7% single) and we have easily available tests to use, there seems to be a sense of getting on with life. We can live with the virus, it is said, in the same way that we live with 'flu, which kills about 8,000 people every winter.

Over this "Covid period", there was an increase in people walking and cycling, a steep rise in the use of the foodbank, and an account of the dramatic American experience, all of which I wrote about in *Village Voice* or the Church magazine, *The Lighthouse*. One of the strongest memories I have of that time is the heroic role of the brave staff who worked in the thick of it, in our care homes.

We had been told from the beginning that elderly people were the part of society most vulnerable to the coronavirus. This was borne out by the number of deaths that occurred, and the amount of publicity given to care homes, for instance in the BBC Panorama special report, *The Forgotten Frontier*, on July 30<sup>th</sup> 2020, and Julie Etchingham's ITV programme, *The Year that changed Britain*, on December 17<sup>th</sup> 2020.

By April 12th 2020, there had been 3,304 deaths from Covid in care homes, and by June there were 23,000. Indeed, during April there were on average 1,000 deaths a day generally in England, and a third of those occurred in care homes. The news from Europe, as the virus swept through every nation, was terrifying. In Italy, police found isolated care homes deserted and full of corpses: the staff had just run away and left them

We were in the throes of another World War, but now military might and economic power were irrelevant. This battle for human survival was fought not in the physical arenas of war, but in hospitals, private houses and care homes. The leaders in the fight were not politicians and generals, but doctors in hospitals, scientists who toiled in bio-chemical research laboratories, and the nurses and carers who tended the sick.

As lockdown occurred across this country, households everywhere withdrew into their own families and by law cut contact with all other people and businesses, except for the necessities of obtaining food and medical treatment. Care homes for the elderly distilled the essence of this drama within themselves, prohibiting visiting and any trips out, and avoiding all contacts except for the provision of food and medicine.

We have one such care home in Dersingham, The Gables, standing at the corner of Post Office Road and Centre Vale. Throughout the period of Covid restrictions, its twenty-four residents were cared for efficiently and affectionately. The Care Quality Commission's report for the fifteen months following March 2020, shows that for the twenty-seven care homes in West Norfolk having more than ten residents, there were 163 deaths resulting from Covid infection, an average of six for each home. Throughout that period, however, The Gables' residents had no deaths or illnesses relating to Covid. Moreover, the Commission's inspection report dated May 15th 2021 awarded the Dersingham care home a rating of "Good" in every aspect of caring. These facts speak for themselves.

During those early, dramatic months of March and April 2020, the staff of care homes who did not live in the homes - and that was almost all of them - had to decide whether

they could make their homes' isolation complete by themselves moving in to share with the residents the horrific dangers mentioned earlier in this article.

I have written a book describing the organisation of a small, fictional care home in which the reader sees the duties, friendships, activities, and mutual dependence of the residents and staff that occur there. The work of the experienced nurses, the hardworking carers, the chef and the laundry worker is shown, as is the support given by a local GP and hospital.

The difficult, dramatic decision that had to be made by the staff is illustrated in the discussion which occurred in the family home of a young recruit carer, Nicky, who has just gone to work there. Stella, the manager, had asked her to decide over a weekend leave if she would move in when the home became isolated. Nicky's father, John, asked about pay, and the answer was that those staff who stayed away would still be paid, most of the money coming from the Government's furlough scheme. Stella had told Nicky that the home would have to close if not enough staff moved in. Both John and Sean, Nicky's brother, advised her not to go in because of the near certainty of catching Covid, whereas if she stayed out, she would get paid anyway, and so would be doubly safe. Nicky, though, was unconvinced, saying that, like the nurses, she wanted to look after the old people and care for them in spite of the danger. Yvonne, Nicky's mother, would not give an opinion, saying it was Nicky's life, and she was old enough to decide for herself.

After lunch on Sunday, Nicky had made up her mind, and told the family, "I agree that the best thing for me would be to stay at home here, take the money and wait. Then I would spend all the time thinking of the nurses getting on with caring for the old people, knowing the risks and going on bravely, being proud of what they were doing. Not to go would be the easy thing, the selfish thing, and when it's all over, what will I think about myself? I'm young and physically strong. I ought to have a good defence against the virus. So that's

why I've made my mind up. I'm going to earn my pay, go and join Stella, stand with her looking after the old people, and we can fight whatever comes our way.'

Nicky looked from one to the other; there was silence. Then her mother, Yvonne, got out of her chair and came over to her. She took her in her arms and held her, as she did when she was a small girl, but had seldom done so since. She hugged her and put her head on her shoulder. 'Oh, I'm so proud of you, Nicky, so proud.' And she continued to cling to her daughter in silence for what seemed like a long time. When she finally pulled her face away, Nicky felt that her shoulder was wet. 'Well done, Nicky.' Yvonne's red eyes looked into Nicky's face. 'You're doing one of the bravest things I've ever heard of. I'm so proud of you.'

