

Number 145

December 2023/January 2024

VILLAGE VOICE

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



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Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones



Firstly, my apologies to Stephen Martyn for the liberties I have taken with his delightful painting of snowy Sandringham Woods, albeit to celebrate this festive season. Who knows what the weather will be like this winter – mild and wet as it is as I write this, or freezing cold with feet of snow. We just need to be prepared for anything.

Well, we have a bumper edition of *Village Voice*, with details of all kinds of Christmas activities taking place – craft fairs, concerts and of course the annual Christmas Tree Festival in St Nicholas Church – this event marks the point when the village really comes together, with so many of the local groups and organisations decorating their own tree with great flair and imagination. The Dersingham Task Force do their bit by bringing in the trees and removing them afterwards (details on page 29.)

On the subject of Christmas trees – Natural England is offering free trees cleared from Dersingham Bog on Saturday December 2nd. (See page 12.)

We have the final part of Tony Barratt's account of his time in Cyprus in 1956-58, when Egypt and Israel were at war and the Suez crisis took place. Times do not change in this troubled region (page 13.) Elizabeth Fiddick takes us back through time to explore the history of the area around the church and the people who lived there (page 33.) Brian Anderson sends us his latest butterfly report (page 20.) The RSPB sends its thanks to the local community and visitors for their help in protecting the Ringed Plovers on the beach between Snettisham and Heacham. This year has seen the best year of chicks hatching since the project began (page 70.) We read of the latest developments of the work at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Over the weeks and months I have seen big changes going on, so it's moving in the right direction (page 61.)

In the village, the revamped Social Club is open for business and is aimed at a more family-oriented membership (page 10.) There is a project to build a new sports pavilion, which is looking for help with funding (page 36.) And Bernard Twite describes the history of the sports field, back to its roots in the 1940s (page 43.) Clubs which took a break during the summer months are re-opening, such as the Hunstanton and District Camera Club which has been making sorties into the local countryside (page 58.)

We also include entries from our regular contributors, for which we are always grateful, so that we can keep in touch with what is happening with various groups around the village.

A final big thank you to our hardy bunch of distributors of the magazine who head out in all weathers to get VV through your letterbox. I'm sorry it's a bit heavier this time! And also grateful thanks to all our advertisers, without whom we could not produce this publication.

It just remains for the *Village Voice* team to wish you all a very happy Christmas and the hope that you have a healthy and peaceful New Year.□



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Parish Council Chairman's Report

Coral Shepherd



As usual at this time of year I had the honour to lay wreaths on behalf of the Parish Council at the village war memorial in Station Road on Saturday 11th November and in St Nicholas Church on Sunday 12th. I always find the simple service at the War Memorial particularly moving and I think of the young men of the village going off to war and never returning. The first to be commemorated this year was Claude Riches. He was the first radio officer on the *SS Empire Impala* and died on March 11th 1943 aged only 18. He was the son of Ernest and Alice Riches of Dersingham and very sadly has no known grave. However, he is not forgotten and is not only named on the Dersingham village war memorial but also on the Tower Hill Memorial in London.

The Parish Council are currently considering how we can best commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings on 6th June 2024. We will publish more in the next edition.

The Parish Council have appointed a third member of staff, Joanne MacCallum, who will be looking after our finances for us. She will be mainly working from home, but nonetheless will be a vital member of our team.

You may have noticed as you are going round the village that the bus shelters in Manor Road and Chapel Road have been repainted. We also took the opportunity to have the railings around the war memorial repainted. I would like to take the opportunity to thank our grass cutting contractor, who due to all the rain this year, has had a busy year keeping the areas that we are responsible for cut. We are responsible for The Warren, the recreation ground, landscaped areas around the Mountbatten Estate, some of the verges near St Nicholas Church and around the Village Centre, and around the village sign at the southern entrance to the village. However, I should point out that most of the grass verges around the village are cut by the Borough Council.

I should also mention just a few of the other works that we have completed this year - the planting of an oak tree near the village sign to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, the purchase of a new picnic table for the recreation ground, pruning the conifers around the pillbox in Broadlands Close, renewing the sponsorship of the thirty-one dog waste bins around the village and last but not least we continue to publish this magazine every other month.

We are now starting our budget setting process – this is when we have to decide what our spending plans are for the forthcoming financial year - April 2024 to March 2025. In the current economic climate, trickier than usual. Once we have agreed on a budget, we can then set the precept which will be included in your council tax bill next year. Like everyone else we have been affected by increases in the cost of living and while we have tried to maintain services and keep costs down over the last five years, we may have to make the decision to increase the precept, but will try to minimise this increase as far as we are able.

If you would like to make a difference to the village, please do think about becoming a Parish Councillor. If you are interested, please email me at coral.shepherd@dersingham.org.uk or contact the Parish Council office. It is open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 1.30pm.



News from Dersingham Village Centre

Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

NOW WE ARE FIVE!

The Centre has now been open for five years. It's hard to believe and we wonder where the time has gone. There were some highs – the official opening and visit by the Late Queen Elizabeth - and the lows of COVID lockdown and closure, and all things in between. It's truly been a rollercoaster as trustees got to grips with running a community building (we're still learning). Our thanks go to everyone who supported the project initially, our wonderful volunteers, and those who run/attend the many varied activities and events. We wouldn't be here without you.

Christmas and New Year

Our regular FREE Christmas Carols evening will be on Wednesday December 20th, accompanied by mulled wine and mince pies. Regrettably, we were unable to source a music provider to enable us to hold a New Year's Eve event, but planning for 2024 is already underway.

Coffee Shop

On Thursday and Friday mornings we love catching up with our regular customers and extend a warm welcome to visitors. On offer are very reasonably priced home-cooked quiche, cake, hot and cold drinks, and great banter with our baristas. Tapping House take over on the first Thursday each month, with a slightly different menu, and the proceeds support the work carried out at the Hospice.

Friendship Lunches

On the first Tuesday each month, we serve a freshly cooked two-course meal with tea or coffee for £7. On December 5th, the lunch will be Christmas fare; wine and beer will be available to purchase, and we welcome back Nick Mansell who will play some festive background music. Please note that January's meal will be on the 9th, and the menu is cottage pie followed by peach and mandarin trifle. Booking is required, so please call 01485 540644 by noon on the Thursday beforehand and also advise us of any allergy or dietary needs.

Village Cinema

There is no film in December; on January 30th the film is *Save the Cinema*, which is based on a true story. Rest assured, Dersingham Village Cinema is safe!

On behalf of the trustees, may I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Keep updated by checking notices at the Centre and around Dersingham, and visit our website - www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk where you can sign up for the regular newsletters. We have a Facebook page and also post on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group. If you have any questions about the Centre, its activities, or bookings, call our landline, 01485 543195. An answerphone is in use, so please leave a message with contact details and someone will get back to you. □



Halloween at the Village Centre

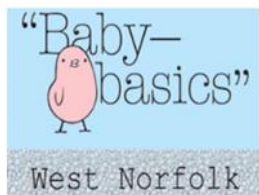
There was an excellent turnout of village children, and parents, to celebrate this year's Halloween. After munching their way through tasty snacks and cakes, they got down to some serious artwork. Bats, monsters and aliens were all in good supply.



And then the fun started. Funded by the Parish Council, they were treated to music, dancing and games where they all did "silly things". Magic tricks and balloon sculpting provided further entertainment.

A good time was had by all.





Baby Basics West Norfolk - Autumn 2023 Update Maggie Anderson and the Baby Basics Team

For those of you reading about us for the first time, we are a small local branch of a UK Charity. We are a volunteer-led project aiming to support new mothers and families who are struggling to meet the financial and practical burden of looking after a new baby. These may include, but not be limited to, teenage mums, those fleeing domestic violence or trafficking, asylum seekers, those facing poverty and homelessness and those families simply not being able to earn enough to just make ends meet. Our aim is to help these new mums practically and generously.

We meet each Tuesday morning in St Nicholas Church in Dersingham. We provide much needed essentials and equipment to these mums and families. Sometimes these items are all that these families have. We lovingly collect together all the essential items needed for the first few weeks and fill a brand new Moses Basket with these, including clothing, bedding, warm blankets, nappies, toiletries and other essentials; maternity sanitary wear for mum too.

Referrals come to us directly from all avenues of the Health Services and other agencies including midwives, health visitors, social workers, schools, local refuge, the food bank, the night shelter, Early Childhood and Family Service, Children's Services and many more.

We are not a Baby Bank where mums can come to request items needed; our referrals mean that each one has been assessed by a professional to be in the greatest need. Referrals have seen a massive increase over the past couple of years, particularly since the pandemic. This year is no different and since the cost of living crisis hit, we have seen unprecedented demand.

In January this year we supported thirty-one mums and babies, and the figure has remained much the same month on month. However, October saw forty-nine referrals to us and as we approach November we already have seventeen on our system – so we fully expect referrals to the end of the year to continue to rise, sadly. Having said that, it remains a privilege to be able to volunteer, and Tuesdays have become even more special to us, welcoming so many people each week who either pop in to donate to us, or simply to stop and say "Hello." The atmosphere in the Church each week is wonderful, and full of hope, despite some very sad situations. We never meet the families. This affords them the anonymity and dignity they deserve. The bundles and gifts are collected and delivered by the referring Health Professional.

The Health Professionals also find it a place of quiet, where they can simply stop and regroup as they collect their bundles, often having a cuppa and sometimes, when meeting with other professionals, it enables them to have time to talk.

Our total for this year so far is a staggering 344 referrals – our busiest year. A social worker said to me last week that this is the tip of the iceberg – the cost of living crisis has



hit so very hard. Our aim is to reach out in love to marginalised people by providing some of the things needed, that most of us take for granted. Thank you – as always - for all the support you continue to show in so many ways. It is thanks to so many that we have never had to say no to any request. Please continue to pray for all those who are finding providing for their little ones a challenge, and please continue to pray for us. It remains a privilege to do what we do.

Baby Basics West Norfolk

Serving vulnerable families across Norfolk, Cambridgeshire & Breckland. Baby Basics West Norfolk is associated with St. Nicholas Church, Dersingham. Registered charity no. 250450. For more information on our vision, please visit the Baby Basics website at www.baby-basics.org.uk or find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BabyBasicsWestNorfolk> □

Careline Scam

Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk

We have recently become aware of attempts to mislead customers of our Careline Community Service scheme and wanted to share this information with you.

Careline Community Service is a pendant scheme for vulnerable, usually older, people to enable them to call for help if they fall. There are a number of schemes operating in the UK.

Many of our nearly 4,000 customers have been using the system for some time, many on an analogue system. However, all phone lines will be transferred to digital technology by 2025, meaning an equipment upgrade is required for those still using analogue technology.

We are working our way through a list of our customers to transfer them to the newer technology. If your name is on the list, we will call you to arrange a visit to change your equipment. When we call, we will explain who we are and ask to make an appointment. We will say that we are calling from Careline Community Service. If someone calls giving another company name, they are not linked to us. When we visit, our staff will be wearing a blue polo shirt with the Careline Community Service logo on it, and they will have a council ID badge.

