

Number 140

February/March 2023

# Village Voice

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



*Best wishes to our readers for the  
coming year*



**WILD  
BIRD CARE**  
Don't forget to keep  
Feeding the birds!

**It's Time To Plant Primroses &  
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**Editor's Notes**  
**Jo Halpin Jones**



Our thanks go to Jane Jestice for the wonderful photograph on the front cover, taken during the freezing weather in December. In contrast, I am writing this in early January with record high temperatures. By the time you get this, perhaps we shall be back to freezing again.....

My whole family has been bombarded by various bugs, from full blown Covid to other nasty viruses. We are all gradually emerging from coughing and spluttering, brain fog, and a horrible inertia, making it an effort to do anything. To all those equally afflicted - take it easy and get better soon.

Our village groups have written in regaling us with their Christmas parties and now their plans for the coming year. The Coronation of our new King is on many minds, and we are starting to hear of plans for village activities taking shape for the Coronation weekend.

Elsewhere, this edition introduces us to the Hunstanton Croquet Club, which is looking to broaden its membership in our area. Brian Anderson shares his butterfly report for 2023. Dick Melton reminds us that it's the 70th anniversary of the terrible storm of 1953 and discusses the latest proposal for a Wash barrage. Local environment and wildlife organisations are looking for volunteers for various projects. And Mrs Dolittle introduces us to her extraordinary thieving cat.□

## **Charity Afternoon**

**Saturday 13th May 2023**  
**on Dersingham Recreation Ground**

**12 noon until 5:00pm**

If you enjoyed yourself on 4th June this year during the Jubilee Celebrations, you may like to come and enjoy yourselves once more.

Kurtis Green and I are holding another charity event on 13th May. For those who would like to have another stand on that date in aid of NARS (Norfolk Accident Rescue Service) please contact Kurtis at Tropics, or myself (Valerie Brundle) on 01485 541895.

If you have a classic car or know anyone who has, we would love to hear from you.



## **King Charles Coronation Celebration Event 2023 Hosted by Dersingham Parish Council**

### **Coronation Displays and “Kings” Hunt**

The Parish Council wishes to host a village-wide event that will celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2023.

It is proposed that residents of the village create a construction / display / stage set / prop that reflects the nature and spirit of the Coronation or the life and times of King Charles III and show it at their homes. It could include lights, audio, animation, scarecrow constructions, dummies, cut-outs, pictures or be purely floral. Bright and beautiful is the order of the day. There are no limits on any aspect of the creation. But the display can also be of other “Kings” as part of a competition – more on this below.

The overall target is to create a bright, colourful, amusing, and challenging collection of creations throughout the village that will attract attention and encourage residents and visitors alike across the age range to explore the village while having some fun.

The creation can be placed anywhere the entrant wants, eg. front garden, driveway, garage roof, lounge window. The target is to enable the creations to be viewed without anyone having to enter the creator's property or have the need to contact them. The creators can be individuals, streets, businesses, organisations, clubs etc.

Each creation will be asked to include a ‘King’ for the viewing public to find, identify and record. The ‘King’ is defined as any item, person, character, place etc. that uses the word ‘King’ in its name and its depiction may be in any form. Examples could be King Henry VIII, King's Cross, Elvis, King Kong, King Charles Spaniel. Clues may be used in place of pictures, for example an arrow for King Harold. Names that contain ‘King’ like Kingsley will not be allowed.

A map with a list of creation locations and “Kings Hunt” record sheets will be produced for people to follow the trail and record the kings. There will be prizes / recognition - to be decided - for returned Kings Hunt sheets. Maps and record sheets will be issued free of charge.

The Coronation event is a three-day weekend and it will be over those three days that the Kings Hunt will formally take place.

This is an outline of the event to generate interest and discussion. The next Village Voice will contain final details. It will help with deciding if this event should go ahead if anyone who thinks or knows they will make a creation would contact Graham Eley on 07901 896102 or [grahamreley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:grahamreley@tiscali.co.uk). □



## Parish Council Chairman's Report

### Coral Shepherd



A Happy New Year to you all, although I appreciate that this coming year will be a financial challenge to many. I am pleased to say that the Parish Council is in a sound financial position and over the last few years we have not had to cut the services we provide for the village. Whilst we make many decisions at our monthly full council meetings, most of our work is carried out by five committees – Environment, Communications, Finance and Administration, Planning, and Staffing. Each committee is made up of four to six councillors, supported by our staff.

Our Environment Committee is one of our busiest: it is responsible for street lighting, seats and benches, dog and litter bins, grass cutting (together with the Borough Council), and maintenance of The Warren and Recreation Ground, including the War Memorial. Its most recent projects were the provision of the skatepark and Christmas lights and next month a new basketball hoop will be installed at the Recreation Ground. The committee is currently seeking quotes for the cutting of the grass at the Recreation Ground. We are fortunate that last year we entered into a new contract for the provision of energy for our streetlights and we have a fixed price until 2025, so have not been seriously affected by electricity price increases.

The Communications Committee is responsible for the production of this magazine, together with the maintenance of the noticeboards around the village. It also deals with the Parish Council website and Facebook page. The general running and finances of the Council are carried out by our Finance and Administration Committee which is also responsible for the buildings that the Parish Council owns - the Village Centre, run very ably for us by the Dersingham Village Centre Association, and the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hall that is occupied by the Social Club.

The Planning Committee looks at and comments on planning applications for development and changes of use within the village. Finally, we have our Staffing Committee that deals with all matters concerning our employees.

I have outlined the extent of the work of the Parish Council as on 4<sup>th</sup> May there are the local elections. These are not only to elect your representatives to the Borough Council but also to elect representatives to the Parish Council. Our membership should be eighteen, although we currently have thirteen Councillors. If you are interested in our work and would like to become a Parish Councillor, this year is your opportunity to stand for election. The only qualification is that you live in the Parish and do not have a criminal record. Nominations will be from mid-March so there is plenty of time to think and if you would like any further information or would like a chat do not hesitate to contact us.

Finally, I am pleased to say that we are working with other groups in the village to ensure that we have a variety of events to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The Coronation is on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May with an additional bank holiday on Monday 8<sup>th</sup>. Events planned so far are:

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>** – an evening of food and music at the Village Centre hosted by the Dersingham Village Centre Association.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>** - a Sport for All day, followed by a barbecue and band at the Sports Ground, also a service at St Nicholas Church.

Over the whole weekend the Parish Council will be organising a **Find the Kings trail**, see more in the article opposite. If anyone else is planning an event, please let us know so that it can included in the calendar. □



## News from Dersingham Village Centre Sue Payne

On behalf of the Trustees, I wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

It may be a difficult year for some, but we look forward to seeing you at our regular coffee shops, lunches, film nights, or the new Sunday Socials.

### Activities & Events

We ended 2022 with what has become an annual event – the Christmas singalong with carols and popular songs. It was a lovely evening with mulled wine and mince pies and followed a Christmas Friendship Lunch and the very successful Downton film and meal. The catering team then enjoyed a well-deserved break before activities resumed on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.



### King Charles III Coronation

We are holding a Dinner and Dance with live music on the evening of May 6<sup>th</sup> in celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III. For more information, please read the ad in this magazine and call Judy on 01485 540271 if you have any questions.

### Sunday Socials

This new initiative starts on January 29<sup>th</sup> and runs from 2.00pm to 4.00pm and will be held on the last Sunday each month. Games and cards are available, or you can just come and have a chat and a cuppa. Over time, more activities will be on offer. If transport is an issue, please call Judy on 01485 540271.

### Coffee Shop

On Thursday and Friday mornings we love catching up with our regular customers and extend a warm welcome to visitors. You can enjoy very reasonably priced home-cooked quiche, cake, and hot and cold drinks in a warm, sociable space.

### Friendship Lunches

On the first Tuesday each month, we serve a freshly cooked two-course meal, with tea or coffee, for £7. Booking is required, so please call 01485 540644 by noon on the Friday beforehand and also advise us of any dietary needs.

### Village Cinema

The Cinema returns on January 31<sup>st</sup> with *Fisherman's Friends: One and All*.

### Village Centre Lottery

December winners were numbers 17, 30, 25; January's 52, 44, 39, winning £24, £16, £8 respectively. If you are interested in joining, please check our website for information.

Keep updated by checking notices at the Centre and around Dersingham and visit our website - [www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk](http://www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk) where you can sign up with 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.□





# **CORONATION DINNER & DANCE**

**DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE**

**SATURDAY MAY 6TH**

**6:45pm**

**Dinner served at 7:15**

**Live Music with 2+ONE**

**Dress: Smart**

**Tickets:   £15   Adults**  
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**DERSINGHAM**  
**VILLAGE CENTRE**

## Dersingham Wildlife Tips!

Jane Jestice

Happy New Year!

I have decided, for a change, to write about wildlife this time.

In the week before Christmas we had family to stay. We opened up the spare room and turned on the radiators for their visit. Unfortunately, the rise in temperature caused a hibernating butterfly to wake up. Fortunately, my son-in-law works for the World Wildlife Fund and is a fund of knowledge on the living world. We offered the butterfly some sugar water in a bottle top. It was a magical experience to see it uncurl its tongue and drink greedily. Then, as it was a lovely sunny day, we let it go to find a new place to wait out the time until spring.

On a similar subject, I read an article in a gardening magazine. It said that if, while digging, you disturb a hibernating bee or wasp, give it the same treatment we gave the butterfly. Do not rebury it. It will find a new snug place on its own.

It's amazing what interesting things you hear on the radio while driving. A while ago I listened to someone from the RSPCA Wildlife Centre in East Winch being interviewed. I don't know if you remember the plea they sent out for old towels many years ago, because so many sick seals were being washed up on our beaches. I was teaching in a primary school in Surrey

at the time. I led an assembly and mentioned the appeal at the end. It's amazing how many old towels school children can find to bring in! (I did tell them to make sure they checked with an adult first!) We had so many towels that I had to borrow a van to bring them up here. The bonus was that we had a tour of the Centre and got to see



the seals in various stages of recovery and then saw one released back into the wild on Hunstanton Beach. It was very emotional for us - not for the seal who sped off without a backward glance!

Now they have a different need...salt! They use saltwater to help heal the injuries on the seals. The saltwater acts to help kill off the bacteria, etc in the wound and allow it to heal. The cost of the salt is huge. It is possible to buy salt directly for the Centre through Amazon and it will be delivered to them. So, if anyone has enjoyed watching the seals bobbing around or hauled up on the sand, maybe you could buy a bag to help the Centre out.

Check your bird nesting boxes and maybe give them a clean out, and also make sure your feeders are cleaned regularly.

