

Number 98

February 2016

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



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Tips**

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Editor's Notes

Tony Bubb

The muse was with me as I sat down to start this page when - pop - the lights went out, as did everything else. Howls from the interior reflected the fact that Mrs Editor had lost the use of her iron and the means of seeing her work. As lunch time was approaching thoughts turned to a cold meal, very cold in fact, as all forms of bread were in the freezer and the rain was lashing down making a trip to the shops unappealing. Right soup and croutons then. Carrot and stilton? All proceeded well until the realisation that the stick blender needed the magic force, so out with the potato masher to finish the soup. Whilst it coped well with the carrots the same cannot be said for the cheese and onion element which formed into a glutinous, hole blocking lump. Still it was edible after some brisk whisking. Power returned, after a few false starts, in time for tea.



The winners of our Tree Counting competition were Diana and Roger Foreman, seen here receiving their prize of a £20 garden gift token for correctly finding 25 trees, from Richard Thaxter, who kindly donated the voucher.

I have been contacted by Dr Paul Richards reminding me that this year sees the Silver Jubilee of the founding of True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum. Not only are they celebrating but they are also fundraising and details of their events can be found on their website www.truesyard.co.uk. The museum is looking for 2 or 3 more volunteers for the tearoom and the Pat Midgley Research Centre and interested parties are asked to get in touch.

They are also offering a tour of the museum to a group of VV readers, an offer too good to miss and I will put together a proposal for the next issue.

The next issue but one will be No 100. Have you got any very old Voices? Were you featured about to start a new venture and now would like to report back? We want to make it special to mark this occasion so if you have items for us to copy or recollections to make do get in touch.

We love to get contributions but please include your details with the piece. Did you write "Eddie's Shed"? If so please get in touch, I cannot publish this, or anything else, without knowing its source.

Our cover picture sees Maggie Guest and a friend in Rangoon catching up on village happenings. If your copy goes with you do send in a picture.

Lots to enjoy in the following pages, you have been busy with your contributions for this edition so I'll not detain you any longer and let you get stuck in. Happy Reading! □

Dersingham Parish Council Office

4a Post Office Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn, PE31 6HP—Tel: 01485 541465

The Production Team for this edition of Village Voice consists of

Editor: Tony Bubb. Editorial assistant: Rob Smyth

Administration: Sarah Bristow (*Parish Clerk*) Advertising: Tony Bubb

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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.



We have now completed the Poppy Appeal for 2015 in the villages of Dersingham, Sandringham, West Newton and Wolferton and a total of £4882.14 has been raised. We are rather disappointed with this result compared with previous years, after all the hard work put in by the collectors. We would like to thank all the collectors who gave their time with the house to house and the static collections, and of course all the businesses who gave valuable counter space for our collection boxes. For various reasons we were several collectors short this year, so if anyone can spare an hour or two to help next year, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Once again our many thanks to everyone who helped with the collections, and all who gave generously to the Haig Fund, including Castle Rising and Wolferton Churches.

Pamela Kendal and Karen Bushell

Tel. 01485 544404, Tel. 01485 540236 Poppy Appeal Co-ordinators

I have lived close to the council estate named Gelham Manor for many years. I would be interested to know why it is so named.

I noticed there was mention of a lord of Gelham Manor in one of the letters about allotments in issue 97, December 2015. I will be interested in anything you can tell me.

C Eastwick

This question has been answered at length by Elizabeth Fiddick on page 31 Ed.

Sadly, yet again, the good folk of Dersingham woke up to see the phone box by the recreation ground/memorial smashed, glassless and forlorn like any inner city "war" zone.

Possibly perpetrated by out of town mindless yobs or even our ever increasing home grown variety -who knows? Whatever the answer I think it's time to admit defeat and finally get rid of this blot on the landscape for good. THIS BOX IS NOW OBSOLETE!! Nobody uses it- it doesn't WORK - it is an EX telephone box and it is a pitiful carbuncle that has only two uses, that of being a target of abuse and vandalism to society's misfits or those in need of toilet requirements. In my 20 years living in the village, I have never once seen anyone lawfully using it.

OK. Let me state that I don't hate telephone boxes. Just this one. There is nothing lovelier than a pristine, traditional red box that adorns our other villages. When my family visited us from the USA they said they were disappointed and confused that such a lovely village like Dersingham, especially with links to Sandringham and all things British, did NOT have its own red box. To my eternal shame and embarrassment, I could not answer this question.

So, we are left with two options: let's EITHER finally dispatch this dirty, ugly, unloved and unused piece of scrap metal to the telecom graveyard OR Dersingham Councillors may feel like adding a bit of pride, tradition and even tourist friendly focus by negotiating with BT to install a solid, unbreakable glass, red phone box, which could even be cared for by our hosts of heritage volunteers in the village, which would complement the excellent work done by those who tend the memorial and gardens.

People of Dersingham, the choice is yours.

David Powell

The Parish Clerk comments: I have reported this to the Police as it is a criminal act and I have also contacted BT. BT have confirmed that this box is down to be removed but no date has been given by the removal team as yet. BT will send someone out to clean up the area and the box will be removed as per the schedule.



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Dersingham Village Cinema

The Village Cinema was set up in response to the village-wide survey carried out two years ago (Film nights were top of the list of new activities requested in the new Village Centre).

After a great start with Paddington, audience numbers have dropped off a little. This may be due to the choice of films, but we have been showing those which were requested. The hall has been a bit cold on some evenings. St Nicholas Church PCC officers, especially Tom Wheeler, are doing their best to resolve a problem with the heating system and we are now bringing in portable electric heaters to make it more comfortable. Please let us know if there is anything that we could/should do to encourage attendance.

At the moment we are running with a small surplus. The Cinema does not have to make huge profits (all proceeds will go towards the new Village Centre), but we cannot run at a loss. As well as paying for a licence to show the film, we pay to hire the kit (projector, DVD player, speakers, amplifier), and also pay hall hire. We do need a minimum audience of 20 to avoid making a loss.

There will be no film show in February due to the heating problem and we are short of volunteers to collect and return the kit, which is stored at Wells Library. At the moment we have to hire the equipment but would like to buy our own set, which would help enormously, and will be seeking a grant to help the purchase.

We have decided to change to a Thursday evening and the next film, *The Lady in the Van*, will be on Thursday, March 31st.

In order to encourage people to attend and, therefore, help us raise money for the new Village Centre, we are asking what films you would like to see. If there are films you would like to see, please let us know. Maybe you would like to see some classics from the first half of the last century (eg *Gone with the Wind*, *In which we Serve*, *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Charlie Chaplin*, Ealing Comedies, cartoons). Perhaps you would like one or two special ‘themed nights’ eg Spectre with a Bond theme (*Martinis anyone?*), or Disney, Harry Potter, Marvel Superheroes....

We would welcome new volunteers to help with refreshments, projection and kit collection (there is free training), front of house.

You can contact us in several ways –

By phone (Vanessa Blythe) 01485 544866

Email: enquiries@dersinghamvillagehall.org.uk

Or contact the Parish Council – 01485 541465; clerk@dersingham.org.uk

Thank you for your support. Dersingham Village Cinema Group. Dersingham Village Centre Association

QUIZ NIGHT

You are invited to the Annual Quiz Night of the Friends of St Nicholas Church, Dersingham. This year we have new quizmasters and are supporting a new-to-us charity, the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Venue - the Church Hall on Friday March 11th at 7.15 for a 7.30 start, a maximum of 6 per table, with refreshments halfway.

There is a limit on the number of tables we can have, so book early with Edgar Cooper on 01485 540865 or Carolyn Bithray on 01485 541972.

Payment with booking please, £5 per person .



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Dersingham Recreation Ground Skate Park by Chris Davey



As many people in Dersingham were aware, the skate park was damaged by some people in the middle of the year and the Parish Council arranged for it to be repaired. However, the skate park was then severely vandalised with a concrete slab used to wreck the slopes and base of the apparatus. The Police were informed, and did carry out an investigation, but there was insufficient evidence for them to take any action.

A decision was taken by the Council that, since it was not possible to prevent continued vandalism of the timber skate park, it would be sensible to remove it. The Council plans to replace it with a concrete skate park at some time in the future when there are sufficient funds available and will apply for grants to provide a more substantial structure which would be less susceptible to vandalism. The Council will consult with residents on designs for the replacement skatepark and will then seek quotations.

The skate park was installed more than 10 years ago, and has been well used during that time. During the demolition there was some evidence of structural deterioration, so perhaps the skate park was reaching the end of its lifespan. But it was unfortunate that it was vandalised so depriving many children of a source of entertainment.

Any ideas for, and offers of help with, fund raising towards the cost of a new skate park would be welcome. □



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New Dersingham website on its way!

These days the majority of Dersingham residents probably make at least some use of the internet, and for some of us a lot of use! Although there are a myriad of websites around the globe, there's one right on your doorstep - Dersingham.org.uk which is the website of the village Parish Council. The site gives useful information about the Council and its activities but it is also a resource for the whole village community.

Having been on line for a number of years, the Parish Council felt that the site needed a makeover to make it more accessible and should also feature a much more comprehensive calendar of Dersingham events, societies and group meetings. Although I'm usually known as an artist and walks leader, I have another hat that I put on, that of web designer and I've been asked to undertake the build of the new website. I'm already working away, but I need your help!

Get your group on the web

Are you the organiser of a local group, society or club? Is there anything that you want to publicise to the village? Then your events should be on the Dersingham website. And they will be, if you tell me about them. All you need to do is send some information about your group, preferably including a photo that is relevant, and the what, where and when of any events that you are putting on - whether regular meetings or one-offs. Ideally, send your information by email to clerk@dersingham.org.uk and it will be passed on to me. Or you can take written material into the Parish Council office at 4a Post Office Road.

Get your photos seen too

One of the new features of the website will be a gallery of Dersingham photos that show all the different aspects of the village. I need interesting, good quality photographs that must be reasonably recent and have been taken within the boundary of the parish. I don't promise to use them all, but those that make it onto the site will be given a credit and there will be a small prize for the one that I consider to be the best submitted. Email your photos direct to me at photos@stephenmartyn.co.uk making sure that your name, contact details and the location of the shot are in the email. Or again, you can take printed photos into the Parish Council office.

The new website should be online in the next few weeks at Dersingham.org.uk but until then you can still visit the original version at the same address. Thanks for your help! □

Stephen Martyn

Our Post Office

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you what I know about the future of your village Post Office. Many people have told me of their concerns about losing the Post Office altogether and the village being without.

As a part of the Post Office modernisation programme which is happening across the country, Dersingham Post Office will, at some point, be relocated to another outlet in the village, providing suitable premises can be found. I cannot give a time or a place at this moment but, until this happens, Dersingham Post Office will be operating from its current location, offering all the Post Office services that it has done for many years.