However, we have become aware that some other companies are taking advantage of this situation. They are cold calling people, telling them they need a new box and then transferring them to the new provider without the customer understanding that this is what has happened. They charge for the new equipment, which we do not do. (The cost of the service is slightly higher for digital technology, but this is paid through the customer's regular service charge; we do not charge for the new equipment or for changing it over.) In some cases customers have received calls from scammers who simply try to take money.

If you have any questions or worries, please email careline.operators@west-norfolk.gov.uk or call the council on 01553 616200 and choose option 1. □

Dersingham Social Club

A new committee has set to work on promoting community activities as part of a major revamp at Dersingham Social Club. A key part of this work has seen the transformation of what used to be the snooker room into a cleaner and brighter family room. Thanks to the efforts of the staff and committee, a programme of redecoration and sourcing of new furniture has led to what was once a scarcely used space now being a thriving area which is seeing lots of use, particularly by families and younger visitors. This was also helped in no small part by some fantastic donations from the community of games, puzzles, consoles, books and sizeable cash donations helping us add to our facilities. Here are before and after pictures of the family room.



2023 has also seen the Club involved in a huge amount of community activities: The village yard sale, a craft fair, Halloween night, school bingo nights and fundraising events are just a few of those. Additionally, as the club has the luxury of three good sized rooms and air conditioning, we have been able to host a wedding reception, birthday parties, wakes, a film night for kids, regular Quiz nights and even flower arranging and dance classes!

Live music is now also a regular feature on the entertainment programme, with the Club hoping to have at least one act per month, catering for all tastes. The plans don't stop there - watch this space, as we are hoping to have a visit from the big man in December.....

The redevelopment of the Coach and Horses pub has meant residents have seen a reduction in the number of venues where they can spend their leisure time, and the Club committee are looking to provide a venue where people can enjoy their time in a relaxed, clean and friendly environment. We currently have three pool teams playing in the local leagues, but our dartboard is crying out for a team. We previously had darts, dominoes and crib teams which took part in regular league matches and we would be very keen to hear from anyone interested in starting these up again. Come in and have a chat with our staff to register your interest.

For the sports fans we have both Sky and TNT sport packages, not just terrestrial TV, with three TVs and a large projector screen, so we are able to show pretty much anything that takes your fancy.

Looking ahead to 2024, there are already a number of music acts booked in and we are delighted to announce that despite rising costs from suppliers and utility companies, we have frozen our membership fee at £10 per person for the whole year, which represents tremendous value.

For more details on events and activities that we have planned, just pop in and see us, email barmanagerdsc@yahoo.com or visit our Facebook page at Dersingham Village Social Club. We look forward to seeing you.□



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News from Dersingham Bog Matt Lonsdale, Natural England

NATURAL
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As the days draw in and wintertime is upon us, our focus on Dersingham Bog NNR is on carrying out our winter work plan. Each winter we devote much time to scrub removal on the heaths and bog; this usually consists of cutting and collecting small pine and birch trees that seed from the surrounding trees. This is carried out by a committed team of staff and volunteers in order to stop these pioneer species from taking over the heather, which is the species that the site is designated for and which the other species that live here rely on. We shall also be carrying out another type of scrub work in the reedbed. This work aims to reduce the amount of willow in the reedbed/fen area to around 10% and stop the willow from seeding further down the reserve, as well as removing the scrub from the ditches to allow a better flow of water.

As part of our winter work plan we also start using a machine called a Rytech, which is used for cutting heather and creating some bare areas for species such as woodlark to utilise in the spring, as well as creating different ages of heather across the reserve. We try to carry out this work in the early part of the winter before the reserve gets wetter, and before woodlarks return very early to heathland, usually on sunny and still days in January and February. We also plan to work again on the long pond project in the Christmas period, with more coir rolls and some floating islands being put in to help reduce the rate of expansion onto the acid mire. In addition, we shall grow more specialist plants and sedges on the edges of the pond to help build up the barrier and reduce levels of erosion further.

The winter season bird population has started to build with large flocks of finches and pipits using the reserve for feeding and roosting in the evening. Over 150 lesser redpolls and over 50 crossbills have been seen, which is an exceptional number following a good breeding year, both locally and on the continent. A single ringtail hen harrier has been seen, but this was only a passing sighting with no birds roosting on the reserve as of yet. Raven and goshawk have both been seen intermittently and large flocks of redwing and fieldfare have also been seen passing west over the reserve with 1000s on some mornings.

On December 2nd as a thank you to local residents we are giving away Christmas trees from the Wolferton car park for Dersingham Bog NNR (Whatt3words /// polices.breezy.meals.) These will be pines straight off the heaths on Dersingham Bog which would have been processed or chipped if not given away. This will take place between 9am and 12noon on the morning of December 2nd on a first come, first served basis. So please come and take advantage and say Hi to the team.

We are still recruiting volunteers to join both our practical work party teams on Mondays and Wednesdays, as well as to partake in surveys from the start of the spring. If you think this could be of interest to you, please don't hesitate to get in contact by emailing matthew.lonsdale@naturalengland.org.uk □

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This Island Fortress – Part 2

Tony Barratt

This is a continuation of a personal reflection by Dersingham resident Tony Barratt of his time in Cyprus from 1956-58 with the RAF.

On 30th August 1956, when I had just been promoted to Sergeant, news arrived that Israel and Egypt were at each other's throats again, despite an official ceasefire. Britain mobilised, and therefore Cyprus, as the main British base in the Near East, was a hive of activity. Various types of RAF aircraft brought military personnel to the island. Most of these were the Hastings, one of the transport workhorses of RAF Transport Command. Many of the aircraft used by the RAF and civil airlines were conversions of famous makes of former bombers. Other aircraft such as Dakota DC3s brought in troops, supplies and other support material for the forthcoming proposed occupation of Suez.

Not only Hastings and Dakotas flew in, but also the great lumbering beast known as the Beverley, the largest freighter aircraft ever built by Britain's aircraft industry. This huge amount of activity was in order to clothe, feed and arm us and supply ammunition, protection and medical support, along with every other conceivable want and need in the forthcoming action. Also included was the dear NAAFI, the time-honoured provider of service meals, booze and cigarettes. The Salvation Army and other civilian organisations lent their support as well. They established shops, stores and welfare support, where concerned soldiers and their relatives could find much needed emotional and practical benefits not usually provided by the armed services.



The Blackburn Beverley

RAF Comets Series C, Mk 2 came in as well, carrying further supplies. They were also to be used CASEVAC, their speed and range essential for the quick and timely evacuation to the United Kingdom of casualties, which were expected to be heavy.

On August 30th French paratroops arrived in their Brigette Provence aircraft and were armed to the teeth. They continued to ferry in munitions and other supplies in very much the same manner as their RAF counterparts: British European Airways (BEA) with Viscount 800 series aircraft, Eagle Airways, Air Charter of London flying Tudors and Hermes, all leased under the general mobilisation for military support, added to the general build up and confusion. Even El-Al, the Israeli airline, flew in its quota of supplies and personnel.

On October 28th 1956 President Eisenhower called upon Israel not to endanger the fragile peace. However, this was not to be, and Israeli forces invaded the Sinai Peninsula to the east of the Red Sea. There ensued five days of extremely heavy fighting that left the area under the control of Israel.

The airports of Nicosia and Akrotiri were an aircraft spotter's dream. My RAF comrades and I continued to talk about the different makes and versions of aircraft that had been



English Electric Canberras

arriving in Cyprus. Most interesting of all was the speed of the jets in comparison to the older propeller types. We were fascinated. Some had even broken speed and endurance records. One of them was the Canberra, a wholly developed and built British aircraft, which had, in particular, set new world records in 1955. One had flown from Ottawa in Canada to London, and the North Pole to Fairbanks and other record-breaking trips. We saw this aircraft often and we were intensely proud of it.

On October 30th our world of aircraft and boyish musing was rudely interrupted by an ultimatum issued by Britain and France that

gave Israel and Egypt just twelve hours to stop fighting. In doing so, they had vetoed a Resolution tabled in the United Nations Security Council by the USA. This had merely called upon the combatants to withdraw to an Armistice line.

All hell then broke loose! Our Canberras were loaded with bombs and ammunition. Every military aircraft was therefore armed and fuelled in readiness. For identification purposes each was painted with identification stripes, which clearly marked them out as allied aircraft. It was thought by the High Command that this would be a long offensive. Our fighter aircraft consisted of Gloucester Meteors and DeHavilland Vampires, which though tiny, proved themselves remarkably effective in a ground attack role. The Meteor had first flown in May 1941 and was the first British jet fighter to form a frontline squadron in the latter period of World War II. Squadron 616 was used mainly in defensive roles protecting the southern seaports of England. It remained in frontline service with the RAF until 1960. Though it was old even in 1956, its continued development went through many versions and it was not used during the Suez crisis. By contrast, the little Vampire FB9 was extensively utilised and earned the nickname "The Flying Wheelbarrow".

On October 31st 1956 Britain and France launched their offensive against military targets in Egypt. Aircraft after aircraft left the airfield. We were kept busy patrolling Nicosia with its nightclubs and busy street life. In the main we were chasing phantoms. By November 2nd the United Nations had called for a ceasefire in Egypt. November 4th saw a Canadian Resolution tabled, calling for an international United Nations force in the Middle East. It was duly adopted, but a few hours into November 5th, Anglo-French airborne troops landed at Port Said and on the next day a seaborne invasion took place as well. After heavy fighting and considerable casualties and damage, Egypt decided to capitulate. A ceasefire was arranged on United Nations terms. It was suddenly all over. After all the gigantic build up, our worries and hopes tinged with great excitement had ended almost as suddenly as they began. Frankly, we were all rather disappointed. There's nothing like a good scrap to get the average serviceman going. After all, that is what we were trained for and the slightest chance of action was eagerly sought.

On November 15th 1956 the Egyptian government in Cairo approved the use of a United Nations peacekeeping force in its country. This Emergency Force, as it was termed, left Naples, but en route the Egyptians under Nasser revoked its earlier agreement by deliberately blocking the Suez Canal with forty-nine ships. The situation was now at its worst and the political ructions for British Prime Minister Eden and his government at home in England were plain for all to see, especially the press that spread the news far and wide. The British government's handling of the whole crisis was now in question. The

same happened in France and on November 23rd Eden tactfully became unwell and headed for Jamaica.

On November 24th the UN called upon Britain, France and Israel to withdraw from Egyptian territory. They did this in the strongest possible diplomatic terms and so my fellow RAF police officers and I were placed on very high alert in the event of the Cypriots exploiting the situation to make things even more unpleasant for the British in Cyprus. We subsequently made a number of arrests and in one village we thought we might have caught up with General Grivas himself (the EOKA leader, intent on reuniting Cyprus with Greece). Unfortunately, it was not and the Cypriot troubles were to go on under his leadership for a few more years to come.