Happy wildlife watching! □



# Will & Powers of Attorney Clinic

**10am – 4pm**  
**23rd Feb 2023**

Drop in to our Dersingham Office in February  
for complementary drinks, buffet & advice and  
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discussing powers of attorney.

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## Amazing Grace Rev Mark Capron

It is great to be back in village life after returning from a sabbatical. The sabbatical gave me an opportunity to rest, do lots of walking and also accomplish something that I have been wanting to do for over nineteen years! I have completed writing a hymn which I started, yes, nineteen years ago. It has been a great challenge which I have really enjoyed, having the time to do something creative. It has included writing the words with meaning, and at the same time rhyming, writing the tune and the appropriate harmony. Walking the Norfolk coastal path gave me much to see and hear to inspire me in this journey. This little personal project taught me that there is so much in hymns and songs as well as aspects of life that we very easily don't see and inadvertently skip over. When I read the much-loved hymn *Amazing Grace*, I see so much depth of meaning.

This January was the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Amazing Grace* being shared as a sermon by Rev John Newton. He made his sermons into hymns to aid with the teaching. Newton's past was of bringing slaves from Africa to England over multiple trips. In 1754, after becoming violently ill on a sea voyage, Newton abandoned his life as a slave trader and turned away from it altogether, wholeheartedly devoting his life to God's service and repenting for what he had done wrong.

In later years, Newton fought alongside William Wilberforce, leader of the parliamentary campaign to abolish the African slave trade. He was ordained as an Anglican priest in 1764 and became popular as a preacher and hymn writer, writing 280 hymns, among them the great *Amazing Grace*.

The hymn speaks very visually and now we can see how lyrics like: "*I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind but now I see*", and "*Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come. 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home,*" carry a much deeper meaning than a sinner's simple thankfulness. These lovely words so wonderfully describe our own relationship with Christ and our reliance on God's grace in our lives:

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.*

### Notices:

It was great to see so many at the different Christmas services and the Tree Festival. Thank you for all those who made it possible. Why not pop into the café at 'The Well' in Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for a fine hot beverage and a cheeky piece of cake from 8:30am to noon.

There are a number of special services and speakers coming up over the weeks ahead. For all services across the churches please do check the website:  
[www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk](http://www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk)

Blessings.

Rev Mark Capron  
Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne  
and leader of the Café Church at The Well, Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall.  
[www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk](http://www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk) **YouTube Channel:** 'Dersingham Online Worship'

## Plovers in Peril

Wynona Legg, RSPB Project Manager



### A new season is here for the birds that breed on our beaches!

As the weather warms in Norfolk and days become longer, many of us start to think about planning those much-needed escapes to the sandy shores of the Norfolk coast! Only thing is, we aren't the only ones making important plans for the season ahead.



**Photo: Phill Gwilliam**

The beaches at Snettisham and Heacham are home to some very special birds which make their nests in the sand and shingle through the spring and summer months. Ringed plover and oystercatcher are just two of the birds which do this, and we are lucky enough to have them breeding on our doorstep. Sadly, these vulnerable birds are in decline, and they need your help!

Through February, the birds will be pairing up and battling it out for the best place to nest and raise a family. It's not an easy task to build a nest on the sand as they must dodge a steady stream of visitors and their four-legged friends exploring the shore. We must do our best to give them space to raise their families on our local beaches at this crucial time, so, **in March we will be installing seasonal protection on some parts of the beach and asking you to help us by doing a few simple things to give them the best chance of success.**



**Photo: Phill Gwilliam**

- 1. Keep away from fences on the beach**

Fenced areas are erected on some parts of the beach to ensure the birds have the space they need to build their nests. The fences give the birds a safe area to breed and keep their precious eggs safe until the chicks hatch out. Please keep your distance from fenced areas and be mindful about where you set up your picnic. Walking too close to these fences can scare birds off the nest, leaving eggs exposed to hungry predators and the effects of the weather, so choose a route that avoids fenced areas and always watch birds from a distance.



**Photo: Steve Rowland**

- 2. Look out for signs**

Signs are installed at known nesting sites during nesting season. They provide information on the birds and how you can help them during your visit. Please read these signs on arrival and during your visit and keep birds safe by following any requests.



### 3. Dogs on leads please

Dogs are welcome on Snettisham and Heacham South Beach throughout the year (we love to meet them!), but they must be on a lead **from March to the end of August** to prevent harm to nesting birds, their eggs and chicks. There will be some places where you can let your pooch run free but please read signs to find out where or ask a volunteer. Nesting birds are easily scared away by dogs off their leads, leaving their eggs or chicks vulnerable to predators and the effects of weather and harmful temperatures. Keeping dogs on leads during the season can make a big difference to their survival.



**Photo: Carol Marsh**

### 4. Friendly faces

There will be RSPB staff and a team of lovely volunteers on the beaches through the season, chatting to visitors and providing information. They may say hello to you, do chat with them to find out more! We will be running some small events this year to celebrate the special beach nesting birds we are lucky to have on our doorstep. Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter to get updates on any upcoming events and if you see us on the beach, come and see what we are up to and join in the fun!

### How long is the season?

The beach nesting bird season on these beaches runs **from March until the end of August**.

By following guidance during this time, you can help the birds to keep their eggs safe and warm and keep adults and their chicks out of harm's way until they are big enough to fly.

### How can I help the beach nesting birds raise their families on my local beach?

- **Read signage** on arrival and during your visit to find out about restrictions and key information.
- **Keep dogs on leads** when requested (March – End of August).
- **Keep your distance from fenced areas** (to avoid scaring birds off their nest).
- **Ask staff and volunteers** – they are here to help and will always have lots of lovely stories to share about the birds' journeys through the season.
- **Get involved** – we will be organising some small events across the season – come and join us!
- **Volunteer with us** – we are looking for volunteers! Get in touch to find out more.
- **Spread the word about beach nesting birds!** They need our support more than ever!
- **Join the conversation** by following @RSPBTitchwell on Facebook or Twitter or by reading our community blog at [www.rspb.org.uk/Snettisham](http://www.rspb.org.uk/Snettisham)
- **Get in touch!** Email [titchwell@rspb.org.uk](mailto:titchwell@rspb.org.uk) We would love to hear from you – your voice matters to us.

RSPB's Plovers in Peril Project is in partnership with Wild Ken Hill and is funded by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk through the Habitats Monitoring and Mitigation Fund. Our work has been generously supported by Natural England. □

## Sandringham News

Luminate Winter Light Trail during November and December was widely attended, and we would like to thank those of you who visited with family and friends for supporting the event again.

We are delighted to announce that following the success of last year we will be opening the Gardens over February half term week (11<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> February) and on select weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) in March. During February half term there will be guided snowdrop walks with a gardener, and snowdrop craft activities taking place for children. Other early spring planting and flowers will also be on display.

Over nine days from Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June, Sandringham will see an inspiring week showcasing "Sandringham in Bloom" with daily celebrations of flora & fauna. As part of these celebrations we are delighted that the Queen Elizabeth II floral Coronation Robe from Salisbury Cathedral will feature inside Sandringham House. Made by a team of twenty-four floral arrangers, the Robe is a combination of pampas grass, ruscus leaves, ferns and helichrysum flowers.

Tickets for the nine-day event will go on sale in the spring and other features across the week include:

- Garden sculptures
- Guided garden tours
- Show gardens by local charities and communities
- Further floral arrangements in the house
- Plant sales in the courtyard
- Live music at the weekend

We look forward to welcoming you back for another season at Sandringham.

Tickets must be prebooked for all visits and events. For full details on all the events and how to book tickets please visit the website

[www.sandringhamestate.co.uk](http://www.sandringhamestate.co.uk)

□





# Improving lives **together**

## Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System

### **Group A Streptococcus (GAS) and Scarlet Fever**

There has been an increase in the number of scarlet fever cases this year, particularly in children under ten and sadly, a small number of deaths.

**Scarlet fever is an infection which is caused by a bacteria called group A streptococci.** It is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious.

Lots of us carry this type of bacteria in our throats and on our skin and it doesn't always result in illness. Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. By teaching your child how to wash their hands properly with soap and warm water for twenty seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, they will be able to reduce the risk of picking up, or spreading, infections.

#### **Look out for symptoms in your child, which include:**

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- A fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel. On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel.

Please contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever. If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least twenty-four hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

**As a parent, if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:**

- Your child is getting worse
- Your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- Your child has had a dry nappy for twelve hours or more or shows other **signs of dehydration**
- Your baby is under three months and has a temperature of 38C, or is older than three months and has a temperature of 39C or higher
- Your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- Your child is very tired or irritable

#### **Call 999 or go to A&E if:**

- Your child is having difficulty breathing –you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs



- There are pauses when your child breathes
- Your child's **skin, tongue or lips are blue**
- Your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

What you need to know - <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2022/12/05/group-a-strep-what-you-need-to-know/> □

## Wolferton Village News

### Wolferton Social Club

Normal opening hours for the Club are from 8pm on Friday and Saturday evenings, and Sunday lunchtimes.

Extra to these are the popular bingo sessions, which are on:

#### *Cash Bingo*

Sunday 5th February. Doors open 7.00pm Eyes down 8.00pm

Sunday 5th March. Doors open 7.00pm Eyes down 8.00pm

#### *Prize Bingo*

Tuesday 21st February. Doors open 6.30pm Eyes down 7.30pm

Tuesday 21st March. Doors open 6.30pm Eyes down 7.30pm.

All are welcome.

### St Peter's Church, Wolferton

Thank you to all who helped create a wonderfully warm, seasonal and festive feel to our church last year. The beautiful tree, candles, nativity and flower arrangements made the perfect welcome to those joining for our Christmas services or just popping in.

The pre-school children of Child's Play Nursery braved the cold for their annual Christmas service; thank you to Sue for leading this. Our candlelit carol service was very well attended, with mulled wine and mince pies enjoyed afterwards. A donation of over £200 was made to the Purfleet Trust. A huge thank you to those who organised and supported the Christmas bingo - a wonderful turnout - and thank you for the generous donation to St Peter's Church. We enjoyed a dry, clear night carol singing around the village, barely needing a torch with all the Christmas lights. Thank you to all who joined, we raised £133 for the Children's Society.

Christmas morning started bright and early with over twenty joining to celebrate Christmas Eucharist at St Peter's followed by much chat over coffee and more mince pies!

We wish you all a Happy New Year. For information on services please visit our website or email us

[churchoffice.sandringham@gmail.com](mailto:churchoffice.sandringham@gmail.com) □



## From your Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb



As we begin a New Year it is in the hope that events, politics and attitudes in the community, both here in our Ward and nationally, will be positive and have due regard for others.