I would like to ask for your continued support through this difficult and emotional time for us. I will keep you all informed in future issues of Village Voice. □

Fraser Lindsay - Sub Postmaster



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Tues	29 Mar	IPSWICH	£14.50	Thurs	21 July	SKEGNESS	£12.50
Tues	5 Apr	OXFORD - LEISURE DAY	£20.00	Sat	30 July	DERBY DALES - BUXTON & ASHBOURNE	£22.50
Thurs	14 Apr	COTSWOLDS - STOW ON THE WOLD & MORETON IN MARSH	£21.50	Tues	2 Aug	CLEETHORPES	£16.00
Tues	26 Apr	MELTON MOWBRAY - MARKET DAY	£14.50	Wed	17 Aug	BURY ST EDMUNDS - MARKET & GARDENS	£13.50
Wed	11 May	ELY & CAMBRIDGE	£12.50	Tues	23 Aug	GREAT YARMOUTH	£12.50
Fri	20 May	STRATFORD UPON AVON - MARKET DAY	£22.50	Wed	31 Aug	CLACTON	£17.50
Tues	31 May	DUNWICH FISH & CHIPS & SOUTHWOLD (LUNCH INCLUDED)	£25.00	Sat	3 Sept	SOUTHWOLD	£15.00
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Dersingham Day Centre by Alice Worth



On January 6th the Dersingham Day Centre was back after the Christmas holiday and, as usual, it was good to see all our members again and to catch up on their news. It seems a long time ago now that we ended 2015 with a variety of special events and we are now well into planning our Winter Session. Our next big event will be Easter and yet another party. In between times we will be enjoying our regular Wednesday meetings.

At the end of November we celebrated our 34th Birthday with a great party. We started with a special chicken lunch provided by Paul Witt and his team of caterers. After lunch we were entertained by Brian Roy, who got us all singing along to his music. These events are always so popular and, as I have said before, it feels good to sing at the top of one's voice, knowing that however out of key you are no one can hear it above the music!

Throughout the Autumn session members and volunteers had been busy making decorations for the Day Centre Christmas Tree, part of St Nicholas's Tree Festival held each December. We were very proud of the final result and our tree really was a great credit to the Volunteers and Members who had contributed to its decorations. Our tree theme for 2015 was "All things white". David Lang, our regular driver, took individual photos of us all and they were fitted into white crochet stars which hung on all the branches. Every tree was special and the whole event was well worth a visit. On the Wednesday following the Festival, and despite the windy weather, the Volunteers were able to take Members across to the church to see the final result of their efforts and those of other organizations in the village.

All that remained then was to have our Christmas Party on December 16th, our last meeting of the year. The tables had been beautifully set out and decorated (thank you Ann and Kathy and all those who helped) and, together with our guests, forty-eight of us sat down to a superb traditional Christmas lunch, cooked by Carol Kenny and the Volunteer helpers in the kitchen. Later, in what is now a Day Centre tradition - started some 6 years ago by the then Vicar Michael Brock - the Rev. Julie Boyd and the Rev. Steve Oliver (Methodist Church) led us in singing carols, accompanied by our special entertainer Leigh Murfet on keyboard. Leigh has been our Christmas Party entertainer for many years now and we have always enjoyed his sense of fun - Julie and Steve soon set up a rapport with him and it created a very happy atmosphere to start off our party, and their singing wasn't bad either!!!! Then followed our sing-a-long, and the usual dancing cabaret by the Volunteers, who despite them all being a year older (!) put on a good show . The afternoon ended with tea and home-made mince-pies, kindly donated again, by Hazel Wolff (thank you Hazel – as usual they were delicious) and each Member was given a Christmas card and present. Both Volunteers and Members were also given a large box of chocolates, donated anonymously to the Day Centre.

On behalf of us all I would like to thank that person for his generosity yet again this year. I can assure him his kindness is very much appreciated by Volunteers and Members alike . As each one of us left the Church Hall to go home, we collected a surprise gift off the trolley by the door and so ended another successful and happy year for the Day Centre. □



Village Voice Live

Tuesday December 1st - St Kilda, Isle of Mystery

Remote places always have a fascination about them and Alan Polaine took us to one such place

on this evening. Stuck out in the Atlantic and only accessed by special arrangement, the island is now deserted apart from a few National Trust wardens. Occasional work parties visit and Alan was on one of those, making sure that he took his camera. A keen photographer, he showed us many memorable pictures of the island today, interspersed with historical shots of the island 80 years or so ago before permanent life became unsustainable. With a diet of seabirds and their eggs we could understand the islanders eventually giving up.



With seasonal refreshments, we had a very enjoyable evening which was rounded off with a sound and picture montage of this enigmatic place.

Dumpling

Tuesday 5th January 2016 D-Day – Breaking the Atlantic Wall

Armed with nothing more than a fairly crude hand-drawn map of the Normandy coastline and a few black and white photos, local historian Chris Boxall kept us spellbound for two full 45 minute sessions, detailing the lead-up to and the implementation of the D-Day landings, with résumés of significant personnel and some of the heroes involved. Whereas I might not have given much of a thought to the subject matter in the past, it certainly brought what little I did know into perspective and clarified the significance of each stage. Overall an experience that those of us attending are much the richer for.



Chris did bring along two other props: sample military combat helmets as worn by the US GIs and Germans, that were available to try on or pose with during the interval.

Many of us remembered Chris from his previous, riveting Village Voice Live account of *Houghton Hall and the Walpoles*. He is indeed a man with that rare traditional gift of being able to deliver a knowledge-rich story, seemingly off-the-cuff in a thoroughly engaging way with an infectious enthusiasm. Thank you Chris; I hope we can look forward to another talk in the future.

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Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

Another new year and the children have enjoyed reflecting on last term. Year 5 experienced a World War II day at Duxford, where they were able to look at a variety of artefacts to support their learning. The aeroplanes were a popular exhibit! Year 3 and 4 really enjoyed their Food Glorious Food topic, particularly their trip to Tesco, where they had the opportunity to explore where food comes from, make donuts and of course have a tasting session! Water World ventured into the village and used their map reading skills and grid referencing to find buildings and amenities in the local area.

December saw the school welcoming the Student Council representatives from our family of Smithdon cluster schools. At the conference, the children created colourful billboards to highlight the fantastic work, facilities and philosophies of their respective schools. The children did a fantastic job of presenting their work to each other and together the schools formed a cluster strapline to pave the way forward in 2016. "TOGETHER WE'RE BETTER TOGETHER A TEAM!"

A big thank you to Tracy Bower, who has been supporting children and staff with their PE development throughout the first term. We were also delighted to have her train up our new Peer Mediators from Year 5 and 6, who will now lead playground games and help support children at playtimes.



the Nativity Story through the eyes of a curious sheep and Year 3 and 4 brought the story right up to date with a 'Straw and Order' courtroom drama! The older children wrote their own account of the Christmas Story and delighted parents at the Methodist Church with a beautiful carol service. Our thanks go to Reverend Julie for welcoming Water World to the Christmas Tree Festival at St Nicholas' church and joining us for our end of term Christmas assembly. We were extremely proud of our Peer Mentors, who guided the younger members of the school around a creative Christmas Crafts Carousel, which rounded the term off beautifully!

We said a fond farewell to Mrs Mallett at



Christmas at the Early Years site was filled with fun and laughter. The nativity and Christmas Fair were a huge success thanks to the dedication of parents, children and staff alike. Each class at the main site hosted a French Café and contributed to the Christmas Fair. The children had fun learning French, baking, decorating their classes and serving their parents. French songs and even a French nativity play were highlights of the afternoon. Year 1 and 2 performed their version of



the end of term, who will be working at a school nearer to home. We also said goodbye to Mrs Osborne who has moved to one of our local schools. Thank you to both of them, we appreciate their dedication and hard work over the years and wish them the best of luck in the future.

So now a new term is well underway and the Early Years site has welcomed new children and seen exciting transitions as children move rooms. Children from the preschool, nursery and reception classes will be exploring seasonal change, melting and freezing and reflections. We will even be trying our hand at photography! Aquatica is beginning a Peculiar Potions topic linking in with Alice's antics in Wonderland after she sips a mysterious drink. The children have already experimented with testing the viscosity of liquids by comparing how quickly they run and ooze down a ramp! Water World and Land of Toys are exploring brains and challenging the way they learn, as well as discovering the best ways to keep fit and healthy!

It looks like 2016 is going to be an exciting year at Dersingham Primary and Nursery School! □



Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

Indoor Meeting at the Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Swaffham.

Access and parking from Sporle Road.



From Alaska to Arizona

with David Mason. Tuesday 23rd February, 7.30pm

David Mason is a well-known NarVOS member who has given our society some riveting talks in the past. This particular talk from David is a compilation from various trips to North America, and features otters, bears, buffalo and birds, plus some history. What a fantastic package. Please come along, sit down and enjoy.

You can see a sample of David's photography at davidmasonimages.com

Visitors are most welcome at our meetings.

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.

Old Picture Corner 1

with Tony Bubb

Our first picture from Sheila Broughton shows the post office in the 50's before any of the shop extensions were created. Sheila's aunt & uncle, Anne & Fred Lee, ran the office at that time. Since then two phases of extension have given us the building we have today.

The other shot is of a First School Entertainment taken around 1989. Are you there, either as a pupil or if, as a parent, do you recognise the back of your head?



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Dersingham Walking Group

Welcome to the Dersingham Walking Group, which provides regular guided walks round the local countryside. The next section of our programme takes in a couple of local walks, with starting points at Dersingham Church Hall and at Sandringham, plus a couple that are a little further away but still easily reachable, Massingham and Narborough. Most are on our usual Wednesdays, but we've included a Sunday one too. The length is shown for each walk but they usually take a couple of hours or so, with a stop halfway. Note that as the days are starting to draw out a little, we are now back to our usual 2pm start time.

All of these walks are free, just turn up on the day wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. The leaders try and ensure that routes avoid the worst patches of mud, but after the wet weather that we've had the going is bound to be a bit soft in places, so don't be shy about turning up in wellies. Dogs are welcome, provided they're well behaved. Why not get some fresh air and exercise, you'll be in good company!

Details of our next walks are:

Wednesday 10th February 2.00pm

Starting point: St Nicholas church hall, Dersingham.

Grid ref: TF 692 302 Length of walk: 6 miles.

The Icknield Way or at least some of this ancient path!

Leader: Cliff Jordan 01485 541115

Wednesday 24th February 2.00pm

Starting point: Narborough village, at layby behind the bus shelter at corner of Main Rd and Narford Road.

Grid ref: TF 749 127 Length of walk: 5 miles.

Along the banks of the River Nar, one of the chalk streams of West Norfolk. Look for wildlife and views of both open fields and woodland.

Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333

Wednesday 9th March 2.00pm

Starting point: Great Massingham village green

Grid ref: TF 798 230 Length of walk: 4 miles.

A mosey round the Massinghams. Field paths and lanes round both Great and Little Massingham.

Leader: Pat Reed 01485 540757

Sunday 20th March 2.00pm

Starting point: Sandringham Visitor Centre

Grid ref: TF 690 288 Length of walk: 4 miles.

Sandringham Sunday explorer. Some of the many woodland footpaths and a possible teashop stop at the end.

Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333

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

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Dersingham Evening WI

by Stephanie Coulson
Annual Report 2015

We were delighted to start our new year off with Gilly Spencer returning as President and a new committee member, Katrina Mundy after Antje

Franke sadly stepped down.

Our Christmas events again included a smashing Christmas Lunch and Afternoon Tea, on a separate day at the Le Strange Hotel. We again participated in the Christmas Tree festival at St Nicholas Church.

We started the New Year off in style with a superb January Sale Fashion Show by Allez Chic, jointly hosted with the Mothers Union. The event was very well attended, with a commission of £400 being split between the Mothers Union and ourselves. We continued with our February Frenzy whereby members bring in any unwanted Christmas gifts for re-sale, monies raised paid for toiletries to our local Women's Refuge. Our new members meeting was held as usual in March, attended by 9 new members, which was very gratifying.