P.83. Lockdown at Woodside by Allan Coleby.
Published by Arena Books, 2021. ISBN 978-1-914390-05-0. Available from

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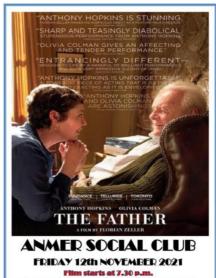
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# The Vindolanda Tablets Brian Anderson

In September 2008 we had a holiday on Hadrian's Wall. That is not an exaggeration - the back garden wall of the cottage we rented was actually part of Hadrian's Wall. People usually visit the area either to walk a beautiful part of the country or to look at the archaeology. We did both. This article deals with one aspect of the archaeology. Hadrian's Wall was built beginning

around AD122. The date is a bit vague as it evolved gradually from a set of forts running across northern Britain from Bowness in the west to Wallsend in the east. It is often seen as a purely defensive structure. This is a simplistic description of its function. The wall always had many openings, allowing the egress of Roman military forces to deal with threats to the north (it was the general policy of the Roman Army to go out to confront threats rather than let them come close). The wall also provided a symbolic statement of the power of Rome. It is likely that the many gates and milecastles acted as customs posts and immigration control points.

We visited several sites along the Wall, including Housesteads, and the Roman Army Museum at Corbridge. But the jewel in the crown is the site at Vindolanda.

Vindolanda, lying a short distance south of Hadrian's Wall, is a Roman fort constructed between AD85 and AD92, some forty or fifty years after the invasion of Britain in AD43, probably to guard the east/west supply road (the Stanegate). It was continually being rebuilt. At least ten forts were constructed on the site, the earliest being of wood and the last being of stone on a slightly different alignment. The rebuilding was done by a succession of Roman Army units. The



Vindolanda

stone fort was occupied by firstly the First Cohort of Tungrians and then by the Fourth Cohort of Gauls.

The Roman method of fort reconstruction has added much to the survival of archaeological artefacts at the site. The soil is acid, wet and peaty and therefore likely to preserve organic items due to the anaerobic conditions, which exclude oxygen and prevent decay. The Romans added (unwittingly) to the chance of preservation by levelling the old forts and capping the site with clay or turf before beginning the rebuilding. The remains of the oldest fort are now about five metres below the modern surface. The site was purchased in the 1930s by the Birley family who still own it. Current excavations are being led by Dr Andrew Birley. In the 1970s many artefacts were being recovered, including weapons, jewellery, tools, ceramics and ornamental items. But much more interesting were the items of wood and leather: spindle whorls, shoes, horse harnesses, combs, a lavatory seat (!), textiles and quite recently, boxing gloves.

In 1973, a number of thin wooden sheets were found, initially regarded as carpentry waste. One such item, where two sheets were stuck together, was peeled apart and indistinct writing was seen that faded quickly as the wood dried out. The tablet was sent to the epigraphist Richard Wright, but oxygenation of the wood made the tablet black and unreadable. The tablet was then sent to Alison Rutherford at Newcastle University who used infrared photography to reveal the script. What was revealed looks nothing like

traditional printed or inscribed Latin; it looks more like Greek. It is in fact Roman cursive script, a form of Latin handwriting.

What is revealed is a fascinating insight into the day-to-day life of a Roman garrison at the northern limit of the Empire, civilian as well as military (there was a civilian settlement or *vicus* just outside the fort). The most famous and unexpected tablet is an invitation sent by Claudia Severa to Sulpicia Lepidina (the wife of a Vindolanda prefect) to attend her birthday party, sent September 11th, probably AD103. The main part of the text



The birthday invitation

seems to have been written by the slave and then signed by Claudia. If nothing else, it tells us that at least some slaves were literate.

Most of the military tablets allow us to be privy to the garrison's numerical strength, the quartermaster's records and the amazingly large variety of items that the army needed in order to operate. Political influences are implied in the lists of food supplies required to feed visiting dignitaries such as the Governor of Britain. The names and duties of those who rarely feature in the records of the time - oxherds, bath orderlies, vets and pharmacists - are recorded. The weather features obliquely in a request for underpants for the Army - *subligaria*. The disparaging attitude of the Romans to the native Britons is given in the slang term *Brittunculi* - "wretched little Brits".

One of the longest and most complicated of all the letters is from Octavius to Candidus, explaining that he would not send his mules to Cataractonium (Catterick) because of *quia viae malae* - "the bad state of the roads"! For those that remember Monty Python's *Life of Brian* - "What have the Romans ever done for us?" - this is an astonishing statement. We all thought we knew that Roman roads were superb.

All in all, over 1400 texts have been recovered. Some have been written in shorthand and are currently indecipherable.



The bad state of the roads

Now a word about the tablets themselves. Other tablets have been found elsewhere.

but not in the numbers found at Vindolanda. These others are usually cut from lime wood. Lime being scarce in northern Britain, the Vindolanda tablets are made of locally available timbers - alder, birch and oak - usually cut from one growth ring. The ink was carbonbased (lamp-black and oil have been suggested). A simple iron-nibbed pen was used, often referred to as an ox-goad pen. Researchers have found that the best way to make the writing readable was to soak samples in two baths. The first was a cleaning agent made from methanol and the second was a preservative of diethyl ether. This increased the contrast between the ink and the wood to a level where the original script was visible, although apparently not supplanting the use of infrared photography.

The British Museum has the majority of the Vindolanda tablets and considerable effort has gone into their conservation. Fragmentary tablets are repaired with a cellulose-based adhesive and gaps are filled, originally with Japanese mulberry fibre paper and then later with a synthetic nanocellulose paper with improved gap-filling properties. They are mounted individually on acid-free archival board. The tablets are currently on display at the British Museum.

