

Number 96

October/November 2015

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



100 years of the WI

JOBS FOR THE GARDEN

In October

- PLANT SPRING FLOWERING BULBS - WHY NOT CHOOSE DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF DAFFODILS SO YOU HAVE A SUCCESSION OF FLOWERS FROM FEBRUARY THROUGH TO MAY?
- PLANT OUT PANSIES & VIOLAS FOR AUTUMN/WINTER COLOUR, WALLFLOWERS & SWEET WILLIAMS FOR SPRING FLOWERING
- REFILL HANGING BASKETS & CONTAINERS WITH PANSIES, CYCLAMEN & SMALL WINTER SHRUBS NOT FORGETTING TO UNDER-PLANT WITH SPRING BULBS
- SOW BROAD BEAN SEEDS FOR EARLY PICKINGS NEXT MAY & JUNE, TRY VARIETIES SUCH AS AQUADULCE OR BUNYARDS EXHIBITION
- PLANT AUTUMN ONION SETS & GARLIC
- SOW SWEET PEAS FOR EARLY FLOWERING NEXT SUMMER, PLANT IN DEEP GROW TUBES & KEEP IN AN UNHEATED GREENHOUSE
- USE AUTUMN LAWN FEED & MOSSKILLER FOR STRENGTHENING ROOTS & KILLING MOSS
- PLANT SHRUBS, TREES & FRUIT BUSHES IN AUTUMN FOR HEALTHIER PLANTS NEXT SEASON
- PRUNE CLIMBING & RAMBLING ROSES
- USE WINTER WASH OR WRAP THE BASE OF FRUIT TREE TRUNKS WITH GREASE BANDS TO STOP WINTER MOTHS CLIMBING THE TREES TO LAY THEIR EGGS
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Editor's Notes



Yes, that's not Steve's face you see at the top of this page. Steve has been indisposed recently and has had to give up editing this magazine so I have stepped back into the editor's shoes on a very temporary basis. Steve did a great job and now we need a new person for the post - could that be you?



As a lot of you will already know, our past editor Bob Tipling passed away in July. He really brought Village Voice from a thin newsletter to being a very good village magazine. I used to help Stella Caunt with the production, finally taking over from her completely when her health failed, with Bob doing the editing. His keenness and attention to detail made life easy for us, sometimes too easy, as he would format articles and then wonder why they would not fit as he desired, for us to tell him "please leave it to us".

The chapel at the crematorium was packed for his funeral. It was a drizzly day and the roads were gridlocked which meant that a lot of us were only just in time, or so we thought. It was some fifteen minutes later when the undertaker arrived and I think Bob would have been greatly amused at being late for his own funeral as he had a wicked sense of humour. He was a lovely man and a good friend.

I saw a few familiar Dersingham faces when we visited the Wolferton Fete. Basically it was the Scarecrow event without nearly all of the scarecrows. Going fairly early to avoid the promised rain, the car park was already quite full and upon our return to leave there were a lot more cars in the field. Without the scarecrows there was little to divert us on the way round with most activity centred around the Social Club and the Station. A £6 investment at the coconut shy failed to dislodge one. Hopefully we might get our stuffed friends back next time.



I was particularly pleased with the front cover picture this time as it shows a Morris 10, (not to forget a bevy of Dersingham WI members), as this was the first car my father bought. Acquired secondhand in 1939, it was laid up during the war and then did service with him - and me as a toddler - until 1953 when it was sold for twice as much as he paid for it to a car dealer in Seven Kings High Road. At the time, and for many years after, this was the Mecca for such if you lived to the east of London. Like the one in the picture, ours was black and blue and came with an opening windscreen, though I can only remember it being deployed once, but then I was only 5 when it went to make way for the Armstrong. The WI event (p22) was a great success but also a well kept secret and would have drawn a much bigger crowd had we known and perhaps had it been held on a Saturday. Any chance of a re-run?

Lots of goodies for you in this edition so read on. □

Tony Bubb



Dear Village Voice

Please email (editor@dersingham.org.uk) or write to us at Village Voice, Dersingham Parish Council, 4A Post Office Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn, PE31 6HP with your thoughts or memories of village life, comments concerning items read or ideas for the future. Ed.



It was with great sadness that I learned of Bob Tipling's death last month after he had battled with cancer in several guises for some while.

Shortly before moving to Dersingham I came across the online version of Village Voice and there was Bob's smiling face against the Editor's Notes page, a job he continued with for four and a half years up to issue 50. As I became more involved with village life, Village Voice and Parish Council Committees and got to know Bob I always felt that he brought positive wisdom, encouragement and experience to meetings as well as, at times, order and a sense of stability to an otherwise turbulent situation. His embracing involvement with local businesses and organisations, drawing them together with the Community Lunches, did much to inform and further community spirit. He was a true public servant whose counsel and friendship I greatly valued.

You may have noted that I am no longer Village Voice Editor. I had been hoping to see it through to issue 100 next June. It is with regret however that after a period of ill-health this summer, although quite recovered now, I needed to step down from the task a few months sooner than originally planned, indeed after only half the time that Bob had managed it for. For me it has been a very rewarding and defining experience and I have learned so much in the process. Best of all though has been the contact it has brought me with all the contributors, distributors and of course you the readers. I am however very grateful to Tony, our longest serving Editor, who has stepped into the breach again, albeit on a temporary basis, for the immediate issue or two. Help and support for the production of Village Voice and its distribution is always needed. Do please get in touch to offer or discuss ways in which you might be able to offer your services and help secure the future of our much admired magazine continuing to build on the legacy of people like Bob. My very best wishes to you all.

Steve Davis

Doreen Wright mentioned me to you and sent me a copy of the magazine concerning my evacuation to Dersingham in 1939.

First may I correct you on an error in your magazine. My grandparents, who escaped the pogroms of Eastern Europe managed to board a ship to the U.K. with my grandfather's family.

My grandmother's sailed on a different ship which eventually arrived in America. My grandmother always yearned for her family and so my grandfather sold his upholstery business and home, by which time my mother and my aunt had been born. At the very last minute one of the children developed one of the children's complaints so they decided that my grandfather would continue the journey and my grandmother and the children would follow when they were well enough. Consequently, he sailed on the Titanic on which he died.

My grandfather's name was Harry Cornblat But they were always known as Mr. (Mrs) Harry which was later corrupted to Harris. It was reported that my grandfather gave up his lifebelt to a lady on the ship.

My grandmother, who could not write-read-or understand English borrowed ten shillings from the Jewish Board of Guardians with which she bought some handkerchiefs and socks which she sold off a wheelbarrow in Petticoat Lane, paid back the ten shillings and eventually was selling off a stall. So I apologise that he was not the Mr. E Harris who also died.

On arrival in Dersingham we were billeted in the Manor House with several other families. As we were approaching Christmas my mother suggested that I (4 1/2) and my brother Harold (11) play in the back garden while she got ready to take us for a walk in the woods. As you mentioned in your article the village was riddled with dykes, one being in the back garden which was iced over. My brother suggested that I tested the ice, and I, being only 4, obliged. Not only was the ice

very thin but the banks were slippery. Consequently I slid on some ice and ended up in ice cold water over my head. Fortunately my brother threw one end of his scarf in and pulled me out. As a consequence my walk in the woods ended up as a lie in bed sneezing my head off for the next two weeks.

We lived in what was known as The Old Bakehouse, next to Thwaites Garage on the corner of Post Office Road and "Lynn Road". We had quite a large garden and at the far end was Reg Houchen's pig sties. I still remember his daughter Gill with whom I would play on the see saw on the "Rec". At one time while we were see sawing I decided to see what would happen if I jumped off (remember I was only 4 or 5) The obvious happened and she hit the ground with a thump (Gill, if you are still around and reading this, I am very, very sorry and ask your forgiveness).

I have been back to the village many times and once met up with "Malcolm" who sat next to me in the village school and who I saw on one of my village visits.

Finally, I recall that when my grandmother came to visit us the police inspector would visit us weekly as she was an "Enemy Alien" (see para 3 above). We had a friend from London staying with us for a week or so, so we had to take her to see Sandringham. When we arrived at the side gate we noticed a car parked with two occupants studying a map. At that time nobody was allowed to have maps but the two occupants were studying a large map between them. We continued our walk until we got to the Norwich Gates where we again saw the car and the occupants marking places off. My mother wrote the cars number on an envelope in lipstick and when the Police Inspector next called she gave him the details. A few weeks later on his routine call (whether it was to check up on my grandmother or the usual cup of tea we will never know) but on his departure he told my mother that they had picked up the car on the Great Western Road, but unfortunately, he could not talk about the incident but thanked my mother for passing on the information.

I hope that some of these incidents will be of use and bring back some memories to some of the



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old timers.

If anybody reading this can remember me I would be delighted to hear from them either via Dick Melton or Doreen Wright (nee Nurse)

Sidney Hearne

Further to the correspondence on the origin of Dersingham, the Dictionary of English Place Names by A.D. Mills gives the following derivation of the village name:

Dersingham, Norfolk. Dersincham 1086 (Domesday Book) 'Homestead of the family or followers of a man called Deorsige. O.E. person's name plus 'inga' plus 'ham'. Inga meaning people of, family or followers of, dwellers at. Ham meaning homestead or village.

Sandringham. Sanddersincham 1086 (Domesday Book). The sandy part of Dersingham. Obviously over the years in both cases the 'c' became a 'g' Hopefully this will add to the discussion!

Peter Wright

I have heard several other "explanations" for these names, yet to be mentioned here. Ed.

May I congratulate David Bingham on his entertaining and informative article on the French names of butterflies? It was a delicious read! He raises one question - why is the Red Admiral so called? There's a little bit of history here and probably some miscopying or mishearing. In 1776 Moses Harris published a book called *The Aurelian*. It's not the first but is certainly the most famous of the early catalogues of British butterflies and moths. In this he calls the Red Admiral "The Admirable". Elsewhere and later this becomes the Scarlet or Red Admirable. Other writers called it the Admiral or Red Admiral (both earlier and later). By the early 19th Century the name we know today was well established. But you can find other works (the latest in 1913) where it's called The Alderman (no, I haven't got a clue why it's called that). The only virtue the current name has is that it allowed me to set a pub quiz question some years ago: "Which butterfly suggests a senior Soviet naval officer?"

Brian Anderson

With reference to Dick's article in Aug/Sept Village Voice. He makes reference to petrol stations past and present and says our nearest Station now would be either Kings Lynn or Hunstanton. May I ask, as he boasts very much of his local knowledge, why he has chosen to ignore the very smart BP Station at Lavender Hill, Heacham?

Bridget English

Shortly after the publication of the last magazine I discovered a little more about the Athletics Events I wrote about in my last article. They were inaugurated in 1887 and the first one was held on land next to Dersingham Hall but subsequent ones were held on the pastures near the Feathers our current sports field. Princess Alexandra did frequently present the prizes, In April 1911 the committee met to plan that year's event but it was reported that owing to "counter attractions" and in spite of substantial prizes there had been a distinct falling off in local athletics. It had become difficult to find "local men capable of holding their own". Also the expenses had not decreased to the same extent as the "gate". Moreover most of the original promoters had sadly passed away including Mr. William Hudson who was responsible for laying out the ground and averred that he knew the hole for every stake from year to year. Therefore the present committee did not feel justified in incurring the risk and responsibility of carrying on with an undertaking no longer meeting with adequate public support. The annual fixture would be abandoned. The report ended "Dersingham athletic sports will long be remembered and most probably missed."