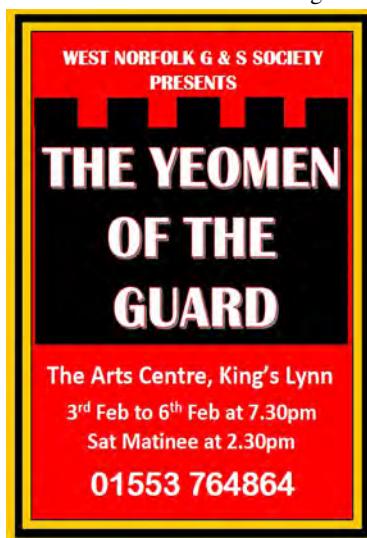
Our monthly meetings included our usual varied programme of speakers from Animals to Elizabeth I and from Fashion to Sewage treatments. We continue with our fun quizzes, our Book stall and various 'Bring and Buy' type stalls. Members continue to receive a comprehensive Newsletter with a system for delivering to those absent. Our Annual Meeting this year included a Christmas Bring and Buy with proceeds going to The Purfleet Trust in King's Lynn.

Our highlights from the spring included our 63rd Birthday meeting, where Fish and Chips were enjoyed by all. We were pleased to be able to send several boxes of toiletries to our local Women's Refuge, courtesy of one of our members who has a friend in Asda who was able to get some amazing discounts for us. We were also pleased to award six bursaries of £15 each this year to members attending Craft classes.

Summer was a particularly busy time with three members attending the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and one member attending a live screening of the Centennial AGM. We attended the Centenary exhibition at Gressenhall and also entered a team on the Race for Life at Houghton Hall, raising in excess of £1000 for Cancer Research; we were delighted with that. We also entered our local church's Arts, Craft and Flower festival, celebrating our Centenary with various of our craft items through the years along with a classic flower display and a modern one.

By far our best event was our Nostalgia Day, held in the church hall, attended by members of the Board, other WI's and the general public, with of course, many of our own members. We exhibited mementos from the last 100 years, displayed on tables for each decade, with a members of the committee dressed appropriately for that decade. Afternoon tea was served by our catering team. It all involved a tremendous amount of work by a group of ladies, with amazing comments being received and even a photo on the cover of the Village Voice as well as in the Lynn News. Who knew how much 'stuff' we accumulated over the years. I have to say it was the best event in my four years of being a member of the WI.

We continue with our regular groups:
The Sunday Lunch group and the Evening Dining Group
Many, many (too many to detail) Day trips out or evening events with coffee or refreshments
Theatre trips and live screening events
We have enjoyed seven walks, with coffee or lunch this



year, in all weathers

Our new dance/keep fit class has proved a success, with a regular group of ladies attending and also giving us a demonstration at our Annual Meeting. They were excellent, we were very impressed.

We have had two holiday trips this year, one to Northern Ireland and one to Salzburg. Coffee mornings continue to be enjoyed, with the odd variation of an Afternoon tea and we again enjoyed a soup and a roll lunch at a member's house, proceeds from which were sent to Jenny Sparks Donkey Sanctuary.

Our craft groups continue to flourish with several members attending the regional classes offered by the WI and our knitting group supporting charity knitting through Norfolk Knitters.

We have also supported local WI's with some members accepting invitations to their meetings and were pleased to receive members of other WI's at our Centenary Party in September, where we enjoyed a buffet and music by a local trio.

We continue to support our local foodbank as well as the Women's refuge and we were delighted when one of our members won a Creative Writing award, with a certificate presented at the AGM in Norwich and her story appearing in the Gazette and the Village Voice.

As usual, many of our members are engaged in local activities – supporting the guides and scouts, helping at our award winning day centre for the elderly, delivering village magazines, taking a big part in the running of the village hall, along with regular involvement of the local churches through various coffee mornings and festivals.

It is pleasing to note we have welcomed 9 new members this year and have entertained many guests, even a stray elderly gentleman who was holiday and was interested in one of our speakers, not realising the WI was a ladies group! I would again like to thank all the members who have worked extremely hard over the last year to make our WI a success and am sure we will have another great year this year. □

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Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny

Hi there all you good people of Dersingham and beyond, here we are again writing for the February issue of Dersingham Village Voice, the first issue in 2016.

Cranberry Fen

I am going to start with a story that was printed in the Village Voice a few years back. It is all about Cranberry Fen. In the October of 1930 it was brought to the notice of Dersingham Parish Council that the Eastern Electricity Board were erecting electricity poles across Cranberry Fen. This was the piece of land, 79 acres, between the old A149 and the Wolferton boundary (now split in half by the by-pass). So the council wrote to them and said you will now have to pay us rent for those poles on our land. The electric board wrote back and said, oh now hold on, we have already paid Sandringham Estate to put those poles on the fen as it is their land. Oh no it is not, said Dersingham Parish Council, that land was granted to the parish of Dersingham in 1779 by the then King, George the Third, for the people of the parish to dig, cut, cart away, and to let or sell from that land.

Then the solicitors for the Sandringham Estate got in on the act. They were Bircham and Co of 46 Parliament Street London. They wrote to Dersingham Parish Council and told them straight that it was the King's land. After getting this letter the council erected six posts on the boundary between Cranberry Fen and Wolferton Warren with the initials burnt into them D.P.B, Dersingham parish boundary. A gentleman known as farmer Danet, who lived in Chapel Road erected the posts and he was paid 12 shillings for the job. At one time in his life this same gentleman cleaned out the Red Dyke for the council; this dyke runs along the northern boundary of the fen from the old A149 road as far as the railway line.

This argument between the two sides went on for a long time. The members of the Dersingham Parish Council at that time were chairman Mr J Jackson, Mr E Reynolds, Mr J Drew, Mr D Terrington, Mr W Lines, Mr A Tuck, Mr J Chambers, Mr H Cross, Mr E Parker and Mr E Wheeler. During this time Mr E Parker



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(grocer) and Mr E wheeler (school master) resigned, so Mr J Bunn and Mr W Clayton took their places on the Dersingham Parish Council.

Then in 1934 a decision was made and both sides came to an agreement and that was as follows and it still stands to this very day: the Queen owns the freehold but the people who live in the parish of Dersingham still have the right to dig, cut, cart away, on that land. But, as we all know, this area of land, Dersingham Fen, was split in two in 1990 by the new by-pass and the area where the cranberries are, and the boundary posts are, now comes under the management of English Nature, with a fence all the way round and a locked gate to the fire track and the sand pit. So now the people of Dersingham cannot gain access to Cranberry Fen nor can Her Majesty the Queen unless she has the privilege of a key to the gate. In 1862 the Hunstanton Railway Company paid Dersingham Parish Council twenty pounds so they could lay their railway line through the northwest corner of the fen. Also, about a year ago, the electric poles and lines were done away with; this was not a very wise move as a lot of birds used them to perch on.

Some characters of 1900

Many people tell me that they like reading my bits about days gone by in Dersingham so here are some of the people who lived in the village in the year 1900. That time there were just about 1,250 people living in the village and most of them worked on the land.

Robert Wilkins lived at Wellswill House down Manor Road. This large house was later converted into a private school for girls with a swimming pool in front; I believe it is now called 'Wood Royal'. Mr James Stephen Edward la-Fontaine, JP lived in Brandenburg House; Edward Tingey lived in Manor Farm next to the church, where the vicar at the time was the Rev. John Corbould-Warren MA. Herbert Edward Alderton kept the Alexandra Hotel, which was down the bottom of Station Hill right opposite the station; it has been a private house for many years. There were two other hotels in the village at the time: the Temperance Hotel on Linfords Corner that was kept by a Mr James Chambers; and the Feathers Hotel which was kept by William Mann, who was also a job master. There were four public houses in the village at that time: the Coach and Horses, the Dun Cow, the White Horse and the Albert Victor. From these seven licensed premises we only have three now: Dersingham Club, the Coach and Horses and the Feathers. The Dersingham club had not been built in those days; the village did at one time have a club and a public house, the Gamekeepers, attached to the Old Hall.

A Mr Benjamin Barnup lived in Melrose Cottage and he was the manager of Her Majesty's technical schools. I believe this could have been what I knew as Sandringham Carpentry School that was in the grounds of Sandringham House and was still there when I left school, as some of my classmates went there to learn the trade of carpentry. There were three coal merchants in the village: Mr Bunn, Mr Green and Mr Reynolds, who was also a nurseryman down Post Office Road. Also in Post Office Road lived a Mr William Potter, a blacksmith. At that time Mrs Susannah Dodman was also a blacksmith but I do not know where her blacksmith shop was located. William Hudson was a wheelwright with his workshop and cottage in Manor Road opposite the junction with Heath Road; this building and cottage was demolished many years ago. When I was a boy the only blacksmith was George Blowers, who had his shop in Manor Road next to Mr Tuck's nursery, where you could buy the most delicious tasting tomatoes in the world.

One interesting shop in the village in 1900 was owned and run by a Mr William Ewer jnr, who was a music seller and stationer; the shop is still there today near the post office. In Cantelope House lived Professor Harry Cross ARCO, a professor of music and the organist at Sandringham Church. James Jarvis snr was a baker, as was his son, James Jarvis jnr, who I believe had the old mill in Mill Road which was taken over by the Playford family, who in my days in Dersingham had a baker's shop in Manor Road opposite the Police Station. There was also another baker in the village, a Mr Matthew Fitt, whose bake house was in Chapel Road near a large house called The Oaks that in later years got burnt down. Another person living in the village at that time, Mr Ralph, is described in Kelly's as an usher and photographer. He lived in Victoria Cottage.

The junction of Manor Road and the Lynn Road has for many years been known as Senter's Corner. There is a good reason for this name as the Senter family ran three businesses from the large house. Mrs Hannah Senter was a milliner, Harry Senter was a market gardener with his land down Manor Road and Martin Senter was a shopkeeper and boot and shoe mender.

George Mitchell was a carrier, who with his horse and cart would take parcels to and from King's Lynn three times a week; he kept his horse in a field down The Drift. When his horse died he buried it in a small wood at the bottom of his field, and since that day this wood has been known as Fiddler's Wood as this was his nickname. He had a son who went to school with my father and he too was called Fiddler.

I hope you liked our little trip round the village in 1900. I will sort out another trip around Dersingham for the next issue. By the way, in 1900 there were over 60 shops and businesses in the village, not bad for a village with a population of about 1,250.

Elephants

I thought you might like this photo taken by a lady that lived opposite Linfords Corner in Roughwood Cottage. She thought it was taken in the 1930's and she was told that the elephant and the horse were on their way to a circus in Hunstanton. I know nothing about a circus setting up in Dersingham but there have been many circuses in Hunstanton over the years. I can remember Fun-Fairs setting up in the grounds of the Old Hall when I was a lad. I spoke to a chap who helped take elephants down to the sea in the



60's and I have a picture in a book of elephants going into the sea at Hunstanton between the wars.

Well that's all for now, don't forget, do you keep a troshin, all the best, the boy Dick. □

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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club by Helen Young

Recently, prior to the start of the indoor bowls world championships, BBC local television news ran a story about encouraging more young people to take up bowling. Former world singles champions, Greg Harlow and Rebecca Fields were demonstrating their bowling skills to groups of local school children who then had the opportunity to have a go themselves on the famous Potters' rink, venue for the forthcoming championships.

In Dersingham we are ahead of the game and already have a young star! Fifteen year old James Wadey, a pupil at Alderman Peel High School has been bowling for three years. Encouraged by his Nan, Joy Kelly, James joined the weekly coaching sessions during the summer of 2013. James consolidated his skills by playing regularly in the Saturday roll ups and returned for the coaching sessions in 2014 and 2015. Incidentally Joy is no mean bowler herself and is currently the Ladies Champion at both DIBC and Sandringham Bowls Club!