There is often a tailpiece to my articles, and this is no exception. The following Christmas I was stuck as to what to give Yvonne as a present. To cut a long story short, I made, with the help of a work colleague, a replica of a tablet. I *think* it was quite well received! □

#### Spoonbills Dick Jones

I was interested to read in the last edition of Village Voice of the reedbed restoration project by the RSPB at Titchwell which it is hoped will encourage the small breeding population of spoonbills on the North Norfolk coast. That took me back over thirty years!!

Back in the late 1980s, the warden of Titchwell RSPB reserve, Norman Sills, and I hatched a plan to encourage the non-breeding spoonbills that stayed on the reserve to breed. He had been doing a lot of drainage work on the flooded reedbeds and the dredging resulted in a significant pile of earth that we thought was a good place to try to lure the non-breeding spoonbills to settle on and to carry out their nuptials. We decided that some dummy birds might do the trick. It was hidden from view from the main path to the beach and to us it looked perfect.

I was sent off to get as much polystyrene as I could. Since I worked at Lynn Museum, that was fairly easy, but finding blocks thick enough to sculpt was not. I eventually decided that I could bond pieces together with woodworking glue. Luckily the polystyrene was white and did not need colouring, but some yellow paint was needed for the bills and legs and some black for further detail. An evening was spent carving their bodies, but it was not easy to make the heads and bills. We decided to make most of them sleeping with their bills tucked under their feathers. Each bird was standing on a single bamboo stick. When we had finished we had a small flock of birds and a mass of polystyrene chips which we tried to clear up. This was the hardest part of the whole business and my garden was full of small bits of white polystyrene for months.

The sculptures were tastefully arranged on the earth mound and we waited in the hope of nesting behaviour. Alas, it was not to be. The real spoonbills were not encouraged by the fake ones and breeding did not happen. They were not taken in by our attempts.

But that didn't mean that others were not deceived. As I said, they could not normally be seen from the trackway used by visitors. However, after a windy night there was a point on the path where one could just see the mound and its occupants through the reeds. There was a group of birders from an ornithological holiday company (led by a person who shall remain nameless, but always wore shorts, even in winter), who were out early topping up their lists of birds seen. When the warden's assistant was walking along the bank, he came across them queueing up to take a look through the leader's telescope. He asked what it was they were watching. Spoonbills, they replied. He smiled, nodded and moved on.  $\square$ 

# P

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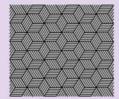
THE ARTS SOCIETY North West Norfolk

11th October 2.00pm

#### Here be Dragons - Libby Horner

It's how mapmakers used to describe dangerous or unexplored territory, except for one instance, the Lenox Globe, where the tag is placed next to Indonesia and could well refer to Komodo dragons. So it's a myth - as are dragons. Whatever it is, let's have fun exploring dragon legends in literature, art and films.





8th November 2.00pm

#### Magic of Patterns - David Phillips

From the Alhambra to William Morris, patterns are often dismissed as "mere ornament" in comparison with painting. We will discover what a mistaken view that is as we look at the ideas that inspired some of the great pattern inventors and traditions from around the world.

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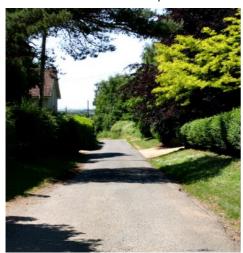
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#### **Dersingham Questions**

Asked by Tony Bubb

Fern Hill. Why was it so named? Rising up from Chapel Road it is probably the steepest climb in the village and puts the lie to the claim that Norfolk is very flat. But where are the ferns? None to see today, not even a swathe of bracken, so we must infer that there used to be some. Are the many springs a clue, as there is nearly always a trickle of water to be found and ferns do like damp.



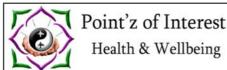




Or should we be looking for another meaning? We get nightjars around here, especially on the fen and the bog and a dialect name for them is fern-owl. Could this reflect their presence in days past? I note my dictionary gives an alternative dialect spelling of fairn, any clues here? Perhaps someone has the answer. In the meantime, let us just enjoy the climb and the views from the top and ponder the origin on the way back down.

#### Ingoldisthorpe Village WI Lesley Geer, President

What a lovely time we had on August 21st. An afternoon of being able to chat with members face to face over a cup of tea and obviously lots of cake. From here on in we hope to resume our normal programme, with meetings, mini get togethers, community events and local outings. A date for your diary - Saturday October 30th, from 10.00 - 12.00 in the hall (Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall) - we will be holding a Book and Puzzle sale with the possibility of a few surprises thrown in, along with a pop up tea/coffee shop. All are welcome. At last we can look forward to catching up with our friends and local supporters again. Take care.  $\Box$ 



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# Making Gardening Easier May Davey

Our Club continues in good health, with enough money in the bank and good attendances at our gatherings. On July 16th Allan Livingstone gave an interesting illustrated talk on butterflies. We had our tea in the hub, where Shirley Brooks and her team looked after everyone very well.





On August 20th twenty members visited Marianne Charles' lovely garden at Holme-next-the-Sea. Marianne was on crutches but managed to guide everyone around and answer their questions. The rain held off and we all enjoyed Marianne's hospitality.







On Friday September 17th Sue Neil arranged a coach trip to Fullers Mill in West Stowe, Bury St Edmunds. This was our first outing since 2019! There are lovely gardens there and we had an excellent tea. We were delighted to have some friends join us for the trip.

New members are always welcome at our meetings at 2.00 pm on the third Friday of the month at Dersingham Village Centre, unless we are on an outing. Do come and see if you like us.