Elizabeth Fiddick

I think we should not forget, in this edition of VV, the great work Steve Davis has done in editing this magazine After retiring, as arguably one of the UK's finest snooker players and still being seen on our screens as a snooker expert, he still found time to edit what is, in my opinion,

the best village magazine in Norfolk. So, many thanks Steve for the way you produced a magazine that readers always looked forward to.

Barry Beales

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Maddie Copley



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To use this service you need to complete a membership application form obtainable by phoning their office 01553 770310, Mon. - Fri. 9a.m. - 5 p.m.

Travel to and from your home into King's Lynn on Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday. Pre-book and the mini-bus will collect you between 9.30a.m. and 10 a.m, leaving King's Lynn for the return journey at 1.30 p.m., a charge is made.

This organisation also offers transport to and from health appointments, a charge is made and the office will be very pleased to discuss this service with you.

Both of these organisations can sometimes arrange transport for other occasions, for instance the Heacham volunteers can take you to the Dersingham Over 60's Club. The West Norfolk Community Transport will hire their mini-buses to groups for one off events. We at Hanover Court used this fantastic facility to take us to Peterborough Greyhound Races. □

Open Garden and Plant Sale

Open Garden and Plant Sale from 10am to 3pm on Sunday, 27 September 2015 at Holly Lodge, 60A Manor Road, Dersingham (PE31 6LH) hosted by Jean and Mike Strange for the Dersingham Horticultural Society.

This private garden is rarely open to the public. Do not miss the opportunity to see it. Locally grown plants and garden produce will be available for sale.

Yes, there are covered areas if it decides to rain. Please note that, due to a gravel drive and some steps, access for wheelchair / scooter users is restricted but limited parking is available for 'blue badge' holders.





Our Seals Carrie Carey

As an avid scuba diver I have had a number of opportunities to dive with some of the seal populations around Britain's shorelines. In the water, both common and grey seals can be engaging and inquisitive, keen to assess the strange creature that has appeared in their territory. However, playful nips to my fins could turn to something more aggressive if the seals felt that I posed a threat or if I were considered to be a disturbance. So, whilst seals appear not to object to the presence of the odd diver underwater, how is human interaction impacting on seals on land?

The extensive intertidal flats along north Norfolk's coast provide ideal conditions for both common and grey seals to breed, give birth and moult. Common or harbour seals breed and haul out during the summer months when human recreational activities along the coastline are most frequent.

As one of Britain's most alluring sea mammals it's not surprising that they attract a lot of attention from people wanting to watch and photograph these engaging animals. Their presence in our shallow coastal waters are a major attraction for wildlife watchers and a boost for Norfolk's tourism industry. Many seal haul-out sites along Norfolk's coastline are accessible from the shore or by small sea craft such as dinghies and kayaks making it easier for visitors to get that 'up close' experience.

In the main, seals haul out onshore to give birth, rest and complete their annual moult. This can be a time of great vulnerability and seals will scan the area for predators or other danger. Studies have shown that this 'alert' behaviour is increased in small groups (as opposed to colonies) and when there is disturbance from boat traffic or dogs.

As with many animals, seals are attuned to one another's behaviour and if one animal is spooked and rushes into the water, others will do likewise. It can be easy to misinterpret this as a form of playful interaction on the seal's part, however, studies show that the greater the disturbance, the longer the seals will stay in the water.

For the new mother and her pup, the initial post-natal period is an important time to bond through repeated and reciprocal nose to body contact (Lawson & Renouf 1985). Human disturbance may cause the mother and neighbouring seals to flush into the water and either the pup is left behind on the haul out site or separation may incur in the water. Either scenario can disrupt the maternal bond at this critical time especially if the seals remain in the water for extended periods of time.

For older seals who have hauled out to moult, maintenance of their core temperature is vital as they lose their top coat. Any disturbance causing flushing to the water can be detrimental resulting in loss of energy and body temperature and can increase the length of the moulting period. Haul-out areas are considered to be vitally important to the conservation of both common and grey seals. Over time, some favoured sites become established areas for smaller or newly established colonies. We are lucky to have successful breeding populations along our coastline but in order to protect and preserve them it is imperative that we assess any adverse impact that human and canine presence can have. Over the summer holiday period more and more people are visiting small haul out areas allowing children and dogs to enter the water to 'swim with the seals'. Whilst this may seem to be something that families enjoy, it is most likely that this kind of interaction is not beneficial to the seals in any way. □





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Norfolk Ornithologists' Association (NOA)

Steve Newman

The NOA is a Norfolk charity dedicated to the scientific study of birds, and has been running Holme Bird Observatory since 1962. This is the only accredited Bird Observatory in Norfolk. It focuses primarily on bird migration and population dynamics through bird ringing and daily census work, and the information collected acts as an indicator of environmental health locally, nationally and internationally.

We welcome visitors and new members, so please come and see us at Holme Bird Observatory which is situated at the end of Broadwater Road next to Holme Dunes NWT reserve and adjacent to the Norfolk Coast Path between Holme-next-the-Sea and Thornham villages. The Observatory is staffed daily and bird ringing is carried out on a regular basis, weather permitting. If you wish to come and watch please do, although a phone call to the number below would be advisable, to check that ringing is going to take place. There are no refreshments or toilets at the Observatory, but facilities are available at Holme Dunes NWT visitor centre on a seasonal basis.

The NOA also manages other local reserves where access is free to members and open to non-members for a small donation. These reserves not only attract birds but are also important for plants and invertebrates. Hempton Marsh is on the A1065 just outside Fakenham, and is manned by volunteers. Walsey Hills is on the A149 just east of Cley-next-the-Sea, and has a weekend summer warden and volunteer support midweek. Refreshments and toilets are available year-round at Cley NWT visitor centre, which is nearby.

The NOA also keeps daily records of moths, which are trapped and released at Holme from March through to the autumn, and butterflies and dragonflies are also recorded daily. We hold annual "moth days" at Holme and Hempton when everyone is welcome to come and see the moths caught overnight, and to wonder at the beautiful colours and markings of these fascinating creatures. Although this year's moth days have already taken place, we plan similar events in future years. Admission to these events is free. We also attend Holme Open Gardens each summer where moths are shown and identified, and where the NOA Warden, Sophie Barker, is on hand to speak to visitors about the work of the NOA.

Further details of locations and access can be obtained by telephoning Holme Bird Observatory (01485 525406) or by visiting our website, www.noa.org.uk, which is currently being revised to increase the information about the NOA and its activities. □



Great Grey Shrike

Village Voice Live

King's Lynn and the Hanseatic League - Tuesday July 7th

The church hall was well filled on Tuesday night when Dr. Paul Richards gave his talk on Lynn and the Hanseatic League. The audience was not disappointed as Dr. Richards outlined the history of the League with his usual fluency interspersing the bare facts with lots of anecdotes, stories and tidbits of information that brought the history alive. We were all fascinated to hear that Dersingham had once been a hotbed of piracy when the port of Lynn was vital to our trade with Northern Europe. Furs, fish, timber, wine, cereals and even beeswax were brought there and exchanged for corn, wool and salt. Relations between the English and German traders were not always good and the English were often expelled from the Baltic towns. Dr. Richards painted a vivid picture of Lynn when all the ships were in port and the foreign sailors invaded the town looking for entertainment.

After the tea break Dr. Richards spoke of the present day links between Lynn and the other towns in the modern version of the Hansa which promoted both commercial and cultural contacts. He spoke with enthusiasm about all the exchange visits made particularly by the younger members of the community giving them a chance to learn and appreciate the different cultures and backgrounds. This was how a united Europe could work and be successful. It was a most interesting and stimulating evening.

CLIO

Under the Buttercross—Tales of an Auctioneer - Tuesday 4th August

The evening started with Paul Howe telling us about his past as a scientist before regailing us with the secrets of the auction.. He literally started by auctioning “stuff” in the open, under the buttercross at Whittlesea before moving indoors as the business prospered. A natural speaker, Paul then took us through the various types of items that turn up at auctions, not a surprise if you are a regular viewer of Flog It. After the break he looked at a range of items brought along by the audience. Sadly my items were practically worthless.

Dumpling

A Magic Lantern Spectacular - Tuesday 1st September

In our multimedia age with PowerPoint, TV on Demand and high tech cinematography that we almost take for granted now, how refreshing it was to be transported back to a relaxing couple of hours of Victorian Magic Lantern projection presented and narrated by Richard and Jan Rigby, suitably attired in period costume. We were encouraged to enter into the spirit of the occasion with cheering, heckling and to add other sound effects required as Richard treated us to a selection from his collection of magic lantern slides collected over thirty years, some of the order of two hundred years old, whilst Jan provided background information and eloquently read stories and poems, including several of her own

composition, to fit the slides being shown. The images had been painstakingly painted in miniature onto the glass slides and many had layers that could add simple *Pugwashesque* animation and even some hypnotising kaleidoscopic patterns, all in vibrant colour. The whole evening was a real treat and a lasting memory for those in attendance.

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Dersingham Centre Where are we now?



After the launching of the Dersingham Centre at the Community Supper in April 2014, the Working Group can now report that there is certainly a very good prospect that Dersingham will have a new Dersingham Centre in the near future – possibly before the end of 2016!

Plans: Copies of the plans for the new Centre are widely circulated and continuing discussions and amendments have been made to satisfy specialist needs. The latest plans are included here, and any comments would be welcome.

Lottery Funding: The Working Group submitted an application to the Big Lottery to provide funds for the development of the Centre. The lottery process is broken down into four stages, and the first two stages of the application are the most critical, where the Lottery Fund either approves or rejects the application.

Our application for lottery funding has passed the first stage, and the Working Group is now preparing the second stage of our bid for funds, which requires more detailed information including detailed costs and a business plan. This will be submitted in October. The Big Lottery will let us know by mid-November if our second stage application is successful. That is the most critical stage. Once our second stage application is approved, then we could hope to complete the new Centre within about 12 months!

Charitable Status: The Working Group with help from local solicitors has submitted an application to the Charity Commissioners to establish the Dersingham Centre Charitable Trust who will have the overall responsibility for the long term future of the Dersingham Centre. Although the new Centre will be owned by the Dersingham Parish Council, it will be leased to the Trust at a nominal rent.

Dersingham Centre Association: The daily management of the new centre will be the responsibility of the new Dersingham Centre Association which will be formally established at the first meeting on 18th September 2015. This Association will be completely separate from the Parish Council and its terms of reference will be to satisfy the demands identified during the survey for the Dersingham Centre in February 2014 which concluded that there *was an extensive and well supported wish-list of activities which suggest that there is a need for a new Village Centre that can be used by all, especially the young.*

Fund raising. In addition to any funds which we may get from the Big Lottery, we will need to raise a substantial amount to cover the total costs of the Dersingham Centre development. The Group is starting with the following:-

- * **Cinema nights:** these have started in the Church Hall and have been well supported.
- * **200 Club:** tickets for the 200 Club lottery draw will be available from September.
- * **Buy a Brick:** We are inviting all parishioners to support the new Centre by buying a brick.