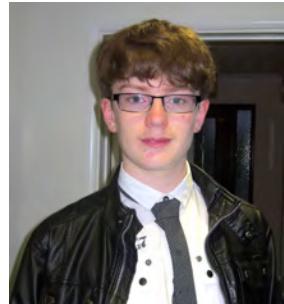
Last season James became a regular member of the Club's Albert Victor League team and also helped out when the Countryside League team were short of players. Partnering his Nan, James entered the Club's pairs competitions finishing as runners up in the Brian Mortimer Cup at their first attempt. In addition James also won the Tom Ward Cup outright for accumulating the most shots scored at the Saturday roll ups during the season. To mark his achievements over the season James was awarded the shield for Most Improved Player but unfortunately was unable to collect the trophy himself as the presentation lunch took place on a school day!

James' bowling success has had an impact on his school life because he chose bowls as one of the modules for his PE, GCSE. The assessment involved James demonstrating a number of bowling skills and disciplines which were then filmed by his Mum and submitted for moderation; James received a 100% mark!

James prefers bowling outdoors but to keep his eye in during the winter he plays once a week with his Nan at the Oasis in Hunstanton. In November he took part in an event for under 16s at the Centre of Excellence in Norwich Bowls Club where he finished a commendable 8th out of 14 participants.

James is not only a promising bowler but also a good club member, helping to set out the rinks before the start of a match and supporting as many social events as he can. James's cheerful personality and dry sense of humour make him a very popular and valued member of our club and we all benefit from having a youthful presence around!

NB: The weekly coaching sessions are held at the Club on a Tuesday morning from May to August between 1000 and 1200. The Club boasts two qualified coaches, Richard Bridges and Ruth Ince. □



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GELHAM MANOR

by Elizabeth Fiddick

Gelham Manor is a name quite familiar to Dersingham villagers today. Indeed it forms part of addresses identifying where in the village some residents live. This has also been true from shortly after the time William I, the Conqueror, granted his nephew Peter lands in and around the village. In turn Peter conveyed some of his property in Dersingham to the de Gelham family.

If you walk through the housing estate built around Mountbatten Road you are walking on de Gelham land. Many of the roads here are named for Dersingham villagers, Hipkin, Twite, Houchen, Balding, Reynolds, Jackson, Kerrich, Nurse, and Stanton. Shouldham Close recalls Shouldham Priory Manor. The Priory was situated to the south of King's Lynn in the village of Shouldham. Nothing now remains of this priory which was established in the reign of Richard I by the Earl of Essex. It was Christiana de Mandeville, Countess of Essex who gave lands and property she owned in Dersingham to the Priory thus establishing the Manor. Wiclewood Close is named for a vicar of Dersingham in the 14th century.

However if you continue down Duck Decoy Close, named for another old village landmark, you can reach the wide trackway called The Drift and after a short walk you can see across the open field between the end of the housing and the by-pass. Villagers have recently named this area The Warren and work has begun to create a village pond and landscape the area. But it was here in this unremarked place that the de Gelhams built their Manor house and surrounded it with a moat. It was apparently a double moat much of which now lies beneath the housing but when I first came to the village part of the moat, filled with water, was clearly visible and the line of trees and bushes still there mark the place. Sadly during the building of the estate it was filled in with rubble and has been allowed to disappear.

As well as their house there would have been other buildings, stables, small cottages and barns associated with a Manor. The waters of the Wash at this time approached much nearer the village so that Dersingham had a haven with ships registered here until the water receded in the 17th century. Fishing was important and our church had a small spire topped with a lantern to guide the men working in the treacherous currents of the Wash. This small spire was finally demolished in 1798. No doubt the waters and the masts of ships were visible to those who lived and worked in and around Gelham Manor. It is thought that Centers Drift, the wide track I have already mentioned, is the one named in old documents as *Morgate* that led to *Gelhamhall Moore*. Also some historians think that the main channel that brought the ships into Dersingham Haven entered the village here.

Peter de Valognes the Conqueror's nephew founded a Priory at Binham for Benedictine monks and granted some of his lands in Dersingham to this new Priory thus establishing Binham Priory Manor in the village. In 1264 Adam de Mota, Prior of Binham, granted Sir Thomas Gelham a licence to build a free chapel in the churchyard with the power to appoint a master or chaplain. The chapel was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and some of its foundations were uncovered during grave digging.

The rent rolls for the Manor of Shouldham Priory record a Thomas Gelham holding 13 acres for which he paid rent of 5s 1/2d and for the help of the vicar 1/2d and a hen. Later Richard de Seaford, a prior at Binham, exchanged with Sir Thomas de Gelham lands lying near a chapel called St Andrew. The exact site of this chapel is a mystery but it may have been situated close to the row of cottages in Manor Road next to the Antique shop. Some stones found in the foundations of the cottages when they were rebuilt consisted of a shaft, the arm of a cross and part of the bowl of a holy water stoop and could have come from a chapel.

In 1272 in the reign of Henry III John de Gelham held the lands but the King granted him a discharge from his duties as Lord, (a quietus), for two years when he was to take the order of knighthood. Another John de Gelham held the Manor in 1316 under Edward II. The last of the

family seems to have been William de Gelham who died sometime in the reign of Edward III (1327-1377) and his lands were divided up between his daughters and co-heirs. In 1354 a fine was levied between Sir Richard Walkfare and John and Elizabeth de Repps. A third part of the Manor was conveyed to Sir Richard. Sir Richard's brother Thomas was a soldier who gained great distinction at the battle of Poitiers in 1356. The Walkfares also owned lands in Ingoldisthorpe. Some time before his death Sir Richard gave his rights to the property to certain feoffees and on his death it passed to Sir Thomas Felton and Joan his wife. On the north side of the altar in the church ancient tiles were once found which bore parts of two coats of arms of the Feltons. They may have been part of the floor of St. Mary's Chapel built in the churchyard by Sir Thomas Gelham.

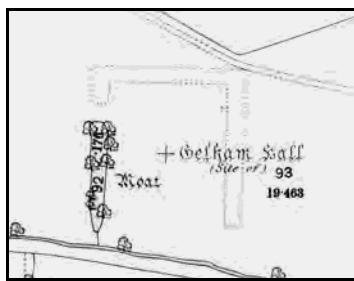
Thomas Felton died in 1382 and left three daughters, Mary, wife of Sir Edmund Hengrave, Sibilla wife of a de Morley and Alianore wife of Sir John l'Estrange of Hunstanton. Alianore and Sir John conveyed part of this Manor to Alianore's mother Joan. At some time Catherine Brews, a nun, and daughter of Thomas de Norwich is recorded as having an interest in the land. At the present time I have not been able to find details of what happened to the Manor after the time of Henry VIII until, like other land in the village, it was acquired by Jeffrey Cobbe of Sandringham during the reign of Charles I.

However, although the waters of the Wash receded during the 17th century so that Dersingham Haven with its small ships disappeared, the village was still badly affected by the frequent storms that raged in the Wash. There were several major floods that caused immense damage, none more so than that of 1671. In August and September of that year there was a period of extremely stormy weather reaching a peak around September 12th. The whole countryside about Lynn was inundated. The tide rose so high that it swept over all the sea banks and every able-bodied person would have been summoned to the fight against the sea and save what livestock they could. Winter fodder was destroyed, roads destroyed and ships wrecked. In the light of recent events shown on our television screens it is not hard to imagine the scene. The event is recorded in the Dersingham parish register. Water entered many cottages here but there

was no loss of life. It seems to me however that Gelham manor house and all its land and buildings must have been very badly affected both now and in the floods of the past. It was after all the largest estate closest to the raging tide and even its double moat would have been overwhelmed. So was this the time it was decided to abandon the house and a new Manor House of Westhall built at a safer distance from the sea? 1671 is the date quoted for the building of that Manor in Manor Road and also for the Tithe Barn and Dersingham Hall. I have no written evidence to support this theory but at some time the de Gelham's house was demolished. At a later date the estate passed to the Hoste family and in 1862 became part of the Royal Estate.

On the tithe map of 1839 a considerable part of the area of the village that was once Gelham Manor between what is now Station Road and The Drift was common land. The housing estate now covers those fields and the old names have been lost. Some have ordinary names such as the 8 acres, or the 6 acres, but others are Cow Close, Fisher's Pightle, Hill Piece, Hall Close, Home Close, Homestall, Little Blacks, Mill Close and The Row. Names now lost. The villagers who lived and farmed this area included John Wells who also in 1836 managed the Dun Cow Public House, part of The Dun Cow Farm of Robert West. John Riches rented The Row, the area of Marsh about where the by-pass now runs. Thomas Grief occupied the cottage with barn and yard where our chemist shop presently stands.

Mill Hill was named for the Windmill that once stood at the bottom of Station Road and was an arable piece farmed by John Wells. The 1851 census records John Waters as the Innkeeper of the Dun Cow farming 6 acres with 3 labourers in his employ. Other villagers at this time familiar with the area once covered by Gelham Manor were George Mann and his two sons



George and William who were Marsh Shepherds. George Skelton and his son George were employed to supervise the Duck Decoy. I discovered a reference to a George Skelton in a newspaper report in the 1840's when he was fined heavily for poaching!

So the whole area once part of the Manor continued to be farmed through most of the twentieth century. The major event that would have severely affected the old Manor House had it still been standing would have been the disastrous East Coast floods of 1953. Then a combination of high tides and wind brought the waters of the Wash once more surging up as far as the station and to the very foundations of the old house. Now the Manor is only remembered by the street names Gelham Manor and Gelham Court and the area where it stood is now The Warren. But next time you walk there by the newly formed village pond look across to that row of trees where once you could have seen part of the old moat and remember you are walking in the footsteps of Thomas de Gelham and over the place where he built his home. □

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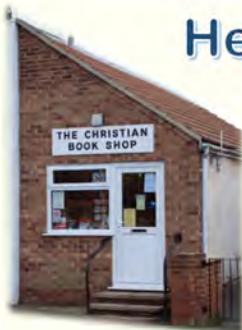
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0004/14

Parish Council Report

by Cllr Sue Payne (Chair)



Something someone said to me recently struck a chord. I will not go in to detail, but can I ask that we give more thought as to how we can help those in our community who are lonely, unwell, and/or housebound.

Several people have said that they moved to Dersingham because the people are so friendly. Perhaps we need to expand this friendliness to more practical things – could we cook someone a meal, help them with shopping or household chores, or just visit occasionally. Other communities have set up ‘Good Neighbour’ schemes. Do we need something like this in Dersingham? I would appreciate peoples’ thoughts.

Back to current affairs. I have written to Norfolk County Council expressing our concern at the proposals to limit opening times at the Heacham Recycling Centre, reduction in cover at Sandringham Fire Station (and closure of Heacham), as well as the threat to library provision. There are also proposals to reduce spending on Adult Social Care by making more use of existing provision in communities – this is a good idea, in theory, but will need funding.

The problems with the bus service are still being monitored and meetings are being planned.

We are planning a couple of events this year – Big Lunch in June, and Village Fun Day in September – watch out for more information. We will also run children’s activities during August in partnership with the Sports Ground Committee and Alive Leisure.

To avoid clashing/duplicating events, we are setting up a calendar in the Parish Office. Please let us know if you are planning something by contacting the Parish Office.

At the time of writing, the Parish Council has almost finalised next year’s precept (our part of the Council Tax) and by the time you are reading Village Voice it will have been set at a special Council meeting on Monday, January 18th.

Members of the public are very welcome at our meetings, and you do have allotted time to state your views on what the Parish Council does, and ask questions relating to the agenda. Please do come along – after all it is your money that we are spending.

