

Number 133

December/January 2021/22

VILLAGE VOICE

THE DEKSINGHAM MAGAZINE



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to you all



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Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones



Another packed edition, which hopefully you will enjoy. We have updates from many of the village organisations, describing what they have been up to over the last couple of months and letting us know of their Christmas plans.

We received some great photographs of the St Nicholas Church abseil back in September, with Rev Mark Capron disappearing cheerfully off the tower – more photos and details inside. Elizabeth Fiddick offers another instalment of Dersingham's history to inform and entertain us. Mrs Dolittle has been raising magnificent amounts of money for Macmillan Cancer Support by reading palms in her colourful shepherd's hut. The school reports that the children have settled in well after so many months of disruption. The pupils are enjoying a wide range imaginative topics, music and sports activities.

Rev Mark, apart from his literal leap of faith, has written an important article on domestic abuse. He cites some very uncomfortable statistics about all the different kinds of abuse – of both men and women. We are directed to very valuable local agencies who will give support and information to those in need.

The RSPB is urgently looking for volunteers for various roles on local reserves, including Snettisham. It's a very satisfying way of using and developing a variety of skills, and the chance to spend time on a beautiful nature reserve. More details inside.

Also in this edition: Natural England bring us up to date with the latest news from Dersingham Bog; we find out about upcoming events at Sandringham, including the return of Luminare, which was cut short last year because of Covid; a garden focus comes with lectures at Gardening Made Easier and Jane Jestice's horticultural tips; Brian Anderson tells us about ladybirds; and I'm looking forward to seeing the recreation ground lit up with its refurbished lights.

A very welcome bit of news is that the Co-op now has two bins devoted to recycling "soft plastic". This is stuff that you can't put in the green bins: chocolate wrappers, cellophane, soft packaging, etc. I started collecting all this and was amazed at how it accumulated over just a couple of days. I took a photo of it which is with Robert Anderson's article inside. My black bin is now almost empty. This is one small step we can all take to do our bit for the environment. You may say that one person's actions don't make any difference, but you could say that about voting.....

Drama in Post Office Road last night – a speeding car glanced off one parked vehicle, smashed another down the road, onto the pavement and through my fence, and ended up wiping out a wall on the other side of the street. The driver, after disappearing down the road, was later apprehended by the police and will no doubt undergo "further questioning". Thankfully there were no pedestrians around at the time. Finally, my pyjama-clad neighbours retired to call their insurance companies.



Village Voice wishes you all a very happy Christmas and a hopeful New Year.





Dear Village Voice



Derelict building

I write to express disappointment and frustration at the continuing state of dereliction of the former village school / community centre on Manor Road.

An enquiry submitted by me to the Sandringham Estate in October 2018, produced no



response. Letters of concern sent to Northwest Norfolk MP, James Wild, in March confirmed the information that an application for the building of ten dwellings, submitted to West Norfolk planning department in August 2018, was still awaiting a decision in April 2021.

The building has been standing empty and derelict for longer than a decade. It is a target of vandalism. For how many more years will it be allowed to remain an unsightly blot on the village?

Volunteers put in many hours of work to make Dersingham an attractive place in which to live and to generally enhance the environment for the enjoyment of all. When will the Sandringham Estate do likewise and take action to end this shameful neglect?

Carol Steel

Messy eater

On the morning of Wednesday 22nd September, as I opened the blinds to my lounge window, just below the window on my lawn there was this chap (which I think is a sparrowhawk) as shown in the photograph, thoroughly enjoying his breakfast. He wasn't at all worried about me watching him through the glass as I took the photo. He looked up at me and just carried on with his task – guess who had to clear up the mess he left on my lawn!!! But I didn't mind.

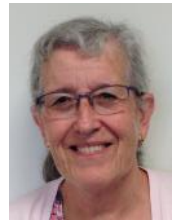


Jane Morpeth



Parish Council Chairman's Report

Coral Shepherd



The last couple of months have been relatively quiet on the Parish Council front, with business continuing as normal. As you may have read elsewhere, we have agreed to purchase some new Christmas decorations to light up the trees in the Recreation Ground beside Hunstanton Road. They are not the usual fairy lights but will give a different look to this part of the village for the Christmas period.

For those of you who belong to the Dersingham Village Facebook Group, you will have read that we are looking to prepare a 5-year plan for the Recreation Ground. It has dual status as both a recreation ground and village green, so our emphasis will be on keeping it as an open space for all to enjoy, but if you have any suggestions (e.g. reinstating the basketball hoops, moving the football goal posts, adding adult exercise equipment) we would love to hear from you. You can email myself, councillor Robert Anderson or our clerk.

Coral.shepherd@dersingham.org.uk.
Robert.anderson@dersingham.org.uk.
Clerk@dersingham.org.uk.

Our main work at this time of year is to look at our budget for the next financial year. We need to assess how much money we will need to continue with the work that we do on behalf of the parishioners, that is to cut the grass around the village, maintain streetlights, the war memorial gardens, the children's playground and other open spaces, seats and benches, dog waste bins, litter bins, and bus shelters, as well as paying our staff. With increasing energy and transport costs it is difficult to predict how much more our expenditure will be next year. Once we have agreed the budget for next year we will then be able to set the precept, which is included in the annual Council Tax bill issued in March by the Borough Council.

On a more interesting front, together with other groups and organisations, we are starting to look at plans to celebrate her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year. There will be an extended holiday period from 2nd to 5th June and we are hoping that there will be an event or gathering every day, so that there will be something for everyone.

Would you like to make a difference to the village? We still have vacancies on the Parish Council and if you are interested, if there is something you would like to be done or simply you want to be part of the decision making around what goes on in the village, then we may be for you. You are welcome to attend any of our meetings to see what we do - dates are publicised on the Parish Council website. If you would like to learn more, please contact myself or our clerk Sarah Bristow.

Finally, I laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the war memorial on Remembrance Day (11th November) and also at St Nicholas on Remembrance Sunday (14th November). □





News from Dersingham Village Centre Sue Payne, Chairman of DVCA

Financial matters

The Trustees recently reviewed all fees and agreed that as we are facing increasing costs, most hire charges and prices will rise with effect from January 1st 2022.

Activities & Events

Christmas Carols - Following last year's successful outdoor event, this year we will be indoors – much safer and warmer.

New Year's Eve - The Disco and Supper is taking place, at the same price as 2019. For information, please see the notice in this issue.

Friendship Lunches are now very popular, so please ensure you have booked by the Thursday before each lunch (1st and 3rd Tuesday). We also ask that you let us know as soon as possible if you are unable to attend so we have the right numbers for catering.

Lunch is currently served at **12:45pm**. There will be no lunch on January 4th and from January 18th it will be at **12:30pm**. We understand that this may be inconvenient for some, but we are keen to give diners time to talk – which is the point of the Friendship Lunch – and we need to be able to clear up in time so the Carpet Bowls team can set up from 2:30pm. Increased numbers mean it is taking longer to serve and clear away. Please note that the price will increase to **£7** in January.

Village Voice Live returned in October with a fascinating talk on Dersingham Fens & Commons by Ash Murray from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. For December, Tony has arranged a talk on Victorian Christmas Fare, with edible treats to sample. In January, the price will rise to **£6**.

Village Cinema takes a break in December, but returns on January 26th, with *Six Minutes to Midnight*, a great film starring Eddie Izzard and Judi Dench. Admission rose to £6 when it resumed in September and there will be no further increase in 2022.

Gardening Team - Our volunteer gardening group, who have worked hard all year, recently planted lots of daffodils in the grass along Manor Road; I am so looking forward to spring!

Village Centre Lottery - October winners were numbers 6, 49, 29, winning £22.50, £15.00 and £7.50 respectively; November's winners were numbers 31, 42, 29, winning £24, £16 and £8.

Keep updated by checking notices at the Centre and around Dersingham and visit our website - www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk; and sign up for the regular newsletters.

We have a Facebook Page and also post on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group.

If you have any questions about the Centre, its activities, or bookings, call our landline 01485 543195. An answerphone is in use, so please leave a message with contact details, and someone will get back to you.

As we approach the end of another extraordinary, sometimes difficult, twelve months, on behalf of the Trustees, may I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year.□

New Year's Eve Disco & Supper

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Recreation Ground Christmas Lights

Earlier this year the Parish Council undertook a survey of the existing Christmas lights which adorn the trees running between Lynn Road and the recreation ground. For many years now these lights have helped to bring a seasonal Christmas cheer to the village of Dersingham.

The survey highlighted a number of issues with the existing installation, including damage to electrical equipment and damage to the trees. The ravages of time, the weather and quite simply the fact that trees grow meant they were no longer 'fit for purpose'.

A number of solutions were considered including repair, replacement and alternative ideas. Each solution took into account cost, maintenance, environmental impact and visual effect.



The solution which met all those criteria best was to use a series of different coloured LED 'uplighters', secured along the galvanised steel fence running between Lynn Road and the recreation ground.

We expect some will be sorry to see the traditional 'fairy lights' go. They are

simply not the right solution for a living tree unless they are put up/taken down every year. This would have cost well over £1000 every year. The different coloured LED 'uplighters' solution will light up each tree and highlight the natural beauty of the tree trunk and branches. Indeed, being a more 'generic' light display, we intend to switch them on more often in the future for events such as the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

We hope you enjoy them. Merry Christmas ☐



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Abseiling down St Nicholas Church Tower

Rev Mark Capron



A very successful day was had as the courageous abseilers descended the tower of St Nicholas Church, Dersingham in October.

Rev Mark Capron (Rector) led the way by being the first over the edge, followed by people from many parts of the local community, such as staff at Dersingham Primary School, Dersingham Co-op, local health care workers, Police, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital and a groom getting married in the church next year! The

oldest was Martin (82) who showed his class by descending like a professional, and the youngest was little Harry who had just celebrated his tenth birthday!

Hundreds braved the inclement weather to watch, making it an occasion for the community to come together and enjoy. All the participants received a certificate after safely touching down on earth.



During the day there were delightful refreshments, games, and stalls, along with a superb cake stall. It was a wonderful event despite the rain; the joy and encouragement from the crowd throughout the day was remarkable and a testament to how much people had been

looking forward to this special event. The atmosphere was incredible and continued throughout even when people were getting soaked in the rain!