Our next meeting on October 15th will be at Dersingham Village Centre when Oliver Locke from Fakenham Garden Centre will talk about autumn planting and is bringing plants to sell.

On November 19th Tom Bolderstone from Natural England will be giving a talk at Dersingham Village Centre. We look forward to welcoming new members and seeing old friends.  $\Box$ 

#### King's Lynn Festival Chorus

After a period of enforced rest during the lockdown, King's Lynn Festival Chorus greets a fresh new period of music making with a concert under the auspices of the King's Lynn Festival Autumn Concerts.

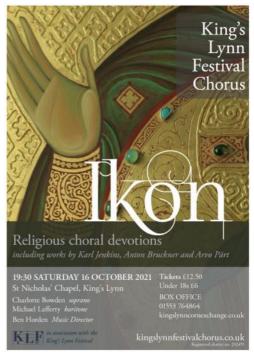
Under the leadership of our new Music Director, Ben Horden, (who is also a fine organ recitalist, as heard in performances in the Festival in the last two years, and formerly our Assistant Music Director) the programme entitled *IKON* consists mainly of religious devotional choral pieces by iconic 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century composers, e.g. Karl Jenkins, John Taverner, Gustav Holst, and Michael Tippett, among others.

As so many people's lives have been touched by the pandemic in some way or another, this programme has elements that may bring consolation, succour and hope that life will get better.

Day/date/time/place: Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30 pm, St. Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn

Tickets at £12.50 (£6 for under 16s) from the Corn Exchange. Tel. 01553 764864 or online from Kingslynncornexchange.co.uk.

Further information from the Chorus' website <a href="https://www.kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk">www.kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk</a>



It will be a very worthwhile evening to celebrate our emergence from the tough times we have all had.

A further date for your diaries:

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December - *Christmas Favourites*, a family Christmas concert. More details to follow ......





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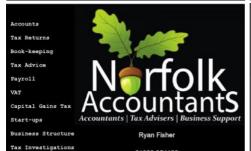
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#### The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle

In my garden there is so much abundance, it's frightening. I turned my back on it for a few days as I had a new kitten that I felt needed my undivided attention, and when I returned to see how the garden was doing, I needed a machete to hack my way through it. Where there had been no courgettes, now there were HUGE creatures fighting to get out of the bed; the tomatoes had turned into jungle plants; the runner beans were all dingle-dangling where only flowers had been a few days previously; the mini corn was maxi corn, halfway up to heaven; the perennial spinach was being very perennial and looking like jolly green giants. Even the trees seemed to have grown over the garden in menace, and quite frankly, I didn't like the feeling at all. The flowers in the new planters were monsters – the cosmos taking over - so I just sat on the bench and wondered what to do with it all. I love all these vegetables, but they are acting like London buses: nothing for ages, then they all turn up at once.

I shouldn't complain. I haven't been a vegetable gardener before. I have made forays into it that produced a little, but a couple of tons of compost on top of the soil that has seen no goodness for years has clearly done the trick. Marestail, convolvulus and ground elder have pushed their way through the matting and gravel on the new pathways – as I thought they would - but the builders wouldn't listen. Now I've asked them to lay some concrete paths that will keep those nasty weeds at bay. I don't want to spend the last few years of my life fretting about marestail, or the other ogre weeds, popping their way through the pathways.

Anyway, the kitten is a delight. A dear little dainty princess I've named Isadora, who really minds her manners, covers up her poo, purrs a lot and seldom meows. Such a contrast to Barnaby Conker Brown, who was the Devil's spawn from the moment he entered our portals. Scratchy and bitey with a hell of a temper, he chewed all the antique foam from a chair when he was angry over something (like me not letting him go outside.) Of course, we both adore him madly with his noble nose and love his independent nature. However, as we barely see him these days, I decided to get another kitty in the hopes she would cuddle me and be my constant shadow. I hoped Barnaby would be intrigued with the new baby, and be pleased to have a little friend, but when I introduced him, he made a noise like a banshee, leapt six feet in the air and rushed out of the house. The little wotsit spends so little time with us, having various ports of call around the village. I'm having an area of garden covered in for this new kitty. I don't want her wandering off and have the constant worry of cat-napping or being squashed by a car.

The kitten entered our home with her case packed with toys and goodies and her coat filled with fleas. I was most put out, as no fleas have entered our portals for the past twenty years or so despite our many pets. Of course, I duly took her to the vet to be deflead; however, a few days later I noticed she still had them. After all that money that the vets charge! I have been daily grooming her with a flea comb and a jar of water mixed with washing liquid and have got quite a few of the little so-and-so's, which I hope has done the trick; but I imagined tons of flea eggs tumbling into the rugs, so hoovered them all so hard it was a wonder there were any tufts of wool left, then dragged them out onto the patio, hosed them down thoroughly, having sprinkled them with Arial washing powder and left them to dry. Except the sun went in after that, didn't it, and there they were, soaked and beginning to smell, so I rolled them up and dragged them in to the house and propped them up indoors, where we have stone floors. The water has been seeping out for the past two days, which meant constant mopping up, but I think they are nearly dry now. I don't think any flea eggs will have survived all that! After a few days

the house smelled like cat spray. I didn't realise at first that it was the drying rug, but it was. I'll have to put it in the garage to dry. Methinks it might end up at the dump....