Any suggestions for other fund-raising activities would be welcomed. □

Chris Davey

Old Picture Corner from Tony Bubb

I have no information on either of these pictures except that they are old. The lower one might be West Hall Manor but hopefully you might know better and let me know.



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Dersingham Walking Group

Welcome to the Dersingham Walking Group, which provides regular guided walks round the local countryside. Over the summer months we've had some great walks, including a superb guided tour of the ancient pubs of King's Lynn, led by Dr. Paul Richards. Now as we move towards autumn there's still plenty of good walking to be had. Round the local area with walks led by Cliff and Liz, and a little further afield with Pat's Grimston circuit. I shall be leading the annual cream tea walk at Castle Rising, which has become a popular feature on our calendar. Just remember to let me know if you want a cream tea because we have to give numbers in advance.

Our first walk in the programme is unusual. We have never set off at 6.30 in the morning before! But it gives us an opportunity to see the highest tide of the year, down at the Snettisham RSPB beach. This should bring lots of birds to the shore which would not normally be easily seen, so set the alarm clock and don't miss it.

The walks are free, just turn up on the day wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. Dogs are welcome, provided they're well behaved. The length is shown for each walk but they usually take a couple of hours or so, with a stop halfway. Why not get some fresh air and exercise, you'll be in good company. Details of our next walks are:

Wednesday 30th September 6.30am (note the early morning start!)

Starting point: The old station, Station Rd Dersingham.

Grid ref: TF 680 307 Length of walk: 6 miles, about 3 hours.

A dawn walk to the RSPB Reserve for the highest tide of the year, when there should be lots of birds to be seen. **Not suitable for dogs.**

Leaders: Steve & Lindsey Davis 01485 543138

Wednesday 14th October 2.00pm

Starting point: Unique shop and café car park, Castle Rising

Grid ref: TF 667 247 Length of walk: 4 miles.

A walk around the village, fields and woods of Castle Rising, culminating in a cream tea at the Unique tea rooms. Please reserve your cream tea with the leader by Monday 5th October.

Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333 or email: stephenmartyn@gmail.com

Wednesday 28th October 1.30pm

Starting point: The green lane on the Grimston to Massingham Road, approximately one mile from Grimston.

Grid ref: TF 735 225 Length of walk: 4.5 miles.

The woods and prairies of Grimston feature during this circular walk in remote feeling countryside.

Leader: Pat Reed 01485 540757

Wednesday 11th November 1.30pm

Starting point: War memorial, Station Rd Dersingham.

Grid ref: TF 686 308 Length of walk: 4.2 miles.

Woods, warren, fen and common – a Dersingham tour through a variety of different local terrains.

Leader: Cliff Jordan 01485 541115

Wednesday 9th December 1.30pm

Starting point: The big layby near the Ingoldisthorpe crossroads.

Grid ref: TF 683 324 Length of walk: 4.5 miles.

Smells and bells. Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham, passing the sewage works and the church!

Leader: Elizabeth Fiddick 01485 540940

You can always see the full walks programme on the parish council website. www.dersingham.org.uk/announcements

Quoted grid references are for the relevant Ordnance Survey map, usually Landranger sheet 132 or Explorer sheet 250.

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. As Alfred Wainwright said "watch where you put your feet"!

If you would like more information about an individual walk, such as the going underfoot, stiles etc. please contact the walk leader.

Group coordinator: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333 stephenmartyn@gmail.com □

Cheese and Courgette Muffins from the Bluebell Cottage Kitchen by Lindsey Davis

Ingredients (makes 8)

150g grated courgette
100g grated cheese (mature cheddar gives a good flavour)
150g self raising flour
50g butter (melted and cooled)
1 egg, beaten
2 tablespoons milk
Seasoning (I use ½ teaspoon of bouillon)



1. Combine flour, bouillon, cheese and courgette.
2. Mix together butter, egg and milk and add to a well in the centre of the flour mixture. Do not overbeat.
3. Spoon loosely into greased muffin tin. (I find they are better made straight in the muffin tin rather than using muffin cases to which they tend to stick).
4. Bake 25 minutes at 180°C Gas 4

These keep, surprisingly well for muffins, for 2 to 3 days but will freeze. □

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Dersingham Evening WI
by Maggie Guest
pictures from Steve Davis



Twelve members took part in the Race for Life. We were delighted to have raised over £900 for Cancer Research.

Thank you to all who sponsored us.

In the photograph taken, after the race, from left to right are Katrina, Barbara, Ann, Marlene, Peg, Shirley, Maggie, Stephanie, Gilly, Babs, Jackie and Wendy.



The other major event which took place over the summer was a Nostalgia Day. The WI has been in existence since 1915 and there have been many Centenary Celebrations nationally, some of which have involved members of the Royal Family who are members, most notably The Queen who is a member of West Newton WI. Our own way of marking the event was to hold a Nostalgia Day. Masterminded by Wendy Snell ably supported by a working party of members, we set up tables in The Church Hall, members brought in memorabilia and artefacts from the last century. Each table represented a decade and items were marked and displayed on the appropriate decade table. Each table had a support worker manning it dressed in costume of the decade of their table.





It was amazing the amount of historic items we have tucked away in our houses!!

The event was very well supported and comments both written and spoken let us know the hard work was worthwhile. No one could fail to have their memory jogged about times gone past. 'I remember those or that', 'I had one of those' were frequently heard comments. I am sure in our minds we were all young again with such profound memories to look at. Very nostalgic! Included in the entry was a tea with sandwiches and cake as well as a raffle. The refreshments were made by our Queen of the Kitchen, Olive with helpers and she even made some spam sandwiches.....remember those?

A great afternoon which was much enjoyed by all who came. □



Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny

Well, here we are again with another page or two of fact, fiction and squit from the pen of Dick from Sunny Hunny.

Growth of the village

First of all I would like to thank Bryan Tann for finding out the origin of the village name. I think that nowadays everybody in the village are quite happy with calling it Dersingham.

Another thank you goes to Cliff Jordan who informs us that at the 2011 census the count for the number of people living in Dersingham was 4,640. As Cliff says, as it is now 2015

5,000 is probably near enough. I looked up in some of my old records and found out that in the year 1821 there were 534 people living in the village, so I set to and worked it out (near enough) that the population of the village of Dersingham has gone up by 23 people each year since then.

Nigel

It was also very nice to see a letter and picture in VV from Nigel Southwell. I remember Nigel quite well though I have not seen him for many years. Nigel lived in the old farmhouse over the meadow opposite the Feathers Hotel; this was part of a smallholding that has always been called 'the Emblems'. This is also the name of the waste ground to the east of this farmhouse. One of Nigel's sisters still lives in the village and over the years she has often helped me out with my stories as she remembers much more about Dersingham than I do.

Dersingham allotments

I read with interest the letter by Shirley Eldridge about the Dersingham Allotment Association Open Day and the wonderful amount of money they raised for the East Anglia Children's Hospice, so I thought I would write a bit about the Dersingham allotments, past and present. After the Second World War there were five areas of allotments in Dersingham: back of the Police Station (Hanover Court); Station Road; top of Fern Hill; Sandringham Hill; and Dodds Hill. The Dodds Hill allotments belonged to Sandringham Estate and now it looks like they are to have houses built on them.

At the top of Fern Hill the allotments were put aside for ex POWs, but as they were up a steep hill not many people took them on. Fred Howard had one and Fred kept pigs up his garden at Pleasant Place right the other side of the village, a long way from Fern Hill, but he would still take the pigs' muck up there, pushing it all the way in an old wooden barrow. Another man that had allotments up Fern Hill was a Mr Fred Daniels who lived in Chapel Road. As he had more than one allotment he had the nickname of Farmer Fred.

My father had an allotment behind the Police Station and also one up Sandringham Hill. When I was fifteen I also had one up Sandringham Hill, it had laid rough for years so Ken Martins ploughed it for me with his little grey Fergie. Another man who had an allotment up Sandringham hill was called Signalman Brown. He was getting on a bit in years so he asked Fred Cross if he would dig it for him. The next day Mr Brown went up his allotment and to his amazement it had been dug. Later in the day he saw Fred and asked him when he had dug it. 'Well', he said, 'it was like this. I looked outside last night and saw that it was a bright moonlight night, so I got a Tilley lamp [paraffin lantern] and went and dug it.'

I had to give my allotment up when I was called up for the army. Many people liked the Police Station and Sandringham Hill allotments best as they were near to the Shut-up Common. Therefore it was handy for getting your pea and bean stick, also your brake' (bracken) that was used for putting on the potato clamps (graves) to keep the frost out.

Parish boundary

I had a gentleman ring me up and ask me about the parish boundary. Well I know within reason where the Dersingham boundary is, but it has so many twists and turns that it is a bit hard to explain, but I will try. In the Doomsday Book it says Dersingham has one water mill, 2 salt houses, 1 fishery and 646 sheep. It also

states that the whole of Dersingham is one league in length half a league in width, so it is about the same as it is today - three miles in length, that's from the last concrete bridge down the marsh, eastwards as far as Ling House. It is one and a half miles in width at the widest part, that is from High Farm southwards to the Queen's Drive. The parish of Dersingham is like a human hand with the fingers pointing towards Ling House. The Dersingham boundary at the south west corner of the fen, near the second hill, goes straight across the cranberry beds past the five old Dersingham parish boundary posts till it gets to the old railway track; then it swings in a north west direction going between the end of Steer Road and Goggs Winn till it reaches the end of The Drift, where the concrete road begins; it then goes to the north of Decoy Wood and then makes its way in an easterly direction to Life Lane Wood.

The whole area of the parish of Dersingham is 3,573 acres of land and 8 acres of water, the water being the decoys and the large drains. The land to the west of the concrete road that goes north to south is farmed by Sandringham Estate but it is still in the parish of Dersingham. On the western side of the carstone track the land to the south of the pumping station is in the parish of Wolferton and the land to the north is in the parish of Snettisham, including the Shingle Pits. This is why the parish of Dersingham has no beach or foreshore; the Dersingham boundary ends about 500 yards short at the last big drain marking the parish boundary.

The northern end boundary goes past the end of Life Lane Wood just to the north of High Farm, past Mill House in an easterly direction to Sheep Dip Barns and on to Ling House. At Ling House the Dersingham boundary is not very long; it then takes a westerly route down to the north of the saw mills along Docking Drove, across the top of Sandringham Hill, along the Queen's Drive, past the water works along the top of the Shut-up Common, down to the George Pratt roundabout (Sandpit Cottages), then about five hundreds yards on as far as the second hill back where we started

If you wish to know more the Dersingham parish council office used to have a map of the boundary clearly marked. If not you can buy a handy little map called the Yellow Walk Map Around and About Snettisham and Dersingham. The boundary is clearly marked on this map.

The old cave

I was talking to an old mate of mine the other day when we started talking about how we used to go up the woods in the autumn time to gather chestnuts. One of the best areas for this was round the area of the old cave and the last time I went to it the entrance was all but caved in. The story of this cave is that it was dug out by smugglers in the sixteenth century as at that time the sea came up to the edge of the village. It was said that the tunnel from the cave went as far as Appleton House; my father told me that he and some other boys went down it once but, after a couple of hundred yards, it was blocked by tree roots that were growing through. I do know for a fact the cave was there but I do not know about the tunnel. This would be, maybe, a good one for Elizabeth Fiddick to sort out.