My colleagues and I went on search operations in the Troodos Mountains, scouring the villages for terrorists. We also searched the ghettos in various Greek Cypriot towns. However, on December 5th the British and French troops started to depart from Port Said. UN salvage vessels began the clear up of the Suez Canal. In Cyprus the international community was determined to call for a political, not a military solution. It was at this point that my call of duty ended, and I returned to the UK for further postings.

Fierce conflict in Cyprus continued over the years with many ups and downs which terminated in the division of the island into Greek and Turkish sectors, with, to this day, the UN policing the fragile ceasefire zone between the two communities separated by ethnicity and religion. Such a shame in the beautiful island that saw the birth of Aphrodite. The place is a truly fascinating conundrum of ancient legend, wonderful scenery and spasmodic troubles that continues to enthrall and enrapture modern tourists. What a contradiction!□

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Sandringham Parish Council

The Parish Council is the residents' representative voice for those living in Babingley, Sandringham, West Newton and Wolferton. We are short of Parish Councillors, so please do contact the Chairman, Stephen Thompson, if you might be interested in joining.

The Council met on 8th November, and one member of the public was present. Two issues dominated the meeting – traffic matters and projects arising from an application to the Borough Council for funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy about which all households had been asked for ideas back in the summer.

As regards traffic issues, there were specific discussions about how to take forward a request for a 30mph speed limit in Wolferton. The Chairman said that he had spoken to the County Council, who manage the roads, and the starting point would be a feasibility study which they are willing to do, but at a cost to be covered. The Parish Council is currently examining ways of raising the funds needed for it.

Longer term possible traffic measures were discussed, including ways of crossing the busy A149 for villages lying off the main road, especially with bicycles, and related measures to increase cycling and reduce car use.

The Community Infrastructure Levy idea to be taken forward in this round is the creation of a Men's Shed project for the parish. This will be worked up and reported on at a subsequent meeting.□

Dersingham Task Force Dennis Weatherill

As we draw to the end of another year, we in the Task Force will be taking a well-earned break until next spring.

Hopefully the weeds will also take a break over winter and, anyway, it's no fun gardening in the wind and rain.

We look after the two communal gardens, the rose bed on Post Office Road and the garden in the Recreation Ground. We have been exceptionally lucky this year in that the weather has been warm and dry on our scheduled workdays so, not only have we been able to tend the gardens regularly, but we've also been able to enjoy our post-gardening socialising, (tea and scones at Thaxter's) outdoors all year round!

We have also supported the annual Flower Festival at St Nicholas' Church in the summer and will be assisting with the Christmas Tree Festival in December by bringing in the trees and removing them in the New Year.

We have a small but loyal group of enthusiastic workers, and I would like to thank them for their hard work and enjoyable company throughout the year. However, we are always happy to welcome new members. We meet every second Wednesday at 10.00am, so if this sounds like your kind of activity, please contact me, Dennis Weatherill, on 07482 913399 or denzilweatherill@gmail.com. □

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'Five Painters' art exhibition in aid of The Stroke Association

On the weekend of October 7th/8th five local artists came together to hold an exhibition of their work at Thornham Village Hall in support of the Coastal Stroke Association. It was very well attended, and visitors were able to enjoy a high standard of painting, and also partake of delicious cake!!

The artists in the photograph below, accompanied by Al Ware from the Stroke Association, from left to right are Julie Witt, Chandra Ward, Kit Price-Moss, Jill Ilett and Stephen Martyn, the latter two from Dersingham. Al is also seen with his wife Rosemary. The event raised £270.00 for the association. □



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VILLAGE CINEMA

at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on
Tuesday January 30th at 7:30pm

SAVE THE CINEMA (12)

Cast: Samantha Morton, Jonathan Pryce, Wynne Evans, Erin Richards,
Tom Felton, Owain Yeoman, Adeel Akhtar, Melanie Walters

A Welsh hairdresser starts a campaign in the 1990s to save her small town's theatre. With the help of a local politician, they approach Steven Spielberg with the idea to premiere Jurassic Park there in a bid to save the cinema.



Doors open at 7pm
Entry £6; Under 16s £3
(Entry includes tea/coffee/squash)
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Dersingham Village Cinema is managed by
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Focus on the Wall (or Wall Brown) *Lasiommata mergera* Brian Anderson

This is the ninth of the series on commoner British butterflies. It might be considered odd that I have chosen this species, as nationally it is classified as endangered and is classified as a priority under the Biodiversity Action Plan. But here in Norfolk we are fortunate in having a stable population, especially in our coastal areas, of which, more later.

It was first described by Petiver in 1699 as "The Golden Marbled Butterfly with black eyes" and renamed by him in 1717 as "The London Eye". It received many names from a variety of lepidopterists, including, confusingly, the Gatekeeper by Samouille in 1819. A few decades ago (I haven't pinned down exactly when) the Wall was in the same genus as the Speckled Wood - *Parage*. There is a variety of the Wall var. *bradanfelda*, which is quite similar to the Wall. In fact, if other Wall and Speckled Wood species from elsewhere in Europe and Asia are examined there are considerable wing-pattern overlaps. What led taxonomists to create a new genus is not known to me - it could be genetics or morphology (structure) - or both. There are other species of the *Lasiommata* genus in mainland Europe - most of them don't look like "our" Wall but one does - the Large Wall.



Wall var. bradanfelda



Large Wall.

The Wall is a species that favours open grassland with bare patches of soil where it can bask open-winged in the sun. This basking behaviour allows the butterfly to warm up rapidly in cool conditions, often reaching 8-10°C above its surroundings. At 25-30°C it is able to fly. It is worth noting that butterflies cannot increase their body temperature by rapid wing vibration, as bees do. It is very easy to spot in the right habitat and the right weather, frequently taking off and then settling a few metres further on. The wing pattern is distinctive (although the butterfly is occasionally mistaken for a fritillary), with a reticulated mixture of dark brown and tawny scales coloured with eumelanin and phaeomelanin.

There are normally two full broods in a year, the first adults being on the wing from April to June, and the second, usually much larger brood, flying between July and September. There is a smaller third brood in September and October (also of which more later). The caterpillars feed on a variety of grasses - the female adults usually choosing tussocks where the roots of the tussocks are slightly exposed - hence another reason for a broken sward.



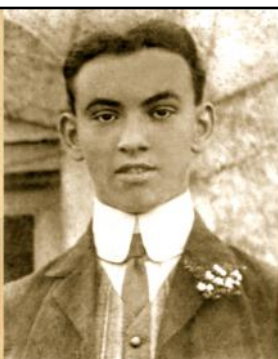
Male Wall



Female Wall

The recent large declines in the abundance of the Wall have been the subject of much research. Until perhaps thirty years ago it was easy to find on any suitable land within its range. As a quite young boy, I can remember them as being common on many areas of wasteland near where we lived in Finchley in North London. The butterfly has suffered periodic declines and recoveries over many decades, many weather-related, but the current position is more severe than those in the past, as it is absent from most inland sites of central southern England. However, the subject is complicated, as the Wall has persisted in most coastal areas, even expanding its range into new sites in Yorkshire, Northumberland and southern Scotland and has declined hardly at all in Devon and Cornwall.

So, what's the current thinking? It hinges on the third October brood mentioned above and the response of the butterfly to a warming climate. In inland areas the Wall's third brood was always small and the adults were not able to breed successfully. Most of the caterpillars arising from the second brood overwintered, eventually to form the spring brood of the following year. As the temperatures rose, more caterpillars pupated and emerged, but these adults were unable to produce caterpillars viable enough to hibernate. In coastal areas, the sea provides a temperature buffer, which limits the size of the third brood and leaves more caterpillars to emerge (after pupation) as adults. In the south-west, the climate has warmed enough to allow a third brood to produce viable offspring. The movement north is probably a response to warmer conditions, allowing viable populations to establish and continue. It is worth noting that in warmer parts of Europe, a third brood is common and viable. It seems likely that in Britain a warmer climate will eventually lead to a recovery of abundance and range, one of the few benefits of the climate catastrophe. □



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What's on in Wolferton

Wolferton Social Club

Christmas opening hours

Fridays December 22nd and 29th and Saturdays 23rd and 30th – normal opening times

Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December. Lunch time 12.30 - 3.30pm, evening 8.00pm - 11.00pm

Christmas Day, Monday 25th December. Lunch time only 12.30 - 2.30pm

News Year's Eve, Sunday 31st December. 8.00pm till late. Free disco and buffet.

Cash Bingo

Sunday December 3rd. Doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 8.00pm

Sunday January 7th. Doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 8.00pm

Prize Bingo

Tuesday, December 19th. Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

No prize bingo in January

Christmas draw

Saturday 16th December 8.00pm

St Peter's Church, Wolferton

Thank you to everyone who supported and helped organise our annual Harvest Quiz. It was a lovely, relaxed evening, with plenty of chilli, some challenging questions and the club full of noise and chat.

The Church is closed at the moment for a major overhaul of the historic organ. We don't know for sure when services will resume, but we hope it will be in time for our traditional Christmas Day service. Please check the Sandringham Churches website (www.sandringhamchurches.org.uk) for further information. However, our carol singing event around the village will definitely go ahead as planned, meeting at Wolferton Social Club at 6pm on Friday 22nd December.□

The Station Master's Daughters

You may have seen or read about the trilogy of books by author Ellee Seymour carrying the above title. They are all set in Wolferton, the first in 1915, the second in 1917 and then the third in 1919. The last of the three is due out shortly.

The inspiration for the works came from the great-grandson of Harry Saward, Wolferton's Station Master from 1884 to 1924, who felt there was a history to be recorded. Ellee undertook extensive research before writing the books, to make sure that they were accurate as regards local – and especially Royal – facts, upon which she wove some other stories, a mixture of events elsewhere or fictional stories.

So popular have her books been with readers, that she has had requests to write a repeat to cover the years of World War Two. Her research so far has taken her as far afield as Merthyr Tydfil in South Wales, and now she wants to extend it to include people who lived local to Sandringham and served members of the Royal Family when they visited during wartime, or with memories passed down from your parents or grandparents.

Please contact Ellee direct on elleeseymour@googlemail.com. □

Norfolk Befriending Service Mel Ford



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If you are able to give some time to help carers near you or know an unpaid carer who would benefit from receiving this service, please contact us for more information.

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Dersingham Walking Group

Tony Bubb



With the shortest days of the year now upon us it is good to get out when we can. Hopefully there will not be too much unfavourable weather to spoil our next walks, but at least we can guarantee some mud, although we do try to select routes to avoid the worst.

Our next walks are:

Wednesday December 13th - 1.30pm

An exploration of the new Elizabeth Path and a bit of the River Ingol. About 4 miles. Start point Dersingham Station, TF631308. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Wednesday December 27th - 10.30am

As this walk was rained off in October, we will attempt to meander around Hunstanton to enjoy the different views of both old and new 'Sunny Hunny', including a beach walk under the cliffs. Meet at 'The Lookout' in front of the Salad Bowl Cafe near the bowling green, opposite Lincoln Square. TF 673413. Approximately 4 miles. Leader Wendy Mears 01485 534338.