Rev Mark said: "It has been an amazing day with fifty people achieving something both very memorable for themselves and through sponsorship benefiting the community in the process, with funds being raised going towards the installation of disabled toilets and kitchen facilities in the much used and living church here in Dersingham." Thank you to all who helped on the day and prepared cakes, and to those who did the abseil and their sponsors. The interim amount raised when writing is £6,500 - a splendid amount already. Thank you.□



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Sandringham Parish Council Tony Bubbs - Chairman

The meeting on November 10th took place in the Wolferton Club. Fortunately we had enough Councillors to conduct the evening's business. We were disappointed to receive a resignation which means we now have two vacancies out of our quota of seven

Councillors. It would be good to hear from anyone who would be interested in joining, particularly anyone from the West Newton part of the Parish as we are without a Councillor from that area. We will continue to meet at the Wolferton Club at the moment as there is no sign that the West Newton Club will be available any time soon.



Rainbow over Wolferton

Matters discussed included the current parking position which seems to have improved a little, the A149 improvements that have yet to be made and the proposal to refresh the Butlers Cross monument, as we have received an offer of fresh, unbent railings. As this is an Ancient Monument there is a lot of red tape to deal with, but it was agreed to move forward with this.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday January 12th in the Wolferton Club with the public welcome.□

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All proceeds go to fund environmental projects on the coast – like the new two-minute beach clean stations we recently purchased and provided to Café Carmel, Bacton, and Brancaster

National Trust. The stations encourage people to do a quick litter pick and are themselves made of recycled litter!□



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Children, parents and staff were delighted to return to school with renewed vigour for a new year, full of hope and optimism for the future. A gentle settling in period with time for reflection, nurturing and support has ensured a smooth transition to new classes, which was not possible before the summer due to COVID. Parents have enjoyed weekly drop ins to share children's work and familiarise themselves with new teachers, subjects and the learning skills required for each year group.

The Nursery children have had fun exploring the great outdoors this half term, focussing on the seasons. They celebrated in style with a beautiful, colourful autumn treasures event. With the support from wonderful parents the Early Years room was filled with pumpkins and gourds for the children to explore. Autumn colours were investigated through sensory play using hands and feet and plenty of paint!

This half term the Reception class have been busy having some monster fun! The children were excited to find baby monster Mungo had arrived in school. They worked together to persuade his Mummy monster to come and visit too. Fun was had baking her biscuits, writing her letters, making her maps and even building friendly monster traps. The children's hard work was successful and she came to visit, bringing with her treats for the class!



Baby monsters



Could a bog baby live here?



Bog baby invasion

In Year 1, the children investigated the Forest School area and discovered evidence of a Bog Baby living there. They had fun creating their own Bog Baby, thinking of how to care for it and making links to real animals living



wild in our natural world. Some beautiful artwork and writing have resulted from this imaginative topic. One of the highlights this half term was a visit to Lynnsport on a bus to join in a fun fitness festival!

Year 2s have been learning that they are brave, courageous and have lots of love in their hearts. They celebrated the end of the topic by stretching out brains to rewrite the story of *The Wizard of Oz*. What an adventure it has been!

Year 3 have travelled back in time to the Stone Age, learning about how people made shelters, hunted and used animals for food and



Trip to King's Lynn Museum

clothing and made tools and weapons. The children practised den building in the woods and tried cave painting techniques. Finally, they visited Lynn Museum to find out even more, including how the Stone Age progressed into the Bronze then Iron Ages!

Year 4 have been learning all about volcanoes and dragons this half term. The children have been designing dragons and writing instructions about how they need to be cared for. They have been researching the ring of fire and all the volcanoes in it.

Year 5 children returned to school in September to face a crime scene mystery. Using real CSI forensic investigation techniques, the children were able to solve the mystery, leading beautifully into our topic for the term on the history of crime and punishment. Our class read *Twitch* by M.G. Leonard, further supporting our studies, whereby a birdwatcher outwitted an escaped convict through bravery, friendship and utilising his talents as a birdwatcher. Not only did the children produce some incredible pieces of writing, but they were also able to design and make their own birdhouses, study Ordnance Survey maps and create detailed sketches.



Year 6 have spent the opening half term since returning from the summer break learning about the Tudors. Learning across the curriculum was based around *Treason* by the award winning Berlie Doherty. The story focuses upon the obsequious and cutthroat court of Henry VIII and how one minute courtiers can find favour, but the next they could find themselves accused of treason. In addition, we spent a significant amount of time studying Elizabeth I and many of the key events of her reign in order to compare and contrast her with the figure of Henry VIII.

It has been wonderful this term to provide a wide range of additional musical opportunities across the school through Miss Amey's fabulous tuition. All of the children from years 2-6 are learning to play a musical instrument, with opportunities for pupils to learn ukulele, trombone, trumpet, saxophone, violin, steel pan or keyboard. It has been a joy to sing together once again and Year 1 are having fun exploring new songs as well as experimenting with tempo, rhythm and beat. What an incredible opportunity for our children, and we hope that they will continue to progress and feed into our school ensemble. We are looking forward to showcasing our talents at a Christmas concert at the end of this year.

Returning to competitive sport in every shape and form is delightful and although the

weather put a stop to the Croydon Cup football tournament, some of the children enjoyed a full day out at Pelicans Hockey club, taking part in the Quicksticks festival. Football, hockey, gymnastics and multi-skills after school clubs have been very popular. The cross-country children did fabulously well, resulting in three first places and a second place finish, along with some other fine running.



We hope that as the winter approaches and Christmas looms large, we can continue to enjoy the wonderful learning opportunities on offer at Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School.□



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Soft Plastic Recycling at the Co-op

Robert Anderson

Great news! You can now recycle soft plastics like crisp packets and bread bags at the Dersingham Co-op. It doesn't matter where you bought them. Just pop your soft plastics into their blue and black recycling units and they'll do the rest. It means we can all do our bit for the environment.

Soft plastics are lightweight plastics that often cannot be placed in recycling bins at home. Think plastic film lids on yoghurt pots, crisp packets, cling film, carrier bags, petfood pouches, pasta bags and chocolate or biscuit wrappers, to name just a few. If you're not sure, a simple test is to scrunch it up and if it pings back, it's a useful indicator that it's soft plastic.

This does not include plastic bottles, tubs, pots, trays and caps which have the recycling triangle on them and you can continue to place in your green home recycling bin.

Please ensure that any soft plastics are clean. For dried food a good shake should do the job. For wet food, please rinse out with water before recycling.

Please note that the labelling on packaging may not be up to date with the soft plastics recycling scheme. As such, not all soft plastics will currently be labelled as recyclable.

At the time of writing, the Dersingham Co-op has two large bins (with a blue lid) located just behind the check-out tills.

For more information check out <https://www.coop.co.uk/environment/soft-plastics>



Volunteers to deliver Village Voice

We are always looking to increase our pool of valuable volunteers who deliver Village Voice every two months. We like to have some reserves who can step in when a regular distributor is unavailable or is no longer able to do it. It only takes an hour or so every two months. It's actually an interesting way to get to know your village.

If you are interested in getting more detail, please contact Geri who organises the deliveries by emailing geraldine@dersingham.org.uk or phoning her on 07791 104325.



Dersingham Task Force Dennis Weatherill



At this time of year the Task Force would normally be taking a well-earned rest over the winter period while the weeds also take a break.

However, at the last minute we found a few extra jobs. It appears that the weeds in the rose bed garden on Post Office Road misunderstood the rules, so we put in an extra session in November. Hopefully they'll behave themselves until March when we restart our activities.

We were very fortunate to be given some spring bulbs which we planted in November. By the time the clocks go forward again and warmer weather arrives you should all see the results of our efforts along the grass verge by the recreation ground.

We are also supporting the Christmas Tree Festival at St Nicholas Church, so our volunteers will be helping out in whatever ways we can to ensure a successful event.

If any of this sounds like 'your kind of thing' then you would be made very welcome. Please contact Dennis Weatherill on 07482 913399 or email denzilweatherill@gmail.com. □



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Ray's Place opens at Tapping House

After three years of planning and hard work, The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House has officially opened Ray's Place, a dedicated space for their day therapy patients. The ribbon was cut at Ray's Place by its namesake, Ray Daniels, on Friday 10th September 2021. The project was made possible due to a generous donation from Ray, who was keen to support the Hillington-based charity.



Nigel Brown, volunteer,
at woodworking session

The project to build Ray's Place began in late 2018 when plans were drawn up to build the cabin as an extra space for the therapy team to provide creative activities and workshops, such as their Living Life Creatively and Men's Woodwork groups. Ray's Place sits within the Hospice's garden, and has a seating area, equipment and tools, crafting materials and a kitchen.

Nichola Child, Therapy Team Lead and Specialist Palliative Care Occupational Therapist, said, "Ray's Place is the fruition of a dream to have a dedicated space for day therapy patients where we could offer woodwork and other creative groups. Eighteen months ago we finally completed the cabin and were due to move in before everything closed due to the pandemic. It is such a delight now to be using the space to support our patients through

their palliative journey and we look forward to being able to continue to develop it. We are so grateful to Ray Daniels for his generosity in enabling this to open and for his support and wisdom throughout the development stages."

Trusts that have helped fund Ray's Place and its equipment are the Edward Gostling Foundation, Aubrey Orchard-Lisle Charitable Trust, Truemark Trust, Ernest Hecht Charitable Foundation, Marshall Grant Trust, Tesco Bags of Help, Clan Trust, Alec Van Berchem Trust and The Ardwick Trust. □



Ray Daniels and Nichola Child officially opening Ray's place.



VILLAGE CINEMA

at **Dersingham Village Centre**

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New season of lectures in Sedgeford Village Hall.

The "Star" of Bethlehem apparently did exist. But what it was exactly and when it shone in the night sky are questions we have taken on trust for 2000 years.

We look forward to some revealing answers when Hilary Guise, an Arts Society Accredited Lecturer, delivers our December lecture **Star of Wonder, Star of Light: New Evidence for the Star of Bethlehem** on 13th December 2021 at Sedgeford Village at 2pm.



If you want to have some fun exploring this subject but are not yet a member, please visit our website and apply for a free invitation.

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Dersingham Day Centre Jan Holt



Members and volunteers of Dersingham Day Centre are so pleased to be meeting again at the Village Centre – it seemed such an age since we'd been able to do this. Of course, we miss those members who are unable to join us now but are pleased to welcome some new members.

We restarted our meetings on 1st September and we've kept very busy ever since. Waddo came and entertained us with music and songs, we practised some Tai Chi with Yang and we had a bingo afternoon with small prizes – all greatly enjoyed by members and volunteers. Of course, we've also played dominoes, cards and Scrabble. And we've talked and talked!

In September we celebrated Ann Bouchon's birthday. On 24th November we celebrated Dersingham Day Centre's 40th birthday.

A date for your diaries - we will be starting the Christmas festivities by holding our Christmas Fete on Saturday 4th December at the Village Centre from 11am to 3pm.