A bit of squit

Now then all on ya, here's a good old bit of Norfolk squit to end with. If you have heard it before, tough luck, cos here it is again. Stan had been chopping out beet for a few days when he was joined by his mate Jack. In the afternoon Jack asked Stan what time he knocked off. Stan said, '5 o'clock.' 'Hey, you got a watch,' said Jack. 'No I hent got a watch,' replied Stan. 'So how do you know when thas time to knock off,' said Jack. 'Well, you see there's a railway line over there, a train go past at ha'parst five, so if I pack up harf an hour afore that git here I know that I am about right.'

Well that's all for now, so long together, keep on a troshin. Bernie tells me that he is moving to Swaffham so as he can do a day's troshin for nothing. Just forgot to tell you a league comes from the length of a giant's stride.

All the very best to you all, □

The boy Dick from Sunny Hunny

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Jules Alderson



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News from St Cecilia's RC Church by Patricia Nevin

Our annual parish barbecue was a great social get together held at lunchtime on Saturday 15th August at the parish centre in Hunstanton. As well as the delicious food on offer there was also a bric-a-brac stall and raffles and the weather was lovely. There was a sponsored walk on Sunday 13th September.

Work has now started on the internal renovations and refurbishment at the parish church in Hunstanton. Fundraising is vital to fund the renovations, which are urgently needed. All social events this year have gone towards the Development fund but if you feel that you would like to help either by donations, coffee mornings or any other means please do get in touch.



A revised, extended parish history booklet has been produced and is available at both churches for the price of £2.50 per copy. All proceeds are to go to the Development fund. We are still collecting for the Food Banks in Hunstanton and King's Lynn, which provide help to those in very real need in the local area. There is a box for donations in the porch of both Churches. There is a Fair Trade Stall at St Cecilia's after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of every month. For more information contact Caroline Brooks on 01553 673069.

Everyone, whether Catholic or not, is welcome to all of our services and social occasions. We have refreshments after the 11am Mass every Sunday and after 10.15am Mass every Wednesday. There are also refreshments after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of the month at Dersingham. Please come along, you will be most welcome.

Our daily Masses at Hunstanton, will be advertised on the notice boards and in the weekly bulletins, Wednesday mass is usually at 10.15am at St Cecilia's, Dersingham. Sunday Masses are 9am at Dersingham and 11am at Hunstanton. The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.

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

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org **Email:** parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org □

Geoffrey Collings celebrate 50 years

On Saturday 15 August 2015 a good time was had by all of those who attended Geoffrey Collings & Co's 50th Anniversary party held at the Dersingham office.

Geoffrey Collings founded the business which provided professional services of Chartered Surveyors, Estate Agents and Auctioneers in 1965 (this included the King's Lynn Building Society). In 1972 Geoffrey Collings & Co expanded by opening 2 further offices, one in Terrington St Clement and one in Long Sutton. In 2008 a branch office was added in Dersingham.

Today Geoffrey Collings & Co has 3 partners, David Wilson and Jeff Hazel and Andrew Holford. David Wilson and Jeff Hazel have been with the Company since 1965 when they joined as trainee surveyors and both became partners in 1972. Andrew Holford joined the Company in 1987 as a senior surveyor, expanding the surveying side of the business, and became a partner in 1993.

Geoffrey Collings & Co's Residential Sales Manager, David Irving said "We decided to celebrate our 50th year anniversary by holding events at our offices in King's Lynn and Dersingham to raise money for a local charity. Our members of staff raised £776 for our chosen charity Norfolk's Cancer Charity "The Big C" in King's Lynn. The money was raised by selling homemade cakes and we had a grand raffle to which many local businesses kindly donated prizes."

All at Geoffrey Collings & Co would like to say an enormous THANK YOU to all of you who gave us your support and helped us to raise £776 for our chosen charity. □



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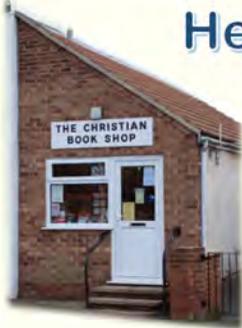
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Parish Council Report by Cllr Sue Payne (Chair)

Starting on a positive note, I am please to say that progress is being made with plans for a new Village Centre for Dersingham – more on that on page 17 in the magazine.

The re-scheduled Play Area celebration party will take place on Sunday 20th Sept, between 12noon and 4pm, with music, ‘sports’, inflatables etc. You can bring a picnic, or you will be able to purchase food, and spend time with neighbours and friends. We have some spaces for table top/carboot sales/fundraising stalls.

If you wish to book a place (cost £5) please contact the Clerk.

Sadly, the Skateramp has been damaged, so we were forced to take it out of use while we consider whether we can repair it. I know this has upset many local youngsters, but the Council has a limited amount of money to spend on the Recreation Ground. Also, some graffiti has been sprayed on items of play equipment. We are hopeful that this can be cleaned off.

I am very grateful that Tony Bubb has stepped up (or you could say returned) to the role of Acting Editor of Village Voice. Steve Davis, who had planned to retire next year, was forced to relinquish the job due to health reasons. Steve has been a superb editor, producing a quality magazine which is the envy of many other villages.

The Parish Council is discussing how to ensure that the village magazine continues to be as good with the high standards set by Steve, Tony and before them Stella Caunt and Bob Tipling. If you are interested in taking on the role, please contact the Clerk.

I am sure many of you knew Bob who sadly passed away in July. He was a valued member of our community, always supportive of projects which benefitted Dersingham and its residents. Bob had integrity and common sense and always said the right thing. He started the community lunches which helped village organisations to work together. Our sympathies are with Margaret and family who must miss such a good man.

Meeting-wise August is a quiet month for the Parish Council with no Full Council meeting. We supported the childrens’ summer activities organised by Alive Leisure. Details of Full Council, Committee, and Working Group meetings can be found in the Parish Office window and our notice boards at the Library, opposite Budgens, and Thaxters.

You can contact Sarah, the Clerk, about Village Voice and any of the items above.
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email: clerk@dersingham.org.uk

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Gardening for butterflies

Brian Anderson

This article, like Caesar's Gaul, is divided into three parts. The relative importance will be explained in each section.

Nectar sources.

This is the subject covered in most newspaper and magazine articles on butterfly-friendly gardening. Since butterflies can take nectar from any suitable flower this is less crucial than the subject of the next section. However, it is still important. The ground rules are fairly simple - try to provide suitable flowers over the whole season from March to October (at least) and ensure (if your garden allows) that the flowers are in sun as much as possible during the day. Due to flowering periods and more limited periods of sun, spring and autumn are a little more challenging than summer. But let's take the seasons one at a time.

Spring. Providing nectar sources in the early spring will benefit butterflies emerging as adults from *diapause* (hibernation) - these are Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma and Brimstone. One useful shrub is *Viburnum tinus* which starts flowering in winter, although it's a bit of a thug in a small garden. Other useful plants are *Primula*, *Polyanthus*, *Violas* and *Aubrietia*. The basic rule is to ensure that the flowers are open with accessible nectaries. What I call "over-developed" flowers (especially doubles) are generally not suitable as they have been bred for show and often produce no nectar at all. Most fruit bushes and trees flower in the spring and these are good sources of nectar. We've seen butterflies taking nectar from Bluebells too.



Small tortoiseshell

Peacock

Summer. This is where you get spoilt for choice. Lavender, Scabious, Red Valerian, Hebe, Hemp Agrimony, Verbena, many Daisies, Heather, Rock Rose, Sweet William, Candytuft and, of course, Buddleia (the "butterfly bush") - but beware of some modern varieties which are virtually scentless. This list is by no means exhaustive! Many flowering shrubs besides Buddleia are attractive (and there are other Buddleia species that flower outside the flowering season of *Buddleia davidii*) such as Hebe, Privet, Tree Mallow, Bramble and Honeysuckle.



White-letter Hairstreak

Autumn. The tail end of the season can still offer nectar. Michaelmas Daisy, Ice Plant (*Sedum spectabile*) and Ivy are all good and any rotten fruit left under the trees (especially plums and pears) may well attract Red Admirals to feed on the fermenting juices to the extent that they sometimes get drunk!

Plants that have disappointed. The above notwithstanding, we've never had much success with Hebe, Verbena or Ice Plant. The first two I can't really explain but Ice Plant problems are probably due to us having over-cultivated varieties rather than species *Sedum spectabile*.

...and there will be a few oddities. In our previous garden in Bedford there were Elms growing just beyond our boundary - Elm is the food plant of the White-letter Hairstreak. We'd planted some *Eryngiums* (Sea Holly) and one day noticed White-letter Hairstreaks feeding on them. They persisted in season for a few years. The odd thing was they resolutely ignored all other nectar sources, including Buddleia.

Other sources of nectar can be provided by the herb garden. Mint, Thyme and Marjoram are especially attractive. And for some reason, Brimstones are drawn to Runner Bean flowers.

Caterpillar food plants.

This, to me, is the most important area. Growing the right plants will ensure that butterflies can produce the next and successive generations. It will mean growing wild plants and letting some of the garden be a little less tidy. Garlic Mustard and Lady's Smock are good for the caterpillars of the Orange Tip and Green-veined White. Nettle (as most people know) is the food plant of the Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Red Admiral, and Creeping Thistle for the Painted Lady - but remember, the Nettles must be in a sunny location and not tucked way behind a shed. Bird's-foot Trefoil will be good for Common Blues and Common Sorrel for the Small Copper. Both broods of Holly Blue can be supported by growing both Holly and Ivy. A mixture of fine and coarse grasses will provide food for the caterpillars of all the common Skippers and Browns. It is important not to cut down this wilder area to ground level until well into the autumn, after the larvae have had a chance to pupate or found a suitable overwintering spot. I appreciate that growers of Brassicas aren't keen on the Large and Small Whites. You could net over with fine mesh net - or grow something else!



Other aspects.

This a bit of a hotchpotch but there are some important elements:

- Leave dead trees if safe to do so - hollow trees provide overwintering sites for Commas, Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks. Sheds with ill-fitting doors serve a similar function. Thick Ivy clumps may be used by Brimstones.
- Have a garden pond - many species imbibe mineral salts from the muddy margins.
- *Never ever use insecticides, not even "natural" or "organic" types.* If you've drawn butterflies into your garden there's little point in killing them.

Trees in your garden will have aphids. Aphids have to ingest large amounts of sap in order to extract the small amount of dissolved protein. The excess sugar is excreted - hence the sticky "honeydew" on the leaves. Some butterflies (the Speckled Wood and the Hairstreaks) like this as much as nectar.

If you manage to achieve at least some of the above your garden should become a haven for butterflies. And not just butterflies - moths and bees will profit and hopefully thrive (remember, any plant good for butterflies is good for bees, although the converse isn't necessarily true). These are the principles and techniques that we've used and in the four years since we've lived here twenty-two species of butterfly have been recorded in our garden.□

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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club

As the nights draw in so another outdoor bowls season comes to a close and it has been a memorable one for both its highs and its lows.