Details of Full Council, Committee, and Working Group meetings in 2016 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 Parish matters, Village Voice, and any of the items above. Tel: 01485 541465; email: clerk@dersingham.org.uk

I wish everyone a healthy and happy 2016

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Butterfly Report for 2015 by Brian Anderson

I've taken a rather broader compass this year for two reasons: firstly, the transect reflects only itself over a time series - that's why you do it - to record year-on-year changes under standard conditions, but you neglect casual observations elsewhere; secondly, I agreed to do a different kind of survey in addition - more of that later.

It was not a great year but also not a disaster. The chart below shows the relative abundance of species over the transect compared with 2013 and 2014. 2012 (the first year of recording) has been omitted in order to reduce overcrowding on the chart

Comments on the transect results and casual observations.

Skippers.

This was the first year that I've been able to record the three common "golden" Skippers separately on the transect. Often you have to record Small and Essex Skippers as "Smessex" Skippers as you have to get really close to distinguish them (the only visible difference is the colour of the *underside* on the antennae - beige in the Small and glossy black in the Essex).

Whites.

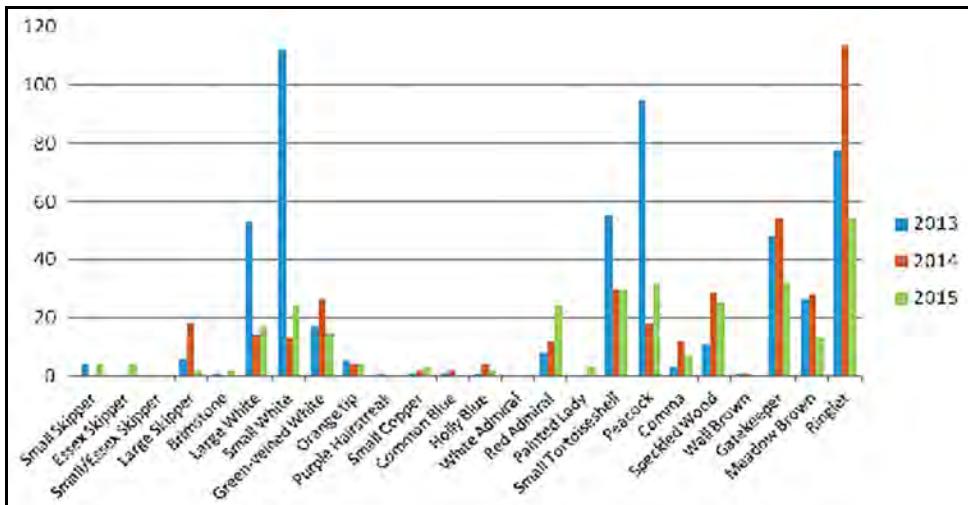
There has been small recovery in the number of Large and Small Whites but a small decline in Green-veined Whites and Orange Tips. Brimstones have recovered slightly (but the numbers are so low anyway that it's probably not significant).

Blues, Coppers and Hairstreaks.

The transect doesn't offer ideal habitat for this group but three Small Coppers over just two walks was good. No Purple Hairstreak this year and despite much searching in the apparently ideal habitat of gorse heath areas, no Green Hairstreaks. I have read that this species has, in its larval and pupal stages, a symbiotic relationship with some species of ant. It may be that the ants are absent from these areas - so no ants, no butterflies. I will keep looking over future seasons as Green Hairstreaks are fairly common in the heathy areas around Grimston and Roydon.

Aristocrats.

That is, Small Tortoiseshell and its "allies". At the start of the season (and indeed before the transect walking had started) I thought we were going to have a really good Small Tortoiseshell season as they seemed quite numerous. In the event the numbers matched last year. Red Admirals did very well, arriving early (we depend on continental migration each spring to provide us with



them) and lasting well into the autumn. A Red Admiral was almost the last butterfly I saw (31st October in our garden). Peacocks were up a bit on last year but well short of the 2013 peak. Commas in their usual fairly low numbers - and a Comma was the last butterfly I saw (1st November, again in our garden). In the Spring, excited news releases from Butterfly Conservation told us to expect very large numbers of Painted Ladies as there had been a huge emergence in North Africa and they were moving north in successive breeding waves. I was confidently expecting an influx on the scale of 1996 and 2009. Alas, it was not to be. Numbers were up (although the transect data doesn't show this) but not by any dramatic amount. We saw 10 in our garden over the season and 7 in about an hour during a walk in Thornham.



The Browns.

The Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Ringlet did quite poorly, possibly due to bad weather when the caterpillars are feeding up. The Speckled Wood did better, nearly matching last year's total. This may be due to this butterfly's split life cycle. Some overwinter as caterpillars and some as pupae. This means that there is an almost continuous emergence which may enable them to overcome the vagaries of the weather.

I mentioned at the start that we'd agreed to do a new type of survey. The need for this came about from concerns at Butterfly Conservation that the transects, some of which have been running for 40 years were not telling the whole story, primarily because they are almost always established in areas where the butterfly species count was going to be quite good. This told us little about how butterflies were faring in the wider countryside. So the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey was

established. 1km grid squares are selected at random in rural areas and ideally two tracks running north-south or east-west 250m in from the grid square edge (and divided into 10 sections each) are walked at least twice a year (in July and August) but up to four times if you start in May. We volunteered when we saw that the local branch was seeking someone to do a square at the edge of Dersingham around Shernborne and Ling House Roads and including Prisoner's Belt. It is rare that the ideal tracks can be walked but the map shows that we didn't do too badly. □



The Wetter the Better by Carrie Carey

At this time of year, my back garden is literally a quagmire. A journey to the rabbit enclave results in a lot of slipping and sliding on the muddy grass in order to distribute my bounty of freshly chopped greens. By the time I return to the back door, my boots are caked in layers of wet, sodden mud; living in the Fenlands has a definitive drawback.

For centuries, East Anglia formed areas of land permanently flooded and uninhabitable. I am in awe of those early settlers who pioneered a system of drainage ducts and channels allowing small populations to move in and thrive. Subsequently these predominantly fertile regions were used for fuel (peat) and later, agriculture and horticulture. However, the true value of wetland regions is vastly underestimated and many of us don't realise the importance of these habitats sitting on our own doorsteps.

Wetlands such as bogs, saltwater marshes, lagoons and estuaries form a complex ecosystem providing unique habitats for a plethora of plants and animals. Even a small wetland such as Dersingham bog is rich in biodiversity. Wildlife is dependent on the ecological integrity of wetlands and with 64% or more of the world's wetlands having disappeared over the last hundred years, the future is looking a little dry.

Now this may sound a bit melodramatic, so let me explain. Less than 3% of the world's water is fresh and most of that is frozen. Yet we each use on average 20-50 litres of water a day for basic drinking, cooking and washing. With 65 million people in the UK, our fresh water supplies would soon be depleted without wetlands which replenish groundwater aquifers and act as a natural safeguard against drought. In addition, these habitats filter harmful waste from pesticides, fertilisers and by-products from heavy industry. In this way, wetlands act as long term storage of harmful toxins and pollutants.

Wetlands are considered an important ally in our fight against climate change. Larger regions can act as natural sponges, absorbing rainfall and reducing floods in streams and rivers while coastal salt marshes can provide resilience against tidal surges on inland areas. Their roots bind the shoreline providing a natural barrier against erosion from wind and wave impact, particularly important in flat coastal regions such as north Norfolk.

Historically, peat from my native Fenlands has been valued as a fossil fuel and roofing for housing. During WWI peat was used as bedding for military horses while another component of peatlands, sphagnum moss, was used extensively as a wound dressing. Nowadays, over 30% of the world's carbon emissions are stored in wet peatland, this is twice as much as stored in the planet's forests and woodlands.

Despite all these important attributes, wetlands are disappearing fast. They are prime targets for development largely due to their availability; low lying areas and easily accessible. Ecologists estimate that only 10% of wetlands from Roman Britain are in existence today. Increased agriculture, animal grazing and urban development threaten these habitats and their biodiversity. Once common in British wetlands, plants such as fen ragwort, fen violet and fen orchids are only found in a few locations. Major changes in landscape have resulted in declining populations of redshank, snipe and other lowland breeding birds. Tens of thousands of archaeological sites, remnants of the people who founded the fens and marshes of East Anglia, may also have been lost along with the peatlands in which they are buried.

This year on February 2, World Wetlands Day, I am going to ensure that I take a long, squelchy walk in the Fens or visit a local wetland site such as Dersingham Bog, RSPB Snettisham or RSPB Titchwell Marsh and pay homage to these areas which provide us with such a multitude of benefits. Care to join me? □



Freshwater otter at Titchwell



EXPERIENCES WHILST DOING NATIONAL SERVICE by John Lambert

One morning I reported to the guard room half an hour before Reveille and the Provost Sergeant said, pointing his finger to some sand just outside, dig a hole in there! Now I can only speak for myself that whenever I am given an order I just get engrossed in the job and get it done, but, a little wind got up and blew a grain of sand in my eye. It was extremely painful and when I reported to the Guard Room half an hour after lights out I couldn't keep my head still. The Sergeant said "what's up with you?", so I said "I think I've got some sand in my eye". He told me to go and see the Medical Officer in the morning.

In the morning my eye seemed a bit better so I reported to the Guard Room as usual. The Sergeant said "I thought I told you to go the Medical Officer this morning?" so I told him my eye seemed a lot better now. The Provost Sergeant looked at me a bit strange and when he had detailed the other defaulters their jobs, he turned to me and said "you, in the Guard Room quick!", I wondered what was happening. When I got into the Guard Room he made me stand to attention, then he said "you are either a bloody idiot or you are so honest it's not true, but I respect you for what you did, any other soldier with half a chance to get off "Jankers" would have taken it" and do you know from that moment on I couldn't do anything wrong! He would give me little jobs to do while he sat on his bed telling me his life story, how he was brought up in the Gorbals of Glasgow and how his father would always come home from work drunk.

He had another look at my eye and said "I think you ought to get the Medical Office to look at your eye, just in case there is any infection there", so I went as he said. The Medical Office got a little medical bowl half the size of an egg cup, he said "open your eye wide" then he poked his finger into the side of my eye and my eye popped out of its socket into this bowl. It's a bit strange when you look into a bowl and see your own eye staring back at you! The Medical Office said I can see your problem, the sand had cut a membrane at the back of the eye. All he did then was to put some ointment on his finger, filled the eye socket with it then popped my eye back.

Thankfully it was no more trouble. Now I'm getting older I look back and laugh but it wasn't so funny at the time. □

New Garden at Tapping House

During the end of October, The Norfolk Hospice courtyard was transformed into a beautiful and peaceful garden for patients, volunteers and staff to enjoy!

Approximately 1100 plants from Crane Garden Buildings have been planted with the majority of these being grown by Norfolk nurseries. These award winning plants were previously displayed at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows.

20 tonnes of shingle has been laid which was donated by Middleton Aggregates. A further 7.5 tonnes of shingles and 4 tonnes of carrstone have been set which was donated by Frimstones from their Snnettisham quarry. 190 square meters of turf has been laid, courtesy of Q Lawn near Feltwell, and a rotovator was used to prepare the soil, loaned by Newmarket Plant Hire.

Alison Findlay (RHS Volunteer Co-ordinator) has helped provide some of the wonderful volunteers to dig, plant and rake. Stepping Stones, Norwich have also been helping as have many of our own volunteers and staff.