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





DERSINGHAM DAY CENTRE

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 4TH



11.00am—3.00pm

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Wood crafts

Macramé

Fused Glass

Scents from Snetty

Raffle

Filo Doggy Treats

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Making Tax Digital deferred for another year – a window of opportunity? **Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountant, Hunstanton**

Back in September the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Lucy Frazer, announced that Making Tax Digital (MTD) will now be deferred until 2024/25. This is the latest in a long (and probably welcome) line of delays in implementing the new system. The change

was first proposed by George Osborne in late 2015, with a start date for small businesses and landlords of April 2018. VAT was brought within the scheme in 2019 but the proposed changes for Income Tax were held up by a combination of complexity, general elections and Brexit, such that the implementation date remained at “not before April 2020” until July last year when the date was moved to April 2023. This was confirmed as recently as 20th July 2021 – sixty-five days before the latest deferral. Partnerships (except “complex” partnerships who will join the scheme later) will join the scheme in April 2025, and companies, presumably, in 2026, although this has not been confirmed. The new penalty regime which is being introduced alongside MTD will also now be deferred until 2024/25 for MTD filers, or 2025/26 for other self-assessed taxpayers.

MTD for VAT commenced on time for most VAT registered businesses on 1st April 2019 but “complex” entities had a deferred start date of 1st October 2019. Smaller businesses, which have hitherto been outside MTD for VAT, will still be required to join the scheme in April 2022.

Those who are fearful of impending changes to the tax system for the self employed may have been thrown a lifeline, but it really does seem likely that this will be the final delay. From 5th April 2024 all businesses and landlords with gross income of over £10,000 pa will need to start filing quarterly returns and maintaining digital records. There is, therefore, now a window of opportunity to prepare by making and testing the necessary accounting system changes within the next two and a half years.

Another complication announced in July, will also be deferred for a year. As part of the move to MTD, proposals were issued that in future all businesses would be taxed on a fiscal year basis (12 months to 31st March or 5th April) rather than the current arrangement where the profits of an accounting year ending within the fiscal year are taxed as income for that year (the current year basis or CYB). This would necessitate a transitional year which would include the last CYB year plus profits up to 5th April 2023, less any transitional relief for profits taxed twice in the opening year. This transitional year will now be 2023/24 rather than 2022/23.

The transitional provisions will be complex for those businesses with non-fiscally aligned year ends - up to almost twenty-four months of profit may fall to be taxed in a single year, the magnitude of overlap relief may need to be researched (it could go back to 1996/97), and possible claims to spread some of the excess profits into future years will need to be investigated and computed. Going forward, businesses will need to decide whether to switch to a fiscal year end in future or remain with the existing year end which might mean that tax returns may need to be submitted on a provisional basis, since the filing date might come before the annual accounts have been completed – or indeed started.

There will be plenty to think about over the next two years, and possible opportunities to structure the business so as to minimise the impact of the changes, whilst also setting up an appropriate structure for full and relatively painless compliance in future. As always, a trip to the accountant (like the dentist) now, might save a deal of pain in future.

Please contact either myself or my assistant Nicola Tarry FCA on 01485 534800 or email kate@kathryngigg.co.uk if we can assist in any way.

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

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Ladybirds Brian Anderson

Ladybirds (ladybugs in America) are perhaps the only beetles that are regarded with affection by people at large. They have long been of interest to children. They have had many regional names (now mostly disused) in English, such as variations on Bishop-Barnaby (Norfolk and Suffolk dialect)

- Barnabee, Burnabee, the Bishop-that-burneth and bishy bishy barnabee, all possibly linked to St Barnabas' feast in June when the beetles appear, or a corruption of "Bishop-that-burneth", from the fiery wing cases of the beetles.

The ladybird is immortalised in the popular children's nursery rhyme *Ladybird, ladybird*:

*Ladybird, ladybird, fly away home
Your house is on fire and your children are gone
All except one, and that's little Anne
For she has crept under the warming pan.*

I have to say I am familiar with the first two lines only, which I learnt as a child.

Many cultures associate ladybirds with good fortune and Christian folklore associates them with the Virgin Mary. The seven black dots of the seven spot ladybird are said to symbolise her seven sorrows and seven joys.

Ladybirds are beetles (order Coleoptera) in the family Coccinellidae. There are 6000 species described worldwide. The family name is derived from the Latin for scarlet *coccineus*. Forty-two species are resident in the British Isles (perhaps slightly more with the addition of invasive species). With a few exceptions they all have a hemispherical body shape with brightly coloured elytra (wing cases) adorned with dots or blobs of a contrasting colour. The colours and patterns are a very unreliable guide to identification as they vary very widely. The bright colours (usually yellow or red) are a warning to predators that the insects are very unpalatable - if attacked they secrete an alkaloid toxin.

The life cycle of ladybirds is the standard four-stage metamorphosis - egg, larva, pupa, adult. Both the larva and adult of nearly all the British species are predatory and carnivorous, commonly feeding on aphids. A few are feeders on mildew, especially mildews on umbelliferous plants like fennel, wild carrot and parsleys. The voracious appetite of ladybirds gives them an active role in pest control and gardeners are lucky if they have large numbers of ladybirds in the garden. It is hard to understand anyone using insecticides in gardens where ladybirds are present - it is wilfully self-defeating! Some ladybird species in other climes are herbivorous but this is definitely not the case with our forty-two native species (forty-six if you include more recent arrivals). Female ladybirds often lay infertile eggs along with the fertile. These act as a first meal for the emerging larvae and it has been observed that later broods, and those laid when food is scarce, have a higher proportion of infertile eggs. Talking of ladybird food scarcity, we remember 1976 as an "outbreak" year where huge numbers of seven spot ladybirds emerged. During that summer we were on the beach at Heacham and the sand was dotted scarlet with ladybirds. It was spectacular but also very uncomfortable - they were so hungry that they were biting!

One of the recent arrivals has been the harlequin ladybird, *Harmonia axyridis*, an Asiatic species that has spread to North America and Europe and was first identified in Britain in 2004. We noticed it in our Dersingham garden in 2013. Because it has many colour forms (at least twelve) it can be hard to distinguish from our native species (especially the seven spot, as it's about the same size). However, I did manage to confirm some as harlequins and we were concerned that we had a problem - harlequins are aggressive and predate on other ladybirds. Some experts thought they were a major threat to our

native species. We watched and waited to see what would happen. In 2014 the harlequins were dominant. In 2015 they declined somewhat and the seven spots began to return. Within another couple of years, harlequins were quite uncommon and the garden returned to its original mix of seven and two spot with occasional twelve and twenty-four spot ladybirds. I have no idea why this happened.

Taxonomists have tended to name ladybirds according to the number of spots on the wing cases of the commonest variants (not all cases - indeed, some ladybirds have no spots at all.) This led to some very ungainly names. The twenty-four spot is officially *Subcoccinella vigintiquattuorpunktata*. However, common sense finally prevailed and an abbreviation of *Subcoccinella 24-punctata* is in widespread use! □



7 Spot ladybird



24 Spot ladybird



Harlequin ladybird

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Have you ever considered volunteering for the RSPB?



It's easy to do at RSPB Snettisham and Titchwell Marsh.

We couldn't do all we do for nature without our wonderful volunteers.

The reserves at RSPB Snettisham and Titchwell Marsh are wildlife havens for North West Norfolk. They offer some of the greatest nature spectacles in the UK as well as providing a home to Norfolk's wonderful wildlife, such as marsh harriers, bitterns, avocets and water voles.



Marsh Harrier by Les Bunyan

Making these reserves the best that they can be for wildlife, and for the tens of thousands of people that come to visit, requires a large and dedicated team of staff and volunteers across a wide range of roles.

What do volunteers do?

Here's Terence and Sally to tell you a little bit more about volunteering for the RSPB.

Terence says, *"I assist in many aspects of the life of the reserves. Mainly in the Titchwell cafe, making scones, soups, salads. Assisting in serving the customers, with a cheerful attitude! Washing dishes. Greeting visitors! Also, various roles outside, welcome hub, painting, helping out where necessary."*
For Sally, *"At RSPB Titchwell I work in the kitchen preparing salads, baking scones and in the winter making soup and fruit crumbles. I take prepared food through to the restaurant and clear tables. The kitchen team are always supportive and helpful and time flies."*

A big thank you for your time and skills

Everyone has a unique set of skills, and volunteering is the perfect way to make the most of the skills that you have, or to develop new ones.

For Terence, he uses *"Cooking skills, I never knew I had."* And he loves, *"being friendly with visitors, being a reliable member of the team and always getting the job done!"*

For Sally, *"As well as basic cooking skills I use time management and interpersonal skills when dealing with our visitors. If we are doing food for a special occasion, the team is always open to ideas for menu dishes."*

It doesn't just benefit wildlife

During lockdown, many people felt a new or renewed connection to nature, but volunteering can offer so much more than the chance to spend time on a beautiful nature reserve.

For Terence, *"It gives me a lot of happiness being able to work in such a beautiful place. It gives me a satisfaction that I am helping nature, my fellow humans and gets me out of the town!"*

Sally says *"Volunteering gives me a great deal of satisfaction. It is rewarding to feel you are of help and*



Terence painting a bird hide

a valued member of a team. Being with other generations, chatting with a wider circle of enthusiastic people helps to keep one young!"

Come and join us!

Are you a people person? Great with children? An outdoors person? An indoors person? A birder? A foodie? Take a look at our current vacancies and let us know if you fancy giving it a go. We desperately need:

Café Assistant – Help us in our busy kitchen by preparing and serving food. Some experience in a similar environment would be beneficial, although an enthusiastic person willing to learn will be enough!

Activities Assistant – Support in running nature-based activities and events on the reserve during both term-time and / or school holidays. Events experience (particularly in working with children) would be beneficial, but training can be provided for an outgoing and energetic individual.

Welcome Assistant – Warmly meet and greet visitors and provide an orientation to the reserve, its wildlife and supporting them to have a great visit. Experience in meet and greet and money handling beneficial, but training can be provided for a friendly and outgoing individual.

Weekend Retail Assistant – Retail experience would be beneficial, but training can be provided for an energetic and friendly individual. Must be comfortable with learning an electronic till system, money handling, greeting and serving customers and assisting customers with any product questions (specific training provided).


Ranging Rover – Our Rovers help visitors to spot and identify some of our 250+ species of birds that we see at the reserve. A friendly approach and great knowledge of the UK's birds (particularly waders and waterfowl) is required.

Unless stated, no specific knowledge of birds is required, although an interest in nature would be beneficial for all these roles.