Sadly with the death of Bob Tipling in July the Club lost a dear and valued member and the high regard in which Bob was held was reflected by the huge number of bowlers who attended his funeral. We have recently learnt of the death of Horace Newdick, another member of some years standing and the Club sends its condolences to Horace's family.



On a happier note congratulations to Jane Burden and Graham Keeley who won the mixed pairs in the Hunstanton Open Bowls Tournament at Cliff Parade in July, a great achievement!

Despite the poor summer weather, few games have had to be re-arranged and the Club has enjoyed several friendly matches and socials with local clubs, both home and away.

Although losing several regular bowlers this season to injury, illness or moves away, the Club has enjoyed relative success in the four league competitions it entered. We managed to stay up in the NWN League after being promoted to division one last year and although all the results are not yet in, look like finishing in the top half of the Countryside and Albert Victor Leagues.

A number of new bowlers have joined the Club this season, many through the regular Tuesday Coaching Sessions and it is good to note that there will be some new names on many of the internal Club trophies this year!

Unfortunately after several years in the role of Club Treasurer, Freda Wren has decided to stand down. Freda has done a sterling job and will be a hard act to follow but hopefully there is another club member willing to rise to the challenge?! Anyone interested please have a word with either Freda or Richard Bridges in the first instance; nominations and voting will take place for all positions at the AGM in November.

The Annual Presentation Lunch takes place on October 16th and although the bowling green closes on September 12th the fortnightly, Wednesday Winter Warmer sessions start at the end of the month.

Here's to the 2016 season!!

Helen Young



Nothing To Carp About

Dersingham Angling Club have won the Angling Times Bait-Tech Supercup. This was the fifth time the team has entered the competition, held this year at Barston Lakes, near Solihull in the West Midlands.

Fifteen teams entered the competition held to catch bream and carp in one of the closest fought finals in the competitions' fifteen year history.

Barry Hopkins said "To finally win is great! We've fished the Supercup almost from the start, doing OK, but never justified any final we've been in. But the team has some good lads in it now and this is a just reward for them all. Bring on next year!" □



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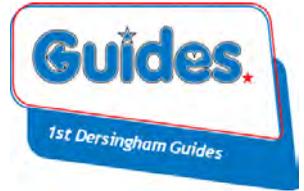
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1st Dersingham Guides at Eaton Vale

Elizabeth Wheeler



This August the 1st Dersingham Guides headed to Eaton Vale, the Norfolk Scout & Guide Activity Centre near Norwich, for their annual summer camp.



At camp, the girls built wash stands and helped with the cooking on altar fires. They also enjoyed making many crafts - which included multi-coloured tie dye t-shirts, candles and creating natural photographs using light-sensitive paper. All the girls achieved their Craft badge and those on their first camp gained their Camper badge.



We were also able to take advantage of the many activities on offer at Eaton Vale, so the Guides enjoyed, Archery, Climbing, Canoeing, Grass Sledges and Pedal Go-karts. During camp, we took lots of photos of everything the girls were doing as on our penultimate day we took the bus into Norwich and headed for The Forum. At The Forum the Guides took part in a BBC Voices film workshop, where they used their photos to create their own films. They also added music and recorded voice-overs of themselves and each had a copy of their film to take home. While at The Forum, we were lucky enough to have a tour around the BBC studios, where we visited the Look East and Radio Norfolk studios. In the afternoon, we enjoyed a City Sightseeing tour of Norwich, before heading back to camp for Fish and Chips (or rather Chicken nuggets) and a campfire with marshmallows.



We had wonderful weather and everyone had an exciting, tiring and enjoyable time. □



The Dersingham Christmas Art Trail

Christmas is still a long way off, or so it seems, but here's an early reminder that the village artists and craft workers will once again be opening their studios, this time on the last weekend in November.

Dersingham contains a thriving arts community, with artists working in many different media. There are plenty of painters of course, but also photographers, potters, textile workers and all manner of other arts and crafts practitioners. Some of these artists have banded together to form the Dersingham Art Trail which is now in its fourth year and aims to promote village artists and give visitors and locals alike the opportunity to visit them in their studios.

During Art Trail open events you can follow the Trail round local studios, see artists at work, have a chat, and yes you may find something to take home with you too, even if it's only a small print or a greetings card. After all, Christmas is coming. You'll be visiting artists in their homes, where they'll be pleased to welcome you and probably have the kettle on!

This year's Christmas Art Trail is over the weekend of 28th and 29th November, when you will find at least six studios, showing ten artists, open from 10am until 4pm both days.

You can view a map and more comprehensive information about each Trail member's work at **DersinghamArtTrail.org** and nearer the event there will be a Trail leaflet available from the Dersingham Pottery. Put the dates in your diary and do take this great opportunity to support your local artists. We all look forward to seeing you!

Any village artists interested in participating in this or future Art Trail events should contact the Trail coordinator Stephen Martyn on 01485 541333. Outside the dates mentioned above visitors are welcome at artists' studios but please contact them first. □



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2nd Dersingham Brownies Day Out to Bressingham

The start of July saw the 2nd Dersingham Brownies head to

Bressingham Steam Museum and Gardens for a summer day out. The girls enjoyed the day exploring the museums, riding on all 3 steam trains, playing games and especially having lots of goes on the carousel.



Lets celebrate Sisters!

One of the Guide laws states that a "Guide is a good friend and sister to all Guides". Well, at the 2nd Dersingham Brownies this is easy as they have 10 girls who are sisters - 5 pairs which includes one pair of twins.

Royal British Legion and Gallipoli

This summer members of the Dersingham Guide and Scout groups have attended both the Norfolk Royal British Legion Rededication service and the Gallipoli & Dardenelles International service commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign at St Nicholas Church, Dersingham. □



Lynn Wheeler

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Born and Brought Up In Dersingham 1927 - 1945

by Arthur Coxon

I was born in the village on 22nd March, 1927, the son of Dr. and Mrs. A.C.M. Coxon, at Highlands, Fern Hill. The house has a new name now, but is at the top of Sugar Lane.

My father, a survivor of the 5th Battn Norfolk Regt. (TA) practised as a dental surgeon in King St. in King's Lynn. In his time he was church warden, ran the cricket and football, Royal British Legion, SSAFA, while my mother ran the WI, Mother's Union and the Red Cross. I had an older sister, Helen, still alive at ninety two and living in Kent. I remained in Dersingham until January 1945 when I joined the Royal Navy and my parents moved away late in 1945.

My memories of Dersingham are very sharp still and I revisit the village twice a year in connection with Gallipoli commemorations, especially the annual service, this year on 15th August.

While growing up in Dersingham I was very fortunate. We lived in a big house on a hill. We had a car, a housemaid, a cook and a gardener, Mr. Suckling and later Mr. Flegg, until the war came. My parents were very busy at Hunstanton Golf Club where dad was Captain. My sister and I were often at the Hunstanton swimming pool and we had a beach hut at Old Hunstanton. I recall that the summers always seemed very hot and winters very cold, not much snow but frozen ground, cold toes, nose, ears and fingers. Next to us lived Madge Spence, late of South Africa, who made things with her fretwork saw, smoked hard and regaled us with stories of her foreign travels. On the other side lived 'Mademoiselle' and Miss Beck, a strange pair. I think one was Swedish. At the farm was Willie Smith. The milk came straight from the cow, through the cooler, into a white enamel jug and was dropped in by Mr. Kiddle on his way home from the farm. Plenty of 'cream on the top' for the breakfast corn flakes.

At first, we were not on the electric mains but had a generator in the garage with a lot of accumulators to be charged. Dad had to heave around on the handle to get the unwilling engine to fire. We had mains water but a cesspit at the bottom of the garden.

Down in the village there were many fewer dwellings than now. From the north-east houses started at Linford's corner and towards Lynn ended at Hyners Garage by the heath. Five pubs, Albert Victor at the end of Manor Road, Dun Cow (Budgens), White Horse, Coach and Horses and the Feathers. At the corner of the main road by the post office was Twaites garage and the present shoe shop was Mr. Riches' shop. He had a club foot and sat on a three legged stool to do his shoe repairs. The post office was at the side of the present building, long and narrow. Two elderly sisters ran the PO and, at the far end, sat Miss Higgs whose job was to frank all letters, parcels and cards. 'Bang bang' went the hand stamper. Opposite the counter was a board with jacks and terminals for the phones and service was stopped at the counter while one of the sisters connected the numbers by hand. We were Dersingham 2 and then, when a dial was added to the candlestick type phone we became Dersingham 202. Sometimes I would pick up the phone and ask the PO sisters to tea, but they never actually came!

At the other end of Post Office Road was Mr. Andrews Fruit and Veg shop. It is a house now. Mrs. Andrews was red cheeked like one of her apples. Mr Walden was the builder and do everything man. He is commemorated by Waldens Close today. Just along the road towards Linfords was a proper blacksmith, now a Library I think. As children we were allowed to work the bellows. Horses were shod, gates made, a most exciting place for the children of the village to visit.

Large red double decker buses from Eastern Counties rumbled between Lynn and Hunstanton

every hour via Sandringham and West Newton and, for many people those days, that was as far as they travelled. My sister and I had great friends at the wash house on Manor Road where lived Mrs. Sayer. We called her the Bubble Lady as she was always up to the elbows in suds. She had the contract with Sandringham House. "Hallo, my dears" she would say "I am just washing King George's socks." Her daughter helped with the washing, Mary Barratt, her husband drove one of the buses. The vicar was Mr. Oliver, rather a dry old stick we thought. Mr. Ebenezer Elton Octavious Wheeler, the schoolmaster, carried the cross in front of the choir and read the lessons. He had a large adam's apple which bobbed up and down as he read. My sister and I watched it closely. Mr. Rye was the organist. He roared in from West Newton on his motorbike and sidecar on a Sunday morning at 10.30. If a choirboy misbehaved, Mr. Rye would jump off his seat and cuff him round the ear. Mr. Houchen, the grocer, was large and sang loudly in the choir. Nurse Stanto, the district nurse and the Warren family sat behind us. Mr. Warren (the Lieutenant) was a veteran of the Battle of Jutland in HMS Warspite. He regaled me with tales of the navy and was probably the cause of my joining in 1945. Nurse Stanton cycled round the village with her little black bag and did great work. The nearest doctor was in Snettisham, Dr. Stedman, then Dr. Martin, then Dr. Jolley.

Opposite the Coach and Horses was Mr. Lines's butchers shop. Bloodstained blue and white striped apron, straw hat and a lot of fearsome knives made the traditional butchers shop. Nearby lived the Sgt-Major, Mr. Wells, a veteran of Gallipoli. He stood at his gate watching people go by and it was always 'Good morning Sgt-Major' and he would bow in return.

Much village life centred on 'The Institute' as perhaps it still does. Dances and concerts took place there, the W.I. and Mothers Union met there. We had a village policeman with bike and

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whistle but I don't think there was much crime. At the police station was also Mr. Keiller who drove a Wolseley patrol car round the area with a big silver bell to ring to pull in anyone who travelled too fast. The 30 MPH speed limit was just coming in.