Wednesday January 10th - 1.30pm

A circular walk around Heacham village exploring some of the streets, lanes and footpaths, plus a short walk along the beach. About 4 miles. Meet at Brays Pit duck pond, Heacham, TF 673373. Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

Wednesday January 24th - 1.30pm

A circular walk around Snettisham, Sedgeford and Inmere along tracks and lanes. Start at St Mary's Church, Snettisham, TF 689342. About 4.5 miles. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Wednesday February 14th - 1.30pm

We have got lots of woods round here, so we have another chance to explore them with woodsman extraordinaire Brian as he leads us through the trees. About 4 miles starting at the car park in Heath Road, TF 687298. Leader Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.



All our planned walks will appear here in Village Voice and can also be found on our page on the Parish Council website and in the Calendar on that website. Our page is at www.dersingham.org.uk/walkinggroup. Joining the walking group is a great way to meet some of your fellow villagers, plus some folk from further afield, and to explore the local area. There is no cost involved. Dogs are welcome on most walks, provided they are well behaved and tolerant of other dogs. The leader of the walk will do their best to look after you.

PLEASE NOTE THAT the leaders are happy to organize and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety. If you want more information about any particular walk, then please contact the leader.

Group coordinator: **Tony Bubb** Tel: 01485 542638 Email: frostytrees@btinternet.com □

Norfolk Hospice Quiz Night

Victoria Rush, Community Fundraiser

There was a fantastic turnout for the quiz on Friday evening in aid of The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House with twenty-seven teams taking part.

Dersingham Fundraising Volunteers organised the event with special thanks to Graham and Sally for organising the quiz, preparing the questions and acting as quizmasters and scorers on the night. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening with quiz rounds varying from superstitions to music. There was a prize for the winning team and also the team with the best name. The winning team scored an incredible 186 on the night.

Thank you to Dersingham Village Centre for the use of the hall and for supplying the bar.

Thank you to everyone who came to support the event and take part in the quiz. An incredible amount of £1,095.50 was raised on the night, which goes to support the vital care provided by the hospice. All proceeds from the raffle and entry fees go to support The Norfolk Hospice.

The hospice provides care for 1,500 patients and their families each year. Care is delivered at the hospice in Hillington in the Tulip Centre and Inpatient Unit and also in people's own homes through the Hospice at Home service. All care is provided free of charge but the hospice costs around £3.25 million each year to run, with only a third of that funded by the NHS. The rest is raised through fundraising activities like this, individual and corporate donations, grants, through our lottery and retail shops.

Hospice Craft Fair and Coffee Morning: A magnificent £648.50 was raised in just two hours□



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2nd Dersingham Brownies

Lynne Wheeler, Leader

Visit by members of the Guide Dogs for the Blind

The Brownies enjoyed a visit by Gill Southgate and her Guide Dog Adelaide - "Addie" - and Michelle Foster who is a Long Cane user.

Gill explained how Guide Dog puppies are specially bred with the qualities they need, their socialisation and training and how over the years she has had a number of dogs who have enabled her to have a good quality of life, and work very successfully at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Michelle showed the Brownies her cane and they were able to try it out for themselves. The Brownies asked lots of questions and tried some Guide Dogs for the Blind sponsored games.



Half-term sleepover

The 2nd Dersingham Brownies enjoyed a sleepover during half-term at the Snettisham Scout HQ at Jimmy's Field. On arrival they made woodland animal-themed place mats; they then painted animal models, made felt puppets and animal magnets and decorated biscuits.

The Brownies had the opportunity to help in setting the tables for meals, tidying up and other jobs.



The girls enjoyed tea, lots of games, and later in the evening, toasted marshmallows outside before having an indoor campfire singsong.

They all received a number of badges for their badge blankets before a bedtime drink and story. Sleep took some time to come!! But next morning everything was packed up and after breakfast they had a chance for some games before going home. □





Snettisham Gardening Club



We do not hold a meeting in December but will be having a tombola in aid of East Anglia Children's Hospice at our Village Christmas Fair on Saturday 2nd December.

Our AGM will be on Wednesday 31st January when our 2024 programme will be available for members joining. We start at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road at 7.30pm and once business is complete we will be holding a Quiz and refreshments will be available.

You will be most welcome to come and see what we have planned for 2024. In the meantime, enjoy the festive season and our best wishes for the New Year. Happy and hopefully peaceful New Year.

For any further information please do not hesitate to contact Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.□



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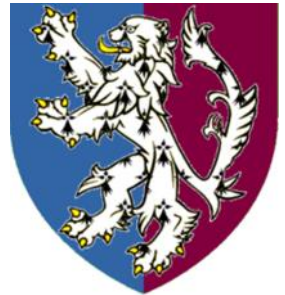


In my last article I imagined using Dr. Who's Tardis to travel back to the area around St. Nicholas Church. I tried to show how much the church and the area that surrounds it had changed over the centuries. Now if I was allowed to operate the Tardis I would ask for it to materialise on the bowling green (!) but in the 13th or early 14th centuries. This is an area in the village that still speaks eloquently of its long history. If you walk across the pastures opposite our church you cannot help but notice the mounds, ditches, mysterious hollows and undulations that fill one corner. On closer inspection it becomes clear that there is a raised area of land surrounded on four sides by ditches. If you look on any Ordnance Survey map you will see the markings of that square and the word Moat. The moat is visible and does contain water, especially after heavy rain, but it is slowly being choked by brambles, reeds, wildflowers, and scrub.

Standing there today it is difficult to imagine that moat filled with deep water and crossing it by a drawbridge to a gatehouse, then through to the fortified manor house that once stood there. When it was built in the 13th/14th centuries England was experiencing turbulent times and civil wars. A survey in 1985 spoke of fine fishponds to the south of the moat.

A manor house was the administration centre and residence of the Lord of the Manor. Under the feudal system all land was owned by the King and he would grant estates to his important earls and lords in return for military aid.

The house is referred to as Brookhall or Oldhall Manor. Thomas de Brokedish owned this property in about 1216 and a Richard le Butler held the manor in custody for Stephen Brokedish in 1247. Another owner was William Oldhall, born about 1390, the son of Sir Edmund Oldhall of East Dereham, Norfolk. William was a soldier and Yorkist supporter who gave many years of active service in France during the turbulent reign of Henry VI. After many engagements he won his spurs at the Battle of Verneuil in 1424, distinguished himself at the sieges of Maine and Anjou, and was employed on a special mission in Flanders in 1426. He was present at the Great Council of Westminster in 1434 to discuss the conduct of the war in France.



Sir William Oldhall

Returning to England, he became Chamberlain to Richard Duke of York in 1440. He was appointed Speaker of the House of Commons in 1450. But everything changed after that as he was indicted for complicity in the insurrection of Jack Cade in 1452 and for supporting the Duke of York's rebellion. Jack Cade was an Irish rebel who, assuming the title of Captain Kent, led a popular revolt against the Government of England and Henry VI. He marched on London with his band of followers but lost control of his followers who began looting, leading to a bloody battle on London Bridge. To end the terror the King gave the promise of a full pardon if the rebels went home. This caused dissent among his followers and Cade subsequently was killed. William Oldhall was indicted for his part in this conspiracy and was subsequently outlawed and attainted. When Edward IV came to the throne in 1461 the attainder was declared null and void so his fortunes were restored. He died only a short time later.

Sir William Capel, who made his fortune as a draper, was the owner of Oldhall Manor during the reigns of Henry VII and Henry VIII. He was a tough man of business but

some of his dealings must have been suspect as he incurred heavy fines and was even imprisoned in the Tower for refusal to pay a fine. However, he was eventually granted a pardon and, back in favour again, was elected Mayor of London in 1503 and again in 1510. His London mansion once stood on the site of the present Stock Exchange. He died in 1516, when his son Sir Giles Capel inherited the Dersingham estate.

Sir Giles was born in Romford Essex around 1480 and became Sheriff of Essex. He also gave great service on the battlefields of France. He was knighted in 1513 fighting in the siege of Tournai and the Battle of Spurs. He became a good friend of Henry VIII. In 1520 Henry was persuaded that to continue the war with France would be damaging to England's already battered finances, so a diplomatic meeting was proposed in France between Henry and the French King Francis I to try to bury old enmities and foster peace. The preparations were enormous, as each side tried to impress with their wealth and power. More than 5000 English men and women, the important nobles of the King's Court, Bishops, Knights and all their servants were transported across the Channel. More than 3000 valuable horses with their rich apparel were carefully loaded aboard the ships. An encampment of over 400 richly decorated tents was set up to house them all. An impressive pavilion was built of brick and canvas for the meetings and a magnificent tent richly decorated in gold and blue was prepared for the banquets. Henry had a separate sumptuously furnished suite of tents. Heraldic flags and emblems were everywhere, and this was just the English! It must have been a sight to rival even our recent Coronation celebrations when the whole retinue of thousands, led by Henry VIII in all his glory, processed from the ship along the French roads to the encampment. It is little wonder that this event has been known ever since as The Field of Cloth of Gold.



The Field of Cloth of Gold

There were jousts, tournaments, wrestling, music and drama as well as the political discussions. It was truly an amazing spectacle, so I was delighted to discover that Sir Giles Capel was not only at the Field of Cloth of Gold but was chosen by Henry to select the knights for the jousting that was to take place. Maybe he even took part in the jousts himself.



From your Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb



There is little new to report from the Borough apart from the day-to-day business of the Council. Discussed at the last Full Council was a proposal to investigate a Town Council for King's Lynn. Though on paper this looks like a fair deal for the town, in reality it would mean higher

charges for those living in the town and also a tricky discussion as to who owns/maintains the heritage buildings, of which of course there are many.

We have been in discussion with Sandringham regarding the recent concerts with a view to making life easier for our residents during future events.

Within the Ward the Sports Ground has formed a charity and has applied for planning permission to build a new sports pavilion. Lest we get carried away, you should be aware that there is a long way to go before any build might start, not least the fact that the funds will have to be sought from appropriate bodies, for example The Football Association and Sport England. However, these initial steps are vital and represent progress. We are grateful to all who commented on the planning portal - mostly positive, and the comments that raised issues are welcome and those issues will be addressed by the architect. Dersingham residents and residents of the surrounding villages who use the sports field deserve a decent facility when playing sport and we all very much hope this will become a reality in due course.

Dersingham Tennis has successfully bid for CIL funding to repair Court One, the surface of which is cracking up due to lying water. This court has always been at a lower level and the funds will enable the court to be levelled up. This will not now happen until next spring when the weather will hopefully be drier!

There has been some report of flooding in the area, but on the whole we appeared to have escaped the worst. Having said that, we are looking at drainage in Pell Road and if any resident has experienced lying water please do inform us.

We wish all a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.□

Dersingham Tennis Club Secures CIL Funding

CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Funding is available in graduated amounts depending on the size of a project. Dersingham Tennis Club went for the small grant scheme to repair the court on the west side that has suffered badly from lying water, causing the surface to break up. We are delighted to have been successful. The grant will enable the Club to level up the ground around the area from the service box to the net and repaint. Work will commence next March when the weather will hopefully be drier.