For more details, **search online for RSPB Volunteering Opportunities** and enter your postcode or drop us an email, letting us know what role you're interested in:
titchwell@rspb.org.uk □



**Sally baking scones at RSPB
Titchwell Marsh**



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Phobbies -- hobbies club for those with and without physical difficulties

Since September we have been delighted to be open again after eighteen months of lockdown. We welcomed back many old members and have two new people joining us.

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

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

We have a variety of handmade items for sale: cards, rugs, hats, scarves, gloves, children's jumpers, etc.

Come and visit us between **10.30am and 2.00pm any Thursday** at the Social Club or contact **Maggie on 07967 799816**. Even if you wouldn't want to come regularly you are very welcome to just come and visit. We would be very pleased to show you what we do.□



Ingoldisthorpe Village WI Lesley Geer, President

It's a strange mixture for all of us at the moment - excitement in seeing everyone again, getting back into routine with planning meetings, and yet a thread of anxiety and hope that all will be well and no one will succumb to COVID; a bit of a juggling act really.

Well, that said, let's look to the positive. Our monthly meetings are well underway, plus several community events - Harvest Lunch, Book Sale, and at the end of November a 'drop in' coffee morning. Our members' activities are also gathering pace with organised walks (always with refreshments!) and outings, which include a nature reserve, a garden centre and potentially a train journey taking in the Christmas lights.

By the time you hear from us again it will be 2022, a new year, a new WI Committee and hopefully a year ahead of fun, companionship, entertainment and doing what we do best, making a difference.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas, treasure your time with family and friends and enjoy the odd present or two, or three....

Dersingham Walking Group

Tony Bubb



We have continued to enjoy a variety of walks over the past few weeks and expect to be similarly delighted by the upcoming offerings and hope to see both old friends and new faces turning up. Whatever the weather, the leader will always be at the start of the walk, even if it has been cancelled due to inclement weather or some other problem, but if in doubt do ring the leader for the latest information.

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.

December 29th 1.30pm A chance to shrug off Christmas indulgence with a walk down to the beach and back with a glimpse of the sea, if the tide obliges by being in. Meet at the old Dersingham station, TF 680 308. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

January 12th 1.30pm Brian is the master of walks in the Sandringham woods, so join us for today's exploration of his latest route. Start at the village sign, TF685 297. Leader Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.

January 26th 1.30pm After climbing out of Brancaster on the Norfolk Coast Path we get great views of Titchwell before descending down to the coast and returning to Brancaster village.

Start point Brancaster Church, TF 771 438. About 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 their 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 □

Snettisham Gardening Club

We are planning a complete programme for 2022 starting with our AGM on Wednesday 26th January at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham, when we will have the 2022 programme and membership cards available.

We usually meet on the last Wednesday of each month.

We look forward to seeing both existing members and anyone who thinks they might like to join us. Further information can be obtained from Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.□



Salvation Army, Snettisham

October saw Snettisham Salvation Army celebrate 125 years of being in the village. Our hall was open for three days with displays of memorabilia and photographs and refreshments were available. It was good to see so many of you coming through our doors after so many months of being closed down.

The highlight of the weekend was the visit of our International Leaders, General Brian Peddle and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, who led our Sunday worship and joined us for a celebratory lunch in Dersingham Village Centre. Past officers, soldiers and friends of the corps travelled from all over the country to celebrate this special anniversary and it was so good to see so many people join with us in worship.

Christmas is approaching and we hope to be out and about doing some carolling this year. We will have a stall at the Flea Market in the Memorial Hall in Snettisham on 4th December and our Carol Service will be on Sunday 19th December at 3pm. We will also be open for worship on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

We will be running our Toys and Tins Appeal again this year in partnership with BBC Radio Norfolk. You can donate toys and non-perishable food to us either by bringing them to our hall on Alma Road when we are open or taking them to our Community Shop on Westgate in Hunstanton. If you know of anyone who would benefit from a toy parcel or a food parcel this Christmas then please get in touch.

Christmas can be a very busy time of year for everybody and especially in The Salvation Army, but all that we do is done because we love and serve God. Our mission and purpose are summed up very simply in just four words, 'Love God, Love Others.'□

A seasonal conundrum

Tony Bubb

There is no apparent rhyme for orange or for pint - as in beer, milk etc. - unless you know differently.

Any ideas?



EVENTS DECEMBER 2021

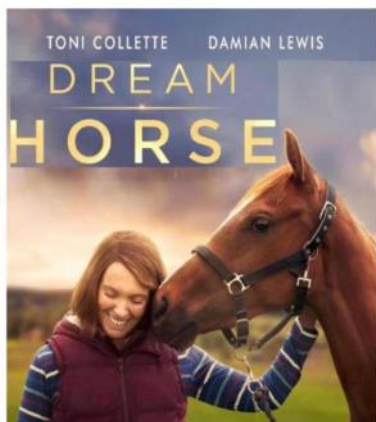


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Dersingham Bog Tom Parkes, Natural England

Winter has finally started to set in here at The Bog, with the past few weeks seeing cold and wet weather more common, making all the outdoor jobs and tasks seem a lot less appealing than a few months ago! Our staff and eager volunteers will have switched over to these winter tasks by now, making the most of the end of the breeding season and the freedom it brings for our conservation efforts. Now we can get onto and work on the heaths: one of the key priorities for us is the removal of tree saplings growing up through the heather, a task we simply call “scrub” (a word that brings joy to the ears of our regular volunteers once winter rolls around each year.) These saplings, mostly birch and pine, sprout up almost everywhere across the site and if left unchecked would succeed into woodland, damaging some of the most important examples of mire and heath in the county. As such, a significant amount of our time is spent removing these, ensuring that the habitat remains in the best condition possible and making sure some of our most impressive species like the nightjar return to suitable nesting sites next year. Some of these cut saplings will be reused, for example 200 stems were taken last month for use as kids’ broomsticks by a local children’s group.



Regarding nightjars and our other breeding birds, 2021 brought with it some excellent records for us. Seeming unaffected by the government’s travel restrictions, this breeding season saw twenty-eight churring male nightjars on our reserve from the African continent, the highest number we have ever recorded here. Unfortunately, breeding success wasn’t nearly as high, most likely due to weather conditions and food availability. Stonechats, on the other hand, managed to soldier on despite the poor conditions and had a successful breeding season, evident by their almost constant presence with us as



Fly agaric

we worked around the reserve. Fingers crossed that the birds that have been successful this time round will make it through the winter to return next year.

Despite the worsening weather there can still be plenty to see on The Bog at this time of year. Fungi are in abundance during the autumn and it’s in these months that most will be visible, with their fruiting bodies emerging from the ground to spread their spores. Many will be visible from the footpaths through the woodlands and on the edges of the bog, especially on decaying wood and logs. While many fungi are more modestly coloured, some, like the fly agaric pictured, can be quite vibrant, but care

should be taken as this fungus is poisonous to humans. Moving away from fungi, visitors can expect to see both fallow and roe deer as they browse amongst the woodland and heaths. Dersingham Bog is also frequented by migrating birds with siskins, redpolls and crossbills regularly present at the site in the autumn.

As a final note, our black Galloway cows, after a brief internment in the fenced pasture at the north of the site while we conducted our summer bracken control, are now free to roam the whole of the reserve again. While they are hard at work keeping the long vegetation down, it's important that any visitors keep their dogs on a lead while on the site. It should also be noted that while they may seem friendly (especially if you have cow pellets!), they shouldn't be approached as they can be unpredictable and could easily injure a person. □



Healthwatch Norfolk survey

The survey can be found here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/QEHCommunication/>

Who are Healthwatch Norfolk?

Healthwatch Norfolk is the independent voice for patients and service users in the county. We gather your views of health and social care services to ensure they are heard by the people in charge.

What is this survey about?

We are working with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kings Lynn to find out how you would like to be communicated with about your health, the QE Hospital and how you could be involved in making changes.

If you are a paid or unpaid carer of someone who uses the hospital or lives nearby, you can complete this survey on their behalf.

If you would prefer to do this survey with us over the phone, please call Healthwatch Norfolk on 01953 856029 and we will arrange a time to ring you back to complete the survey.

How the survey results will be used

Survey responses are being collected and analysed by Healthwatch Norfolk. You can read our full privacy policy at www.healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk/about-us/privacy-statement. All responses will be anonymous and will be used to make recommendations to health and social care providers. The report will also be publicly available on our websites and may be used in other Healthwatch Norfolk communications. □

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King's Lynn Festival Chorus

David Collingham

Concert

Join in with the King's Lynn Festival Chorus as they *Deck the Hall* with joyful music of the season. Leading with musical festoons and garlands will be Music Director, Ben Horden. Together with seasonal readings, the Chorus will be aided and abetted by soloists, a brass group from the Royal Academy of Music, and percussion and organ making spectacular 'merrie noise'. We all deserve it after the difficult eighteen months or so we've had with the pandemic.

There will be something for everyone – carols familiar and maybe not-so-familiar - from *Lully Lulla* to *Jingle Bells* and *Sleigh Ride*. And popular carols for the audience to raise the roof of St Nicholas' Chapel, spreading good cheer of the season. Children are integral to the wonder of Christmas, hence the earlier start of this concert.

Day/date/time/place: Saturday 18th December, 5.30 pm, St. Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn. Tickets: £15 (free for under 16s), available from the Corn Exchange, King's Lynn. Tel: 01553 764864 or www.kingslynncornexchange.co.uk.

Recruitment

Kings Lynn Festival Chorus begins a new term of rehearsals on 10th January at Springwood High School in King's Lynn. Rehearsals are from 7.15 pm to 9.15 pm. Music to be looked at this term certainly has a French flavour to it.

It's the ideal time for anyone who would like to try us out for a few weeks, either to start a new pastime or continue with a former or currently established one. It does wonders for one's mental health, no doubt about that – it's great fun not only learning together but socialising and being supported by like-minded colleagues. And for a couple of hours each week during term time, the woes and troubles of life can be forgotten, and the spirit refreshed.

In a choir such as this, with the music we sing, it helps, but is certainly not a pre-requisite, that you are able to follow a line of music and keep a part going. But no matter, there are many learning aids available and helpful colleagues around.

There will be a very informal and friendly voice assessment after your trial period – mainly to ascertain the best range of your voice. These are held periodically for all members, principally to gauge the effect of passing years on the voice!