Summertime the stop me and buy one ice cream men appeared at the Norwich Gates at Sandringham - Wall's on the left, Eldorado on the right. One day, probably in 1935, we met King George V and Queen Mary walking in the woods. She was dressed just as you used to see her in photographs - toque hat and parasol. "Good morning, young man" said King George V. "Good morning, your Majesty" I replied. That was the extent of the conversation but there are not many of us left who have talked to King George V. My grandad was also a dentist in Lynn and, on occasion, was called to Sandringham House for a royal tooth. London was a long journey in those days. It was a frock coat and top hat event even for a tooth filling.

1939 - Came the war and life changed for us and for the village. Evacuees came two days before the war started. No arguing, so many rooms, so many evacuees. Mother was a billeting officer and I don't suppose she was very popular. We had a mother, her two children, and old grandmother plus a sister from Whitechapel in London, half Polish family. They were terrified, insisted on having the light on all night which, with the blackout, meant all windows shut on hot September nights. After a week, when there had been no bombing in London, they went home, as did so many, as the husbands got fed up with cooking their own supper. Once there was bombing there was a new flood of evacuees. In the first eight months of the war we had three different lots. To put it at its most charitable, most of them were ghastly. When they returned to London they took all the shoes, clothes, prams and toys that the kind villagers had donated to them. When France fell, the evacuees were out immediately and we became a Defence Area. A band ten miles deep around the coast was forbidden to all those who did not live there. You had to get permission to have any guests to stay. Those alighting at Lynn station were vetted by the police, but no one checked those getting out at Dersingham. However, any strange faces stood out in the village and everyone suspected strangers of being spies. Troops appeared and the Hall was a Brigade HQ for the rest of the war, though, at least at first, the troops changed quite often in those chaotic days. Came the Parashots, LDV and then the Home Guard. My father and the Sgt-Major formed up the LDV drilling in the school playground with broomsticks as they had no weapons. These soon appeared and, as a boy of thirteen, I used to go down to the range on the marshes and fire live bullets. Our unit had a rather obsolete anti-tank mortar that required three legs pegged to the ground or a spigot on top of a concrete post. Mr. Willets, who lived in the houses at the bottom of Fern Hill, was a bit of an 'inventor' and, with a couple of motorcycle wheels and some angle iron he made a contraption that could be towed behind a car.

One day, when the 'anti-snatch' squad guarding the King at Sandringham was around the HG challenged them to a competition. Using the Dersingham spigot mortar device, the HG had their rounds in the target area while the guards were still hammering pegs into the ground. The guards were furious, accused the HG of cheating and marched off. The Home Guard retired in triumph to the pub. By such events was the morale of the Home Guard kept high.

We had Spitfire weeks, warship weeks and tanks weeks. Dersingham acted like thousands of other similar villages and eventually the war came to an end. The HG was disbanded, the Red Cross casualty room at the Feathers closed down, the blackout went, and some, but sadly not all, of the Service personnel returned. I joined the Royal Navy on 1st January, 1945 so did not see the end of the war in the village. Dersingham was a good place to grow up and live as a boy and I am sure it still is so. □

A Driver's Tale

Doreen Linford

Chatting to a fellow passenger on the bus to King's Lynn recently, we were remarking upon the difference between the convenience of using the bus and driving into town, and the subject of our ages came up. I passed my test long before cars had all the up-to-date technology. No wing mirrors, hand signals only, etc - and then she said to me "and are you still driving?". This rather shook me as I had not thought about the possibility that perhaps I should hand in my licence, and it certainly made me focus on the subject.

AGE UK, together with Norfolk County Council, have produced a scheme to give confidence to any driver, particularly to those who are older or maybe lacking in confidence. AGE UK have produced a booklet called *In the Driving Seat - (what you need to know stay driving longer)*. To obtain a free copy ring 0300 500 1217. It is well worth reading. Norfolk County Council are running an excellent scheme called GOLD (*Guidance for the Older Driver*). For £29 one has an hour's assessment by an experienced and considerate driver, and it can be taken in one's own car along familiar routes. Ring 0344 800 8020 for more information.

I was very impressed with the professionalism and the friendliness of the driver assigned to assess me. The session was very helpful indeed. This scheme is NOT designed to stop people from driving, although this rarely has to happen of course. I found it very useful as a means of honing my driving skills. If you want to know the result of my assessment you will have to see if my garage is empty! □



Operation Christmas Child 2015



Last year we managed to send 146 shoeboxes to Samaritan's Purse. This year, we'd love to see if we can send 200!

The idea is to fill a shoebox with items for a child to receive at Christmas, who would otherwise have nothing. Leaflets are available from the Post Office, Library, St Nicholas' Church & the Council Offices – these include lists of ideas of what to put in the boxes (and what is not allowed) and a label to stick on the lid to show the gender and age group it is for.

The shoe shop kindly collect empty boxes and some are available pre-wrapped with Christmas paper to save you time! Boxes can be dropped off at Budgens between 4th-18th November. These gift boxes really do make such a difference to the children who receive them, so if you are able to, please help to fill a box and send someone some happiness this Christmas.

If you would like any further information, please contact Catherine Tuckwood 07757 343364 or Tomris Setchell 07870 520578. □



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My Holiday Diary

by Dora

Sunday:

Arrival at the holiday lodge after exactly 2.75 cat naps. I meet 7 poor look-a-likes, actually one is very close, just a bit skinny, compared to me. I have to share the attention of the 2 legged ones? That was not mentioned to me!!! Sulk! They all introduce themselves, but I have my eye on the guy with the blue eyes. Vladimir is his name. Purring at him does not leave an impression. Yes, I think I will sulk some more in this case.

Monday:

Still sulking and after not having had any dinner last night, I make sure the 2 legged ones know I mean business, and I refuse breakfast, and I ignore the look-a-likes except Vladimir, but he ignores me. ME!!! How dare he. getting his attention is actually very tiring and so I go to sleep sulking a bit more.

Tuesday:

I wake up with a rumbling tummy and follow my exquisite nose to the chicken smell coming from somewhere. I hope nobody hears the noise of my tummy, specially not Vladimir. Not very Lady-like, is it? Finishing my breakfast I catch a movement out of the corner of my eye. There are flying creatures half way up the wall. Got to go there! Can't see Vladimir anywhere, well, I have better things to do now.

Wow, there is a walkway to get the things with the wings! ... Ouch... there is something in my way, that does not let me go any further... I can see the birdies, but I can't get to them. Now, that is not on! Hm, maybe if I watch the look-a-likes closely, I can find a way to them. But all I can see is them scattered around napping. Well, maybe it is time for one.

Wednesday:

Investigating into the night, I find that there are a load of objects in my way, which have to give way of course. That is rather noisy by the way, but that is not my fault; their things should be in my way in the first place! Among other things I find that there are 2 settees, I take the bigger one and I find a spot between the 2 legged creatures, who look a far cry from my mum and dad. But they will do for now, because I need an urgent nap. When I wake up I find a low TV that shows all the time little things with fins moving around. Pretty little things and so colourful. As much as I try, I cannot not catch one! Bored now. It's nap time.

Thursday:

Investigating some more, I find a large square object, which is very soft and bouncy. It takes me only a half hearted jump to get onto it. But to my horror, the 2 humans are on it and 3 of those look-a-likes (unfortunately Vladimir was not one of them). Well, that is not on. Hiss to one, growl to the other and a whack to the 3rd takes care of that little problem, and the 2 humans and the big square are all MINE!!! After getting my priorities right I find another room with pretty flowers and brown fluffy stuff on the floor, that makes my paws very dirty. But fun to dig in. Vladimir is in it too and do his white paws look filthy - eeeeeee!



Friday:

Wake up on the same spot where I fell asleep but I have company. Cheeky look-a-likes! Pfff, I don't need that... I can hear a familiar sound coming from another part of the house ... Must find that... Yes, got it, and I am the only one in here. Hmmmm, shiny bits of wall, and don't I look good in them!!! And some more over there! And there is the stuff that makes the nice sound, it comes out of a metal thing that is stuck to the wall. Hmmmm, the stuff tastes good and it feels so good on my delicate paws.

Saturday:

Wake up on the pillow of the female 2 legged one and I am the only one beside her in the room! Well, that is an advantage that should not be missed. I start doing all the right things, like rubbing my cheek on hers and pushing my little tiny nose into her neck and I do not have to wait long and I am in her arms and I get the cuddles I want until... duck!!! I can smell duck and pate! It takes me approximately 3.5 cat seconds to get to the source and about 2 minutes to finish my bowl, eyeing around me to see if anybody left some over. Yes, there is an unattended bowl and some more duck in it. Well, not anymore!!!

Sunday:

Now, that is easy, little room for breakfast, into the large room for some fine TV, than 11'ses in the little room again, now some wing action TV and after that for lunch back into that little room.

After that into the room with the square for a well deserved nap, some investigating in the room with the shiny walls, afternoon tea in the room with the flowers and brown fluffy stuff, feeling hungry now. On my way to the little room with the take away, there was a strange loud noise. Hiding behind the settee seemed the best idea I ever had. One 2-legged went to the big square in the wall from which another 2-legged one came through. And the noise they make. Peeking around the corner does me no good whatsoever! I am grabbed!!! yes, very unceremoniously grabbed and put in the carrier. I guess that means my holiday is over. □



“I could write a book about that!”

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We at DERSINGHAM WRITERS GROUP are looking for one or two more members. The purpose of our meetings is to offer each other enthusiasm, energy and entertainment in what can be an isolating, if enthralling hobby.

We meet an alternate Tuesdays between 2.00 - 4.00pm at the Orchard Close Community Room.

Everyone has a story to tell. If you are interested in getting started - look in for a chat. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 13th October 2015. □

How about sending in some of your work for publication in these pages? Ed.

MAUREEN'S DAY COACH TRIPS

FRI	25 SEPT	Colchester Market Day	£15
THUR	8 OCT	Ely Market Day then on to Cambridge	£10.50
WED	14 OCT	Aldeburgh & Beccles	£12.50
WED	28 OCT	Milton Keynes	£17.50
WED	11 NOV	Nottingham	£15.50
FRI	20 NOV	Norwich Xmas Shop	£ 9.50
FRI	27 NOV	Bury St. Edmunds Xmas Market	£13.00
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Autumn events from Dersingham Library

Alison Thorne



Colour yourself calm

Colouring in is an easy way to calm the mind. If you've never tried it, why not come along to this free 4 week course. Dersingham Library on Wednesdays 10.30-12 from 30th September to 21st October (01485 540181) Colouring books, colouring pens and refreshments will be provided.

Places are limited so please book in advance by calling 01485 540181

Step into storybags

A free 10 week course run by Norfolk Family Learning - starting Friday 25th September and ending December 11th (with a half term break 23rd/30th October) A storybag is a cloth bag containing a children's book and items like toys, puppets and games that relate to the book. Storybags help capture children's interest in reading and help parents or grandparents bring a book to life. On this course you will make and fill a storybag of your choice!

Places are limited so booking in advance is essential - please ask staff or call the library on 01485 540181.

We also have Family History Advice sessions on Thursdays 2-4pm starting in October. Call 01485 540181 to book in to one of the one hour slots.

The Health Trainer service will be offering free Mini Health MOTs plus advice on going smoke free on: Monday 28th September from 1.30-5pm at Dersingham Library. No need to book, just pop in to see them! For further information contact the library on 01485 540181 or visit www.mytimeactive.co.uk or www.nhs.uk/smokefree

Sky high and smiling - a book talk by local author Susan Barnett.