As we write there are strikes and a general feeling of confrontation, but here in our Borough we are all working hard to deliver services, regenerate our towns and care for those in need without the wrangling we are seeing in the media.

What do we hope 2023 will deliver? Well, of course a promise of a new hospital would be good, and positive news from other hospitals in the same state as ours gives us cause for encouragement. And forward progress on a number of projects made possible by the various forms of Levelling Up funding is steadily being made.

In our Ward we will continue to support local schemes to regulate traffic speeds, repair and improve our walkways and paths and support local activities, especially during the Coronation in May.

We would hope that 2023 might see the old Community Centre (former school) site developed. This is likely to be brought forward in April of this year alongside development of the proposed site on Doddshill. Doddshill Road will have to be modified to allow a good line of sight out onto Manor Road, which is why both sites will be brought forward together. We hesitate to mention the recent fire in the Community Centre; suffice it to say that access to the site and more importantly the building, is of course dangerous and out of bounds.

This year will see local elections and we will both be standing for a fourth term. There is still time to apply for a part of our local



member fund, as yet unspent, which local organizations can apply for. Recent help from this has provided the picnic table at the Village Centre, repairs to bridges on the common and some help with wi-fi equipment. We wish all those living in our Ward area a Happy, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year. □

### Wrong address

We apologise to Councillor Ann Watkins for getting her address wrong in the Dersingham Data insert in the last edition of *Village Voice*.

The address should read **9 Glebe Close** rather than 9 Glebe Road.□

Hunstanton u3a will be holding their monthly meetings at the Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton at 2.00 pm on Monday 20th February when Kindra Jones will be bringing the Bayeux Tapestry to life.

On Monday 20th March Saffron Summerfield will take us on a musical journey from Milton Keynes to the Mississippi.

You will be most welcome to join us. Further information can be obtained from our website [hunstantonu3a.org](http://hunstantonu3a.org) □

**Hunstanton  
u3a**

## Open Gardens 2023

Is there anyone out there who would like to take on organising this event? Because of the drought last summer, many of the gardens did not look their best, and so it could be held at another time of year. There would be other people to help with various aspects, but it needs someone to take the lead.

If you are interested in taking this on, please contact Village Voice at [villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk](mailto:villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk) □



**Dersingham Veterinary  
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appointment, call**

**01485 540585 or email:**

**[contact@dersinghamvets.co.uk](mailto:contact@dersinghamvets.co.uk)**

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## Volunteering for Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Norfolk Wildlife Trust is looking for volunteers at its Holme reserve, as follows:

We are looking for **volunteer beach wardens** to help protect, monitor and educate about the vulnerable beach nesting birds that nest here on Holme Dunes and its neighbouring beaches during their spring/summer breeding season (April-September). Beach nesting birds like Ringed Plover, Little Tern and Oystercatcher are vulnerable to disturbance by people and dogs during their nesting season and so it will be your job to educate people from all walks of life about these species and how and why we want to protect them. This role will involve patrolling the beach, talking to members of the public, recording behaviour and nesting activity and any reactions to disturbance.

This role would suit someone with a passion for wildlife and conservation, particularly benefitting those that wish to enter the conservation sector. The role will require you to be able to communicate with people from all walks of life in a friendly and diplomatic manner, you will need a willingness to learn and everything else will be provided through training and ongoing support. This role does not necessarily require you to have background knowledge of the birds and their behaviours as training will be provided.

We are also looking for volunteers to help keep our Holme Dunes reserve in perfect condition for wildlife. This role would suit anyone who is relatively physically fit with a passion for nature and a love of being outdoors.

If you are interested in either of these roles and opportunities, please download and complete an application form from our website [www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk), or email [alanm@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:alanm@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk). □

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## Dersingham Evening WI

Katrina Mundy

Our December meeting was our Xmas party and this year we were entertained by "The Banjo Man" Sean Moyses, and a great singalong evening it was, as well as with very enjoyable food and drink.

Our first talk of 2023 in January was by Mike Simmons from Maldon Chocolates at Snettisham – samples being enjoyed by the members, although some of us may well have been fed up with chocolate by then, but I think not.

Our Open meet in February is a talk by author Elly Griffith about her new book *The Last Remains*. This is a ticketed event so please do not turn up on the night if you do not have a ticket. To find out if there are any tickets left, please contact Lyn on 541257.

Our dining group will have had a New Year's lunch at the Feathers on 24<sup>th</sup> January and we are looking forward to that.

Our monthly coffee mornings will have restarted in January, a lovely way to catch up with members we haven't seen for a while.

March will see our first Annual meeting in fifteen months due to Federation swapping the date due to Covid in 2020. This is a chance for the members to vote in the committee of their choice.

Our programme of speakers for the year ahead is now complete and it is a varied one. We are looking forward to hearing talks about the three ladies who were instrumental in starting the WI, about Elizabeth Fry, funny stories about running a furniture removal firm, volunteering in Africa, and making patisserie.

We will be holding two Open meets during the year where we will play host to members from other local WI groups. We also have the Coronation of King Charles to look forward to, so thinking caps will have to be put on to see how we can celebrate this special occasion.

Our members are also able to attend two of our WI Sandringham group meetings this year, held at South Wootton. The first one in March has a classical singer for entertainment and the one in October will be a Murder Mystery evening.

Our walking group will restart when the better weather arrives, and I intend to get to some of these this year, not just for the coffee and cake at the end of the walk.

Hopefully, a couple of outings will be in the offing this year, perhaps including another trip to a gin distillery (especially seeing as I missed the last one.)

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month in St Cecilia's Church, Dersingham at 7.15pm and are open to all ladies. Posters advertising these are usually up around the village.

If you would like to know more about Dersingham Evening WI please contact Katrina on 01485 544773 or Ann on 01485 542847.□

**Sport for All  
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## The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle

Now I have become an old lady with lingering past memories, but short-term malfunction, it's become very sad that a frequency of funerals has cropped up of beloved friends who have shuffled off to the Happy Hunting Grounds. A small circle of friends is left, vowing to maintain monthly coffee and scone mornings and lunchie-poops under lantern clad gazebos, calling ourselves The Forget-me-not Club, for our failing memories as well as the sprightly blue plant.



This morning, one of the members and I wound up the starting handle and motored off to Hunstanton to the clock-mender's shop, she with a cut-glass mantelshelf clock that wouldn't go and me with my Navajo-constructed watch that needed a battery replacement. The one that didn't drive paid for the coffee after. Very much still aware of Covid and other coughs, sneezes and other nasty diseases, we decided against the steamed-up, over-populated coffee shops and opted for the empty, more expensive one. And very nice too. We were the only two customers and enjoyed sitting with a lot of space around us and no germs within the vicinity. Then, an elderly couple came in, and much to our astonishment, walked over and sat right beside us! All those chairs and empty tables, and they came and squeezed in by us. Why? I never fail to be surprised at human nature.

As I write this, I cannot think for the noise of rats in the attic space overhead. The rat man repeatedly arrives and throws small hard bricks of supposed poison into the roof space, and I constantly hear them using the bricks as a toy as they thunder around playing football with them. It is astonishing how noisy rodents can be. I don't know why they haven't died, but presumably they are immune to the pesticides. I hear them all over the house, in cavities, (how do they get in?) and the cats cock their ears and stare at certain places on the ceiling or skirting boards. What else can be done to exterminate them? I have no idea. They stroll by the door, looking sleek and well fed, and amble along their tunnels under the fence to the neighbour's bird feeder and don't give a damn. I saw one rat, a constant visitor to our aviary when a babe, but one day as I passed by it leapt out of my way through the wiring and got stuck, having grown that much more, unable to squeeze through the gap. It could get no purchase to go either backwards or forwards and was actually screaming. Very loudly. I felt so sorry for it, so got a brick (no, not to bash its head in) and placed it under its front feet, and a log, which I placed under its back feet, and left the scene of its distress. When I came back later, it had clearly made its escape. The next day when I saw it, it said, "Good morning" and just casually walked by my feet, clearly recognising me as a rescuer and not one to be feared. Maybe the word had got around, and the whole neighbourhood rat population has moved in.

My brown cat, who thinks he owns Manor Road and all the surrounding houses and gardens, seldom comes home during the good weather. He has various ports of call where he pops in and avails himself of warm fires and sheepskin rugs from kind aunties and uncles – oh, and the hedgehog diner where he pushes hoglets out of his way to steal the food put out for them. Only in the cold weather does he deign to come home, but now we have three more cats he is reluctant to come in the cat flap (one way only, as the others are not allowed out) in case he is set upon by the newcomers. He worked out a cunning plan: I have Velux windows in my bedroom, so once I am tucked up in my bed and ready to sleep, or worse, fast asleep, I hear a scrabble on the roof and a very loud yowl or three, and look up to see him sitting on the sloping windowpane peering down at me. I have to then get out of my cosy nest, and traverse my way to the front door, whereupon the brown boy picks his way across the roof tiles, jumps down onto lower roofs and walls and trots in the front door and into 'his' room where he expects a bowl of

the best cat food that money can buy. He sleeps the night in warm comfort, has his breakfast, then yowls to go out. Things to do, places to visit.



The other three cats are Maine Coons and are getting very big. Walter, the wonder cat - who was supposed to be stud to the girls, but arrived with only one testicle and had to have remedial knife work performed which rendered him useless as a father and scuppered my plans of many little kitties - is proving to be a bit of a nuisance. He is huge, and clumsy. I haven't weighed or measured him, but he is too heavy for me to lift (but then I am becoming feeble these days) and judging from his sleeping form across my bed, there was only four inches left either side of him of the actual bed. He likes opening the kitchen cupboards and drawing forth all the crockery, as well as sweeping any ornament left in designery format upon my shelves. I am constantly picking up broken objets d'art and sweeping shards of glass into the dustpan.

He is a complete hooligan, but so lovable. The fact that he is slightly crosseyed makes him even more endearing. These four cats bring me so much pleasure (even with the breakages) and the netting over the garden has kept the Maine Coons from getting out and about and getting themselves run over or kidnapped.

I've had a yen for some time now to get a little piglet. When I was a small child, I used to spend my days at my grandfather's farm watching all the young animals, and pigs came out as the most intelligent and cleanest of them all. Neighbours, do not worry! I don't intend to follow through on this one as that would be stupid, but one can but dream. I'd also like a donkey or two, oh and lots of other animals too, but these are just wishes that can't come true.

I can hear a lot of clonking going on in the kitchen. I'm pretty sure it is Walter clearing the crockery out of the kitchen cupboards again. I'll have to teach him to crochet to keep his mind occupied. With that thought, I shall leave you and investigate. Until next time – Mrs. Dolittle.