If you'd like to try us out, please register your interest via email with the secretary@kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk or through the 'Contacts' page of our website www.kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk, where there are also further details of the concert. □



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Sunday 12th December at 4pm: Traditional Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday 21st December at 6pm: Carol singing around the
village – meet at Social Club and back there for refreshments

Christmas Day 25th December at 9.30am: Family service
followed by refreshments – here's *your* opportunity to go to Church
and then enjoy your day back at home or visiting friends and family

Dersingham Evening W.I. Katrina Mundy



Our evening meet on Wednesday 20th October was Three's Company who performed *Lockdown Litany*. In this we were taken through the whole year of lockdown and the way we spent it - plus the significant releases such as being able to mix, shop, weddings etc. - through poetry from authors such as Pam Ayres, Joyce Grenfell, and John Betjeman, to name a few. At times we could really relate to these - we had all tried bread baking and spring cleaning. A lovely piece was read about returning to school, but from a headmaster's point of view. This was a funny and entertaining evening and many thanks to the ladies of Three's Company.

We also held our first competition in which members were asked to bring something saucy which was originally in keeping with the original talk that was to be "Tarts, Toffs and Traitors". These ranged from bottles of chilli sauces to garters and underwear. Wendy was the winner, but I will save her blushes and not say what she entered, but it surprised some of us.

We held our Autumn Fair on 23rd October and many thanks to all those members who helped with this, either on the day, baking cakes for selling or coming along and spending money. Thanks also go to Petals Tearoom, Em's Emporium and Thaxters for their kind raffle donations which raised £129 for Tapping House. We had a total of fourteen stalls plus refreshments. The idea for the Autumn Fair was really as a way to get the W.I. known within the village and perhaps interest some new members.

Our Book club has now held three meetings and the book chosen was Richard Osman's *The Thursday Murder Club*.

Our Craft groups are now in full swing again and have made cards from kits. I know all involved were pleased to get back. Our MAD group continues to meet and are as usual busy knitting for charity.

Our November meet was our Annual Meet and by the time you read this we will have elected a new committee and President for the next fifteen months. Many thanks go to those committee members who stepped down this year for all their hard work during their time on committee and especially all the work done through the lockdown to hold the members together.

Our members also carried out the decoration for our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival in St Nicholas Church (please do come along and see them, if just to find out what we did; I am sure they will be varied and colourful.) Our competition for the night was "Your favourite Christmas decoration" (that meant a trip up into the loft), and a Bring and Buy sale table.

We also laid a wreath on behalf of members on 11th November at the War Memorial. Thank you to Pam Manship for volunteering to do this.

Our dining group had lunch at the Bank House in King's Lynn which was enjoyed by all who attended. Many thanks to Carole for organising this and we hope to have our next one in January.

On 30th November we are holding an early Christmas coffee morning at Maggie's with sherry, sausage rolls and mince pies (never too early for a mince pie or to start celebrating with a sherry.)

Our December meet will be our Christmas party (more about that in the next issue, hopefully with pictures). Fun will be had with mulled wine and Christmas cake, and of

course a quiz and raffle and who knows, perhaps some festive singing.

We have to say a big well done to Peg who took part in the abseil at St Nicholas Church in September.

We then look forward to January 2022 when our speaker will be Chris Boxall whose talk will be on Houghton Hall and Sir Robert Walpole. All women are welcome to come and join us, you are sure of a warm welcome.

Dersingham Evening W.I would like to wish everyone a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND ALL THE VERY BEST FOR 2022.

I apologise for no photos this time but often we are so busy or enjoying ourselves so much we forget to take them. A New Year's resolution will be TAKE PHOTOS AT MEETINGS.

If you would like to know more about the W.I. please phone Lyn – 01485 541257.□

Cricket Team **Tony Bubb**

I found this photo on the wall in the Wolferton Club. It was taken by Ralph of Dersingham, probably in the early 1920s, but please correct me if I am wrong, and it shows a cricket team. Which team it does not say, so can anyone enlighten us? A lot of the names are good local ones which are still around, and you may well be descended from one or more of the team. Do let us know.

Back row, L to R: A Lines (Umpire), J Steele, B Gent, R Southgate, W Godfrey, T Humphrey, A Emerson (Hon. Secretary)

Front row, L to R: F Hudson, B Southwell, W Jackson (Captain), Rev W Wardle (Chairman), A Bates, P Godfrey, E Riches



Break the Silence
Mark Capron
Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and
Sherborne



Here are some hard hitting and uncomfortable facts: One in three women and one in five men will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime. 750,000 child incidents of domestic abuse are reported in the UK every year.



Domestic abuse goes beyond violent behaviour and physical abuse. Sexual, financial, and psychological abuse are about coercive control. It is dangerous. It does not discriminate. Domestic violence is the leading cause of foetal death in the UK. Emotional abuse can have longer lasting effects than physical abuse and this can have a devastating effect upon someone's life. Both men and women are abused. Two women every week die at the hands of an abusive relationship. Witnessing domestic abuse as a child can have the same emotional effects as experiencing it firsthand and it can cause long term emotional and cognitive problems.

Difficult reading? Yes. but.....this is happening. It is happening in England. It is happening in East Anglia. It is happening near us.

A real-life insight comes from a local couple's daughter who lives elsewhere, and to protect her identity we will call her Anna. Anna has lived with and is still living the nightmare of an abusive and emotionally destructive time, even after physically escaping. Anna was kept away from the safety of her parents and through control and threats lived in a life of intimidation. Sadly, that intimidation has changed to a new avenue through 'legal games' by her former husband through the judicial system. This kind of appalling behaviour brings continued emotional heartache and prevents any attempt by Anna to make a clear break and try to move forward. Anna's parents' lives have also been emotionally impacted and continue to be so. Anna was fortunate in the offer of a loving couple in her area who took her in and provided a safe independent place to live.

A Norfolk women's refuge spokesperson from Leeway says that, "Since the pandemic there has been a significant increase to our Advice & Support line at Leeway; women looking for emergency accommodation has increased across the whole of Norfolk and to quote the Domestic Abuse Bill findings, '57% of women are turned away in the whole of the UK as there are not enough refuge spaces.'

For any lady, coming to a refuge must be a very difficult decision to leave everything behind - home, friends and family, belongings, etc. This is a decision they take in order to keep themselves safe from their perpetrator. We have lots of examples of women coming into refuge with very little, not even a towel or toiletries. They arrive in the clothes they stand in because it is such a risky time when leaving a perpetrator. Developments happen very quickly, and we try to move rapidly to get each lady to safety as soon as possible, some arriving with babies and older children."

The staff member at the refuge continues by saying, "We are very fortunate we have been able to confidentially contact Baby Basics to support our ladies with items they need for their child or baby. Baby Basics has ensured no baby or little one will go without the essentials they need. It is very humbling to see the relief on their faces when we can get them the support they need. Baby Basics were recently able to provide a lady with all the essentials for her baby's needs - baby bath, Moses basket, bedding, clothes, nappies, and toiletries when she had nothing. We also have the Food Bank we can rely on until someone's universal credit kicks in, as there is normally a six-week wait for benefits. This service is so needed in the community."

Baby Basics, based at St Nicholas Church in Dersingham, is very aware of the increased impact that domestic abuse is having in northwest Norfolk and afar. Referrals from professionals and support agencies into Baby Basics show over a 30% increase in domestic abuse. Baby Basics upholds dignity and anonymity for women either expecting or having had a newborn baby who are in desperate need. The gift of love comes in a Moses basket, offering a safe place for baby to sleep along with all the basic essential items needed for baby and mummy.

The Pandora Project is based locally. It offers advice, support and information to women and children affected by any form of domestic abuse. It offers free legal advice around domestic abuse and children's law, especially those experiencing harassment from ex-partners, having problems with children's contact or needing legal advice. This is a confidential and non-judgemental support service and is open to anyone.

Domestic abuse is not real love, "Love is patient, love is kind... it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrong, it always protects, it always trusts" (from 1 Corinthians 13 in the Bible). This kind of love is the basis on which we should all seek and deserve to receive.

Points of Help:

Freephone 24-Hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline: [0808 2000 247](tel:08082000247)

Pandora project - www.pandoraproject.org.uk, Email: info@pandoraproject.org.uk

Where to go - 41 Old Hospital Walk, Kings Lynn PE30 5RU

Leeway Women's refuge 24-hour helpline: 0300 561 0077.

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SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS 6.30PM

24TH CRIB SERVICE 4PM
MIDNIGHT COMMUNION 11.30PM


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Dersingham Methodist Church

Elizabeth Batstone

At the end of September we held our first coffee morning for our Church family. It was lovely to see the stalls, people enjoying coffee, cakes and sausage rolls, and of course lots of chatting and smiles.

We were pleased with the large amount of harvest gifts we were able to take to the Hunstanton Food Bank and the £141 raised at the coffee morning was sent to the King's Lynn Food Bank.

Our usual activities continue, and we also keep in touch with those who cannot attend services and we know this is much appreciated.

The Advent wreath and candles will be in Church for the first Sunday in Advent – Sunday 28th November, and each week we light the candles as markers on our Advent journey.

May we all travel hopefully, faithfully, expectantly and joyfully, to arrive at Christmas with wonder to welcome God's Son.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas services.

Sunday 12th December 4.00pm. Carols by Candlelight, with the Revd Dr Richman Ncube, followed by tea and mince pies. *(Please note the time)*

Christmas Eve 11.30pm. Christmas communion, with the Revd Dr Richman Ncube.

Christmas Day 10.30am. Christmas Day Service.

No service on Sunday 26th December.

May you find hope, joy and peace as you celebrate this Christmas.
From everyone at Dersingham Methodist Church □



Dersingham Questions

Asked by Tony Bubb

Well, it's almost Dersingham this time. Sandringham House has a fine wall surrounding the gardens, which must have taken some time and effort to build. Where it runs along the B1440, nearly opposite to Admiral's Drive there are these two arches at the base. Now I could understand their purpose if there was a watercourse there at some time, but the lie of the land does not indicate this. So, the question is, what are they there for? Any ideas? □



Dersingham Institute Bowls Club

Jan Rawstron



I cannot believe that by the time this issue is distributed, another bowls season will have come to an end. This season seems to have flown by. We are thankful that we have been able to offer more bowls this year than last, and fingers crossed, and common sense prevailing, will be back to normal next year.

Regarding the Memorial Day for Dickie Murrell, we had a lovely afternoon, despite the weather not co-operating. It must have been the wettest day this summer, but the weather didn't stop the fifty attendees from enjoying themselves. Thanks to all who contributed towards the buffet which was a veritable feast. Thanks also to the team who set up the gazebos and tables and chairs, also the ladies who manned the tea and coffee, and helped with the washing-up. Not glamorous jobs, but vital ones.

Many memories were exchanged, and it was great to see some of our past members again. Dickie's son, Richard, said a few words about his Dad, and thanked the club for putting on such a splendid event. He was then presented with a memorial plaque on behalf of the club, which will be displayed in the clubhouse. He was also delighted that we had renamed one of our competitions in Dickie's name. He will never be forgotten.