The Club is grateful to the CIL team for allocating funds to us. We are only a small club, but we attract players from all around the area and are always looking for new members. Come along in the spring and try out our new look court; you will be assured of a warm welcome.□





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Monday 11th December 2023

***Robed in Dreadful Majesty: Music, Poetry and
Traditions of the Advent Season***

Lecturer: Peter Medhurst

It is not known exactly when Advent was first acknowledged as part of the Church's calendar, but it appears to be a tradition that was started sometime in the late 5th century. Etymologically, Advent is derived from the Latin *adventus* - coming, arrival - and for many people today, as in the past, it is a time for reflection and spiritual preparation for the birth of Christ on 25th December. Over the centuries Advent has attracted many customs and traditions, and has also inspired a wide range of fine prose and poetry, as well as some first class music. The lecture follows the ever-evolving traditions of Advent and samples a range of inspired poetry and music.



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The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle

The doorbell rang and knuckles were rapped on the glass door. I scurried to answer it to see a lady looking a bit like a hospital 'sister' holding a black bag. I opened the door, puzzled, and she said in jolly tones, "I've come to give you your flu and Covid jabs." I probably looked stupid, because I hadn't been expecting her, and told her, "Well, I've had my flu jab, and I'm not sure I want the Covid one." And then I added, "Nobody told me you were coming." She looked at her notes and said, "I have you down as housebound and wanting Covid and flu jabs." Then, she said, "Why don't you want Covid jabs?" I told her, "Because I have been very ill, and I don't think it's a good idea adding unknown 'germs' to my already ravaged body." "Well," she said, "you will be a lot worse if you do get struck down with Covid and won't have the immunity to deal with it." "Oh, alright," I said, and offered my arm. "Can you do my other half as well, please?" as I knew he wanted his Covid jab. "Yes, of course", she said briskly. Remote Control Man came to my call and rolled up his sleeve and had his jab. It was all over in a couple of minutes and off the lady trotted.

"Where did she come from?" asked Remote Control Man. "From the surgery, I presume," said I. He looked at me. "Didn't you check?" My eyes widened with thoughts of lethal injections given by a mad imposter doing the rounds of Dersingham. How foolish of me not to ask! It could have been anyone. It could be someone from the KGB giving you knock-out drugs so that when you collapsed on the floor, they ransacked the house, stole your jewellery and your Maine Coon cats and bundled your best rocking chair into the back of a van.

Well, it's evening now – I'm not frothing at the mouth with eyes rolling, and I'm feeling perfectly okay so I am pretty sure the lady was genuine. But doesn't it just show how easy it is to get into the house of a pensioner who believes what people tell them? It would help, though, if the surgery could let people know that someone is coming out to see them...I was bewildered by the whole thing.

So, Christmas will be doing the rounds again soon. I used to love Christmas so much – the excitement of snow (a pre-requisite of Christmas in my childish mind that seldom came to fruition) and presents under the tree. The War years brought lean pickings, but it was still exciting. Then, married and with children, the difficulty of saving pennies from a tight budget all year to buy them gifts, the tearing off of wrapping papers, the turkey aromas drifting through the house, relatives turning up, playing games, watching the Queen on TV – all wonderful stuff. But now, old and disenchanted, Himself and I get a small turkey crown, put some potatoes in the oven to roast, make some bread sauce and pretend we are having fun at the table in the kitchen on our own. But do we really care? Not really. I can't hear anything anybody says, so what's the point trying to join in a conversation, and secretly, I am happier at home where I can go to sleep on the sofa and be covered by cats while one of the parrots calls out 'Merry Christmas' over and over again.

After the Second World War, my grandfather bought a farm with 200 acres for very little money. In those days, if a farmer's property wasn't yielding enough, his farm was taken away, and other people could profit, like my grandad. Mind you, he worked endlessly hard to get good yields himself, and years after he purchased, I remember him saying

that this was the first year he had actually made a profit. But that is by the by. I was lucky, at seven or eight years old, to have a fantastic farm to visit and play in. I remember a spectacular Christmas where mother and I slept up in the attic, which when I first discovered it by going up winding stairs, was full of huge, dusty cobwebs. I was certain secret rooms were in the walls and wasted time tapping to see if any sounded hollow. On this occasion an old iron bed had been erected in the still quite dusty attic with a 'po' under the bed and no other furniture whatsoever. I loved it. I found it difficult to sleep as I was so excited, but eventually I did, to find a present waiting for me in the morning! I unwrapped it to find a lovely little gollywog mother had secretly knitted for me in the evenings. I loved him, but as I turned him over, I discovered his back was all navy blue! Mother must have mistaken the wool colour in the gloom of the evenings (we only had gas lamps lit low, because of the expense.) I tried not to be disappointed, but I was.

Down the rickety stairs I went, and then down the normal stairs, also twisting and turning, into the main part of the farmhouse. How I loved it. To me it was huge, with lovely antique furniture Grandfather had got cheap in an auction lot. There was clattering coming from one of the two kitchens – the one with the big butler sink where dead rabbits used to lay on a side table, waiting to be skinned and gutted, and I would poke at their dull, lifeless eyes. It was always very cold in there. My granny would be preparing food which would be taken into the other kitchen to be cooked in the Aga, so this room was always warm. There was a huge built-in dresser, housing large oval serving dishes, whopping great china tureens and other kitchen items. Grandfather's large roll-topped desk flanked the dresser, while a large kitchen table took up all the floor space, where later that day we would be seated having roasted chicken and pull REAL CRACKERS! After the meal was over and someone had found the thruppenny piece in the pudding, it would be getting dark and time for Murder in the Dark. I used to love this. Fires would be lit in the formal dining room and the sitting room, and all would be cosy, except in hallways and ante-rooms which would be freezing cold – snow or no snow! I didn't get presents from my grandparents, aunt or father, nor did I expect any – the war had beggared people's pockets and everyone was in the same boat. But the thing is, we all had such fun. There was a piano resting against gaudy wallpaper in the sitting room, upon which mother played ragtime; grandfather got out his drums from the other attic room and banged away; there was tambourine and bells, a mandolin (Grandmother played that – she must have been quite bohemian when I come to think of it) and the rest of the folk would make do with combs and paper and perhaps a mouth organ or two. On one Christmas occasion, wardrobes were plundered and we all dressed up for an 'old-fashioned' photo to be taken in front of the faded velvet curtains. The saggy old sofa was covered in green flock velvet and the curtains didn't match anything – but to me all this added up to utter, utter heaven.

When TV came into existence a few years later, that put paid to all that wonderful fun – and now, it's even worse with everyone glued to their mobiles. However, Christmas comes and goes with each generation, and however the oldies might tut, to the children it will be 'the best ever.' It's a shame that most have forgotten that we celebrate Christmas because of the birth of Christ and now it's more a commercial grab for profit.

Let us hope that there will be more peace on earth and goodwill towards men – that's something else that seems to have been forgotten!

So, now, I bid you and yours a Happy Christmas in your own particular style and wish you all the best for the New Year. □



Dersingham Day Club

On October 18th we were entertained by the Banjo Man, who is always enjoyed by our members. On November 8th we had lunch at the Feathers. Our Christmas Lunch will be on December 13th with entertainment by the wonderful Purple Angels.

As part of St Nicholas' Christmas Tree Festival we shall be decorating our tree in the church with many of the decorations made by our members.

We will start back on January 3rd 2024.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For further information, contact Wendy Raby 01485 544975 □



Dersingham Day Club
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be shellfish of me not to mention that!)

And of course, we still have plenty of vegetables, fruits, cakes
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And finally, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy
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Dersingham Sports Field and The Pastures

Bernard Twite

In the late 1940s The Pastures was one field: there was a football pitch and a cricket pitch, the rest was pastureland. The land was farmed by the Stanton family, grazing cattle and sheep. Sandringham Estate donated a wooden hut for a changing area and storage; this was put in the corner next to the Feathers boundary. In the 1950s there was also a tennis court – this was in the corner between where the scout hall now stands and the Feathers' barns. I have heard the hut called a searchlight hut; so perhaps it had a military use at some time. Grazing kept the grass down; sometimes animals had to be moved before a game could take place.

In the late 1950s it was realised the hut was getting the worse for wear and a replacement would have to be found. A committee was formed from interested villagers to raise funds for a new pavilion. In the end, with a grant from the National Playing Field Association, the money was raised and the existing pavilion was built, opening in 1967. Building didn't start until all the money was in place and it was built without loans or borrowing. After the pavilion was finished, the sports field was fenced off from the rest of The Pastures as a dedicated sports field. The Parish Council took out a lease with Sandringham for that part. The fund-raising committee disbanded and a management committee was formed from the ground users to run the ground, paying a rent to the Council. A set of rules (a Constitution) was drawn up. One part I remember said, "if the time came when the pavilion was no longer needed, as it was built for the village with money raised by the village, the village should decide its future."

The only access points I have known are by the track from Manor Road, from the footpath down the side of the Foresters' Hall and the footpath from Centre Vale; anywhere else is unofficial. When the allotments behind the Police Station were no longer used, the Hanover/Guinness housing was built on the land. The boundary between the housing and the sports field is a hedge running the length of the ground, with a dyke alongside. After building finished, Hanover asked if an access could be put through the hedge onto the field. This was turned down by the Council, one reason being that the field was for sport and not a recreation field. At different times attempts have been made to make an access, but the Council always stopped them. I believe that at the moment there is an opening in the hedge.

The dyke used to be about six feet deep. The football club had a pole with a metal ring on the end to retrieve the ball if it went in. The other way to get the ball back was for someone to go down the dyke on the end of linked arms. At that time getting to the field from the Foresters' footpath was walking across a plank of wood placed over the dyke, or, as us boys did, a running jump. There are several rows of land drains in the field; these run from the Coach/Feathers car parks across the field and into the dyke.

After the field was divided, Mr Stanton used to see to the grass being cut. Eventually the sports club bought its own tractor and mowers and took over the cutting of the grass. After he finished playing football, the late John Bunn became football groundsman, a job he did for fifty years. One year he was Norfolk Groundsman of the Year, a reward for all his hard work.

At one time a group of volunteers would clean out the dyke at the start of the football season. Other jobs would be done the same way when necessary. Over the years, John took on more of the work, especially after he retired. Any work John could not do, he had a list of go to people, including a man with a digger. Things change and are done differently now, but hopefully the ground will still look as good in the future as it has in the past.□



Meet Dersingham's New Community First Responder



Residents of Dersingham and the immediate surrounding villages can feel safe in the knowledge that should they find themselves in a medical emergency this winter, help is just a few minutes away, thanks to new Community First Responder, Glen Piggott.

Community First Responders (CFRs) are volunteers who are trained by the East of England Ambulance Service Trust (EEAST) to attend certain types of emergency 999 calls in the area where they live or work, such as cardiac arrests, chest pains, breathing difficulties and patients who have fallen. They aim to reach a potential life-threatening emergency in the first vital minutes before the ambulance crew arrives.

"With the increasing winter demands on the ambulance service, being Dersingham's CFR means that I can help someone within my community with urgent medical assistance and if needed, can be on scene very quickly with a defibrillator," Glen said.