\*\*

Time has passed by since I started writing, and now I have had my trees and hedges lopped. It's an expensive business, isn't it, and I can't afford proper tree surgeons, so when gypsy types come round to my door asking if I want my trees cut, I try the lottery. I liked the look of an earnest young man with the gift of the gab and an eye that missed nothing. He gave me a price. I demurred, he lowered it and the deal was struck. He turned up in a wonderful new truck with a chipping machine at the back. I said, "Nice truck," and he replied, "It's the pride of my life. I clean it every day." I liked that. He had brought his team along - his young wife and his sister. My goodness they worked hard. For FIVE hours without a break. He chopped, sawed and hacked without complaint (my hedge was full of brambles and wild roses) and the girls picked up all the debris and tidied up as they went. Everything was done with military precision, even to a little invoice book with the work detailed (badly spelt) for me to sign. The girls had clippers, small buzz saws and blowers, so that not a leaf was left on the ground. I was so impressed at these three young people, who had built up their business by working very hard indeed and doing the best job possible. It actually made my day, and I didn't begrudge one penny of the bill. The young man clipped down and shaped what were my tall silver birch trees so that they are now a pretty, round shape - they look nothing like silver birch, but they look really good and my garden no longer feels oppressive.



My builders have now given me a date to finish off the garden with proper concrete paths with slabs and gravel on top - this Monday, hoorah. They will build some proper brick steps to lead up into my 'gypsy' hut (the current wooden ones are difficult to negotiate) so that soon I will be able to open up now and again to read palms as Pegatha Penfold, Palmist, (complete with 'banshee' wig) in aid of Macmillan's cancer charity. I hope you will come and visit. I can arrange gift vouchers, as it is a fun kind of gift to give. You will be surprised what the shape of your hand means, the length of the fingers and each of their phalanges, the whorls, loops and arches that are your fingerprints. Hand reading is nothing to do with tall, dark, handsome strangers that will whisk you off and marry you, or 'fortune telling' - it is more about your character and potential, and the various lines that make a pattern on your palm giving clues about your

make up. It's fascinating and scientific, not occult or mysterious. I've been interested in palmistry for over fifty years, and have recently done a fascinating diploma course, with much to learn – which was a bit much for my wilting memory, I can tell you!

I've cancelled my place in Dersingham Open Gardens, as I didn't think the pathways would be finished and I didn't want anyone tripping up and breaking their necks, which is a shame, but there we are. All the best laid plans of mice and men...

It's just past midnight as I finish this off. I'd gone to bed early as I was so weary and fell asleep immediately but woke up remembering I had to get this piece finished for the deadline. I think I will now make myself a cucumber sandwich and then get back to my

wonderfully comfortable bed with its new mattress. It was very embarrassing watching the men take away the old one. Florence, our Saluki dog, had claimed my bed as her own, despite the fact she is not allowed in my bedroom. When she had secretly gained entrance, aided and abetted by the other dog, Rosie, who has worked out how to open doors, she felt obliged, in order to assert her territory and stake her claim, to copiously pee on the bed. Therefore, there was a nasty looking stain on the middle of the mattress which I felt most embarrassed about. I felt if I pointed it out, explaining it was the dog, the men might think it was more likely I was making excuses about my own incontinence, so I said nothing. One of those difficult moments in life. Florence has a lot to answer for.

So there we have it, another glimpse into the riveting life of Mrs. Dolittle. I hope it made 







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# End of the season for RSPB Plovers in Peril Wynona Legg

Well, that's a wrap! The 2021 season for beach nesting birds has now come to an end at Snettisham and Heacham South Beach. This year, with your support we have helped to protect 44 pairs of ringed plover from combined sites at RSPB Snettisham reserve (21 pairs), the **Plovers in Peril** stretch from Snettisham Beach to Heacham South (20 pairs) and the 3 pairs we monitored at Heacham North. Add in the birds supported by neighbouring sites and you can see why Norfolk is so special!

With such a severe decline in the UK breeding population of these birds, echoed globally, we are so fortunate to have such a large number of pairs choosing to breed on our cherished part of the north-west Norfolk coast. These shingle beaches are home to an incredible variety of rare and special wildlife, and with support from people visiting the coast throughout summer, we can give them the space to thrive long into our future.

We have fledged a total of 19 chicks from these sites this year. That's 19 chicks who have defied the challenges thrown at them by land and sea to make their first flights into the world as young ringed plovers and begin their journey to coasts beyond this one. Though we are overjoyed to have been able to see these chicks grow and see them make strong flights to escape tides, predators and off-lead dogs with ease, there is much concern for the future of these vulnerable birds here on our coasts. A Norfolk beach absent from the sound of the ringed plovers' soft, rhythmic calls would be a sad loss for all those who visit.

Amongst the passionate people dedicated to creating a safer future for beach nesting birds are our volunteer beach rangers. The **Plovers in Peril** project began in March 2021 and we have seen fourteen inspiring people join the existing team to protect ringed plover families all the way through to the end of August, following the journeys of these tenacious birds from egg to chick to juvenile and one day (with hope) to adulthood. Volunteers, we want to thank you for your time, for your passion, and for your unwavering support. In addition, the support from visitors to these beaches this season, whether local, holidaying or visiting for the day, has been heart-warming: kind words, and shared stories of the joy ringed plovers bring to our lives.