On investigation, I discovered that while I was completing this piece, Walter had scooped out of the cupboard one tin of tuna, two tubes of chicken treats and a small box of cat biscuits. The girls were very impressed□



### **Snettisham Art Group Easter Exhibition 2023**

There will be a display of Art and Crafts in the British Legion Hall, Church Road, Snettisham from Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April until Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April, open from 10.00am until 5.30pm each day. Entry is free, however donations can be made for the British Legion during the exhibition.

Should you be interested in joining our group, please telephone Les on 01485 572370 for further details, or come along and meet group members during our exhibition. We look forward to welcoming you.□



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We wish you all best wishes for a very good, healthy, and happy New Year.

Ash Wednesday this year falls on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, so although not yet confirmed at time of writing, we should be holding our usual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at St Cecilia's on the evening of 21<sup>st</sup> February. Details will be on the website and weekly bulletins. If you would like to be on the distribution list for the weekly bulletins straight to your inbox, please send your email address to [hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk). Also, if you are a new parishioner, there is a form in both church porches to fill in your details to welcome you to the parish. Feel free to ask if you can't see them.

We have regular Rosary prayer meetings at St Cecilia's every Monday from 2.00pm. There is also a Mothers' Prayers group which meet at 2.30pm Monday fortnightly at OLSE. There is a Fairtrade stall in the meeting room at St Cecilia's on the first Sunday of each month, which it is hoped will also come to OLSE from February.

The Pope's prayer intention for **February** - For Parishes: we pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

A few members of the parish have been getting together to discuss ways to enliven the life of the parish. One of the things under discussion is the setting up of an SVP Group (St Vincent de Paul) in our parish. The dates of the meetings are published on the website and in the weekly church bulletins and anyone interested in contributing in any way is more than welcome to attend, or speak to someone and pass on ideas.

Sr Danuta is guiding a regular parish study/discussion group at the Convent every Tuesday, 4.00-5.00pm, looking in more depth at the readings for the following Sunday. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come along to any of the meetings and take part.

Please contact the Convent direct about daily Masses there on tel. 01485 532837.

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](http://www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org).

The Sunday Masses are at 9.00am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, and 11.00am at OLSE, 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](http://www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org) **Email:** [hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk)  
(Please add it to your email address list) The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.  
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## **Hunstanton Croquet Club**

**Caroline Harper**



It doesn't seem long since I was wishing our members and readers 'Merry Christmas' and 'Happy New Year' and yet here we are, already planning for the new season.

We shall shortly (in March) have work parties to take the clubhouse out of its winter hibernation and get everything ready to play on our lovely lawns once more. Please check our website calendar and Facebook page for dates and come along to lend a hand - there are jobs for all abilities!

For those readers new to us, our season runs from April to October. Existing members should download renewal forms and pay by 31st March to keep our treasurer, Gwenda, happy. New members joining this year can pay when they start playing - usually shortly after the 'Come and Try' day in April. £95 for full membership which equates to just approximately £1.17p per organised session and dawn to dusk access once proficient at setting out a lawn. What a New Year bargain! So, if your 2023 resolution was to take up a new hobby, get out in the fresh air more, or make new friends, then come and join us and do all three!

If you have a mallet languishing, neglected in a cupboard that you know you will no longer use, please consider giving it an extra life by advertising it for sale. Some of our new members who borrowed club mallets for their first season are still looking to buy. Not garden croquet mallets, which are great fun in a garden, but insufficiently robust for proper play. Alternatively, you might consider donating it to the club so that we have enough mallets to loan to our future new members!

As always, more information is on our website at [www.hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk](http://www.hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk)

## **Dersingham Carpet Bowls**

**Suzanne Eastmure**



We have had a good time at bowls these past weeks, including an outing to the Anvil at Congham for a Sunday lunch. An interclub competition organised by members was eventually won by Jenny O. For the first time we decorated a Christmas tree for the Festival in the church with great enthusiasm. A trip was organised to the pantomime at Hunstanton for early festive fun, finishing the year with our Christmas tea and games. We meet at the Village Centre every Tuesday at 2.30pm. Anyone wishing to join us will be given a warm welcome.

Wishing all Village Voice readers a Healthy and Happy New Year.□



## Ingoldisthorpe Village WI

Lesley Geer, President

So here we are in 2023.

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and managed to spend time with those near. Our planning for 2023 is complete and once again we have a programme of events to include our members and the local community.

The week after our January meeting we celebrate going into the New Year with a meal at a local hotel. In February we elect our new committee, always tinged with apprehension and excitement, hoping we get people come forward to stand.

On the last Saturday of February (25th) we plan to organise a Soup and Sandwich lunch for members, friends and the neighbouring community - bringing everyone back together as we look forward to spring.

March - a new committee takes the lead and as the days brighten, outings and events start to come back onto the calendar: the first, a potential workshop with Alby Glass. The meeting for March promises to be good, with Hazel Gillingham talking about three remarkable WI Women.

And so we go on....., as ever with friendship, laughter and care. If you think this could be for you, please contact Lesley (01485 298645) or Jean (01485 541462).□



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## **Sandringham Parish Council**

### **Ben Colson**



The Parish Council met on 30<sup>th</sup> November. They are still urgently seeking new Parish Councillors and anybody interested in serving and representing the communities of Babingley, West Newton and Wolferton should please contact the chairman, Stephen Thompson on 07956 638313.

### **Butlers Cross progress update**

The plan to improve the condition of the plot on which the remains of the mediaeval cross is located at Babingley is now in discussion with Norfolk County Council's Highways Department. A local business has offered new railings up to a cost of £2000 towards the project.

### **Grant funding for improvement projects**

As well as occasional one-off opportunities for funds to improve local facilities, there are two which are more generally available, being the Borough Council Members' Fund and the Community Infrastructure Levy. Both are important sources of grants, and whereas the Members' Fund requires the Parish Council to put up a similar amount of money, the Community Infrastructure Fund does not.

So, what are they, and what do they cover?

Each Borough Councillor has an allocation of £1,000 a year which they can spend on community projects in the parishes they serve and represent on the Borough Council. We are linked with Dersingham at the Borough level and have two such Councillors, so there is a fund of £2,000 available, although this has to be shared with Dersingham, and because of the much larger size of that village it is likely always to get the lion's share of the available money. Expenditure has to be "match-funded" which means that the Parish Council would have to raise money itself to match what the Councillor contributed. Obviously, any project using these funds would be small in scale.

The Community Infrastructure Fund (CIL) is a levy on new developments (mostly, but not only, new housing) whereby the site developer pays into a special Borough Council fund which can then be allocated to a variety of uses, such as improving education, health, community and leisure facilities, and green infrastructure and economic development. The greater the new developments being built (and there is a lot of new housing coming to nearby South Wootton shortly) the greater the CIL fund available, and whilst the Borough Council uses a lot of it itself to improve the facilities indicated above, some also is for Parish Councils use and for which parishes have to bid. The fund is split into two sections, for grants of between £2,000 and £30,000 and the other for above that higher figure.

The Parish Council is considering whether to apply for CIL funding for any schemes residents feel would provide worthwhile additions to the Sandringham Parish community. It will be contacting households in the parish shortly to seek views and will welcome as wider a range of responses as possible.

### **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in Wolferton Social Club.□



THE PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

## A Tree-mendous event for the Dersingham Scouts & Guides

Lynne Wheeler

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts wanted to create a memorial to their patron, but also renew their promises together to serve The King.

At the end of November, they planted a flowering cherry tree and lots of daffodil bulbs together outside their headquarters on Manor Road, Dersingham. Everybody helped to fill in the hole and a list of all those present was buried in a capsule alongside the tree. The tree is forming part of The Queen's Green Canopy Appeal which was created as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The death of the late Queen has also meant a subtle change of words to the promises made by Scouting and Guiding members when they join, and the coming together to plant the tree provided the perfect opportunity for everyone to renew their promises to serve King Charles III. □



## Phobbies

**Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm  
At Dersingham Social Club**

We had a good time up to Christmas with sales of work and a party. In January we had art tuition for those who wanted it and we are hoping to have further art sessions later in the year. We will also plan some "Fish and Chips" lunches and other lighthearted activities, as well as doing the crafts that we enjoy.

Phobbies is a club for people with and without disabilities where people can enjoy hobbies together. Current hobbies include art, card making, knitting, crochet and rug making, but we are keen to include others. New members are welcome as well as anyone who would like to help run the club.

Contact Maggie: 01485 544865 or 07967 799816 □

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## **Dersingham Day Club**

### **Joy Kelly and Carol Edwards**

Dersingham Day Club had its last meeting before Christmas on 14<sup>th</sup> December. We celebrated Christmas on that day with a delicious Christmas dinner, followed by dessert, including Christmas pudding with custard. We thank the ladies in the kitchen for making this for us. (Carol, Avril and Bridget, thank you.) The beef for the dinner was kindly donated by Norfolk Lavender Farm Shop Butchery and was really enjoyed by all.

In the afternoon we had our Christmas party, when we were entertained by the Purple Angels - two ladies who can sing just about everything and really got our party going, with music, singing and dancing. It really was a very happy afternoon and everyone went home with Christmas cards and a box of chocolates. We must also give thanks to Anne Boughen for donating the excellent table decorations of fresh flowers and greenery. We included these in our raffle, along with biscuits and chocolates which meant that every member went home with a raffle prize.

We returned to our meetings on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023 where we were pleased to see everyone and get back to our usual activities. Activities we enjoy include dominoes, cards, Scrabble, Rummikub, etc and of course plenty of "chat."

We send our good wishes for the new year to everyone. We hope it is peaceful and healthy for us all.

If you would like to know more about us, please contact Maggie Langridge 01485 543264 or Wendy Raby 01485 544975.□



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## Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

Children and staff have enjoyed a busy half term with a Reception and Year 1 combined Nativity play, Year 2 hosting a Christingle service at school, and Year 3 performing a Nativity at St Nicholas' Church, amongst the beautiful Christmas trees. With two pantos, a Christmas dinner, (where a certain person put in an early appearance) and a Christmas jumper day, the children have truly made the most of the festive treats. The PTA organised a wonderful Christmas Fayre, that saw the gym festooned in Christmas cheer and lots of goodies on offer, including the children's handmade calendars and decorations.



The Student Council helped to organise an 'Odd Sock Day' to launch anti-bullying week, where the children learned about celebrating difference and tolerance. On Children in Need Day the councils decided the school should dress in PJs and over £300 was raised with

a coffee morning and bring and buy sale. An amazing Remembrance Day display was created by Mrs T during the weekly art lessons and the children gathered for a special service to commemorate the day.