We have had a very enjoyable time playing our league matches again this year, with mixed results. It has just been so good to see old rivals again, and the competition has been good. Hopefully, next season we will be playing more competitively.



Richard Murrell with memorial plaque

On the August Bank Holiday Monday, we held the Eddie Roye Pairs competition. This enjoyable event was won by Muriel Saunders and Albert Chamberlain, with Nicky O'Dea and Les Allen as runners-up in a closely fought final. Well done to both pairs, and to all who took part.

Regarding our internal knockout competitions, we had to cancel the finals day on 12th September, as some of the finalists would be away. The finals were arranged individually, and the trophies were presented by our club President, Bob Meredith, on our green closing day on 18th September. The Alan Walker Cup (open singles) was won by Alan Coulson, with Jean Thompson runner-up. The Tansley Cup (Men's singles) was won by Terry Thompson, runner-up Albert Chamberlain. The Ladies' Cup (Ladies' singles) was won by Joy Kelly, runner-up Jean Thompson. And the Brian Morters Cup (mixed Pairs) was won by Sue and Steve Booth, runners-up Mary Hearn and Albert Chamberlain.



Trophies presented on closing day.

The winner of the best overall scores on the Saturday Roll-Ups for men was Dave Graves, and for the ladies, Carol White. Well done!

Also on the day we presented a cheque to a representative of our chosen charity: this year, NARS (Norfolk Accident Rescue Service), followed by a finger buffet.

The Dickie Murrell Memorial League has been completed, with the Sparrows team taking the honours, and the Swans team runners up. Well done to both teams. I feel that everyone who took part enjoyed the competition, irrespective of where they ended up in the league, and we look forward to next year's competition.

During the closed season we hold get-togethers, fondly known as Winter Warmers, in the clubhouse at 2pm on Wednesday afternoons. Here, some of the members gather to play bingo and darts, and basically have a good natter. It's a great way of keeping in touch throughout the winter months and we started this year on 6th October.

Work continues on the green over winter, thanks to our team of volunteers, and after having the green professionally deep scarified, they see that the grass is cut when needed, and the various treatments are applied where necessary. We have also had to replace our large shed, as it was leaking badly. The replacement is a self-assembly metal one, which is like a giant mecano set. Still, we have all winter to do this!

Finally, to our AGM. The Committee felt it was too soon to cram everyone into the clubhouse and so we booked the main hall of the Village Centre for 16th November. Hopefully these arrangements will have suited all our members, and we have had a good turn-out. I will report on this next time.

So, until then, stay safe everyone, and we at Dersingham Institute Bowls Club wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.□



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Memories of Farming in Dersingham

Dick Melton

A week or two back my son took me to the Carole Brown Surgery at Dersingham for an MOT. Whilst sitting in the car I began to recollect what this area looked like when I was a boy seventy years ago. There was a big crew yard for the cattle, and all round the sides were a barn and cart sheds.

The Stanton family lived in the farmhouse, or The Manor as it was called, and there was another farm that went with it up the top of Dodds Hill called The Premises, where there were four cottages, a large barn and some cart sheds. It was the largest farm in Dersingham with land going up as far as Ling House, and also some land down on the marsh. The Stanton family still farms Manor Farm, but not the land down on the marsh as it is farmed by the Sandringham Estate which owns most of the land around Dersingham and lets it out to tenant farmers.

There are still one or two smaller farms around Dersingham, like Hill Farm up the top of Fern Hill, and High Farm on the edge of the village towards Ingoldisthorpe. At one time the late Ken Martins used to farm over 120 acres of land around the village, most of which he rented off the Estate. He had land in Manor Road, up Sandringham Hill, two fields in Dersingham Woods, one field up Dodds Hill, and land next to the carr pit and chalk pit up the Shernborne Road. He also farmed 17 acres of marshland near the railway line. He never called himself a farmer, he said he was a little higgler, which is a Norfolk name for a smallholder. There were many members of the Baulding family who farmed in the village: two of them – Bob and Fred – farmed all the land from the Drift as far as Station Road. This land is now all built on. The Baulding family also had land over the railway line, down the marsh. The Lincoln brothers had a dairy farm halfway down Station Road, and also had land down the marshes.

There were a lot of people who over the years had bits of land dotted about the village.

Mr Tuck and his wife ran a plant nursery in Manor Road opposite the Albert Victor public house. He also grew flax on a field in Manor Road. Also, Mr Elton Rose had a poultry farm, and a Mr Plowright had a poultry farm down Senters Road. At one time a Mr Jacobs had a large flock of chickens on land behind the Old Hall. I can also remember the Bauldings having turkeys on a field down the Drift, and they stood an old horse-drawn elevator in the field for them to roost in.

Well, that's all for now. Do you all keep on a troshin'. □

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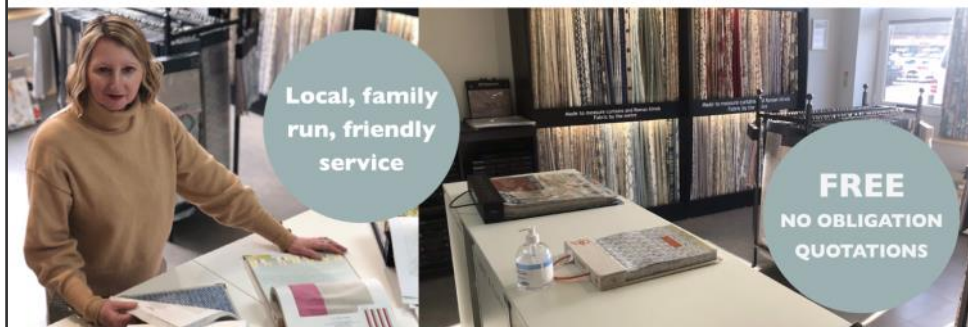
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Dersingham Gardening Tips

Jane Jestice

Once again, I am writing from Florida.

Every time I come here I see or learn something new. This trip I have seen loofahs growing for the first time - as a vine growing up a tree with the loofahs hanging from it! I learnt that the sharp point on the end of a yucca leaf can send you to the doctor with an infection if you get stabbed by one. I DO mean stabbed as the point is about an inch long and in my case stabbed me in the knee. The plant itself is beautiful, as seen in the picture. We are now debating whether to do complete attack gear and remove it or be more careful in future!



Back in Dersingham, I put my garden to bed for the winter before I left. I mowed the lawn for the last time till spring and put my orchids



and pitcher plant into the greenhouse. I also put in some spectacular outdoor begonias I bought this year. I spoke to someone who came round our garden during Open Gardens for his advice and he said it was worth trying to overwinter them as I had nothing to lose. My abutilons are now right up against our house wall in the courtyard where they have survived every winter so far and have bloomed better than ever this year. My angel trumpet, which was a birthday gift from my grandsons, will go into the greenhouse when I get back.

So, from now on I turn my attention to my house plants which seem to be increasing in number. I am on trend as house plants are very fashionable now! Christmas is a bit of a worry as I have to move them to make way for my decorations (of which I have many!) and they don't like being taken from their favourite spots. Speaking of Christmas, amaryllis bulbs are a great gift for young ones as they grow so spectacularly large so quickly!

Lastly, I need help! If anyone could tell me why our walnut tree has not had a single walnut on it this year, I would be very grateful. Every other year I have had to put bags outside on the pavement as we have had so many.□

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Law and Order in 18th and 19th Century Dersingham Elizabeth Fiddick

Our village in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries was much smaller than the one we know today. Fortunately for us Doctor Samuel Kerrich, Vicar 1729-68, left us a handwritten description of the village he knew. He tells us it consisted of, *"heath, warren, and a pretty large cornfield lying on a long and easy descent to the village."* The houses are, *"pretty near each other except for one farm called Lyng House lying about two miles from the rest toward Great Bircham."* There were sixty-six houses, but an old man had told him that there had been thirty more which had been taken down or allowed to fall. The Rev. Lewis (1910 –23) speculated that they had been demolished as a result of smallpox, a frequently occurring scourge in those days. Doctor Kerrich describes a *"pretty large common"* below the village towards the coast.

Faden's map of 1797 improves the picture even more. On it we can see the three windmills and how the few dwellings are grouped along the present-day Manor Road and Chapel Road. Those on Manor Road were all on the one side and looked out across the large Rice's Common, the present-day Open and Shut Up Commons, with no Heath Road yet built. On the left of the Main Road opposite Rice's Common was Badger Fen Common, with the larger Marsh Common beyond stretching down to the waters of The Wash.



The population at this time was in the low hundreds. A count in 1815 carried out by William Stanton of Church Farm recorded 211 males and 246 females. The principal landowners were the Hostes of Sandringham, George, Earl of Orford of Houghton, and John Bellamy of Ingoldisthorpe Manor.

The smooth running of the village was considered then the sole responsibility of a council of prominent villagers. Names which occur frequently in the old records in this capacity are Richard Stanton Sen., Richard Stanton Jun., William Stanton and Robert Goltý. The Stantons were farmers who held the tenancies at different times of Hill House Farm, Church/Manor Farm and Lyng House Farm. Robert Goltý was a substantial landowner.

Road maintenance was a huge headache nationally at the time but, again, considered a local government problem. Roads were often bumpy, rutted, and full of potholes; in summer dusty and difficult; in winter often sticky, impassable swamps. The rules were that every man in the parish who owned land worth £50 a year was obliged to supply a cart, horses, tools and men and to give labour for six days a year or provide a substitute. The village Council then appointed Road Surveyors to organise this work force and direct it to where it was needed. The position was unpaid and lasted a year. The Surveyor usually had no more knowledge or experience of road building than anyone else and only money raised locally could be spent. Each year meetings were held in the vestry to decide what was needed to be done and to set the rate for the highways. One such account still to be found in the Church Records lists the rate to be collected as 4d. in the pound.