Three young ringed Plover siblings. Image: © Phill Gwilliam



Snoozing siblings getting bigger.
Image: © Phill Gwilliam



We have lift off! Image: © Phill Gwilliam

With the end of the season, fencing and signage has come down until next April and restrictions on many beaches like this one are lifted. Though our nesting birds are no longer nesting on our shores, the autumn brings the arrival of many wetland birds, some

returning from a summer overseas (like the geese we are so pleased to see again) and some passing through, taking full advantage of the rich feeding out on the vast mudflats. Help protect these birds by being mindful when out walking on the mud, keeping your distance from large flocks of resting birds and keeping dogs next to you or on a lead when there are birds nearby. We will be rewarded by spectacular displays as these birds dance and gather over our autumn/winter skies.



Plovers in Peril Volunteer team with Ringed Plover Project Officer, Wynona Legg. Image © RSPB.





# TO ALL CHOIR MEMBERS AND POTENTIAL MEMBERS

#### IT'S GOOD NEWS!!

Pamela Austin, Honorary Secretary

Your choir committee members now feel that as the vast majority of our members will have been double-vaccinated, the time is right to recommence rehearsals, and with your welfare in mind, we will be taking all precautions that we can, and complying as well with the regulations and guidelines laid down by Hunstanton Town Council.

Due to the refurbishment of the Town Hall, our new venue is: Hunstanton Community Centre, in Avenue Road, PE36 5BW and we meet from 7.00-9.00pm on a **Wednesday** (a change of evening). At least until the AGM in October, we will maintain the weekly subscription at £4 (with the optional £1 raffle ticket).

Everyone who attends will be required to show a card showing double-vaccinated proof or their NHS pass (if they have one on a smart phone), on arrival on the first occasion, and these will be logged; anyone who cannot do so will be refused entry. Visitors, wearing face masks, will be permitted to sit around the perimeter of the spacious hall, maintaining a safe distance from ALL others throughout the evening, in order to experience a rehearsal and see if you like us! *Please will everyone wear a face mask when entering the hall.* 

There will be the usual refreshment and social break, but shorter than previously; nothing will be served, so please bring sufficient drink, and any snack that you require, with you! PLEASE try to chat briefly, and only to small numbers.

We have now welcomed our new Musical Director, Liz, who is very well suited to the task and has been looking forward to it.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, both regular members and new recruits, although we will quite understand if some are still too nervous about COVID to take the chance just yet.

Further information: https://hunstantonchoir.co.uk/





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# HAVE YOU ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN A CHOIR?



# YES, but, "I CAN'T SING Bet you can! You just need the right environment....

#### "I DON'T UNDERSTAND HARMONIES!"

There's no need: you can learn as you go along

#### "I WOULDN'T DARE DO AN AUDITION"

You won't have to : just come and join in

#### "I WOULD BE TOO SCARED TO OPEN MY MOUTH"

No, you wouldn't : we have all felt like that

#### "I WON'T KNOW ANYBODY"

We are very friendly: someone will always talk to you

#### "I CAN'T READ MUSIC"

There is no need : most of us can't, but we are taught and encouraged every step of the way

#### "WHAT IF I MESS UP IN A PERFORMANCE?"

You won't: the rehearsals see to that: and it isn't compulsory to sing in concerts, either, but nearly everyone does, as it is so rewarding: you are 'on a high' for hours!

#### "CAN LJUST COME IN AND LISTEN TO A REHEARSAL?"

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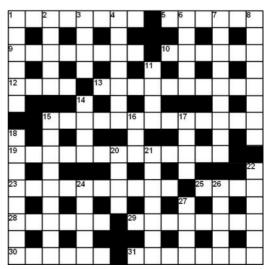
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# Crossword by Philip Neal

#### **Across**

- Husband permitted and dedicated (8)
- 5 Angel fish sovereign caught (6)
- 9 Unite around arrival into open arms (8)
- e.g. ride wobbly when growing more nervous (6)
- 12 Could be Roman month while motorway closed (4)
- Forces senior plays tune while mobile alarm keeps quiet (3, 7)
- Does he hand out half-price fares or silicon chip? (13)
- 19 Zombies counting how sailor, busy reading on deck, knows his whereabouts (4, 9)
- Worker messing about inside mission (10)
- 25 Initially every bowler batters stumps and gets out (4)

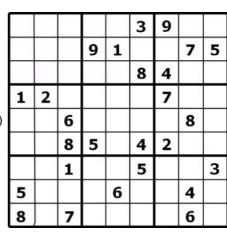


- 28 Composer had work done concealed in facial feature (6)
- 29 Pop group lost book by Dr Slone Ormers (8)
- 30 Disappointed daughters support tennis champion (6)
- Checks out English caught by Nazis in stormy sea (8)

#### Down

- Who had wrecked seat on the jumbo? (6)
- 2 I call out for Olive's family tree (5)
- 3 Instrument played round honour (4)
- 4 e.g. Alice confounded by couplet (7)
- To be found when she concealed papers (5)
- 7 Berlin assembly broadcast right case (9)
- 8 Thieves regurgitate food found near city's Royal Society (8)
- 11 Article about me having last word (4)
- 14 No gym in company for Governor (4)
- 15 Stan's shop is busy exposing pictures
- 16 Cocoa kernel produces evergreen (3)
- 17 Useless without female section (4)
- 18 Modern commercial vehicle parked in front of church department (8)
- 20 Search radio frequencies covering title (4)
- 21 U Boat returns in a second to provide collection of works shown earlier (8)
- So Sue's trained to so this in an emergency at sea (3, 3)
- Soar above while the French dig ground (5)
- 26 Dancing on bus for benefit (5)
- 27 Or otherwise found in barrels everywhere (4)