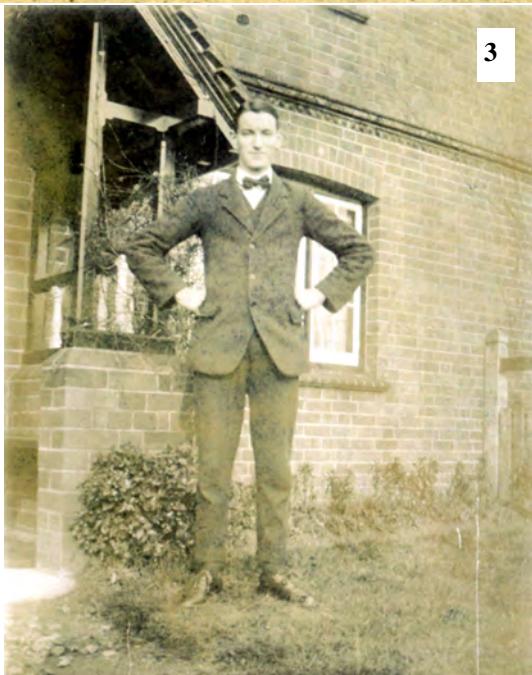
A special thank you to Crane Garden Buildings and particularly Peter Mortin for designing, donating, sourcing and co-ordinating everything to make this all possible".

If you would like to volunteer as a gardener on a regular or casual basis at the Hospice we would be delighted to hear from you, please call Davina Clarke (Volunteer Co-ordinator) on 01485 601700. □



Old Picture Corner 2

A quantity of “Dersingham Postcards” have arrived at VV. One or two are easily identifiable so here are some of the others. They may not even be of the village or village people but if you can shed any light on them, do please get in touch.



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Join the Hospice Jam Jar Army!

Do you have a half-full jar of cranberry sauce sitting in your fridge after Christmas? Maybe your strawberry jam jar is almost empty? Perfect, you are almost ready to be part of The Norfolk Hospice's Jam Jar Army.

The Norfolk Hospice is calling on the local community to enjoy the last contents of Christmas jars and fill them with small change to raise vital funds for people living with life-limiting illnesses in the area.

Empty jars can be decorated with Jam Jar Army labels, which are available to download and print from Hospice's website (www.norfolkhospice.org.uk). Alternatively, they can be collected from any of the Hospice Shops or the Fundraising Office. Address tags are also available to attach to your jar once it is full.

Full jars can be dropped off at any of the Hospice shops or to The Norfolk Hospice, Wheatfields, Hillington, PE31 6BH.

Mark Shea, Commercial Director at The Norfolk Hospice said; "Being a part of the Jam Jar Army is an easy and fun way to do something charitable in the comfort of your own home. Although we are only asking individuals to donate a small amount of change, we are hoping that an army of supporters can raise a huge amount for the Hospice. This is a great opportunity for the local community to come together and make a big contribution to the Hospice."

If you would like any more information about the Jam Jar Army, or would like to find out about other fundraising opportunities, please call the Fundraising Team on 01485 601701. □

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St Nicholas Church News



Gift Aid Day & Bake Off



We appreciate the generosity of those who contributed to our Gift Aid Day and we are pleased to be able to tell you that with your help we raised over £6,000 without which we would not have been able to pay our full Parish Share contribution to the mission of the Church in the Norwich Diocese for 2015.

Our contribution this year was almost £56,000 and we have just made our final installment thanks to all who participated.

We had another wonderful Christmas Tree Festival, with lots of visitors. We were very grateful that Father Christmas could make time and join us! Also many thanks to the Dersingham Descanters who played in the Church on the Friday afternoon, they then also played before our Lessons and Carols Service for which we are very grateful.

During Lent we will be holding Deanery Lent Services in our local Churches, they will be on a Sunday evening at 6pm, below are the dates and Churches where they will be held.



**14th February
21st February
28th February
6th March
13th March**

**to be confirmed
Heacham
Holme
West Newton
Dersingham**

Events During 2016

- 16th April** – Hunstanton Community Choir
- 23rd April** – Grand Sale,
- 29th & 30th May** – Open Gardens
- 11th & 12th June** – we will be celebrating the Queen's birthday – watch for further details
- 14th to 17th July** – Summer Festival of Flowers
- 17th September** – Keith Skipper & Ian Perryman in Concert
- 2nd to 4th December** – Christmas Tree Festival.

Dersingham Recreation Ground September 2015

Memories of the Fun Day on the Recreation Ground



Dersingham Centre



Drawings and details of the proposed new Dersingham Centre were also on display, giving everyone a chance to comment on the outline drawings, and discuss the benefits which the new Centre would provide all the residents of the village.

Sports for all



The Parish Council is planning similar events on the Recreation Ground in June and September this year, and would welcome any help towards running stalls, or providing appropriate activities for these occasions. Anyone willing to help please contact the Parish Office. In addition, the Parish Council are again organising the Summer Children's activities, and would welcome help from anyone.



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St. Nicholas Church, Dersingham

by Neil Adams



Visitors to Dersingham Parish Church frequently remark on its large size, and the appreciable amount of light in to the building. Built on the site of an original 11th century church, the dedication to St. Nicholas was common for many coastal churches. As well as being the patron saint of pawnbrokers, merchants and of children, Nicholas is also the patron saint of sailors. The sea was much closer to Dersingham hundreds of years ago and it was a prosperous port.

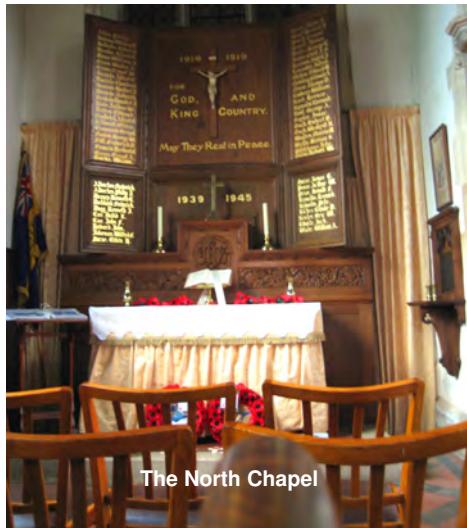
Most of the glass is clear but there are some windows containing some attractive commemorative coloured glass dating to the early 20th century. There are also small areas where fragments of much older glass are incorporated into other windows. The stonework tracery of the windows shows a mixture of the Decorated and the Perpendicular periods. The columns are particularly unusual for this part of the country because of their concave “fluted” appearance.

There is a notable carved oak chest dating from 1360 which has the representation of the four evangelists as mentioned in the book of Revelation. The clock in the tower dates from 1911 and is made by Smith's of Derby. There are two small chapels. The one in the north aisle has a memorial to those who gave their lives in the two world wars. These boards were made by a local carpenter. The ancient Rood Screen is topped by a wooden crucifix which is flanked by a statue of saints John and Mary. These were carved by a student of Queen Mary's Carving School at Sandringham and were placed here in 1917. The Screen itself depicts various saints, with clear evidence of the damage done to them during the troubled Cromwellian period. Large wooden angels look down on the congregation. The tops of stone columns carry a variety of human faces or in some cases imaginative depictions of sea creatures. In the 1870s a large restoration was undertaken, as the condition of the church had deteriorated considerably by the middle of the 19th century.



The “poppy heads” at the ends of the pews are all quite similar except one at the back of the church. This particular one shows a grotesque character with a large tongue. This is a warning to all who enter reminding them to control ones speech and avoid harmful or cruel gossip.

When King George V visited this 14th c. building in 1912 he was particularly impressed by the inscription on a monumental slab which says “Live as you hope to die”. Another slab covers the interment of John Chamberlaine who was instrumental in helping the parishioners during a bad flood on 12th September 1671. Although much



The North Chapel



property was inundated, and many domestic animals and haystacks were swept away, under his leadership no human lives were lost. Chamberlaine requested that to commemorate God's mercy during such a flood the 29th Psalm should be said or sung in the parish church on the Sunday nearest to that date each year. This tradition continues as the parishioners commemorate Flood Sunday each year.

In 2010 the pipe organ, dated 1884 was refurbished. A new gas-fired central heating system was installed replacing the system dating back to 1935 that was fired by oil. There is a scheme to create a more welcoming and useable area for family activities in 2016, (South Aisle Family Project), and generally planning ways of using various spaces in the church more creatively.

As well as the usual Sunday services (8.00a.m., 10.30a.m., and 6.30p.m.) and special seasonal services, the church is also used for concerts and festivals, such as the Flower Festival in July and the Christmas Tree Festival in December. Sometimes we have hosted an Arts and Crafts Festival. The main activity of the church and its main focus, of course, is to offer regular worship to God Sunday by Sunday, and also to mark the significant landmark occasions of celebration or commemoration – baptisms, weddings, funerals, and memorial services - in the lives of all who live in this community. as well as providing pastoral care and support. □

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Monty and Me

by Kate Hathaway



D-Day, 29th November 2015, not the date you might have been expecting but our D stands for Dog and today we are to adopt a RSPCA rescue dog. We've had dogs before and our last dog died aged 17 before we moved to Dersingham. It is now time to have another little dog; we've always had a puppy but we wanted a slightly older dog this time. Monty Dog (we have given him a new name) had been taken into care as he had severe flea related dermatitis and a badly matted coat requiring an anaesthetic before removal. We were told that

Monty was a Lhasa Apso cross, he's white with dark shading down his back and around one year old. But he is much bigger than a Lhasa, we've had those before and he is a bit too long. When we first saw him he looked quite odd, nearly bald in some areas and shaggy in most of the others but after taking him out for a walk and spending some time with him we made the big decision to offer Monty a home with us. The RSPCA had done their bit, strong flea treatment and medicated baths had dealt with the dermatitis and fleas and Monty was now up to date with all his jabs, pills, potions and microchipped. Apparently, with effect from 6th April 2016 all dogs over 8 weeks old should be microchipped to comply with The 'Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015', so do see your veterinary surgeon if your dog needs to be microchipped. Monty was now ready to go to his new home. The RSPCA doesn't just let you take a dog home, oh no, you have to be 'home checked' too. So after an anxious wait for the visit we were told everything was OK and we could collect Monty. You do get told horror stories about taking on a rescue dog, homes being chewed up, dogs howling into the night and appalling behaviour so we were just a bit wary, as they say 'you don't know what problems a dog will bring with it'. Despite all of that we wanted Monty to have the best possible new start so a bowl of food and water waited for him just inside the back door and a comfy bed and toys ready to play with too. We allowed Monty to explore and find his way around the house and after we'd all had our dinner my husband and I settled down on the sofa for a rest after an exciting day. What would Monty do? Just like other dogs he knew where the best place would be; he settled himself between us on the sofa and went sound asleep. Monty had had an exciting day too.

So here we are a few weeks on and Monty has found his place in our hearts, under the kitchen table, on the sofa and in our bedroom at night but not on the bed. Our days are structured around taking him out for walks; walks around the village, on the heath and beach, through the woods he loves them all, he has even been welcomed by the Dersingham Walkers on their recent rambles. When you have a dog with short legs you realise how wet and muddy it has been so far this winter. I must admit to looking forward to the summer and hopefully better walking weather. I'm being good too, cleaning up after him as necessary, it is such a shame that many dog owners still do not realise how anti-social they are by not cleaning up after their dog. We are lucky to have so many dog bins in the village to make the task easy and as we all pay for them as part of the Parish Precept why not use them? But I don't take him on the village Recreation Ground. The whole fenced area, including where the play equipment is and the more open area with the goal posts and netball hoops, is a play area for our children to play safely without the risk of stepping into something unpleasant or contracting the harmful infection Toxocariasis, an infection caused by

roundworm parasites, which can cause eye disorders, dizziness, nausea, asthma and even epileptic fits.