Wednesday 7th October 1-2pm

With a background as a VIP liaison officer for British Airways, freelance broadcaster and more than two decades working in tourism, theatre and the arts, Susan is often asked to reveal some of the behind-the-scenes secrets of jet-set travel and the theatre world. You can hear a reading from her new book 'Sky-high and Smiling', ask questions and get some tips on getting yourself published. Tickets are free but must be booked in advance by calling 01485 540181.

Dementia awareness session with the Alzheimer's society. Wednesday 21st October 6-7.30pm. Come and join us for a friendly information session on Dementia. Learn what we can do to make our local community more Dementia Friendly. Please book this FREE session by calling 01485 540181

All about Africa with Patience Unazi. Wednesday 28th October 10-12 Storytelling and songs for the family. Join Patience to discover stories and songs from her native Nigeria, a lovely two hours of hot sultry African sun. No need to book, come and enjoy

Minion making morning Thursday 29th October 10-12. Come along and join the Minion craft morning. Tickets are £3 per child payable in advance. Please book your place by calling the library on 01485 540181. Please note we will be using acrylic paints so please don't wear your best clothes!

AncestryLibrary.com taster Friday 6th November 2-4pm. Learn how to search the birth, marriage and death indexes, census materials and other resources available on the Ancestrylibrary.com website. Tickets are £3 and must be booked in advance by calling the library on 01485 540181. The session is aimed at family history beginners who haven't used the site before. Previous computer experience essential.

Great reads to watch out for this autumn - request any one for just 60p (if you receive an email notification to collect)

Trigger Mortis by Anthony Horowitz - the latest outing for James Bond.

Where my heart used to beat by Sebastian Faulks.

After you by Jojo Moyes - the sequel to 'Me before you'.

Liar liar by M J Arlidge - the fourth in the DI Helen Grace series.

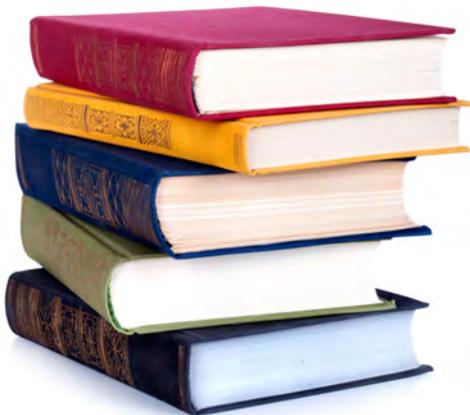
A broken promise by Linwood Barclay.

Tennison by Lynda La Plante.

The orphan's dream by Dilly Court.

The kitchen maid by Val Wood.

Alison Thorne
Community Librarian - Dersingham,
Hunstanton, King's Lynn and Wells Libraries



Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

invite you to The Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Swaffham.
(Access and parking from Sporle Road)

An Evening with Chris Knights Tuesday 29th September, 7.30pm

Chris Knights is well known to many as a Breckland farmer, conservationist, award winning photographer, film maker – and a member of NarVOS. This talk by Chris is as yet untitled as was his talk to NarVOS last year, for which we had a record attendance. This one is bound to be just as enthralling - entertaining and informative with superb photography.

Birding in Arizona and Southern California
with Allan Hale Tuesday 27th October, 7.30pm

Allan Hale is a founder member of NarVOS and an accomplished speaker. Allan spends much of his time monitoring breeding bird populations in West Norfolk and Breckland. However, he does like to travel abroad from time to time and you can be sure that he will entertain us with his memories of this American trip. A most enjoyable evening to look forward to.

Visitors most welcome. Admission £2 on the night if you are not a NarVOS member.
For more information about this meeting or NarVOS call Ian Black on 01760 724092.



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Kitty by Allan Coleby

My neighbours and I were shocked when, late one afternoon last winter, Anne was found dead in her bungalow.

Anne was an elderly lady, who lived alone opposite me on a small bungalow estate at Woodthorpe, a village just outside Sheffield. She was in her sixties, but was careful always to keep her clothes smart and her appearance attractive. Her loosely-styled hair would have suited a lady half her age and her soft-toned make-up and ready smile completed her charming good looks. Though she lived alone, she was not lonely, and was frequently to be seen chatting to neighbours or passers-by as she worked busily in the garden.

Anne was always busy. Her small, hatch-back car seemed to be running in and out of her driveway all day. It was usually loaded with small sacks and bags, as she drove to and from the local re-cycling centre.

For what made Anne so busy was her cats. She had about forty cats living in her back garden. Most of them lived in wire-netting runs, which looked like small aviaries; two or three cats would live happily together in one run. A few other cats roamed freely, but rarely strayed from Anne's garden.

She looked after cats for the Municipal Cat Rescue Centre in Sheffield. Occasionally, people who wanted to re-home a cat were shown around Anne's back garden to make their choice. But this was rare, and most people who wanted a stray cat selected one directly from the Centre.

Anne catered for the cats that had been cruelly treated and therefore shied away from people. Anne and the Centre knew that they had been too badly damaged psychologically ever to be rehomed, and would live out their lives in Anne's garden.

Though she lived modestly, Anne was wealthy. She was quite happy to spend her money feeding and caring for cats who had experienced only pain and ill-treatment from other people until they lived with her. She had many stories that she would tell her friends and neighbours about the treatment her cats had suffered. The cruelty of some owners always produced gasps of incredulity from the listeners. The stories ranged from accounts of starvation, to kicking, throwing down wells, dowsing with scalding water, and being cut with knives or speared with garden forks.

A great deal of patience, careful feeding and lavish affection was how Anne got these cats to relate to her, and to trust her when they would never trust another human being. Those who ran free would never leave her or roam far away, and she would need only to call at dusk each day for them to come for the food they knew had been put out.

Anne had a special friend who lived about a hundred yards away from her bungalow. She was Jill, and she had a grown-up family and could not accommodate any cats herself. Nearly every day, she walked along to help Anne load and dispose of the litter bags, or go with her to buy endless small sacks and tins of food.

It was Jill who raised the alarm that day. She had gone in the morning, as usual, to help Anne with the chores, and could get no answer when she rang the doorbell. She went home puzzled, for Anne's life was a simple, regular routine, and she always told Jill if she was going to be out. At two-hourly intervals, Jill phoned Anne's number. Still no answer. At about 5 pm, she went back to the bungalow, which was shut up and silent. She went next door and told Mike, an insurance broker who also lived alone, the story of the day, and that she was worried.

He rang the bell, and there was no response. The two of them decided that Mike had better break in. He could do this without causing damage. Anne's front door had a Yale lock, and when Mike pushed a length of stiff wire through the letter box, he could manoeuvre it to twist it round and pull

the short lever.

He was soon inside, and quickly looked in each room. He called Jill from the bedroom. Anne was lying in bed in her night-dress, straight and on her back, staring with open eyes at the ceiling. Jill gasped while Mike lightly touched Anne's face, and quickly snatched his hand away. She was cold, and must have been there since the previous night.

When the police arrived, they told Jill that their guess was that she had died in her sleep of natural causes. After a doctor had been called to confirm her death, had notified the coroner and summoned a private ambulance, both Mike and Jill recovered from their shock.

There was work to do. Forty cats had not been fed since the previous day. Jill knew where everything was, and it took them nearly an hour, but eventually they were all fed. Jill even knew how Anne used to call the cats that roamed free. Mike had also heard Anne's call, but by now they were very hungry, and were prowling near the back door, looking to see what was going on.

It was a very long evening, for Mike insisted on looking through diaries and address books that were in a drawer under the phone, to find the next of kin. The best he could do was to find a cousin who lived some twenty miles distant. They had never seen any family visit Anne, and she had not spoken of any.

'This sort of news is best left until the morning,' he said to Jill, 'and we've done everything that is necessary now.' So, with that, they locked the bungalow and agreed to continue the work the next day.

When they rang the cousin next morning, she showed little reaction, except to say that she had no interest at all in the cats, and asked Mike if he would deal with them. He told Jill he would phone the Rescue Centre, but as they were preparing that day's food, Jill said that Anne had once made her promise that, if anything should happen unexpectedly to her, Jill would have all the cats put down immediately. She had said that the cats could not live anywhere else, and it was unfair to expect anyone else to take them on.

And so, they rang the RSPCA, who came the next day and took them away in individual cat-carriers. It was easy enough for them to catch the cats who lived in the runs, but took much longer to trap those that were free. With the use of enticing food, nets, blankets and wire cages, they eventually managed it, except in one case. There was a large, black cat that the RSPCA could not catch because it would not come anywhere near them and was not tempted by their food. Anne had never known its original name, and just called it 'Kitty'. She said it was an especially sad case. A gang of sadistic youths in Sheffield had caught it with a lasso on the end of a pole and, with the same lasso, had tried to hang it from a garden fence. The screams and wailing cries of the strangling Kitty had alarmed a nearby resident, who had rescued her, but not until she was near



Jean Ockendon

death. She still carried round her neck the injuries caused by the ligature. She would not come near even Anne, and her food had to be left each evening on a ledge above the fence that divided Mike's and Anne's gardens.

After the RSPCA had given up and gone away, Mike decided to continue feeding Kitty on the ledge. After a few days, late in the afternoon, Mike was busy in his garden shed, when he suddenly heard the call that Anne had used each day at dusk to let Kitty know her food was out. It was a distinct and unusual call: 'Kitt-ee...Kitt-ee...Kitt-ee', loudly, four or five times, with the second syllable higher than the first.

Mike heard exactly that call, and it even sounded like Anne's voice. He was alarmed, but as he came out of the shed, the call stopped, to be heard no more. He had not fed Kitty at the time, but he quickly did so. She did not come near, as usual, until a few minutes later, when Mike saw her creeping along the ledge.

Next day, as the light faded, Mike was in his kitchen, with a small window open, when he heard the call again. Same call, same pitch and tone, same voice. Again, he had not yet fed Kitty. Now, Mike was annoyed. Someone must be mimicking Anne, he thought, and it was not funny. It would be either local children, or someone with a sick sense of humour. He decided to investigate and tell the person exactly what he thought of him or her and ask them to stop.

As he went out of his kitchen door, he needed to turn right, walk to his garden gate, turn left and go along the road for a few yards, and then go into Anne's garden to see what was happening.

Just as he turned right out of his door, he glanced over to the ledge above the fence. Kitty was on it, standing absolutely still, looking forward. Along the whole length of her back to the tip of her outstretched tail, every hair was standing on end. □

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The Sandringham Newsletter

*by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate
compiled by Helen Walch*

The weather has been reasonably warm and mostly dry, so Sandringham's gardeners have had to set up irrigation, particularly in the shrubbery and woodland walk. The water comes from the Upper Lake, which in turn is fed partly by natural streams and partly by pipes collecting any run-off from the roof of the House. The dry weather slowed the growth of the grass on the lawns, which is a help. Some areas of grass are always left unmown to allow wild flowers to grow and seed, and to provide areas where ground-nesting birds can raise their young, and clusters of spotted orchids are slowly colonising these wilder areas. The yew and box hedges in front of Sandringham House have been clipped and the wall shrubs trimmed, along with most of the topiary.