It was a quiet half term for Sports Partnership inter-school events, but we had fantastic representation at the Cross Country with nine children going forward to compete in the finals at Lynnsport. Years 3,4 and 5 have benefitted from extra dodgeball sessions, and an afterschool club has been set up along with football, dance and gymnastics clubs.

Nursery children have been learning all about animals that live in woodlands and investigating the school grounds for



signs of wildlife. Washing clothes, matching socks, and pegging out the washing in the home corner was also a favourite activity!

Reception class had a busy half term, getting out and about in the frost and mud in their wellies! In the classroom, they learnt about different families, honing their writing and labelling skills. They thoroughly enjoyed getting stuck into the creative Christmas art activities, leading up to the big day!



Year 1 have enjoyed learning about London, tracking Paddington's journey from darkest Peru and discovering different landmarks around the city. They were fascinated to learn about the Great Fire of London and took a keen interest in Samuel Pepys' diaries. They had fun burying cheese, just like him! They also recreated Tudor streets then set fire to them!



Year 2 spent the second autumn term learning about woodland habitats and what animals need to survive. They enjoyed a trip to the Forest School at Wild Ken Hill, where they made habitats for minibeasts before toasting marshmallows over the campfire! As well as considering how and why a woodland habitat might change over time, the children also learned about how and why Dersingham has changed over time too. This next term, Year 2 will be learning about Kenya and how it differs from the UK, including its weather and

scenery...it will certainly be warmer than here!

Last term Year 3 learned about the Titanic. The children explored the ship's construction, the features on board, how the first-, second- and third-class passengers were treated and what happened on that fateful maiden voyage. Some excellent writing was produced, including a persuasive advert and a newspaper report.

Year 4 have had a busy term learning all about the structure of the Earth and where and how volcanoes are formed. The children discovered the story surrounding the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and wrote some beautiful poems about rivers. In science, Year 4 explored changes of state and took advantage of the cold and rainy weather, looking at melting and evaporating.

Year 5 enjoyed a brilliant second half of the autumn term, in particular studying World War I, its causes and how it was fought. They did a brilliant job raising money for the poppy appeal. They also explored a variety of forces, including air resistance, water resistance and gravity, through practical investigations.

Over the course of the last half term, Year 6 have been studying the dystopian novel *Floodland*, which is set in an East Anglia that has been destroyed by flooding. This served as the motivation for much of the children's writing, including an in-depth look at the 1953 floods that affected much of North Norfolk (this culminated in children writing newspaper reports about this event.) In addition, Year 6 have also had the opportunity to trial a new way of teaching reading, which enabled the class to study another dystopian novel - *The Giver*. Children really enjoyed discussing this challenging and gritty text.



Beyond literacy, Year 6 embarked upon a series of Forest Schools lessons. This opportunity not only allowed them to take the curriculum outdoors, including map reading and discussions about settlement, but allowed them to engage with our beautiful natural surroundings.

As we look ahead to the new year and new challenges, everyone at Dersingham Primary School is ready to embrace 2023!□



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## Making Gardening Easier May Davey



Happy New Year. We look forward to another year of interesting talks and enjoyable outings. We hope to welcome new members to our meetings and supporters on our outings to help to pay for the ever-increasing cost of coaches to exciting venues.



Our December Christmas lunch at Knight's Hill Hotel was very successful. We had forty-one members and guests there, many dressed in bright jumpers. The meal was excellent and our raffle prizes were generous, thanks to donations from our members.

In November we had an interesting talk by Lewis Dyer on bamboos. So many kinds! He brought several varieties, which he sold very quickly.



Lewis Dyer

An excellent programme has been arranged by Sue Neil for 2023, with outings and interesting speakers. The first talk on 20<sup>th</sup> January was about hedgehogs by Julia Paul. On 17th February Robert Plumb will tell us all about soil fertility. Friday 17th March is our AGM at 2.00 pm at Dersingham Village Centre. We hope by then to have some volunteers for the Committee. It is a lot to expect the same four people to arrange speakers, organise meetings, take bookings for outings, keep the accounts in order, supply teas, and keep in touch with a growing membership of fifty-plus members. We do need people to help us.

Later there will also be a talk by John Hayes from Gaywood about Community Gardens.

We meet at 2.00 pm on the third Friday of the month at Dersingham Village Centre, unless an outing has been arranged. Entrance costs £3.00 for tea and a raffle ticket. Do come and join us!

## **Art and Architecture**

### **Lesley Nadel**

Art is recognized as creative activity but what is it about a painting, a sculpture, a piece of music that defines it as art? There is no definition of art that is universally accepted and forever the debate continues. We know that painting, sculpture and architecture are the three traditional visual arts, and we may also know that “the arts” also include literature, music, drama, poetry, interactive media, decorative arts, etc. Definitions such as “fine art” or “low arts” may concern the art experts or the well-informed but for most of us it’s a subjective exercise; do we, don’t we, like it? To the creator, these terms have real meaning and particularly in the field of architecture.

The term fine arts has traditionally been attached to works of the highest artistic expression, unique, pleasing to the eye and ear. Low arts may also be pleasing to the eye, but the main purpose of their design is for practical purposes. Designing a beautiful structure and building it, is considered one of the classical forms of fine art known as architecture. Architectural works are often symbols in physical form of the meaning of a culture or ideology and encompass artistic elements of historic civilizations. Roman structures were often decorated with floral patterns, columns embellished with scrolls, and between 1890 and 1910 the Art Nouveau architectural style was characterized by organic features, intricate ornamental shapes, and the use of a diverse range of materials. The Victorian era saw the revival of the ornate aesthetic Gothic style of art which was used to characterize architectural elements of buildings and define our national landscape.

Architecture as fine art deviates in many ways from what is the standard, accepted criteria. Structures are designed to have a functional purpose, but by choosing the practice of architectural design, aesthetics, and not just function, are introduced. This architectural hybrid of art, technology and building is a form of human expression that is there to be shared and interpreted. Therein lie the similarities between art and architecture, with the added element that humans are part of the environment. We take part in it, experience it and make connection to the objects, buildings, etc. as we move about them. We experience the artistic element as well as the functional.

Frank Lloyd Wright is quoted as saying that architecture is ‘The mother of all arts’ with its combination of artistic and aesthetic beauty together with the scientific and mathematical precision used in building design. Without architecture there would be nowhere to display other works of art and many classical and historical buildings have been constructed with the aim to display the objects and the building as the whole experience.

Not everyone agrees that architecture is art. The critics believe that the least useful definition in circulation is that it is “art” - misleading to the public and damaging to society. But one issue that is universally agreed upon is that industrialism (1750 – 1900) had a massive influence on architecture. Civilizations experienced enormous changes with the mechanisation of manual labour, new building materials such as cast iron, steel and glass, and the development of technology.

You can learn more about how industrialisation changed the world of architecture at the next Arts Society lecture on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023, at 2.00pm in Sedgeford Village Hall. Non-members are welcomed to come along and join us for one free lecture. □



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## THE ARTS SOCIETY - ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS

Lectures held at Sedgford Village Hall at 2pm

**Monday 13 February 2023**

***Industrialism and Revival*** Lecturer: John Sherlock

The lecture looks at how industrialisation changed the world of architecture, and how the Victorian Gothic revival did so much to define our national landscape in Britain (1750–1900). In the richly illustrated lecture John discusses the prevailing styles of architecture to be found in early nineteenth century Britain, with a focus on 'Regency' and 'Neo-classicism'. So why then did the Victorians fall in love with Gothic again? There are a number of different factors and influences, and John picks out Ruskin and Prince Albert as being the key catalysts, and being at a time of political and social upheaval.



**Monday 13 March 2023**

***Artists' View of Australia: Aboriginal, Pioneer, Botanical and Impressionist***  
Lecturer: Caroline Holmes

Inspired by the Australian landscape and the major art galleries in various cities of Australia, a lecture exploring the extraordinary climatic contrasts prompted by Dorothea McKellar's celebratory poem 'My Country'. The patterned hands of ancient Aboriginal cave paintings, the dreams of pioneers, the unique botanical treasures, the glorious light captured by the Heidelberg School, Australia's own Impressionists, and finally the rediscovery of its indigenous art.



For more info and how to join, visit our website: [www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk)  
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## Events in February and March

**Friday 10th February: Film Night** – *Mrs Harris goes to Paris*. PG – comedy. The club opens at 7.00 p.m. Film starts at 7.30 p.m. Admission £4 at the door. For further information email [films@anmerclub.co.uk](mailto:films@anmerclub.co.uk).

**Friday 17th February: Food Night – come & get your just desserts** – a post-Valentine's Day celebration – bring your own favourite pudding to share. Licensed bar and raffle.

**Friday 24th February: Quiz Night** – Club opens at 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts at 7.30 p.m. Entry £2 per person. Fully licensed bar and raffle.

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March: Bingo Night** - Club opens at 7.00 p.m. Eyes down 7.30 p.m. Entry £6.60 per book of 10 cards and £1.75 for a flyer card.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March: Film Night - Fisherman's Friends: One and All**. 12a – comedy. The club opens at 7.00 p.m. Film starts at 7.30 p.m. Admission £4 at the door. For further information email [films@anmerclub.co.uk](mailto:films@anmerclub.co.uk).

**Friday 24th March: Quiz Night** – Club opens at 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts at 7.30 p.m. Entry £2 per person. Fully licensed bar and raffle.

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March: Pie and mash supper** – 7.30 p.m. Club opens at 7.00 p.m. £10 per person – to book please contact Dorothy on 01553 631349 or email [anmerchair44@gmail.com](mailto:anmerchair44@gmail.com) by Monday 27th March. Fully licensed bar and raffle.

For further information on these and other future events please visit our website at [www.anmerclub.co.uk](http://www.anmerclub.co.uk) or join us on facebook – [www.facebook.com/anmersocialclub](http://www.facebook.com/anmersocialclub).

Best wishes to all at Dersingham Village Voice for a happy and healthy new year ☐



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## Dersingham Methodist Church

### Elizabeth Batstone

Just a catch up on last year's activities and also a thank you for helping us raise £600 at the Christmas Fayre for King's Lynn Night Shelter - they were very pleased with this generous amount.

We took several boxes and bags full of Christmas goods and other food items to the Hunstanton Food Bank, all of which we know will be well used.

The Carol service and Christmas Day service raised £266 for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Dementia Care Appeal. Again, a wonderful amount to help in a much-needed service.

Thank you to everyone for their support in 2022.