This was not a popular appointment as the Surveyor had to ride round the parish several

times to ascertain what was needed and then persuade local, often reluctant, landowners to direct time and money to make good the worst sections. If they refused, the Surveyor could bring the force of the law to bear on them, but they were his neighbours, after all, so roads did not really improve that much under this system. The Church Records reveal that Richard Stanton, Robert Golty and Thomas Johnson were appointed Surveyors in 1767. In the accounts kept for that year there are entries such as,

Half a day's work for two teams of labourers: 6.0s
Paid to Robert Hooks for 10 days' work: 13s 9d

So clearly the surveyors had had some success in keeping the roads in good repair. However, when the Turnpike road was finally built from Babingley to The Dun Cow in Dersingham a preliminary report described the old road as, *"out of repair, incommodious and dangerous for travellers."*



Law enforcement in the eighteenth century was also left entirely to local initiative, but from about 1730 improvement acts provided for a paid watchman or constable to be appointed. We know from the records that Francis Sheldrake and William Smith were appointed Parish Constables here in the early eighteenth century and that they held the position for a year, but it was underpaid and only part time. The constables were expected to try to prevent crime and each parish usually had a small location where they could confine criminals before escorting them to the Magistrate's Courts. I do not know where this was in our village or the position of any stocks or pillory, if any, which the constables were expected to maintain. The constable could punish poachers, drunks, hedge damagers and church avoiders. There are many reports in the local press in the nineteenth century of villagers being fined for drunkenness, poaching, stealing hay, trespass and breaking the church windows. The last offence seemed an ongoing problem according to several accounts found in the records. On one occasion four likely lads, Richard Harvey, Spanton Daws, William Spruce and Henry Chapman, were charged with wilfully damaging a window in the church and ordered to pay 6s each damages and costs.



The constable was also expected to supervise vagrants, beggars, and others in distress passing through the village. He could set the unworthy in the stocks for three days and even whip them to leave the parish if necessary. The maintenance and repair of bridges and field gates were all part of his remit, and he was also expected to catch rats, restrain loose animals and oversee the security of cattle and sheep. Stray animals were to be confined in the Pinfold (Pound) which the constable maintained and provided a lock for. There was a Pinfold here on the corner of Church Lane and Sherborne Road, as shown on this nineteenth-century

map.

The constables acted as tax collectors and were expected to organise and list those liable for tax, which they then had to collect and report back to the Tax Commissioners.

The parish constable was also responsible for organising any Militia Muster that was called. A notice of such an event would be pinned to the door of the church. One such

notice, announcing a Muster of the West Norfolk Militia, is preserved in the Church Record. It instructs all those enrolled since 2nd November 1826 to assemble in Great Yarmouth to be trained and exercised. Any Militia Man who failed to appear would be deemed a deserter liable to a fine of £20 or be committed to a House of Correction or Gaol for six months or until the penalty was paid. It is signed at the bottom by the Constable Benjamin Petchey. Benjamin was a carpenter here and it was his widow Lydia who opened The Coach and Horses shortly after his demise.

It is not surprising that a villager would find the position of constable a highly unpopular one to occupy. However, the chosen constables had the right to employ someone to act on their behalf, which was frequently done. I do not know if any of our constables took this course of action.

WEST NORFOLK MILITIA.

NOTICE is hereby given, that all those Men who have been enrolled since the 20th day of November, 1826, to serve in the **FIRST or WESTERN REGIMENT of NORFOLK MILITIA**, commanded by the **EARL of ORFORD**, are to Assemble in the **MARKET PLACE, at YARMOUTH, on WEDNESDAY, the TWELFTH Day of OCTOBER** next, at *Twelve* o'clock at Noon, for the purpose of being *Trained and* Exercised for *Twenty-eight* Days.

By Order of the Lieutenancy,

Dated the *Twenty-fifth* day of September, 1831. *Constable Benjamin Petchey*

A series of Police Acts gradually ended this most unprofessional constabulary, but the change to a national uniformed Police Service was very piecemeal. Norfolk was among the first counties to establish one and the Norfolk Constabulary was founded in 1839. JPs were able to establish a police force in their parish and to appoint the constables. From the census of 1841 we know that Thomas King and Joseph Leverington were perhaps the first uniformed police officers appointed for our village. Thomas, recorded as Police Constable, was 35 and his wife

Mary was 40. Joseph, recorded as Police Officer, was only 22 and his wife was Eliza, aged 23. A Chief Constable was to be appointed and it was found necessary to levy a "police rate" to pay for this new force. In the Church Records there is a document headed "To the Constables of Dersingham" which demands that they give notice to the Overseers of the Parish that they were to pay the Chief Constable the quarter pay levy. It was to happen at the Sign of the Hall in Hillington at 10 o'clock. The document is a poor photocopy so neither the date nor the levy are easy to decipher, but the levy appears to be for £8.1s.0d and the date 1867. Another unpopular tax to be collected!

Early uniforms



A full history of the police force here is material for a future article, but next time I will examine other important members of our community responsible for its smooth running in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries: The Overseers of the Poor and the Commons Reeves. □



From Your Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb



Chilly days ahead and the cost of heating going up, so time to dig out those sweaters and check out the home insulation.

Borough Matters: The Town Deal Board continues to meet to progress the Towns Fund, a potential £25 million investment from Government, to decide how the funds might best be spent. There has been talk about lack of democratic representation on this body, but this is how the Government decreed the Fund should be managed, i.e. by a group of local representatives from business and community. There is, and there will be, input from Borough Councillors and Officers into this vital project, or rather a series of projects, which will be transformative for King's Lynn.

Did you know that, besides Admiral Lord Nelson, born, of course, in Burnham Thorpe, a number of famous sailors were born in and around our Borough:

- Born in King's Lynn, Captain George Vancouver, on his ship *The Discovery*, beat a convoy of American ships to the northwest coast of America to claim the land for the British Government and name it British Columbia, and its capital as Vancouver.
- Then we have the Valiant Sailor, an erstwhile pub in King's Lynn, named after Jack Crawford. Press ganged into the Royal Navy, he secured the Admiral's flag to the mast after it had been shot down during a sea battle against the Dutch at Camperdown - an engagement in which the British were victorious.
- What about Samuel Gurney Cresswell, born in King's Lynn, who was the first naval officer to cross the entire Northwest Passage?
- Cpt George Manby, born in Denver, invented the Breeches Buoy, a rope-based rescue device used to save people from wrecked vessels, still very much in use today, though rockets are now fired to secure the lines rather than mortars. A documentary of his life and invention is available at the East Anglian film archive.

Mention is made of these naval heroes as the Borough is hopeful of establishing a museum of their life and times to add to the tourist offering of King's Lynn, complementing our wealth of historic buildings.

Sports Field: A word again about sharing our beautiful sports field. It would be welcomed by those who have paid through a subscription to play sport on this field, if dog owners would respect the fact that without the sports clubs no lease would be paid to Sandringham, and hence there might not be a sports field on which to exercise their dogs. While everyone says they pick up after their dog, there still seems to be a lot of dog mess to pick up prior to football games. □



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The faithful from around the world suggest Papal prayer intentions in each country to their national office. Some of these are then selected and sent to the international office of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network in Vatican City. After prayer and discernment, the Pope selects a number of them and sends them to be translated and published as the official set of monthly prayer intentions. The Pope's prayer intention for December 2021 is, "Let us pray for catechists summoned to announce the word of God, may they be its witnesses with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit."

The Sisters at St Theresa's Convent are now offering daily Mass at 12 noon. Please confirm with them if you intend to be present. Contact 01485 532837.

At the time of writing our Christmas Mass times are not yet available, but they will be published on our website and in both churches as soon as possible.

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, although not mandatory, and hand sanitiser is still provided. We now have communal singing of hymns at our Sunday Masses.

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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The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle

Oh gracious! Is Christmas nearly here? I had no idea. My life seems to have narrowed down so since lockdown, and I no longer want to drive anywhere, see anyone (just a few), and don't notice that the days, weeks, months have flown by without a by your leave or a thank you.

Our Editor asked me to write about my shepherd's hut. And I did. And a lovely piece it was too. I'm not always thrilled with my pieces, rushing them and not getting them quite right, nor taking the time to get poetic, which I am sometimes quite good at. I was reading through the final take, just checking I hadn't missed any mistakes; I had been saving as I wrote, then suddenly the whole lot disappeared! I expect it is in the bowels of my computer, with loads of other stuff, but for the life of me, I have no idea how to go about finding it. I'd got flowery phrases, humour, you name it, I had managed it. (I can say that now you won't be reading it!) But I just can't summon up the energy to do it again. But of course, I must. I know all my fans will be waiting to open up the Village Voice with happy anticipation - at my page first, of course - and I don't want to disappoint all three of you.

Anyway, I shall try again. I expect you must be fed up with me so often mentioning my cancer, chemo and all the fuss and bother of it all. However, I am still in remission, which is a relief, and well into the throes of a decision I made when I first wobbled my way out of the chemo ward for the last time, ringing the bell with a big grin and an electric blue wig hiding my bald head.

I wanted somehow to pay back the Macmillan's team at King's Lynn. I had already given them some lovely lavender and wheat bags. After donating one I had noticed how tatty theirs were – they sometimes need one to heat up blood in the hands when they can't get a cannula in. The nurse I gave it to immediately heated it up and walked around in ecstasy as it immediately helped her splitting head and neck ache. So, I made and took in enough for all the staff. But I wanted to do more. I had that small inheritance, didn't I, and I thought I could write out a nice cheque, but then I realised there wasn't much fun in that. I'd been thinking about getting a shepherd's hut and turning it into a gypsy style garden hut, but then realised it would be a marvellous place for reading palms in order to make money for Macmillan's Cancer Support.



Photo by Lucy Dack

So, I found a bloke that made them over at Holt (isn't Googling marvellous – you can find out where ANYTHING is!) It took him some time to make it, and money up-front; it was a nervy time for me. But eventually there was a knock on the door. There was the man, pointing to an area beyond my opposite neighbour's high hedge. I could just see the bowed top of the hut, and the chimney stack against the evening sky. Ooooh, what a delicious moment.

It took ages of skilled backing to and fro to get the trailer in the right position, and then

stomach-churning moments as they slowly released the straps on the wheels of the hut so it slid gently down the sharp incline of the trailer. It could easily have slipped off and shattered. But there it was, all in one piece and looking wonderful, sat upon the hard standing that was ready for it. Oh, what an exciting moment for me.

Next was the fantastic task of decorating it. Remote Control Man was ordered to paint the ceiling. At 6ft 7ins he is gifted in the ceiling department as he doesn't need a ladder. He moaned and groaned, naturally, for his chosen place is in his comfy chair in front of the telly, but he did a good job, and I did the rest. All in nature inspired colours in chalk paint. I had already been collecting arty-farty bits and bobs to look mysterious and Romany, and I had an absolute ball being all designery and artistic.

I couldn't do much about reading palms, however, because the builders kept going off on other jobs, as builders do, and the months rolled by. However, just before Halloween the sturdy brick steps and handrail were all in place leading to the hut, the paths all safe and walkable, and I was ready. I posted on the village Facebook page that I was all ready to read hands on the day of Halloween and got such a good response that I booked up for the Saturday as well as the Sunday! And for the next two weeks. I'm halfway through the first week now (today's lady didn't bother to turn up, and I had the little stove merrily burning away to make it nice and cosy when she came.) But if everyone else turns up for their appointments, I will have made a nice little total of £750.00 for the marvellous Macmillan's Cancer Support. Without them, you would not be reading my piece today, nor would I have got Remote Control Man tearing out his hair at all the projects and schemes I am currently planning. I seem to believe that if I am busy (and enjoying myself to boot) that I won't get ill again. I actually believe it helps.