"Being there when someone needs help until an ambulance arrives gives you a very special kind of satisfaction," Glen continued. "Within the first week that I have been a CFR, I have already helped to treat one patient with a suspected heart attack and another patient suffering from severe breathing difficulties."

As well as volunteering as a CFR, Glen works at Fakenham-based MED-PTS Ambulance Services as the private ambulance company's Events Officer, so

Photo: Elaine Bird—Town and Around

he and his team can be found most weekends at local events providing first aid and medical cover, such as at the Hunstanton Soap Box Derby earlier this year and at Fawkes in the Walks in King's Lynn this month.

EEAST has over 1,200 active volunteers who support the service in patient-facing and non-patient-facing roles. "We are especially keen to hear from anyone in the Hunstanton or Heacham area who would consider volunteering as a CFR," Glen said. Anyone can become a Community First Responder as long as they are physically fit, aged between 18-70, have a sympathetic and caring nature, agree to undertake regular training provided and have a full driving licence and access to a roadworthy car.

To find out more, please visit – www.eeast.nhs.uk/join-the-team/community-first-responders.

Community First Responders are completely self-funded and do not receive any funding from EEAST, meaning that all their life-saving equipment needs to be fundraised. If any individual or organisation would like to know more about making a financial donation, they should contact Glen via glen.piggott@gmail.com. □

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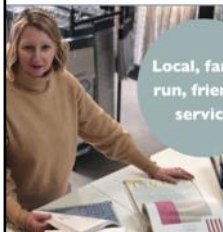
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Hunstanton Croquet Club

Caroline Harper

It's hard to believe, but by the time you read this, our season will be over - the last competitions played, the last club afternoons held, the presentation lunch eaten and enjoyed, the AGM held, and the club put to bed for winter.

It has been a busy seven months. Looking through our diary, at least 2000 people have walked through our gates to enjoy the facilities offered - three organised club afternoons every week for members, individuals booking lawns for their own games, tournaments hosted, a course for U3A members, evenings held for groups - that is an awful lot of cups of tea and coffee and many biscuits consumed! Thank you, Ellie, for keeping us fuelled!

Our thanks, as always, to Jonny for all his hard work keeping the lawns in such good condition and all the volunteers who put in so many hours behind the scenes - without them, the club would not function. You know who you are!

The committee remains active throughout the off season, so if you have any questions or are planning your diaries for next year and want to book a session for your organisation, do not hesitate to get in touch via the contact us page on our website hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk or email me: Caroline Harper littlehumph@gmail.com

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE A MALLET TO SELL!! (We have new members still looking to buy a mallet for next season.)□



Charlie Mackenzie, winner, and competitors in the Carpenter Cup



David Boxell, winner, and competitors in the Kendal Cup



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Making Gardening Easier May Davey

Our members enjoyed a talk in November by Dr Ian Bedford about "Garden Bugs: Cohabitate, Conserve and Control." Despite the heavy rain, 22 people came to listen to him. Well done!

We look forward to our Christmas dinner at Knight's Hill Barn on Friday, 15th December. Our members always put on a good show in their colourful Christmas jumpers. Guests are very welcome too. Please contact Gloria for more details.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 19th January 2024 at Dersingham Village Centre. We meet at 2.00 pm on the third Friday of the month, unless an outing has been arranged. Entrance costs £3.00 for tea and a raffle ticket. For more details, please contact our Secretary, Gloria Pantling, on 01553-671912.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

SANDRINGHAM ESTATE



COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNINGS

Fridays 1st, 8th and 15th December, 9.30am - 11.00am.

The community coffee morning initiative provides a welcoming place for local people to gather and offers a warm haven for those who may not have the opportunity for social interaction.

On select dates in December, enjoy a chat, free hot drink (or select cold drinks) and delightful surroundings in the Sandringham Restaurant.

All welcome. No need to book, just arrive on any of the above dates and times. Free parking for those attending (please ask staff for a code).



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Dersingham Methodist Church

Elizabeth Batstone

Plans for Christmas are being made – decorating angels for our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival, collecting Christmas food items for the Hunstanton Foodbank and preparing for the Christmas Fayre on 25th November.

We are looking forward to the Church being decorated for Christmas, together with the Advent wreath and candles reminding us of the journey to Christmas.

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

The Carols by Candlelight service is on **Sunday 17th December at 3.00pm**, led by Revd Dr Richman Ncube, followed by refreshments.

Sunday 24th December at 10.30am is a **Christmas Songs of Praise**.

The **Christmas Day service is at 10.30am**. You are very welcome to join us for any of our events.

January's coffee morning is on Saturday 27th, 10.00am to 11.30am, raising funds for the Flower Festival. May you find hope, joy and peace as you celebrate this Christmas. And we pray for a peaceful and blessed New Year.

Further information on the above from Elizabeth Batstone, 01485 541068.
stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com □

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

FROM DERSINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH



SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER 3.00 p.m.
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER 10.30 a.m.
CHRISTMAS SONGS OF PRAISE

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 10.30 a.m.

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We will be holding our Members' Christmas Party at the Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton on Monday 11th December at 1.00pm. We wish all members a Happy Festive Season and let us hope for a peaceful New Year in 2024.

Our first meeting in 2024 will be on Monday 15th January at the usual time of 2.00pm when Georgette Vale will be reminding us of the great contributions made by Norfolk people - Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe. You will be most welcome to join us.

For further information please see our website hunstantonu3a.org or telephone 07443763679. □

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DECEMBER 20TH

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We are currently re-starting the social committee across our two churches. If you would like to join this committee to help plan and co-ordinate social activities in our parish, or to volunteer to help in any way, please contact patfucher@hotmail.co.uk.

We will have an Advent Prayer Tree in both churches from the beginning of December for people to put their prayer requests on. You can offer a donation which will go towards the work of the SVP Wash Conference to help people in our area. There will be an Advent service in King's Lynn at the beginning of December, which you are invited to attend. There will be offers of lifts or car buddies available. See the parish notice boards or weekly bulletin for further details. The Christmas Mass times will also be well advertised, both on our 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. 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 and there is also a Mothers' Prayers group which meet at 2.30pm on Mondays fortnightly at OLSE.

The Pope's prayer intention for December is for **Persons with Disabilities**; we pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation. The Pope's prayer intention for January 2024 is for **The gift of diversity in the church**; let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

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 Sundays. 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 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 see the **Links** page of our website at 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 10.00am at Hunstanton on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 10.15am at Dersingham on Wednesdays.

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org **Email:** hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk
The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675. If you require a Priest urgently, please telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220, or email parishpriest763@gmail.com □



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The Car



Excitement last July for him and me
We got our new VW ID three.
A major new change, how that thrill feels,
An electric car, my word – a laptop on wheels.

Of course, I began to worry and fret,
I had never driven an automatic car yet.
Unlike me 'twas husband's delight and joy,
No more fuel stations with this digital 'toy';
No keyhole nor handbrake nor buttons to push...
A rocker switch, two foot pedals, my brain turned to mush.

Just looking around it, my anxiety grew
This AI vehicle, so completely new.
But be brave, I said, take the 'bull by the horns',
No...car by the wheel – uttering lots of 'darns'!!

Husband rode shotgun, I drove to see what it was like,
Concentrating so hard, scared a man on his bike.
Jammed on the brakes, frozen with fright,
Heart pounding wildly, would this ever feel right?

It's been a gradual process, with huge learning curves.
I argued with and cussed as it sometimes got on my nerves.
It chattered back to you, if you didn't keep mum,
As for the heated seats they nearly cooked my bum.

Months on, more knowledge, but learning still,
Its quiet drive turns my head into a windmill.
Backing out of spaces it's multiple checks to see
That I'm not about to cut someone off at the knee.

We benefit from the solar panels on our roof;
To fuel stations and prices, we have become aloof.
Now only to remember when we part in the garage
To immediately plug in and put the car on charge.

One thing for me that stands out in its favour
Starting and stopping, it does not waver.
Though electric vehicles are the current new trends
We have remained acquaintances, still not yet friends!!!

Lorna MMXX11

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Dersingham Evening WI

Katrina Mundy, President

Our October evening meet was a very thought-provoking talk by Briony Bax MBE on her founding and work at the Saidia Children's Home in Gilgil, Kenya. This home, founded in 2006 by four Kenyan ladies, provides accommodation for up to sixty children of all needs, backgrounds and denominations. They range from newborns abandoned by their mothers to other children found by the police, many of which have been abused, trafficked or abandoned. Many of them are then made Wards of Court by Saidia and stay there until they reach eighteen years of age.

They are schooled and prepared for independence with many going on to university or apprenticeships and then onto work. They also run a pre-school in the red-light district of Gilgil for seventy-five pre-school children which they co-run with Canadian Chalice.

Briony goes out to Gilgil twice a year and takes volunteers with her to help in any way they can during their stay there. Saidia is funded by donations and costs £70,000 per year to run. For her work with Saidia, Briony was awarded the MBE which came as a big surprise to her. I know it made many of our members think just how lucky we and our children are in this country.

We held a very successful Autumn Fair in September with a mixture of stalls ranging from Christmas decorations, and paintings sold for Water Aid, Fairtrade, and Greyhounds. The raffle raised £85 for Norfolk Stroke and Carers Society. Many thanks to those who came to support us and stayed to have a drink and slice of homemade cake.

Nine members had a successful shopping trip to Springfields at the beginning of November. (For some it was the start of Christmas shopping – I always tell myself to start earlier but never do.)

By the time you read this we will have had our November meeting which was "Stories of a Lorry and Furniture Removal Man" by Leonard Priestly. I saw Leonard's audition for the WI and this will be a highly entertaining talk about various problems and situations Leonard encountered during his career as first a lorry driver and then a removal man.

Our usual groups continue and then will have a break for Christmas. Our members are busy making the decorations for our tree at St Nicholas's Christmas Tree Festival (I'm not telling what they are - you will have to come and see for yourselves.)

Our Book Club have read a total of twenty-two books this year, quite a feat and thanks to Joan and Pat for holding these in their homes. This November they read *The Keeper of Stories* by Sally Page. They will have a break for Christmas and then restart in January.

Twelve of our dining group had a lovely meal at The Black Horse in Castle Rising and many thanks to the lovely staff there who were very helpful and looked after them.

December's evening meeting will be our Party night, and the entertainment for the evening is Mark, who will talk about being a Panto Dame. I am sure this will be highly entertaining and hopefully I will have photos in the next report.

We then look towards January 2024 when we will be having a New Year Lunch outing at The Swan in South Wootton. January 2024 sees our new programme of meetings and events come into effect. We will not have an Evening meet in January, but our next one will be in February, which will be our [Annual](#) General Meeting when a new committee will be voted in.

Our programme for 2024 includes talks by Wally Webb (Radio Norfolk), Hazel Gillingham, Painter Judith Key, Susan Cranmer, and singer Joan Hocking, who will be entertaining us at our Birthday meet in April. (I will put a more detailed programme in the next issue.)