What problems have we had? Well the RSPCA always advises that a dog ‘isn’t house trained’ and after a time in kennels a period of settling-in time is to be expected. We’ve had a few puddles but you can get some excellent cleaning products now and with careful timing, encouragement and praise we’re getting on OK. Monty loves to be groomed and will fall asleep while being brushed, how chilled out is that? He loves to chase a ball and will bring it back to me to throw again and I’m sure he deliberately pushes the ball under the sofa for me to get on hands and knees to retrieve. I’m also in training to run up the stairs faster than Monty but he will always be first as he hurtles on the downward run. He came responding to the command to sit, shake paws and lie down so now we must teach him to be sociable with other dogs and not to chase the buses; we don’t want them scared away!

We don’t think Monty was ill treated by his previous owner who was, for whatever reason, not able to care well for him. We are very lucky to have Monty, so far he has been a delight that has brightened our days during this dull, wet winter. The RSPCA does wonderful work caring for animals and supporting people with pets, do support them in any way you can so that they may continue to do so. □

De-cluttering, down-sizing, or Spring-cleaning? Tidying the garage or the shed? If you do have any goods which you are clearing out we would be grateful for any items for our . . .

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Alternatively you can contact one of the people listed below.

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Bric-a-Brac and general enquiries contact: Neil Adams (01485) 540857

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Music to My Ears

by Steve Davis

Despite my long association with computing technology and arguably unjustified reputation for being a bit of gadget freak I have, in the main, tended to avoid going with the flow where getting the latest ‘must-have’ is concerned. I like to bide my time, weigh up alternative options and try to consider how much benefit any such item would bring to my life, before taking a plunge and parting with cash. My love of music and its delivery to my home and person is no exception to this approach. Much as I enjoy engaging in musical activity, I have never felt any particular need of an

elaborate HiFi set-up with subwoofer bass speaker to fill the surrounding space, preferring fairly basic radio, record, tape and CD players with only a modest collection of records, tapes and CDs, mostly birthday or Christmas presents. Even these, after a while, tend to get left on the shelf and forgotten about for most of their life and badly need weeding out. I’ve never tended to listen to music much whilst working and, when I am outside, would rather engage with the sounds around about than have a constant *chigger-chigger-ching* or anything else through earphones to swamp my senses! I quite like to have something that’s not too intense or demanding playing whilst driving but, for the most part, find that *Classic FM* fits the bill for this, as indeed it does to sooth me awake on our clock radio in the mornings!

When music became available as MP3 files that could be downloaded and played back on ever smaller iPod type devices and phones I was again very slow on the uptake. Besides, downloading music from such services as *iTunes* never struck me as being particulary cheap. Things started to change for me back in the summer when I was confined to barracks for a bit. Those of you who have read my past articles will know that I am quite an avid enthusiast of reading via my *Amazon Kindle*. I’d decided to upgrade to one of the comparatively reasonably priced *Amazon Fire tablets*, thinking that it would be an advantage to view reference e-books with coloured pictures as well as displaying my photos and checking my emails, etc from the comfort of an arm chair. I also took the plunge and opted to pay a year’s subscription to *Amazon Prime* (sponsors of Downton Abbey!!), a service that not only provides free next-day delivery of items ordered from Amazon, but also free access to a library of videos, most of which I personally couldn’t be bothered with, (though we are currently enjoying all the back series of “Hustle” and the odd episode of “Shaun the Sheep”), plus a vast collection of MP3 music either to download or *stream* (ie play directly in real-time whilst it is downloading). Although these may not be the very latest albums of music to come onto the market, they cover a very wide range of genres.

Before long I was dipping into this musical feast, sifting out favourite blasts from the past from the likes of Simon and Garfunkel, John Denver and Enya as well as the soothing rippling arpeggio strains from my favourite modern pianists like Ludovico Einaudi, Phamie Gow, Alexis Ffrench, Helen Jane Long, Nigel Hess and our own Norfolk Broadland composer Patrick Hawes, together with a wealth of seasonal Christmas music. Quickly I reengaged with the restful benefits of just sitting and listening to music to wind down before retiring, rather than watching some action packed epic on TV right up to bedtime.

Played through the little speakers of my Fire tablet, the sound is a bit tinny though surprisingly acceptable. Plugging in headphones or earplugs does give amazing



quality, though has never really been my thing even if I have succumbed on recent train journeys. Using a jack-plug lead to connect the headphone socket to the *line-in* socket on my radio/CD player or little guitar amp is another option that gives very good audio results too. However best of all was achieved when I recently bought a fairly inexpensive *sound bar* for our TV. Like many, we were finding the speakers built into modern flat screen TV were a little lacking in clarity at times and this 32" inch sound bar containing a row of little speakers makes a big difference. The bonus is that it also has a *Bluetooth* close-range, wireless connection which any device with a similar connection such as a mobile phone or iPad or Fire tablet can redirect its sound to. The sound bar even speaks out the satisfying announcement "*paired!*" when it has established wireless contact with a recognised *Bluetooth* device close by. So now, my Fire tablet can be resting in standby mode on a side table minding its own business; I walk in and switch on the sound bar; it tells me when it's connected (to my Fire tablet) and without touching anything except the simple little remote that came with the soundbar I can start/stop the music, and step through the tracks of the Amazon Prime music album or playlist I'm currently listening to. I can even read an e-book on the Fire tablet at the same time if I wish; quite amazing really!

So how much does this all cost? Well Amazon Fire tablets start from £50. The (LOGIX) sound bar I bought from PC World for £40, but you can get *Bluetooth* speakers of various sizes for less, (though of course you could pay a lot more). Amazon Prime offers you a 30 day free trial; after



that it is £79 per year, which does seem a lot, but I am quite sure I will get my money's worth several times over. One word of warning though, a basic BT phone/broadband contract with an allowance of just 10 gigabytes per month would be used up in just a few hours of viewing or listening so you should reckon to pay a few pounds extra a month to upgrade to a higher, or better still unlimited use contract. We are quite well endowed with the speed of Broadband

here in Dersingham compared with surrounding villages. When I last renewed my Broadband contract, BT offered me either a £3 cut per month, or I could pay the same and they would upgrade me to the faster, and hence better quality, fibre-optic BT *Infinity* service at the same price, which I did. Although more expensive than other providers, I have always been very pleased with the service BT has given. So all in all, a bit of an outlay but then, apart from a TV licence, I don't subscribe to any other TV or media services.

One final boost came at Christmas when my family gave me an Amazon Fire TV Stick. (I happen to know that the list price of these is £35). This amazing little device, the size of a large computer memory stick, plugs into a spare HDMI socket in the back of a TV and, on its own, delivers all that is available with Amazon Prime (including the video services and music) directly to the TV. Over the years, I have accumulated a staggering 50 thousand photos on my desktop computer. Since Christmas all these have, slowly but surely, been automatically backing up online to my Amazon "Cloud Drive", another free feature of Amazon Prime. Now, using the Fire Stick's simple remote to flip through the menus on our TV screen, I can quickly call up a very restful slide-show that smoothly pans and zooms in on randomly dipped into photos from my vast collection whilst playing through my selected choice of equally restful music. Then, as my wife sits and knits, I relax with my favourite puzzle magazine and with soothing background music we both glance up occasionally as a favourite photo memory drifts across the TV screen. There may be many other ways to achieve all this and better but this has certainly worked for me and, where music and media appreciation technology is concerned, I feel I have come of age and reached my prime!

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Vladimir takes the Stage

by Antje Franke

When I had a call from my friend Lois the other day asking me if she could paint my little boy, I was surprised, a little alarmed and chuffed to bits. I agreed to it without hesitation and we arranged a date for her to visit us.

Once I hung up, my brain went on overdrive. My little Vladimir is only 4 years old. No way he will sit still for even 5 minutes, let alone for the duration it will take to paint the picture and is he not a little too young for that? And what about his brother Sidney and his sister Johnnie? Won't they be jealous? or worse, they may make fun of him. Oh, I wish I could have thought that through before agreeing to it.

Vladimir and the painting of him did not leave my mind all day. In the evening I rang my mum to ask for her opinion, but all she said was "That is up to you my dear." Great help! Well, I waited for my husband to get home. He wasn't even through the door before I bombarded him with the subject. He looked completely discombobulated at me and just said "What?" I realised then that I did not start at the beginning, but just babbled about Vladimir might be to young and Sidney being jealous. I told him the whole story and he just shrugged with the shoulder saying "What ever you want." I rolled my eyes and went to the kitchen to start supper. Is there nobody I can ask for an opinion? My eyes caught the calendar hanging up on the wall and there it was, 10am on Wednesday, I am meeting my friend Waltraud. That is the solution. Waltraud will help.

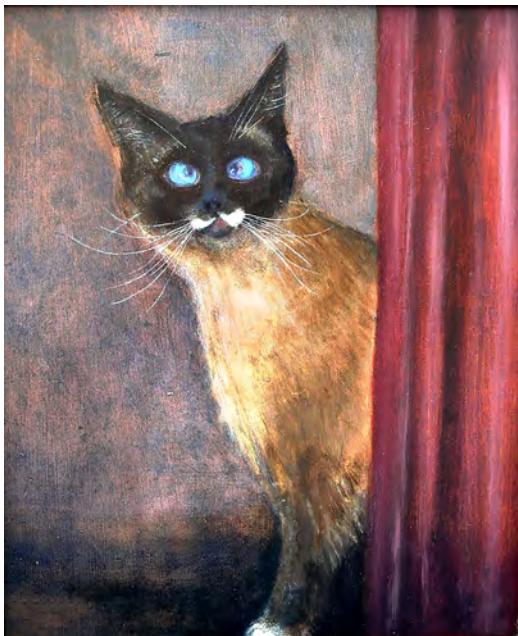
It seemed ages, but Wednesday morning finally came and I went to see my friend and I forgot all about it once I arrived. Of course I remembered when I got home, but that was a little late then. Never mind. Thursday morning came and my friend came to paint Vladimir. Sure enough, he did not sit still, not even for a cuddle on my lap. Grrrr. "Not to worry", my friend said, "I will take photographs of him and go from there". I could have kissed her, what a brilliant idea. She took about 30 pictures or so and left.

Then I forgot all about it. After a while I got a call from my friend saying that she had finished and the painting was ready. She would like to bring it round on Sunday afternoon. Sunday could not come soon enough, I was anxious to see the painting. When she arrived, the painting was wrapped in paper and I had to restrain myself not to rip it out of her hands. Once unwrapped, it looked smashing. I did not imagine anything like this. Tears came to my eyes and I nearly started crying. My boy, my Vladimir, he looked gorgeous.

The picture was put up in the living room over the settee. Proudly I showed it off to everybody who visited, I was a very proud mum.

Weeks later, Lois called again to ask if she could have the picture back, my heart sunk, but then she continued, she would like to borrow it to exhibit it at an Arts Fair. There was no prouder mum in the world than I that moment. My boy in oil at an arts fair for everybody to see! I agreed quickly and the picture went away.

In case you did not see it on the Art Trail in November, here is my boy for you to see now. □



1st Sandringham Guides
1st Dersingham Brownies
Spring Term 2016 (Jan - Mar)
Carla Andrews & Liz Collins (Leader in training)

We had a very exciting start this term as we were invited to attend a short memorial service on



Sunday 10th January 2016 at Sandringham, joining with 1st Dersingham Brownies and other uniformed organizations as well as some members of the Royal Family, to pay our respect to the men who fought in Gallipoli during the First World War. During the event Jenna took part in the laying of the wreaths and Emma was holding our company flag. Three of our guides (Eleanor, Ellie, Izzy) made their promise after the service.