The Pigeon Loft Manager began training this year's young birds, releasing them up to 20 miles from the loft twice a day from June onwards. Eventually, the best of them will be entered in races covering distances of hundreds of miles.

A new electric-powered van arrived last month at the Visitor Centre; as Visitor Centre staff make very many short journeys each day, checking that all departments are running smoothly, this should be a much more efficient vehicle for the job than the diesel van it replaces.

In Sandringham Park, work to remove overhead power lines and replace them with underground cables was completed just in time for the Flower Show setting-up to get under way. The Show on 29th July was as well attended as ever, with up to 20,000 people visiting on the day and enjoying the arena events, trade stands, display garden and fruit, vegetable and produce competitions. The wild flower planting from one of the winning display gardens was kindly donated to the Estate and has been relocated to form a floral margin on part of the Lower Lake within the gardens, where it looks very well.

On the farm, staff carried out their usual pre-harvest checks, cleaning and fumigating grain dryers, servicing the combine harvesters and grain trailers and checking the farm roads and gateways to try to make sure no time is taken up with having to solve avoidable problems once the harvest gets under way. It has been a very good year for blackcurrants, and cereal crops have been reasonably good as well. As the cereal crops were cleared, green manure crops were sown; these will keep the ground covered through the winter, helping to keep it clear of weeds, and will then be ploughed in in the spring to help improve the soil structure. □

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Those Were The Days

Used as we are now to slick, full colour advertisements there is still something to be said for the old black and white ads of yesteryear. This one dates from the very early 1900's when this vast emporium (or so they would have you believe) operated out of what is now the Parish Council office.

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The Daily Doings of Mrs Dolittle (a.k.a. Valerie Anckorn)



Every time I took down my knobby National Health sticks to walk out, I realized how they let down my fashionable élan (hah!) so I decided to go artistic with them, bought a gardening magazine, cut out photos of flowers, then painted the sticks with black emulsion. I next stuck on my scissored flowers, and once they had dried off, covered the lot with three layers of varnish. They look a treat now. I'm thinking of decoupageing an old fashioned pine chest-of-drawers in my bedroom. Actually, the more I think about it, it could be that I decoupage the whole house...

Most men of my acquaintance refuse to use a stick, preferring to fall over rather than be 'unmanly', but any that do use a stick, well, they could cut out footballs, or dogs, or fish, maybe naked women – whatever tickled the fancy and then they have an immediate topic of conversation.

Since being a stick user, I have realized their many uses, so am considering a book called *101 USES FOR A WALKING STICK* but so far have only got a few. Suggestions please, if you have some ideas.



1: Opening automatic doors. 2: Switching lights on and off. 3: Pointing out directions to strangers. 4: Pulling down blackberry branches when picking the fruit. 5: Pushing aside foliage when walking. 6: Knocking stones and other debris off the pavement. 7: Keeping dogs and even lions at bay. 8: Knocking burglars senseless. 9: Snooker. 10: Hockey. 11: Keeping vile small children at bay. 13: Hooking round the necks of nice children about to be run over. 14: Taking lids off things like dustbins. 15: Hooking your underwear off the floor. 16: Pushing off your shoes. 17: Tripping up people you don't like. 18: Tripping up people you like for a joke. 19: Emphasising the point during a conversation. 20: Banging on the floor (or ceiling) to get attention. 21: Scratching one's back. 22: Using as a knocker at houses without them. 23: Smashing glass when you have left your key on the inside. 24: Killing creepy crawlies. 25: Party trick balancing on one finger. 26: Hooking your shoes off the floor. 27: Getting your hat down from its hook. 28: Untangling the hose. 29: When tired, resting hands, then chin on upright stick.

I've been decorating the house. I've always done it, but felt I just couldn't any more so resolved to get in a man, but on getting quotes of £2,000 to £3,000 realised that it had to be me again. My problem is I can no longer balance on ladders or steps, or even chairs (let alone climb up on one). However, I am nothing if not determined, so I started in a corner...leaving wobbly lines at the ceiling. This bothered me, so I pulled out the two-step kitchen ladder thingy, and tried a balancing act on that. I was really scared (yes, really) remember, if I fall, I can't get up again, but wobble wobble, I managed it. The more I did, the cleverer I felt, so it is with a great feeling of accomplishment that I am progressing around the house. I've even managed to paint some skirting boards that never had been painted at all – but I have an awful long way yet to go. Little by little, slowly, slowly, catch the monkey... I've also repainted the kitchen table and almost finished the

eight chairs. I can't say I have done them beautifully – lots of dribbles and splodges, but at least they look clean and non-scuffed. I don't like that fashionable 'distressed' look – my furniture is distressed enough anyway, and I want it all to look fresh and cared for.

The dog keeps wagging his long tail that hits wet paint and distributes it around freely, on stuff of a different colour...he loves to help. I managed to paint the wall where the TV lives, with Remote Control Man watching the damned thing as I worked. In the end he did get out of his chair to do the ceiling line – his conscience eventually got the better of him!

By this time of year I always feel that horrible apprehension that Winter is just around the corner. There will hopefully be some more sunny days and maybe an Indian Summer before it arrives.

My house pings. Not pongs. Pings. The microwave oven pings. The dish washer pings, the washing machine pings, the computer, the car (when about to hit something), lorries backing up ping. Even hearing aids ping. There seems to be so little peace in my house these days with all the pinging. Then, there are all the little lights. The oven has a little light, so does the dishwasher. The tv glows with little lights, so does 'something' in the hall – broadband appliances maybe. I don't have to switch on any lights when I get up in the night – the place is aglow with green, red and blue little lights. We don't need to get any for Christmas! Is it really necessary? All the pinging and little lights? My fridge and freezer don't ping – well they do if the door is left open – but they hum and charge up – there is never a lovely silence, except when there is an electricity cut, and then I relax....ah, lovely!

My horsetail and ground elder are doing very well. They have taken over the garden completely and it is a losing battle – I dread that the lovely gardener I now have will refuse to come round any more. He must dislike the horrible stuff as much as I do. I want to put compost on the beds to enrich them, but what will happen? The ground elder will come up stronger than ever and that and the ground elder will be like Triffids, taking over Dersingham, the planet...

I had fun doing a tableau at Hunstanton Flower Festival. The theme was old films, and I chose Snow White. I had an evil looking mannequin that I togged up to look like the wicked queen, painted a mirror and a crow, and also made Snow White lying on her bier, covered in forest flowers, using an old death mask. I have to say it all looked suitably spooky! There were lots of other wonderful arrangements too. It's surprising how people can interpret something in flowers.



There's probably a lot more I could report, but not feeling so good at the moment – nothing specific, but seem to have lost my 'zip' and my memory is lacking. It will come back, I am sure, and I shall try and keep you amused in the next issue. Until that time, then, I will bid you adieu. □

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PUZZLE CORNER

Sudoku No 44 by Rob

Answers on page 74

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

Where is it? What is it?



Word Wall by Philip Neal Sort the following into 4 groups of connected words:

EDEN	DREAM	HEVER	ORGAN
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BLAIR	BROWN	MAJOR	LINE
GENERAL	DOWN	BELVOIR	CAPTAIN

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Dersingham Methodist Church News from Elizabeth Batstone



Our coffee morning on 27th June raised over £300 for Norfolk Accident Rescue Service to help support this service. NARS do not receive any government or Health Service funding so every donation is vital. NARS doctors and paramedics volunteer their time to enhance the level of care provided for patients who suffer serious injury or acute medical illness. Many thanks to all who supported this.



Happy New Year! You may think this is a bit early but 1st September is the beginning of a new Methodist year. We have several events planned for the coming months and look forward to seeing you at them.

Coffee mornings –

26th September - King's Lynn Food Bank and Church Funds

31st October – Mission In Britain and Overseas Missions

28th November Christmas Fayre – Sense (charity for the deaf and blind) and Church Funds

Coffee & Chat sessions start on 29th October and will be held fortnightly 11.00 a.m to 12 noon for an informal discussion on wide ranging subjects, where all views are accepted. Come and join us!

Church services 10.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.

For further information about any events please contact Philip or Elizabeth Batstone on 01485 541068 or pebatstone@fsmail.net

Forthcoming Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

For articles, reports of events, meetings, advertisements and details of forthcoming attractions:

Issue	Copy deadline mid-day on	Publication date
No 97 (Dec 2015/Jan 2016)	Wednesday 4th November 2015	Monday 23rd November 2015
No 98 (Feb/Mar 2016)	Wednesday 13th January 2016	Monday 1st February 2016
No 99 (Apr/May 2016)	Wednesday 2nd March 2016	Monday 21st March 2016

Advertising in Village Voice

Around 2,500 residential and business properties in Dersingham receive a copy of Village Voice with another 600 available to subscribers, businesses and shop counters around and about. It is also available online from our website at dersingham.org.uk. Do please support the services advertisers provide and mention where you saw their advert. Our advert prices are £17.50 for an eighth page, £27.50 for a quarter, £50 for a half and £95 for a full page. Discounts available for block bookings paid up-front. VAT is no longer payable. Full details and booking forms can be downloaded from our website or obtained from the Parish Office or email: villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk and returned together with payment by mid-day of the copy deadlines given above at the latest.

Articles and Non-Profit Making Promotions for Village Voice

These should be preferably emailed directly to the Editor: editor@dersingham.org.uk or posted to **The Editor, % Dersingham Parish Council Office** (address below), ideally well ahead of the above copy deadlines to stand a better chance of inclusion. Available space for articles is governed by the both the physical limitations of the publication as well as the revenue received from advertising. We like Village Voice to be special for our primarily Dersingham readers, so articles should try to be customised accordingly and not just part of a round-robin Press Release to all local publications. Dates of forthcoming events mentioned must take place after the publication dates listed at the top of this page. Items/flyers purely to advertise non-profit making events should aim to fit (and be readable) within a quarter page slot. We hope you will provide photos/graphics/logos etc to accompany promotions or articles. Digital pictures need to be 300 dots/pixels per inch (about 118 per cm.). Most Office document and picture file formats are accepted.

The Editor reserves the right to amend and edit as necessary. Any contributions will be accepted on the understanding that, unless requested otherwise, names, addresses, etc, may be included and maintained on the Parish Council's database. Published material will also appear on the Parish Council website. Copyright of all articles remains with the author. The editor does not necessarily agree with opinions expressed, or accuracy of statements made, by contributors. □

Dersingham Parish Council Office

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The Production Team for this edition consists of

Editor: Tony Bubb. Distribution Co-ordinator: Cliff Jordan. Editorial assistant: Rob Smyth
Administration: Sarah Bristow (*Parish Clerk*) Advertising: Tony Bubb

Word Wall

- 1 Pipe: Organ, Down, Dream, Line
- 2 Castles: Arundel, Belvoir, Blair, Hever
- 3 Prime Ministers: Eden, Brown, Major, Balfour
- 4 Army Officers: Brigadier, Colonel, General, Captain

Where is it? What is it?

This is the "Outer Trial Bank", one of 2 such structures, built in the Wash in the seventies to investigate the feasibility of turning the area into a freshwater reservoir. The proposal came to nothing, largely due to cost, and is now a useful habitat for sea birds.

Sudoku No 44 solution

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

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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday October 6th

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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday November 3rd

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Sharron Bosley from the
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St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
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