Dersingham Evening WI wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and all best wishes for 2024. Our monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month in St Cecilia's Church, Dersingham @7.15pm. 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 01485542847.□



What's in the Name?
A quiz from Tony Bubb



Individual letters are used a lot in life. Initials, acronyms and abbreviations are all in common use. Here is a selection for you to find what the letters stand for. Some you may know, but others you will no doubt resort to Google for – shame on you; reference books can help as well. Answers in the next edition, but no prizes, just the satisfaction.

A A Milne	SAAB
B & Q	FIAT
G K Chesterton	HMV
H P Sauce	QUANTAS
J B Priestley	J M Barrie
E E	E M Forster
Jerome K Jerome	W H Smith
I K Brunel	F W Woolworth
BRM	HSBC
AEC	JCB

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Hunstanton and District Camera Club

The new season has arrived and the Club would welcome new members to join them on the first and third Thursdays of the month. The meetings are normally held in the Community Room in Orchard Close in Dersingham, just off Post Office Road, near the Library – PE31 6LU. However, for your first visit it's best to check with our chairman Rex Makemson as some of our meetings have been replaced by outings. We have recently made trips to see the high tide bird spectacular at Snettisham RSPB, the deer rut at Holkham, and to *Luminate* at Sandringham. You can see some of our results below. Photos by Rex Makemson, Pete Sorrell and Daniel Harvey.

The Club is aimed at photographers of all abilities, from absolute beginners to those with many years of experience – and they help pass on their knowledge to others. Some Club nights are devoted to learning about and practising techniques such as artificial lighting, getting the right exposures, improving composition, etc. At other times there are guest speakers, competitions, or members showing their work.

If you would like further information please contact Rex at rex@makemson.com or go to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Hunstantoncameraclub/>.



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*"It wouldn't be Christmas
without Bilton Silver at
Dersingham"*

Update on the QEH Redevelopment NHS Norfolk and Waveney

New multi-storey car park

We are currently awaiting the funding for the new multi-storey car park (MSCP) due to be built on the site of the old Inspire Centre. We now expect work to commence on the MSCP in mid-2024. This project is a key enabler for our new hospital, planned to be built on the site of the current main car park. We do not expect this delay to have an impact on the start date for our new hospital.



New car park buggy launched

Last month we launched our new buggy service running from the car park up to the main hospital buildings. The idea for the service came as a result of feedback from visitors to the QEH site who voiced concern about the difficulty of walking up the hill from the main car park to the hospital building for people with mobility issues. Driven by trained volunteers the electric buggy operates Monday to Friday, currently from 9am to 12 pm while we assess how many people are using the service and train more volunteers.



You can pick up the buggy from in the main car park at the bottom of the first ramp which is also the wheelchair drop off point – signage is in place to direct people.

Car parking at the QEH

We appreciate car parking is a challenge across our site and demand on our car parks is only increasing. We also know it can be stressful for our patients and staff trying to find parking and we have several plans coming into place in the next few weeks to try to alleviate some of this:

- Our Holdings Hill car park, the entrance for which is opposite the Sandringham Unit, will open in early November. This will be used for all contractors to park in - freeing up additional spaces around the site and seeing the reopening of the staff car park next to the helipad.
- We will also be opening a new temporary staff car park on the site of the old Inspire Centre with around 70 new spaces. We have had a delay in planned funding for our new multi-storey car park so the area behind the hoarding will be repurposed to create additional staff parking in the interim. This will be ready and open as soon as possible.

If you are visiting our site, please allow additional time before your appointment for parking. As always, we encourage people to use alternative methods of transport, if possible, although we appreciate this isn't a viable option for many of our visitors for a variety of reasons.

New Discharge Lounge

In October we saw the arrival of a new modular unit which will become our new discharge lounge, which is now in place outside the Macmillan Unit. The area is planned to open early next year.

This new space will be a larger lounge for patients who are waiting to go home, or receive further care in the community, which means we will have more space on our wards for those who really need to be in hospital.



The entrance to the main building by the Macmillan Unit remains closed to both staff and patients and will continue to be closed until early 2024.

Work continues on new Diagnostic Centre

Work on our new Diagnostic Centre, on the left as you enter the site, is progressing well and anyone visiting will notice a big change in this area. This new centre, due to open autumn next year, will drive forward a reduction in waiting times by increasing capacity of diagnostic imaging for outpatients with MRI and CT scanners as well as X-ray and ultrasound.

Keeping updated

You can keep up to date on all our developments on our website dedicated to the new hospital at www.newqeh.org.uk or please get in touch by emailing newhospital@qehkl.nhs.uk □

Dersingham Choir



Starting the festivities with an afternoon of music! Come along and support your village choir in our second Christmas concert and have some fun! Everyone is welcome so spread the word.

Our programme for the concert will be full of festive music with plenty of opportunities for the audience to sing-a-long to well-loved Christmas carols. The venue is fully accessible with free car parking. Refreshments will be provided and there will also be a raffle.

The choir is grateful to be supported by Norfolk Community Foundation, King's Lynn Borough Council, Dersingham Parish Council.



Events for December and January

MONDAY 4th DECEMBER: BINGO NIGHT – Club opens at 7.00 p.m. “Eyes Down” at 7.30 p.m. £6.50 for a book of 10 cards; £1.50 for a “Flyer Card” and £2 for a “Cash Accumulator” card. Fully licensed bar and raffle. For information email anmer.club@outlook.com

FRIDAY 8th DECEMBER: FILM NIGHT – *Oppenheimer* – 15 – 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

FRIDAY 15th DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS 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.

SATURDAY 16th DECEMBER: CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY – 12.00 noon to 3.00 p.m. Santa Claus, games and party food. Entry to include present from Father Christmas. £5 per child. For further information email anmer.club@outlook.com

FRIDAY 22nd DECEMBER: St. MARY’S CHURCH, ANMER – CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE – 4.30 p.m.

Seats must be reserved in advance. Please email Nick Coleman at njcolema@aol.com or telephone 01485 601217. The service will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine at the Anmer Social Club.

MONDAY 5th JANUARY 2024: BINGO NIGHT – Club opens at 7.00 p.m. “Eyes Down” at 7.30 p.m. £6.50 for a book of 10 cards; £1.50 for a “Flyer Card” and £2 for a “Cash Accumulator” card. Fully licensed bar and raffle. For information email: anmer.club@outlook.com

FRIDAY 12th JANUARY: FILM NIGHT – TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED – 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

FRIDAY 19th JANUARY: 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 26th JANUARY: BURNS NIGHT – Tickets advance booking only. £10 per person for two courses – haggis, neaps and tatties plus pudding and a tot of whisky. Club opens at 7.00 p.m. Meal served at 7.30 p.m. To book please email anmer.club@outlook.com by Monday 22nd January.□



Advent-ageous



Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. It is Advent-ageous to prepare well for Christmas, both spiritually as well as physically.

Personally, I find reading an Advent devotional an instrumental part of my own Advent preparation - a short Bible-based insight that builds towards the day of celebrating Christ's birth. Advent is a gift in enabling us to prepare and be ready for Christmas and then moving into the season of

Epiphany. Some also use a special Advent candle, lighting it at mealtimes, day by day, gradually getting lower to the 25th.

We kick off Advent on Sunday December 3rd by welcoming the Bishop of Lynn, Rt Rev Dr Jane Steen, who will be preaching at the 9:30am "The Gathering" contemporary worship and then celebrating and preaching at the Sung Eucharist at 11.00am, both at St Nicholas Church; all are welcome. At 4.00pm on December 3rd we will be hosting an Advent service for the churches in the northwest of Norfolk, which will include a combined regional choir; again, all are welcome. On December 10th at 3.00pm join us for Tea and Carols.

Advent is not just about preparing for celebrating Jesus' earthly arrival in Bethlehem, but also being aware of Jesus' second coming. One of the Christmas carol service Bible readings is from John 1; this verse speaks of the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (v14). There are a variety of services through Advent and the Christmas period at the different churches and we look forward to welcoming you into the fellowship.



We are delighted to welcome back The Bilton Band for a concert on December 2nd. As ever, this promises to be another wonderful concert, which is enjoyed by so many each year. Tickets are now available. Thank you in advance for all the community group contributions in setting up and decorating for the Christmas Tree Festival. However you get ready for Christmas, do take a thought for having an Advent-ageous time in the preparation leading to celebrating the Son of God, the Christ child, the gift of Love being born for you and for me.

Advent-ageous Advent and a Happy Christmas

Rev Mark Capron

Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne
and Minister of 'The Well' Church, Ingoldisthorpe.

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

Dersingham Institute Bowls Club

Jan Rawstron



As reported in the last issue, our green closed for the winter on Saturday, September 23rd, when thirty members took part in a Roll-up, followed by a lovely finger buffet, generously supplied by the players. I don't know if it's just me, but this season seems to have flown by. Let's hope the winter does the same, although I suspect it won't.



Terry Thompson with Knockout Shield

Our Countryside League Captain, Terry Thompson, was happy to report that we have had a successful season, having finished in third place in the league, only missing out on second place by one point. We also did very well in the Knockout Shield, playing Houghton 'A' in a closely fought final. We eventually won all three blocks and won overall by 61 points to 33. In his first season as Captain, this season has surpassed all his expectations, and he would like to thank all those who played for the team.

Our Albert Victor League Captain, Gerry Bhagat, reports that we eventually came 5th in the league.

Throughout the season our Saturday Roll-ups and the Dickie Murrell Memorial League matches on Wednesdays continue to be well supported and are enjoyed as much for the companionship of our fellow bowlers as for the competition. We would like to encourage all our members to take part next year and share in what makes DIBC such a friendly club.

Allen Toppin, our green keeper, reports that after a very good end of the bowls season, we have started our winter maintenance program, cutting, spiking, scarifying, fertilising and reseeding. We have tidied the hedges and will continue to work through the winter months getting ready for the start of the new season in April, when we will welcome old and new friends. Fingers crossed, the rabbits and moles appear to have found new homes.

Our Presentation Lunch at The Mariner, Old Hunstanton on October 20th was enjoyed by over forty members and partners. All seemed to have a good time and enjoyed the company and good food. The presentation went well, and the raffle raised over £100. Thanks to all who supplied prizes and generously bought tickets.

Our Wednesday Winter Warmers is now well under way. What a nice way to keep in touch over the winter months!

By the time this issue is distributed we will have held our AGM at the clubhouse at 2pm on Tuesday, November 7th, when we hope for a good turnout.

Finally, from all at Dersingham Institute Bowls Club, we wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Healthy New Year. □



Phobbies - Hobbies club for those with and without physical difficulties
Maggie Ponder

Phobbies Club still meets every Thursday to enjoy the company of others and to try our hands at different craft projects. These include painting, paper crafts, knitting, sewing, crocheting and rug making. If anyone is interested in joining, we would be very happy to show you what we do.

We are not having a Christmas sale this year, but we have a stock of handmade items, including blankets, baby clothes, gloves, hats, gifts etc. for sale. Drop in any Thursday between 10 am and noon to see what we have.