#### Sudoku



Answers on page 73

# Hell Fire and Riot – the Methodists in Norfolk

The year is 1751. The place, Norwich, where thousands of its citizens are flocking daily to Tombland by the Castle to hear a charismatic Methodist preacher newly arrived in the city. This was James Wheatley, a Welsh cobbler, who had been a successful itinerant Methodist preacher in the West Country, much respected by Charles Wesley. That is until he was expelled from the Methodist movement by the Wesleys over allegations of

immoral conduct in Bradford-on-Avon. Undeterred, James came to Norwich and commenced open air preaching as often as four times a day under the trees in Tombland or sometimes on the Castle Mound itself. He must have been a remarkable orator as it was noted by the newspapers that thousands attended the word of God and reported that, "whereas before they could hear nothing but profane cursing and swearing now they seldom heard an oath and many an idle man now became diligent." James soon built a small wooden meeting house for his flock which became known as The Tabernacle.

However, not everyone was delighted. Opposition to the Methodists grew rapidly and local clergy considered him an illiterate babbler. Tavern owners complained how badly their trade was affected, as former loyal customers gave up the wicked drink. None were





more incensed than the young dandies of the Hell Fire Club, indolent, rich young men who met regularly in The Bell Hotel. They were intent on destroying the Methodist

movement, and together with others who opposed this reformation set out to form a mob to disturb the meetings. One reformed rioter later testified that he attended a meeting at The Crown and Stars where everyone was equipped with weapons, such as marrow bones and cudgels and had their faces blackened with a cork burnt over a candle.

The rioters, now some 300-400 strong, thoroughly worked up, proceeded noisily to The



Tabernacle where for the next one and a half hours they blew cow horns, beat drums, threw stones and firecrackers, knocked down fencing and shoved people against the walls. All the time copious barrels of beer and large quantities of spirits were sent from The Squirrel on Timber Hill to keep the rioters well fuelled. The next day they gathered again and this time in addition to the alcohol, 2 shillings a man was given out. The congregation were again violently attacked and beaten with bones and cleavers.

It was in December that one Jacob Butler, a saboteur, hatched a devious plan to pretend to be converted and to invite two Methodist preachers to his house to hear him testify to his conviction. Jacob lived in Rose Lane and with his neighbour, prior to the planned meeting, dug a hole seventeen feet square and four or five feet deep. Into this they emptied several vaults or necessaries of dung until it was quite full. The idea was for one of them to open the gate and for Butler to shove the unsuspecting preachers into the pit. Fortunately, the plot was discovered in time to save the preachers from their unpleasant fate.

A letter written in September 1751 describes one meeting when James preached on the top of Castle Mound to a crowd of several thousand. The Hell Fire members arrived with the unruly mob well lubricated. During the furious attack many gentlemen lost their hats, had their wigs ripped from their heads and their coats torn from their bodies. Some were very badly wounded as the violence escalated so that lives were only saved by gentlemen rolling down the steep banks of the Mound.

With such riots now happening every day, the London papers began to take an interest. They reported that the Hell Fire Club, openly defying the law, claimed that four aldermen and some magistrates had joined them in putting a stop to the Methodists and every parson had subscribed one guinea each to stop the Methodists and support the riots.

With the situation deteriorating daily, the authorities finally ordered James to cease preaching. He did, but only for a fortnight, as the rioters continued attacking houses,

looting shops and robbing passers-by. In an attack on one house, doors and windows were broken and cries of "Church and King! Down with meetings!" were heard echoing through the city.

In February 1752, as James attempted to leave The Tabernacle, he was "beset by a multitude who forced him into the Castle ditches calling, "Now is your time! Now you may do it! Murder him! Murder him!" The congregation tried to protect him and eventually managed to steer him into a supporter's house, whereupon they slammed and bolted the door. The Mayor and a Beadle were called to assist and James was finally able to escape, "tho' beaten severely and much wearied losing his hat, wig, and part of his coat."

The incidents continued until one of



the worst attacks occurred on May 24<sup>th</sup> when James was attacked and stoned while preaching. He escaped to a friend's house, but the mob attacked again and on finding the preacher, "beat him until he was near dead". "If they will have my life, let them have it," he was heard to say. He was carried to a house and there bled by a surgeon, "although his life was much despaired of." It was a very shaken man who finally made his way back to his home.

The disturbances continued with increasing violence, during which time the wooden tabernacle was completely destroyed by the mobs. It became so dangerous that a company of Dragoons was finally summoned to restore order. They galloped into the city and soon dispersed the crowds who quickly melted away as they spied the soldiers.

The Tabernacle was rebuilt and opened again in 1753 but scandal was about to erupt. In 1754 James Wheatley was charged once again in the Consistory Court with immoral behaviour, namely adultery. John and Charles Wesley both came to Norwich at the height of the scandal. James Wheatley was found guilty of the charge. He launched two appeals against this verdict but lost them both and left Norwich in disgrace.

Although the disturbances eventually settled down there were still many quarrels between the two branches of the Methodist movement so that even Charles Wesley despaired. But in 1769 the Cherry Lane Chapel was built and it remained in use until its demolition in 1953.