At a recent event I had a conversation with someone who had never been in the Church Hall before. She was amazed at the size, how modern it was, impressed with the facilities and also with the coffee morning. She has lived in the village for a considerable time and yet was unaware of a building she often walked past. If you are like this, please come and join us for any of our church activities, you will find a warm welcome:

**Church Services:** Sunday 10.30 a.m. weekly

**Bowls Club:** Wednesday 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. weekly

**Jigsaw Club:** Third Thursdays 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

### *Coffee mornings*

**Saturday 28th January** 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. for flower festival funds

**Saturday 25th February** 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. for flower festival funds

**Saturday 25th March** 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. for Action for Children and Methodist Homes for the Aged.

Tel: 541068. email: [stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com](mailto:stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com) □

## Snettisham Gardening Club

We will meet in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham on Wednesday February 22nd at 7.30 pm. We are awaiting confirmation of our speaker for that meeting.

Our meeting on Wednesday March 29th will be Richard and Rosie Ernst from Houghton Hall to tell us about the gardens there.

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings. For further information contact Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754. □



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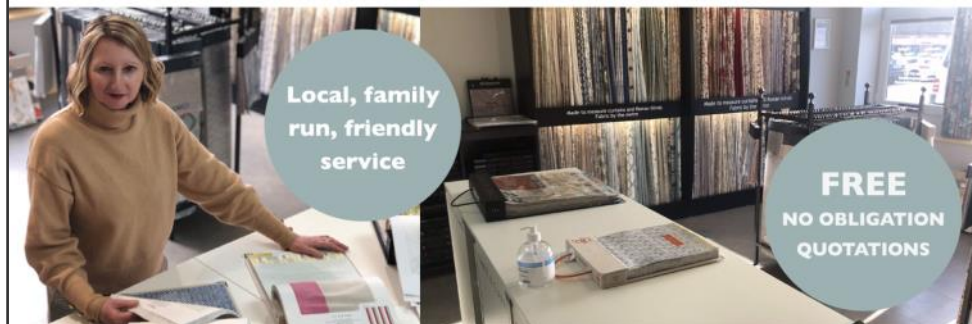
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## Dersingham Rainbows become Superheroes

Lynne Wheeler

The 1st Dersingham Rainbows have enjoyed taking part in the Girlguiding Anglia Super Rainbow Challenge, celebrating thirty-five years since Rainbows began. Rainbows are the youngest members of the Girlguiding family, aged 5-7 years.

All the Rainbows received a special Challenge Passport containing a variety of activities to complete at their weekly meetings and at home. The badge had five "Super" themes and the Rainbows had to complete an activity from each theme. They were "Super" Sustainable, Strength, Sisters, Skills and Snacks. The girls enjoyed playing Superhero bingo with Rainbow uniforms from around the world, making code bracelets, creating a variety of foods from modelling clay, sharing a fitness routine and planting cress seeds. There were also word searches, games, and masks to decorate to turn them into Superheroes. After they had successfully completed each "Super" activity they had great fun putting the correct sticker into their Challenge Passport.



At the last meeting of 2022, each Rainbow was excited to receive her Superhero badge.

If you would like to become a Superhero Rainbow, please contact Rainbow Leader, Lynne Wheeler (01485 544753).□



## Dersingham Institute Bowls Club

Jan Rawstron

Happy New Year everyone. Now that the festivities are over, we are all trying to get back to normal, using up all the left-over food, and promising ourselves that we will lose those excess pounds put on over the festive season.

For most of the outdoor bowlers, we will have to wait until spring before we get any exercise on the bowls green, but we are looking forward to it tremendously.

We held our AGM on Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup> which was attended by twenty-eight members. The Committee was re-elected, and April 15<sup>th</sup> was set for the opening of the green for the 2023-24 season. It is planned to have our Open Day on Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, more of that in the next issue.

We also chose The East Anglia Children's Hospice as the charity we will support this year, a very worthy cause.

May I also say that the Christmas trees in St. Nicholas Church looked wonderful. We were very pleased with our own tree which looked lovely thanks to Rita, Muriel and Brenda. Great work girls.

During the winter months, our green keeping team do what they can, mainly tidying-up in readiness for the new season. Work will increase as the weather warms up and we hope to arrange working parties nearer the opening day. More details nearer the time.

I think that's all for now, so until the next issue, stay safe and healthy.□



## Dersingham Walking Group

### Tony Bubb

The first signs of spring should be out there for us to see on our latest run of walks. Swelling buds, snowdrops, frogspawn, lambs and daffodils are all a possibility – not a tasting menu at the local gastropub.

As usual, our walk leaders are looking forward to welcoming new and familiar folk to each event. Our next walks are:

#### **Wednesday January 25th 1.30pm**

A walk around the fringes of the Massinghams with a route using a bit of our old friend the Peddars Way, and enjoying a portion of Mad Dog Lane. About 3.5 miles. Can't wait! Start point Gt Massingham Green TF798230. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

#### **Wednesday February 8th 1.30pm**

A woodland wander taking in Dersingham Bog and the Royal woods. About 4 miles. Start point the Dersingham Village sign TF685297. Leader: Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.

#### **Wednesday February 22nd 1.30pm**

A circular walk (well actually more rhomboid) using the old carriage road and farm tracks, passing through Anmer, plus a bit of quiet road. About 4 miles. Start point just north of the eastern end of Ling House Road where it crosses the Sherborne to Anmer Road TF730306. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.



#### **Wednesday March 8<sup>th</sup> 1.30pm**

A circular tour of Castle Rising, including some of the extensive woodlands of Ling Common. There is the option of a visit to the tearooms at Castle Rising after the walk. Start point the Unique car park in the centre of Castle Rising TF 667347. About 4 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

#### **Wednesday March 22nd 1.30pm**

Coast and countryside both feature in this walk around the Hunstanton area. Start from Hunstanton lighthouse TF676420. About 4 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

#### **Wednesday April 12<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm**

A walk of about 4 miles exploring the Babingley River, with another visit to the tearooms at Castle Rising after the walk, should the fancy take you. Start point the Unique car park in the centre of Castle Rising, TF667347. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

All our planned walks will appear here in Village Voice and can also be found on our

page on the Parish Council website and in the Calendar on that website. Our page is at [www.dersingham.org.uk/walkinggroup](http://www.dersingham.org.uk/walkinggroup).

Joining the walking group is a great way to meet some of your fellow villagers and to explore the local area. You'll probably discover footpaths that you never knew existed and maybe views that will give you a fresh appreciation of the local landscape. So, if you haven't walked with the group before why not join us for an amble through our wonderful countryside. Most of our walks are between 4 and 5 miles long and take around two hours, with a rest stop at some point. There is no cost involved, just turn up with your boots on. Dogs are welcome on most walks, provided they are well behaved and tolerant of other dogs.

The leader of the walk will do 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 Bubbs** Tel: 01485 542638 Email: [frostytrees@btinternet.com](mailto:frostytrees@btinternet.com)

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## **Dersingham Cricket Club**

**Shaun Felgate**

Dersingham Cricket Club is a long-established club that has been running for many, many years. It is a club that encourages all ages and abilities to join, from those who are beginners that can be encouraged and nurtured, to those that have the ability and experience to play at league level.

Throughout the cricket season, which runs from the beginning of May to the end of August, training sessions are held on The Pastures sportsground in Dersingham every

Thursday evening from 6pm to 8pm.

Training sessions are free, with all ages welcome. With sports taking off again within the village it would be great to see old faces and encourage new players to join, both socially and to participate in the sport.

There are currently two adults' teams: on Saturdays you can see the Dersingham First Team playing, with the Dersingham Over Forties playing on a Wednesday evening.

For further information please contact me - Shaun (Foggy).

Telephone: 07818 2484292 □

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## Dick Melton of Sunny Hunny



### Storms

As many of you will have remembered, we had a tremendous flood and gales on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1953. This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that terrible night. There are a lot of people still living in Dersingham who remember it. I was only thirteen. My father took me down to Station Hill and I could not believe my eyes, for there was the sea, just the other side of the railway line – two and a half miles inland from where it should have been. I remember saying to my father, “Will the sea stay there for good?” and he said, “No, it will go back.” And he was correct. Within three or four days the sea had gone back to where it had come from, and, as you all know, it has stayed there! The salt water damaged the land down the marshes and no crops could be grown on it for about three years, until after hundreds on tons of lime had been spread on it. The storm that day started in the Irish Sea, came down into the North Sea, and then went into The Wash, doing a lot of damage all the way down, hitting the east side of The Wash at around 7.00pm. Fifteen people were drowned in King’s Lynn, twenty-five in Snettisham, nine in Heacham and thirty-one in Hunstanton. Many of those living in the wooden bungalows down South Beach, Hunstanton who were drowned were American servicemen and their families who were stationed at Sculthorpe Air Base.

After the storm hit, it carried on round the north Norfolk coast where many more people were drowned and a lot more damage was done. At Wells the sea bank was breached and 1,000 servicemen were brought in from bases in Norfolk and Suffolk to fill in the gaps. People died at Sea Palling and Great Yarmouth, and then the storm carried on with further casualties and damage all the way to Canvey Island. The storm then crossed the North Sea to the Netherlands, where it was similarly disastrous.

We had another bad storm on a Wednesday evening in January 1978, though it was nowhere near as bad as in 1953. Hunstanton’s pier had survived the 1953 storm, but sadly it never got through this one. All of the middle walkway was washed away and many of the heavy planks were washed into the boating lake and the fairground, doing much damage. The end of the pier, with the skating rink, stood out in the sea like an oilrig platform. Later on, this end of the pier was demolished. A few of the legs of the pier stayed on the beach, buried deep in the sand. Other damage done that night was some of the large concrete slabs on the promenade had to be replaced because of the force of the wind. Many caravans in Hunstanton and Heacham were blown over and badly damaged. One good thing that night was that nobody was drowned.

### The Wash Barrage

Well, someone has come up with the idea of putting a barrage across the mouth of The Wash between Hunstanton and Skegness with a road along the top – at a cost of two billion pounds. I have lived near to The Wash in Dersingham, Heacham and Hunstanton for over eighty years and this is the third or fourth time this has been proposed in that period of time. They come up with plans but never the money. Many things have been proposed and planned for The Wash, like the following: Drain The Wash and build a city and airport on the land; make The Wash into a freshwater lake (Two experimental mounds were built at the southern end, but they were abandoned and the mounds are still there to this very day); a ferry across The Wash from Hunstanton to Skegness; a small harbour at Hunstanton; a new pier for Hunstanton and a slipway at Seagate to act as a groyne; and a safe walkway onto the beach (the old slipway was demolished in 1974.) But it is the same thing – no one comes up with the money. The Wash has been there for thousands of years, and it should remain the same. It is a wildlife haven and tourist attraction and that is the way it should stay forever.