I've now got my Maine Coon kittens, and because I don't want them wandering far and wide like my Barnaby Conker Brown – who has been night-photographed with hedgehogs at the local Hog Diner – I shall be having part of my garden covered over to keep these new ones safe, yet able to enjoy the sunshine and hunt around in the flowerbeds. I worry so much about Barnaby – who, thankfully, seems to have cracked the Green Cross Code (is that still in existence?) – and only heave a sigh of relief when he plops in his window in the early hours of the morning for a quick sleep before he is off again. I have had expensive cat flaps installed in my glass doors. But, of course, he deigns to use the easier facility.

So, time to log off. This piece has been hurriedly written as the deadline is nigh, and I didn't manage one flowery phrase. Sorry. I'll try next time! Have a Happy Christmas – which brings to mind that a token for a hand reading would make a nice gift for someone! I think by now you know where I am. Have fun – Mrs. Dolittle, covered in cat hairs.□

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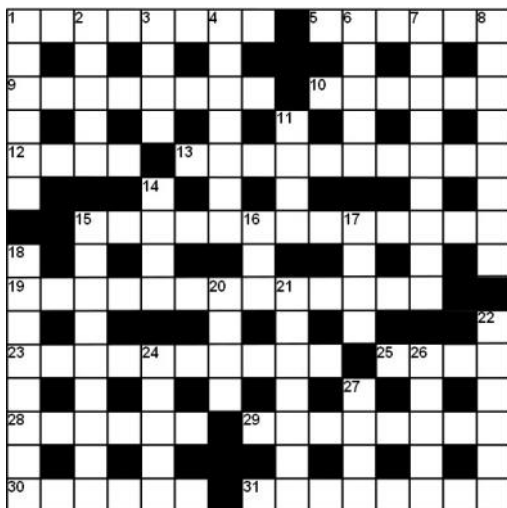
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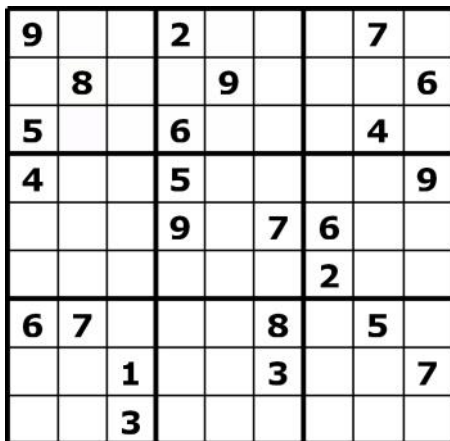
- 1 — food (8)
 5 Is operation initially outside diameter of crustacean? (6)
 9 Bid to run and stomp clumsily and declare hand (2-6)
 10 Fifty orcas at sea making Christmas music (6)
 12 Resonance from male voice choir (4)
 13 Eccentric Bing lived in large submersible (6,4)
 15 Carol somehow defeats reconditioned diesel while beckoning Marianne in English (6,7)
 19 Possibly in a way it's a redesigned German birthplace (4,2,1,6)
 23 Improbable accounts – like the one told by Shane on Xmas Eve in New York (10)
 25 Caught bird sitting on chimney (4)
 28 Injured Tyrian requiring attention (2-4)
 29 Sombrero hatband (8)
 30 Kindle former quote (6)
 31 Another look for the groundwork (8)



Sudoku

Down

- 1 Listen out for seasonal decoration (6)
 2 And others captured inside King's harbour boat (5)
 3 A funny plant – for sailors? (4)
 4 Decide to have a quiet drink using old name (7)
 6 Warbled around Latin jargon (5)
 7 Support French girl with river paddle (9)
 8 Sid returned to shut broadcast (8)
 11 Quarrel resulted from loud shout on motorway (4)
 14 Halfway house? (4)
 15 Visit a cat badly in need of reversion (9)
 16 Found in barrel made from ulmus (3)
 17 Venetian magistrate entertains domestic earl (4)
 18 Funny fine face stimulant (8)
 20 Sadly a girl lost shilling (4)
 21 Mean underage detective solves as usual (8)
 22 Dribbling Jack missed gunners winter transport (6)
 24 As yet to cultivate fungi (5)
 26 Ring mark Wilde (5)
 27 At home with us on dinner table (4)



Answers on page 69



“Shall we start a choir?”

A chance remark one day in August has led to three residents becoming founding members of what we hope will be a very successful community choir in Dersingham.

Living in a village that has “sing” at the heart of its name led to further contemplation. What would we call ourselves? After much deliberation, we settled for “Dersingham Choral Society”.

We aim to bring the joy of singing to the vibrant community of Dersingham and outlying villages in early 2022. What a brilliant New Year’s resolution it would make - join a choir and have fun!

We hope that members of the choir will leave rehearsals exhilarated and feeling better than when they arrived. We also hope everyone will feel a sense of achievement - no matter how small - and a real will to improve and extend their vocal talents by singing a mixture of classical and popular pieces, not just for themselves but for the whole group.

You don’t need to have sung in a choir before, or be able to read music, as members will be guided through rehearsals by an experienced Musical Director and there are **no auditions**. You just need to be interested in trying it out and the first two rehearsals you attend will be free so you can see if you like it.

Our choir will not be just about singing.

We are very proud that we will have a community choir that will be non-profit making and because of the strong community ethos within the village and the wider area, we will come to support each other and contribute to others through concerts, open days, workshops etc.

Why not come along to our drop in session and have a chat?
Details are opposite.

Dersingham Choral Society

Would you be interested in joining a new choir based in Dersingham? We are planning to set up an all-inclusive choir in early 2022.

To find out more and to register your interest, call in to the drop-in session detailed below:

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Sandringham News

The festive season is well on its way on the Estate with the return of the Christmas Craft, Food and Gift Fair on December 19th, 20th and 21st; and from November 12th to December 19th this winter Sandringham Estate will welcome back Luminate Sandringham Winter Light Trail through the Royal Parkland.



Luminate Sandringham is a spectacular series of light installations, spread over approximately one mile, with interactive displays set to music as well as illuminating historic trees. There will be lots of festive food & drinks and a vintage fair, as well as unique Christmas shopping in the Sandringham Shop. This year we are delighted that our Christmas products will feature the delightful Linnet bird, which can be found in the area. Book tickets for the Light Trail via the website www.sandringhamestate.co.uk



There will also be two creative workshops taking place in the old glasshouse in the walled garden this year, followed by afternoon tea: wreath making on Thursday December 9th or Saturday December 11th and a Christmas table decoration workshop on Monday December 13th.

The Sandringham Restaurant has now fully reopened, offering a range of hearty lunches, light bites or cakes and treats using ingredients and produce from the Estate where possible. Tables do not need to be pre-booked but can be reserved ahead of a visit via the website. □

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Word Wall by Philip Neal

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

BRENT	AVOCET	TAWNY	HOBBY
BARN	BARNACLE	KESTREL	LAPWING
SANDPIPER	HARRIER	PINK-FOOT	LONG-EARED
KITE	LITTLE	PLOVER	GREYLAG



Making Gardening Easier May Davey

Christmas is beckoning. We are taking bookings for our Christmas lunch at Knight's Hill Barn. The two-course meal will be subsidized, so only costs £20.00 for members and £22.00 for guests. Wear your brightest seasonal outfits and come and enjoy a good meal with excellent company on Friday 17th December at 12.30 pm. Gloria Pantling is organising it all, so do ring her to book at 01553 671912.

Our coach trip on Friday 17th September to Fullers Mill in West Stowe, Bury St Edmunds, was very well supported. The autumn flowers were glorious. Some photographs here may tempt you to visit sometime yourselves.



Oliver Locke from Fakenham Garden Centre was suddenly unable to come to talk to us on 15th October, so at very short notice May Davey, our Chairman, gave a talk about her July visit to Iceland. What a strange land that is! It is a volcanic island in the middle of the ocean, with **mostly** extinct volcanoes, dramatic waterfalls and very active geysers. There are only 300,000+ Icelanders in a land the size of England and with Covid restrictions there were very few tourists there. The Daveys hired a car and drove on almost empty roads to remote destinations. The Strokkur Geyser was their highlight, erupting regularly with its boiling plume of water towering into the sky.

After tea in the Hub, there was a quiz and the raffle.



May Davey in Iceland

New members are always welcome. We meet at 2.00pm on the third Friday of the month at the Dersingham Village Centre, unless an outing has been arranged. Entrance costs £3.00 for tea and a raffle ticket. Come and see how you like us. □



Crossword Answers

Across

1 Takeaway. 5 Isopod. 9 No-trumps. 10 Carols. 12 Echo. 13 Diving bell.
15 Adeste Fideles. 19 Away in a manger.
23 Fairytales. 25 Cowl. 28 In-tray. 29 Mariachi.
30 Excite. 31 Research.

Down

1 Tinsel. 2 Ketch. 3 Arum. 4 Appoint.
6 Slang. 7 Propeller. 8 Disclose. 11 Miff.
14 Semi. 15 Atavisitic. 16 Elm. 17 Doge.
18 Caffeine. 20 Alas. 21 Average.
22 Sleigh. 24 Yeast. 26 Oscar. 27 Wine.

Word Wall Answers

Geese: Brent, Barnacle, Pink-foot, Greylag

Birds of Prey: Kite, Harrier, Kestrel, Hobby

Waders: Avocet, Plover, Lapwing, Sandpiper

Owls: Barn, Little, Tawny, Long-eared

Sudoku Answers

9	6	4	2	8	5	3	7	1
1	8	7	3	9	4	5	2	6
5	3	2	6	7	1	9	4	8
4	1	6	5	3	2	7	8	9
3	2	8	9	4	7	6	1	5
7	9	5	8	1	6	2	3	4
6	7	9	1	2	8	4	5	3
2	5	1	4	6	3	8	9	7
8	4	3	7	5	9	1	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 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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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

THE HISTORY OF THE MINCE PIE

Tuesday
December 14th



**Kathy Hipperson will take
us through the evolution
of this festive treat and
give us a taste of pies
through the ages**



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



VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday January 11th

LOVE SEALS?



**with
Jenny Hobson
from the
Friends of
Horsey Seals**

Seal facts

Threats

Seal rescue

Sanctuary



Dersingham Village Centre, Manor Road,
Dersingham. 7.30 pm Admission £6.00
includes refreshments & raffle