John Wesley first visited Lynn in 1721 when he preached at a house in New Conduit Street. He described Lynn as "affable and humane." The Market Place was "a spacious and noble square" and the people open, frank, good natured and courteous. In

Dersingham a branch of the Methodists called New Connexion opened the first Chapel here opposite Doddshill in 1851. It was used until 1913 when it closed and was handed first to the Territorial Army. It was later used by the village school for cookery and craft lessons. The Primitive Methodists built their Chapel in Manor Road in 1878 and a third group, the Wesleyan Methodists, erected a Chapel in Post Office Road in 1890. So, for a time there were three Methodists Chapels here until 1913 when the New Connexion Chapel closed. The other two existed side by side until 1962 when the decision was taken to merge the congregations and retain only the Chapel in Post Office Road. (See Village Voice No. 74.)



The arrival of the Methodists in our village was, as elsewhere, conducted in a peaceful manner. There was thankfully no Hell Fire Club to instigate riot and disturbance. But for all that he did not seem a particularly moral man, I should have liked to have heard the resonant Welsh voice of James Wheatley as he held forth on the Castle Mound or under those trees in Tombland. He died in Bristol on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1775. □

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# Word Wall by Philip Neal Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 73

SADDLE	CLOG	HAND	SLINGBACK	
BROGUE	CARRIER	MOCCASIN	SHOULDER	
DIALECT	PUMP	PATTER	BELL	
CHAIN	IDIOM	PEDAL	LINGO	



Are you a farmer with land in or near a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England? Our new Farming in Protected Landscapes programme (FiPL) opened for applications on 1 July 2021.

The DEFRA funded programme will fund projects that: support nature recovery, tackle climate change, provide opportunities for people to discover nature and support sustainable farm businesses. Projects must also support our Norfolk Coast AONB Management Plan objectives.

The funding will pay for farmland-based projects on one landholding or across a number of holdings which provide direct benefits to the Broads National Park or the Norfolk Coast AONB.

Some examples of projects that may be funded include:

- \*\* Restoring rivers to provide biodiversity and natural flood management benefits
- \*\* Creating connectivity between habitats, including hedge planting
- \*\* Whole farm (or farm clusters) planning and actions for water, conservation, energy efficiency and economic resilience
- \*\* Improving soil health and minimise soil loss and implement regenerative farm practices
- \*\* Taking unproductive land out of production to deliver combined nature benefits
- \*\* Creating new habitat for breeding waders, or creating ponds to support a variety of wildlife
- \*\* Conserving historic features on a farm, such as mill buildings or burial mounds
- \*\* Supporting traditional land management industries such as graziers and reedcutters with equipment
- \*\* Creating and promoting a series of farm walks across a number of farms, providing new access opportunities
- \*\* Replacing stiles with gates on public footpaths to promote easier, higher quality
- \*\* Supporting a locally branded farm product initiative which promotes the links between the product and the landscape in which it is produced

Read how you can apply on our website: <a href="http://www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/partnership/farming-in-protected-landscapes/1230">http://www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/partnership/farming-in-protected-landscapes/1230</a>

If you have any further questions please contact Gemma Clark gemma.clark@norfolk.gov.uk □



#### **Crossword Answers**

#### **Across**

1 Hallowed. 5 Cherub. 9 Welcomed. 10 Edgier. 12 Arch. 13 Air Marshal.

15 Semiconductor. 19 Dead reckoning. 23 Assignment. 25 Ebbs. 28 Chopin.

29 Abalones. 30 Dashed. 31 Assesses.

#### Down

1 Howdah. 2 Lilac. 3 Oboe. 4 Elegiac.

6 Hider. 7 Reichstag. 8 Burglars. 11 Amen.

14 Emir. 15 Snapshots. 16 Oak. 17 Unit.

18 Advanced. 20 Comb. 21 Omnibus.

22 Use SOS. 24 Glide. 26 Bonus. 27 Else.

#### **Word Wall Answers**

**Bags:**. Carrier, Hand, Saddle, Shoulder. **Bicycle parts:** Chain, Pump, Pedal, Bell **Footwear:** Broque, Cloq, Moccasin.

Slingback.

Language: Dialect, Idiom, Patter, Lingo.

#### **Sudoku Answers**

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

#### **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 133 (Dec 21/Jan 22)
 Mon 8th Nov 2021
 Mon 29th Nov 2021

 No 134 (Feb 22/March 22)
 Mon 10th Jan 2022
 Mon 31st Jan 2022

 No 135 (April 22/May22)
 Mon 7th March 2022
 Mon 28th March 2022

#### **Advertising in Village Voice**

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

#### **Articles and Non-Profit Making Promotions for Village Voice**

These should be emailed directly to the Editor:

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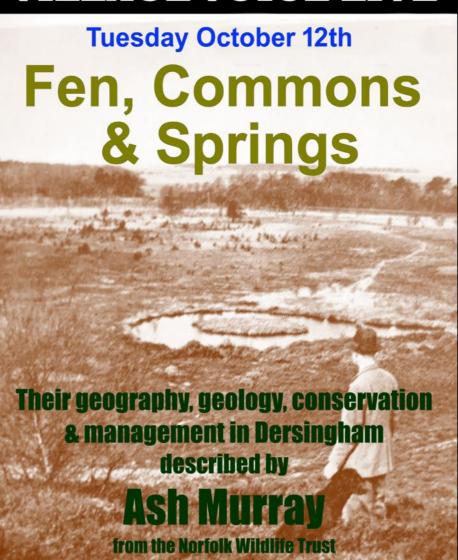
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# **VILLAGE VOICE LIVE**





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