Well now, this Wash barrage plan has come up against a lot of opposition, as it has many times before. My wife reads out to me every day anything of interest in the *Eastern Daily Press*. On 28<sup>th</sup>

November 2022 there was this very good headline: "*Will The Wash barrage plan sink like King John's lost treasure?*"

What a good article it was. What do all you good people who live in Dersingham think about it?



### **Dersingham Drill Hall**

In the last *Village Voice* Elizabeth Fiddick asked for information about the Dersingham Drill Hall. I don't remember when it was built, but I do remember Army lorries being parked outside the large shed and often Army cadets would be marching up and down on the tarmac, being given instructions from the Territorial Army captain.

### **Working Men's Club**

With the help of a very powerful lamp and a magnifying glass, I looked at the picture of the men outside the Working Men's Club in the last *Village Voice*. One of the men in the picture is my late grandfather who at that time lived down Manor Road.

### **Dersingham boyhood**

When I was a boy, I lived in Dersingham at number 63 Lynn Road which had the house name of "Restue". We lads who lived up the southern end of the village had an advantage over the lads who lived in the rest of the village as we were right next to the common and the fen. As you walked onto the common right next to Pleasant Place there was an area of grass surrounded by gorse bushes where we would play football, cricket and a game called tin can. For this you needed an old tin biscuit or crisp tin, which we would get from Mr Whiskers' grocer shop at number 50 Lynn Road. You would place the tin in the middle of the grassy area. One lad would stand by the tin, whilst the others would try to creep up to the lad standing near the tin. If you got to the tin without being seen, he would kick the tin and they would change places.

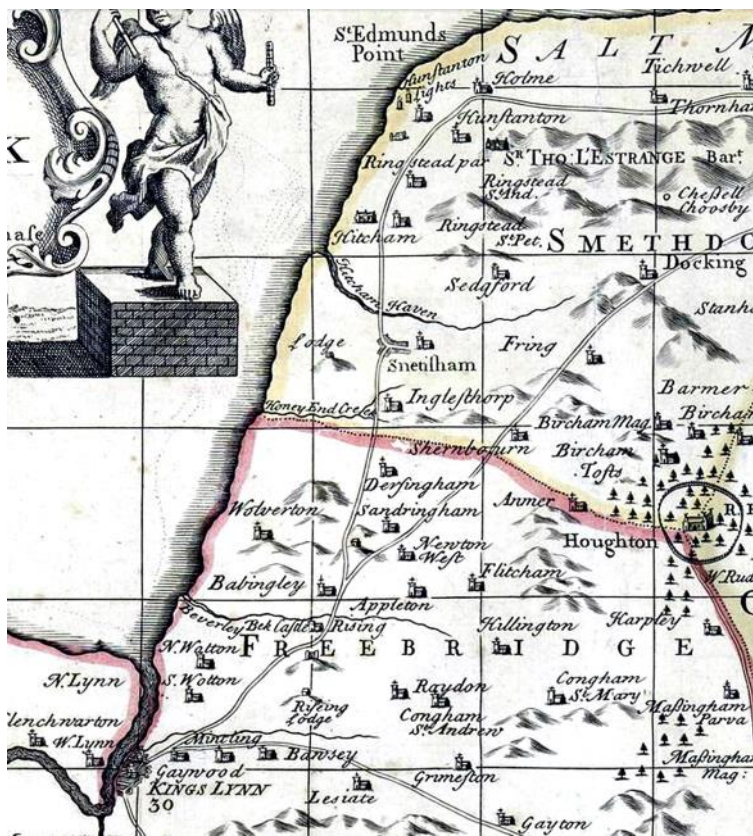
We also played on the Shut Up Common long before it was spoilt by letting the birch trees grow. In those days many skylarks would nest there. One day, a gang of us were sitting on the old searchlight store on the Open Common when we decided to make a cycle track on the Shut Up Common. The remains can still be seen there. We would get the bikes from the dump on the Dersingham Fen where people had thrown them away.

We would always make our own catapults, finding a nice ash tree in the woods with saplings springing up from the bottom. We would find a small branch in the shape of a "Y", and get some rubber from the cycle shop in Manor Road. Mr Dobbs would sell it to us by the foot. We would then get the tongue out of an old shoe to put the ammo in. We would put it all together and then go up the dump to shoot at the rats. I still have two catapults, but they are illegal now.

I never stopped in. I was always out, mostly up the common or down the fen or the shingle pits. I would go up the Shut Up Common in the springtime to cut pea sticks and bean poles from the birch trees that grew at the top of the common. I would also cut small birch trees down for my mother to use as a linen prop. In the autumn time I would go up the Shut Up Common to cut the bracken for my father to put around his taters on his allotment. I never was one for staying in the house and we never had homework in those days. Also, we never had a television until 1955, but I did not stay in for that either. When I was twelve, I worked for Mr Parker as an errand boy. After about a year I worked for a smallholder in the evenings and at the weekends. I left school at fifteen and took a

Many people ask me about all sorts of places in and around Dersingham, so I thought I would make a list and then you good people of Dersingham can look and see how many you know where they are. In the next issue I can give the answer to their location. Every place will be within the Dersingham boundary, so here we go with the list of places: Snoring Lodge Wood, Dersingham Chalk Pit, Docking Drive, Fairy Glade, Sandpits, the Red Dyke, The Little Wood, Parkers Piece, Hoddy's Hole, the old bicycle speedway track, Parkers Corner, the rifle range, Mill House, Sugar Lane, Wash House Yard, Laundry Lane, Alexandra Hotel, Decoy Farm, Dun Cow Farm, White Horse public house, and the Albert Victor public house. I shall explain where all of these places were situated in the next issue of *Village Voice*. □

I am struggling to identify the modern incarnation of the road shown from Babingley to Docking - it seems perhaps an invention. I love the indications of hills - very much artistic licence, I think. As one of the first drawings that has a degree of accuracy about it, I find it most impressive. □





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## Butterfly report for 2020

### Brian Anderson



The 2022 season was split into halves. The spring and the first part of the summer were unexceptional. The second part of the summer and autumn saw a dramatic fall in butterfly numbers. Between the two sections we had the heatwave of mid-July when temperature records for many parts of the UK were dramatically broken, with 40.3°C being recorded in Lincolnshire on 19th July, well above the previous record set in 2019. The Big Butterfly Count, organised by Butterfly Conservation, and conducted between mid-July and early August saw a fall in many species' counts. Butterfly Conservation expressed concern given that flying weather for butterflies was good over this period. I am loath to challenge their expertise, but I note that some butterflies shelter if the temperatures become excessive (a behaviour called *æstivation*). Also, we observed that many (but not all) nectar sources were succumbing to the drought conditions so that butterflies could not find food too easily. This fall in numbers wasn't universal as can be seen in the various sections below. I have discussed the 2022 season with Alan Dawson, the Norfolk transect coordinator, and it seems that the sightings here are mirrored across the county. He expressed concern that grassland species whose caterpillars begin feeding in the summer might be seriously affected in 2023. It is worth noting that we are getting these conditions with the global temperatures being up by just 1.2°C over pre-industrial levels. The continuing rise in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere suggests we are heading for a global rise of over, possibly well over, 1.5°C.

Comments on selected species:

#### The Skippers

The "golden" Skippers have never been numerous on the transect and this year showed the usual low numbers for Large and Small Skippers, but Essex Skippers did better than usual.

#### The Whites

The Big Butterfly Count showed a decline in all white species, but the fall on the transect and in the general area was fairly small, except for the Brimstone which was noticeably less common.

#### Blues, Coppers and Hairstreaks

The Holly Blue had a good spring emergence, but the summer brood was effectively non-existent. This may have been due to the drought or the depredations of the parasitic wasp that I described in Village Voice a couple of issues ago. There were no Common Blues or Small Coppers seen on the transect - both these were generally scarce elsewhere.

We have been expecting Green Hairstreaks to show up ever since we started the transect in 2012 - and at last one showed up on 27th May. Common Blue, Brown Argus and Small Copper were absent. Curiously, the Common Blue did well in the national Big Butterfly Count.

#### Aristocrats and Fritillaries

The records from this group are close to inexplicable. We saw a large influx of Red Admirals in Boston Square Sensory Park in Hunstanton on 7th June, all very fresh, indicating an inward migration from nearby on the Continent. At the same time there was a slightly smaller group of Painted Ladies looking much more faded and worn, suggesting a longer migration. On 19th June Ruth and David Pinion reported a group

of much fresher Painted Ladies. Expectations of a good season for both were dashed. The Red Admirals did no better than "quite well" (they were persistently present until 4th November when Coral Shepherd reported two in her garden).

Painted Ladies were very scarce. The hope of a Small Tortoiseshell recovery also came to nothing as numbers were really quite low. Peacock numbers were a little below average, but the Comma did really well, nearly doubling in numbers on the transect and in our garden, a result that mirrors the Big Butterfly Count.



**Comma**



**Purple Emperor—Deceased**

I would now like to turn your attention a little further away, some 6km (3.8 miles) southeast to Congham Wood. On 2<sup>nd</sup> July I received a message from Dersingham residents Sue and Robin du Bois informing me that they had seen White Admirals in the wood and also a dead male Purple Emperor (pictured). This is a very significant observation as it means that the Purple Emperor has now been seen in all the 100km grid squares (TF, TG, TL and TM).

The Silver-washed Fritillary, which has been seen in our area for a few years now, after an absence of many decades, also did well this year. We saw four on one patch of Bramble in Ken Hill Wood on 1st July.

## Browns

The Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown and Ringlet did reasonably well on the transect with changes being statistically unremarkable. These results are at variance with the Big Butterfly Count which showed the Meadow Brown and Ringlet declining substantially but the Speckled Wood improving significantly. Where there is agreement is the Gatekeeper where the number was up substantially. Although nationally it didn't achieve the largest year-on-year, it did achieve top spot in being the most observed butterfly in the Count. They were prolific in the field that is accessed from Fern Hill and runs behind Ben Duran. This area is unimproved grassland with many species of wildflowers, including Dersingham rarities such as Marsh Orchid hybrids, Hare's-foot Clover and Red Bartsia. A line of Wild Marjoram has been planted along one hedge line. This herb is very drought tolerant and Gatekeepers were making good use of it when we walked the area on 29th July. Over a 100m length we counted forty-seven Gatekeepers! And I'm sure we missed quite a few.



**Gatekeeper—Male**

By the time you read this you will probably be aware that the footpath that forms the transect route between Dersingham and Ingoldisthorpe has been closed to make the route more accessible. This is part of the Norfolk County Council Jubilee Trails programme. I have had a look at the plans and maps and have suggested some modifications to ensure that the route maintains its butterfly-friendly features. The supervising team seem quite amenable to the suggestions, but we will have to see how it all turns out! The worst outcome (which I do **not** expect) would mean the transect being abandoned. The work is supposed to be completed by 17<sup>th</sup> February.