If you think you might be interested in joining us or helping to run the club, come and visit us between **10.00 and 2.00 any Thursday** at the Social Club on Lynn Road or contact **Maggie on 07967 799816**. Even if you wouldn't want to come regularly you are very welcome to just come and visit. □



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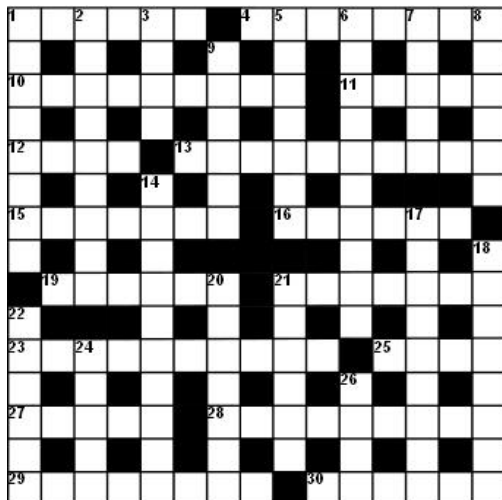
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Across

- 1 Action around outskirts of carstock like some Christmas halls (6)
- 4 Serpents writhing under the tree (8)
- 10 Jumbled words in paper settled in cold bank (9)
- 11 Keen to agree somehow (5)
- 12 Spacious first class line (4)
- 13 Reprimands followed when I interrupted actors openings (10)
- 15 Problems caused by Russian ready on the third of October (7)
- 16 Bird track returns with an opener (6)
- 19 Rash developed before morning retreat (6)
- 21 Party comeback with tailless wild dog for afters (7)
- 23 Mischievous children hidden on first Tuesday and Wednesday during Christmas period (6,4)
- 25 King's Lynn wont broadcast (4)
- 27 Alas bishop got tangled in the word (5)
- 28 Reckless acts around distorted lithe sports (9)
- 29 Reckoned it poured down after middle of fiesta (8)
- 30 Out like a bird in the nest (6)



Answers on page 73

Down

- 1 Stan and daughter take CSE education as heard in church at Christmas time (8)
- 2 Misbehaving rich yobs ring trebles (9)
- 3 Roosevelt lost his head in a whirlpool (4)
- 5 Sailor joins reserves in retreat at the door (3,-1,-3)
- 6 Hires glide redesigned for Father Christmas (10)
- 7 Funny thing happened after sunset (5)
- 8 Harry rests on Sunday to deal with strain (6)
- 9 Plagiarist quietly annoyed because he couldn't swash his buckle (6)
- 14 Rev. beat Abi then went off for a trim (10)
- 17 Oral diet I awkwardly included in article (9)
- 18 Distressed Ed came after the fall of Saigon (before it was renamed) (8)
- 20 Me and Di scoffed referee (7)
- 21 Spirit entered tipsy cheeky mind (6)
- 22 Constant and peculiar bleats emanating from animal house (6)
- 24 Display confidence (5)
- 26 Pose awkwardly for South American unit (4)

Sudoku

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



Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

The new school year is in full swing and the children have had a fun packed half term embarking on new learning and helping lead the school forward on its exciting journey. With Mrs Warren at the helm, the school is already well on the way to joining DNEAT and becoming part of the Multi Academy Trust. The children launched the new vision for the school in an exciting day, which saw them team building, baking bread, creating artwork and singing a new song, composed by Mrs Rimmer and Mrs Parton. The school's new website is up and running and we are looking forward to adding to it over the coming months.

Pupils voted for the class council representatives for the year and the Student Council, Eco-Council and Sports Council have had their first meetings, helping to set agendas and plan events for the coming term. The school has already been fund raising, with a Macmillan coffee morning, and of course Children in Need is just around the corner.

The sporting calendar has already been very full, kicking off with an exciting Quicksticks hockey tournament, which Dersingham duly went on to win! The Croydon Cup trophy saw two teams competing in the Championship league and Premier league, where the Year 5 boys were also resounding champions! Over 30 children from Year 2 to Year 6 represented the school at the cross-country event, with seven children achieving medals and a staggering 15 children qualifying for the next round. Good luck to them.



The nursery class have really enjoyed exploring the new revamped outside area. The children have loved reading in the tent, making potions, using the water wall and playing in the construction area. We have welcomed some new children into the setting at the beginning of the year and enjoyed getting to know them.

Reception class have had a fantastic start to Dersingham Primary School. The children have been exploring the outside garden and all the classroom areas. They have been getting to know each other and exploring what makes us feel happy, sad, angry and calm. The children have also been on their first school trip to the church and library.

Year 1 Oak Class have been out and about this half term, enjoying a forest school experience at Ken Hill WILDLings and learning about the small inhabitants that live there, along with re-wilding and eco-friendly farming. They have been fishing for Bog Babies, learning about evergreen and deciduous trees, as well as following the story of *Annie and Chrissie* in their class book. They have shared information about their pets and thought about what wild animals and pets have in common, as well as how their needs may differ.

Year 2 started the year with their Passport to the UK topic, learning about the human and physical geography of Great Britain and completing some great map work for both the UK and Skull Island from the class text *Claude on Holiday*. The children also found out about why Sir Christopher Wren is a significant person from history and had a go at making St Paul's Cathedral with wooden blocks. In RE the children have explored why light is important to Hindu, Jewish and Christian people, and everyone used clay to make a beautiful Diya lamp which Hindus use when celebrating Diwali.

Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed this half term's history topic, Stone Age to Iron Age. The children made their own cave paintings, learnt about Stone Age houses, explored the importance of farming and learnt about the development of weapons and technologies. The class marvelled at the building of Stone Henge and learnt about the layout and structure of Iron Age hillforts. The children also spent a fantastic day at Gressenhall, where they became farmers working the land, built some amazing shelters in the woods and practised spear-throwing skills. The children wrote some brilliant Stone Age portal stories and persuasive adverts for Skara Brae.

This half term Year 4 have discovered you need to eat or be eaten! The children have investigated different farming methods and the food they produce, as well as some of the animal habitats that can be found in the countryside. The core text, *Charlotte's Web*, created a fantastic opportunity to explore animals as predators and prey. They then explored what happens to food, from the teeth's role, right through the digestive system!

Year 5 have begun their new topic named 'Space Odyssey', which was kickstarted with a stargazing experience with Wonderdome, a mobile planetarium company. The children will be writing sci-fi narratives, using the class model text, a short story named *Alien*, for inspiration. Last half term, Year 5 delved into the significant historical event of World War II including key events and consequences of war.

Year 6 have spent the first half-term looking at all things Tudor. Using a variety of primary and secondary sources in history, the children have studied everything from the personality of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, The Reformation, to the defeat of the Spanish in 1588. The class texts have been *Treason* by Belie Doherty and *Lady Mary* by Lucy Worsley. The former is a story about a young boy who is promoted to the court of Henry VIII, whilst the latter is a piece of historical fiction based upon the early life and treatment of Mary I. Children have been greatly engaged in this topic and have enjoyed learning about how the personalities and aims of each of the Tudor monarchs helped shaped the course of history.□





Record-breaking year for ringed plover chicks at Heacham and Snettisham

Wynona Legg – RSPB Ringed Plover Project Officer

After waving off the last fledged chicks of the season in late August, the Plovers in Peril project team share news of the project's success in 2023. After three seasons of work to provide much needed protection for beach nesting birds at a key site between Snettisham and Heacham, and the fantastic efforts of those visiting the beaches through the spring and summer, the project team saw a total of twenty-five Ringed Plover chicks fledge in 2023 (from nineteen pairs) which is **more than double last year's total and more than a fourfold increase on the total fledged in the project's first year.** When combined with numbers from other sites, including nearby RSPB Snettisham, a total of forty chicks have fledged from this stretch of beach this year.

Plovers in Peril launched in 2021, in partnership with Wild Ken Hill and the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, in response to the worrying declines of Norfolk's beach nesting birds. Funding for the project has come from the BCKLWN via the Habitats Monitoring and Mitigation Fund. The Plovers in Peril project team are celebrating this record season for Ringed Plover and we wish to thank the local communities whose support has helped to achieve it.

Project Officer Wynona Legg said: "Before we started this project, there was no protection for the birds here at all, and they were clinging on by a thread. Results like this after just three years give us hope for the future. There's been such a positive movement to look out for these birds and that positivity ripples out. The success we have seen is testament to this community and to the power people can generate when they come together for nature, and for a species struggling to survive in a rapidly changing world."

Dominic Buscall, founder of the Wild Ken Hill project, said: "With another year of data, it's now clear that the RSPB-led efforts to protect beach nesting birds at Snettisham and Heacham are working. We continue to support this project at Wild Ken Hill and are extremely grateful for all the support and engagement we've had from residents and visitors to the area. This is only possible with the help of the local community."

Claire Wiggs, ecologist for the Borough Council, said, "Protecting shore nesting birds is essential to preserving the integrity of the North Norfolk Coast. The special ecological nature of the area is one of the things people love about visiting West Norfolk, so we are proud to support a project that protects nature alongside people."

Photo by Phill Gwilliam



Photo by Phill Gwilliam



Visitors to Norfolk's beaches can play their part by reducing the threat to beach nesting birds, particularly during the breeding season, which runs from March to August. By

taking a few simple steps, such as avoiding fenced off areas, paying attention to signs and keeping dogs on leads, beachgoers can make a huge difference to the survival of these important species and secure their future in Norfolk for future generations.

To find out more about the project or get involved email snettisham@rspb.org.uk □





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Word Wall by Philip Neal

Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 73

SOUTHDOWN	FISH	MOSQUITO	VAMPIRE
DERBY COUNTY	HAWK	LEECH	LIGHTNING
CALL	MERINO	BURGLAR	BLACKFACE
BUCCANEER	TICK	HURRICANE	WALK

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Crossword Answers

Across

1 Decked. 4 Presents. 10 Snowdrift. 11 Eager. 12 Airy. 13 Castigates. 15 Trouble.
16 Turkey. 19 Ashram. 21 Pudding. 23 Twelve days. 25 Town. 27 Balsa. 28 Athletics.
29 Esteemed. 30 Bowled.

Down

1 Descants. 2 Choirboys. 3 Eddy. 5 Rat-a-tat.
6 Sleighride. 7 Night. 8 Stress. 9 Pirate.
14 Abbreviate. 17 Editorial. 18 Agonised.
20 Mediate. 21 Psyche. 22 Stable. 24 Eclat.
22 Peso.

Sudoku Answers

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

Word Wall Answers

Cat ...: Burglar, Call, Fish, Walk

Sheep: Merino, Southdown, Blackface,
Derby County

RAF fighters: Harrier, Hawk, Hurricane,
Lightning

Bloodsuckers: Mosquito, Leech, Vampire,
Tick

Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

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

Issue	Copy deadline midday on	Publication date
No. 146 (Feb/Mar 24)	Monday 8th Jan 2024	Monday 29th Jan 2024
No. 147 (April/May 24)	Monday 4th March 2024	Monday 25th March 2024

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Please send as Word documents. Any photographs need to be attached as separate files, not in the body of an article or email, and they need to be high resolution (large) images so that they reproduce well. Please send articles and photographs to villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk

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