*I would like to thank David and Ruth Pinion, Robin and Sue du Bois and Coral Shepherd for the submission of records. Any sighting sent to me is valuable. □*



After a busy Christmas season and a well-deserved break, the choir will resume weekly meetings, and begin to focus on a summer repertoire to cover more public performances, and celebrations for the Coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III.

New members are always welcome, whether or not they are already used to singing in a choir – so feel free to try us, free of charge for your first visit. Meetings start at 7pm at 'The Way' Christian Fellowship Hall, Downs Close, Hunstanton PE36 5HU: Every Monday until we break for Easter. □

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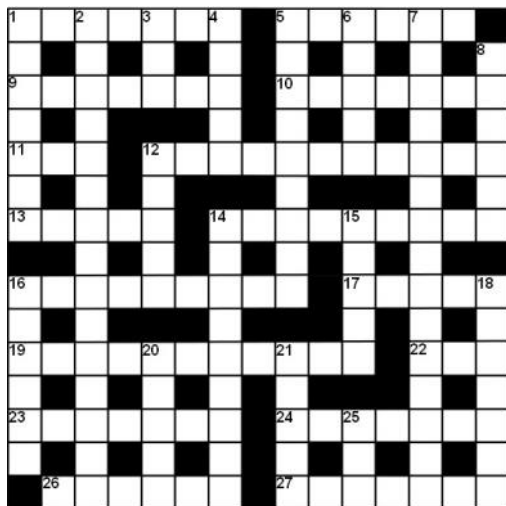


# PUZZLE CORNER

Crossword by  
Philip Neal

## Across

- 1 An accountant living in mountains breeds llama relations (7)  
5 Nearly lost in the morning (6)  
9 Langtry's floating home? (4,3)  
10 Presume redesigned for Ross (7)  
11 Wildebeest in running numbers (3)  
12 Confused underground movement joined imperial group on friendly terms in town (11)  
13 Pop spring (5)  
14 Dodgy syringeal treatment for young thoroughbreds (9)  
16 People admitted to sporting event at doctor's mansion entry (9)  
17 I'm having bed and breakfast with old dumb blonde (5)  
19 Chocolate log I bought with calendar is surprisingly used for atmospheric study (11)  
22 Comfortable weekend (3)  
23 Brewed tea in tropical bloomer (7)  
24 Follow me on motorway to gallery (7)  
26 Anxiously working archeologically in Fen city (6)  
27 Cunningly lie low beside lake at the House of Gusher (3,4)

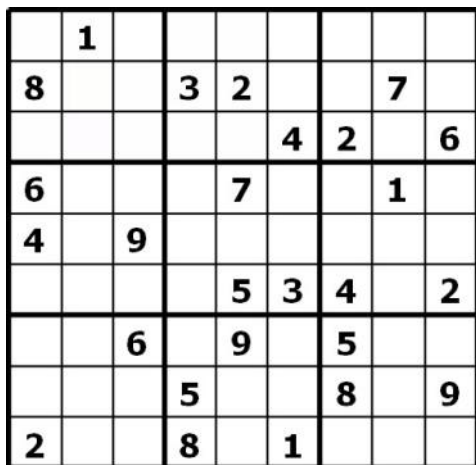


Answers on page 65

## Sudoku

## Down

- 1 Oral gel composed to sound lively (7)  
2 Say a lot turned up with low cholesterol (15)  
3 Limit cover (3)  
4 Comfy saloon but in intense danger (5)  
5 Partner I dropped in on in stormy sea coast (9)  
6 Wash second youngster (3,2)  
7 There's one in North Creak (8,7)  
8 Stones kept cannily in Fen branch of R.B.S. (6)  
12 Proboscidean excitement (5)  
14 Bygone girlfriend mixed with any old guy (5,4)  
15 Lincoln within lines displaying contents (5)  
16 Spirit left Greek confused by two fathers (6)  
18 Breakfast in a crude aloe mat (7)  
20 Left bent nail in Hawaiian island (5)  
21 Despite losing world record Norwich somehow managed to display trouser style (5)  
25 Initially I left looking unwell (3)





## News from Dersingham Bog

### Natural England

As winter progresses and the days shorten, the winter work plan kicks in on Dersingham Bog. It's at this time of year when the scrub season really gets going, and both the staff and volunteers are out every week removing mainly the birch and pine scrub from the Bog and heaths, alongside the help of contractors. This year the main focus of our work has been out on the Bog, as this has not been done for a couple of years.

On the Bog progress is slower than on the heaths - the underfoot conditions are much trickier and there are a lot of very small pine saplings that need hand removing. The team of staff and volunteers has been working from the boardwalk towards Long Nose and we have just about finished this task, other than the chipping of the material, as we have had problems with the machine this winter.

We have also had contractors carry out extensive rhododendron clearance around the decoy pond and along the track from Hairs Hike to the Scissor's car park using a mulcher. This will allow in more light and eventually get a scrub layer to build up. This will encourage a more diverse range of species into these areas, including more songbirds and insects.

The other big area of work we have carried out is the re-clearance of the quarry. The quarry is a key part of the reserves designation and had become overgrown with trees. Historically the quarry was home to sand martins, and this is the main aim of completing the work - to try and get them back to breeding on Dersingham Bog in the long term. The exposed sand is also a key site for some rare invertebrates and plants. Opening this up and allowing in light should make this habitat more appealing.

We have had a regular roosting male hen harrier on the Bog over the winter, as well as sporadic sightings of a merlin which has been seen hunting the pipits in the evenings before they go to roost. Barn owls are still being seen regularly, as well as kestrels, suggesting a strong vole population on the Bog this winter. A short-eared owl was also unintentionally flushed out of its roost while scrub clearance was being carried out, which was only the second of the year. A couple of groups of whooper swans have flown over, presumably heading down from the coast to the Washes to winter. And a flock of six crossbills, which have been particularly scarce in the last year, have also been seen, as well as raven, goshawk and a great white egret.

We are currently looking for volunteers to join our team on a Monday and Wednesday carrying out practical conservation work on Dersingham Bog, as well as the opportunity to help out on some of the other National Nature Reserves we manage, such as Swanton Novers and Scolt Head. Our volunteer team is a key part of our management and helps us carry out tasks throughout the year. To register an interest or find out more about volunteering on Dersingham Bog please contact Warden Matt Lonsdale on email at [matthew.lonsdale@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:matthew.lonsdale@naturalengland.org.uk). □



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### Word Wall by Philip Neal

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

BETROTHAL	AGE	LINE	SKIRMISH
JOURNEY	BATTLE	EXPEDITION	ROBIN HOOD
AFFRAY	CUPID	HOLIDAY	STUMBLE
RUNNER	SAGITTARIUS	BENCH	JOFFRA



## **Making tax digital for Income Tax self assessment deferred – yet again**

### **Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton**

In an unexpected, but welcome, announcement, and despite repeated statements to the contrary since the last deferral in September 2021, HMRC confirmed on 19 December 2022 that the implementation of **Making Tax Digital for Income Tax (MTDITSA) will not now become mandatory until 5 April 2026**, rather than 2024 as previously stated (or indeed the 2020 start as envisaged in 2015 when the process was first announced!).

Even better news is that the new regime of quarterly submissions will initially only apply to businesses and landlords with turnover in excess of £50,000. Those businesses turning over between £30,000 and £50,000 will have a further year, until April 2027, to prepare for the new rules. There will also be a “review into the needs of smaller businesses” – so whilst these are not entirely ruled out for the future, one can assume that implementation will not take place for at least three more years. No date has been given for the extension of the rules to general partnerships, other than that it will not now be 2025, as previously planned.

It is unclear exactly what has given rise to this change of heart, although likely causes might be:

- Continuing uncertainties with the interaction between MTD and PAYE for those with multiple sources of income.
- Problems in the early trials of the system.
- Lack of public engagement, particularly among smaller businesses and landlords, and those with a limited range of IT skills.
- Lack of available free software and inability of some software packages to deal with more complex MTD scenarios.
- The fear that introducing a major change in a period of “challenging economic environment” might cause economic damage as some smaller businesses decide to close or accelerate retirement plans rather than comply.

It seems unlikely that the project will be abandoned, since too much cost and effort has already been expended, and the more likely course of events is that taxpayers will, over the next few years, be encouraged into early adoption, with the aim of ironing out all the problem areas before entry becomes mandatory. One might even guess that by 2026/27 the proportion of “aged and disengaged” taxpayers will be that much smaller, so implementation and enforcement will be less difficult.

Whilst the issue will move into the background for the time being, **businesses now have a strictly defined and achievable date to introduce digital systems and ensure they are in good working order by the time MTD really does happen.**

**Please contact either myself or my partner Nicola Tarry FCA on 01485 534800 or email [kate@kathryngigg.co.uk](mailto:kate@kathryngigg.co.uk) if you require any advice regarding digitising your accounting records and any concerns about MTDITSA.**

**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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**For an appointment please contact: Mrs K H Gigg FCA 01485 534800**

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### Crossword Answers

#### Across

- 1 Alpacas. 5 Almost. 9 Lily pad.  
10 Supreme. 11 Gnu. 12 Municipally.  
13 Oasis. 14 Yearlings.  
16 Gatehouse. 17 Bimbo.  
19 Aerological. 22 Sat. 23 Petunia.  
24 Imitate. 26 Edgily. 27 Oil well.

#### Down

- 1 Allegro. 2 Polyunsaturated. 3 Cap.  
4 Sedan. 5 Associate. 6 Mop up.  
7 Spelling mistake. 8 Beryls.  
12 Musth. 14 Young lady. 15 Label.  
16 Grappa. 18 Oatmeal. 20 Lanai.  
21 Chino. 25 Ill.

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

### Word Wall Answers

- Archers:** Cupid, Sagittarius, Jofra, Robin Hood  
**Engagement:** Battle, Skirmish, Betrothal, Affray  
**Front ...:** ... age, ... bench, ... runner, ... line  
**Trips:** Expedition, Journey, Holiday, Stumble



### Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

For articles, reports of events, meetings and details of upcoming attractions:

Issue	Copy deadline midday on	Publication date
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## VILLAGE CINEMA

at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on

**Tuesday February 28th at 7:30pm**

### **OPERATION MINCEMEAT (12)**

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**Entry - £6; Under 16s - £3**  
(Includes tea/coffee/squash)

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## VILLAGE CINEMA

at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on

**Tuesday March 28th at 7:30pm**

### **THE DUKE (12)**

Starring: Jim Broadbent, Helen Mirren, Matthew Goode,  
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**Doors open at 7pm**  
**Entry - £6; Under 16s - £3**  
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