The girls have started to plan for the term ahead and have voted for their patrol leader and patrol seconder for this term. They seem to be bubbling with ideas so we should have a fun time! Also to mention, we had a lovely time at the Christmas Camp at Hunstanton in December 2015 organised by Tom Wheeler (1st Dersingham Scout leader) and his team, many thanks for the invitation, the girls favourite part was the 'night hike'.

In our Guide Section we have girls aged 10 to 14 and in our Senior Section we have young ladies from 14 onwards. We meet every Thursday evening from 7.15pm to 8.45pm at the St Nicholas Church Hall in Dersingham. You are welcome to join us on our adventures in 2016.

Look out for more of our adventures in the next publication.

1st Dersingham Brownies

We finished the winter term with a pizza party at Farmer Fred's in Heacham, the girls had a lovely time playing and made their own pizzas for tea, whilst the leaders had a good catch up.

The Brownies started the New Year full of ideas for activities and outings in 2016, here are some of their suggestions:

The Rabbit Six (Maisie, Flo, Viola, Lola G) – “Bowling, visit from Emergency Services, talk on road safety by a third party, explore the woods, visit to Sea Life centre.”

The Mole Six (Elena, Georgie, Kayleigh, Teigan, Kateryna) – “Computer programming, visit to a castle, botanical garden, circus performing, learning another language, ride donkeys/horses.”

The Fox Six (Layla, Tia, Phoebe, Tilly, Charlie, Megan) – “Learn about owls, pampering (make up, hair style, nails), dressing up party, learn about royalty, karaoke, library challenge, play twister.”

The Squirrel Six (Erin, Katie, Lily, Zara, Lola MB, Sophie) – “Trip to Bewilderwood, Donut challenge, archery, knitting, watch a play, baking.”

So it seems that we will have a fun and challenging year ahead as we will try to build into the programme as much of the above as possible. We would like to wish you all a prosperous 2016.

For information on our unit contact unit leader – Carla Andrews (07776 355350 or carla_andrews@hotmail.co.uk). □





Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Edmund Hunstanton

with St Cecilia's, Dersingham



On the 8th December the Pope opened the Holy door at St Peter's Basilica to signify the start of The Jubilee Year of Mercy. The date chosen for the beginning of the Year of Mercy was the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Holy doors were also opened at Cathedrals and shrines around the world. This is an invitation to enter into a deeper relationship with the Lord and to share God's gift of Mercy with others.

This year's 'Women's world day of prayer' will be held on 4th March and is led by the Christian women of Cuba. The topic of this years' service is 'Receive children, Receive me'. Further details will be available shortly or you can search the website www.wwdp.org.uk.

Foodbank supplies are still required, items can be left in the porches of both churches. Please ensure that all items are well in date. Thank you for your continued support of the scheme. 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.

A revised, extended parish history book is available at both churches for the price of £2.50 per copy. All proceeds to go to the Parish Church Development fund. Our social calendar is yet to be prepared but the first is usually the Pancake supper on the evening of Shrove Tuesday at St Cecilia's. All social events will be well publicised on the website and in the weekly bulletins. 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 □



The West Norfolk Members Group invites you to:-

An illustrated talk **Fascinating Facts about Wildlife of the World**



Kevin Elsby will provide a look at some of the things you may not know about some of the world's wildlife

Thursday 25th February - 7.30pm
and

Norfolk Wildlife Trust's 90 years

A brief AGM will be followed by David North's account of NWT's development and contribution to conservation

Thursday 24th March - 7.30pm

Venue: Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall, Austin Street
Cost: £2.00 members / £2.50 visitors

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Dersingham Library News

Alison Thorne



Get Digital dates for 2016:

Getting started with Facebook - Wednesday 10th February 2-4pm

A 2 hour course to help you set up your own Facebook account, find friends, like organisations and share posts. Participants must have an email address and previous computer experience. Tickets are £5 per person payable in advance. Booking is essential. Please call the library on 01485 540181

Beginners computer session - Wednesday 24th February 2-4pm

Learn how to search the Internet with this short two-hour course aimed at complete beginners. Places are limited so booking is essential. Please call 01485 540181

The joys of Pinterest - Wednesday 2nd March

Are you a crafter/fashion follower or book lover? Do you collect recipes/holiday ideas/or wallpaper designs? Why not discover how the Pinterest website can help you sort images and ideas online. You can set up your own boards, organise them how you want and then get Pinning! Tickets are £5 per person payable in advance. Please book by calling 01485 540181.

Getting started with Facebook - Wednesday 9th March 2-4pm

A 2 hour course to help you set up your own Facebook account, find friends, like organisations and share posts. Participants must have an email address and previous computer experience. Tickets are £5 per person payable in advance. Booking is essential. Please call the library on 01485 540181

An introduction to word processing - Wednesday 16th March 2-4pm

Learn all about creating documents, saving and modifying them and using templates. Experience of using a computer is essential. Tickets are £5 per person payable in advance. Please book by calling the library on 01485 540181.

Emailing for beginners - Wednesday 13th and 20th April 2-4pm

Set up an email and learn to send, reply and add attachments. Previous computer experience essential. Places are limited so please book in advance by contacting the library on 01485 540181

Other events:

Harry Potter Night - Thursday 4th February 5.30-7pm

Come along in wizarding robes, Harry Potter fancy dress or your best muggle attire and take part in lots of free activities to celebrate Harry Potter Book Night. Suitable for children aged 8 and over. Booking essential on 01485 540181

Superheroes crafts at the library - Wednesday 17th February 10.30-12

Are you a superhero? Come along and make Thor's Hammer, a Batman mask, superhero cuffs and much more! Tickets are £3 per child payable in advance. Places are limited so please contact the library on 01485 540181.

Colour yourself calm

First Wednesday of the month 10.30-12 and last Thursday of the month from 6-7pm

Colouring in is an easy way to calm the mind. If you've never tried it, come along to our colouring group for adults. Just bring along your colouring books! Refreshments will be available for a small charge. There's no need to book, just come along.

Peer support group for carers – continue into 2016. First Tuesday of the month from 1-3pm

Find out what new books are coming our way in 2016...

you can browse our website at www.spydus.norfolk.gov.uk

or follow Norfolk Libraries on Pinterest at www.pinterest.com/NorfolkLibsUK

Happy reading,



Rotary Matters by Phil Newell

Readers may like to know that we are holding a **Rotary Awareness event**, open to all. This will be in Hunstanton at the Golden Lion Hotel, on Wednesday evening, March 9th, 7.0 pm to 8.30 pm. There will be refreshments, at no charge to guests. For some time now we have realised that a number of people don't know what Rotarians do. The basis of this is that we have fellowship and fun while doing what we can for others. These are often people who have come across hard times or want to help others. As a Rotarian, the mere fact that we are doing things that are helping others gives us a lot pleasure. This explains why we are holding a Rotary Awareness event. Come along and see how we enjoy ourselves at a meeting! We will have leaflets showing what we have done over the past year and giving our programme for 2016. It will be an informal get-together with an illustrated talk.

We meet every Wednesday for business and fellowship. We have social events such as speakers, quizzes, poetry and dance. Our fundraising is at the Hunstanton Carnival, Blossom Day, the Norton Hill Light Railway in Snettisham, the Kite Festival, Classic Car and Motor Cycle rally, Fun Dog Show, Art and Craft stalls and several other events. Our donations go to worthy causes, mainly local ones. (In 2015 we have given £21,000, to worthy causes.)

If you would like to come to our Rotary Awareness event then please contact Rotarian Peter Atterbury, by 6th March, either by email – peteratterbury1@gmail.com or by 'phone 01485 534820 or leave a message. Don't forget our website as well www.hunstanton-rotary.co.uk

We received some exciting news recently. Last year we gave a substantial donation to the Rotary Club of Downham Market as they were starting a project to help children in Belarus who had been badly affected by the nuclear disaster in Chernobyl. With the help of our Club and other local Rotary clubs, plus a Rotary grant, Downham Market Rotarians have collected £9,300 which they are using to help these children. Two Rotarians from their Club have been out to Belarus to check on progress. Work has taken place on toilets and windows of the junior block in the school at Belarus. Now, mosquito netting, heated towel rails and doors can be added to the toilets.

While 80% of the money raised by our Rotary Club goes to local needy causes, we always give money to national and international causes. A very important need, internationally, has been the polio campaign, to which we always give money. Working with the World Health Organisation, Rotary is slowly succeeding in removing the virus from the planet. Rotary's recent and great achievement has been to remove it from the whole of Africa! Rotary helps with other international needs (as well as local and national ones) helping people who suffer. □

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Friday 4 March 2016

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Jazz from 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm

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Gallipoli 2015

Commemorating the Centennial of my Grandfather's Death on Cape Helles By Bernadette Shaw (née Iredale)

For the past few years, my partner, Gary, and I have attended the Remembrance Day ceremony at the War Memorial in Hunstanton. In 2014, of course, the ceremony was rather special as it was the anniversary of the beginning of the First World War and there was a huge turnout, with many descendants wearing the medals of their ancestors who fought in this war. My eldest brother, Tom, was staying with us at the time and he came along as well. After the ceremony was over and all the marchers dispersed, the three of us went for a coffee and warm-up. While we were sipping our coffee, Tom told us that he had been doing a lot of research on our grandfather, who was killed in Gallipoli. He mentioned that it was sad that no one in our family had ever commemorated him and that he was thinking of going to Gallipoli to rectify this. His idea was to be there on the exact day that our grandad was killed, which was 28 May 1915. We did know that our grandfather's name was inscribed on the Cape Helles Memorial and it was here that he would like to be on that date. After Tom left to go back to Germany, where he lived, Gary and I talked about this idea of his and we both decided to see if we could go as well. Early in the New Year, we telephoned my brother to ask him and he was delighted with our decision. He also said that he would take care of the travel arrangements and we agreed on a timeframe between the 24th and 30th of May. Shortly afterwards, Gary learned that business commitments would prevent him from coming with me, which was disappointing as he had been looking forward to the trip. He generously offered to pay for my youngest son, Adam, who lives in Brancaster, to accompany me, so that I would not have to make the journey alone.

In the coming weeks, we booked flights from Stansted to Istanbul and Tom let us know that he had booked accommodation in Istanbul, where we would be exploring the sights, before leaving for the Gallipoli Peninsula. So now all the arrangements had been made and we had to patiently sit out a couple of months before we could begin our little expedition. Meanwhile, Tom had done some further research on the circumstances of our grandfather's death, which indicated that we may even be able to find his final resting place. So naturally, we were quite excited at the prospect of being able to do this. But before I get ahead of myself, let me first tell you a little bit about my grandfather.

His name was Peter Iredale and he was born in Liverpool in 1880. He served his apprenticeship in sailing ships and afterwards joined the Cunard Line and mainly did the Liverpool to New York crossings – 5 days there and 5 days back. He joined the Royal Naval Reserve and served three 5 year terms and was a qualified Navy gun-layer. In 1903, Peter married Catherine Hegarty and they had 6 children and all lived near the docks in Liverpool. He was at sea on RMS Mauretania when WW1 was declared and the day after docking back in Liverpool on 18 August 1914, he was called up as a Naval Reservist and had to put on his Navy uniform. So he barely had time to say hello to his family and pack a kitbag, before he left for the war. On 15 September 1914, he was transferred to the newly-formed Royal Naval Division (RND) as a Petty Officer.

I had never heard of the Royal Naval Division and Tom told me that in 1914, the Royal Navy had surplus manpower and Churchill decided to form them into an Infantry Division to fight as soldiers alongside the Army. It seems that experienced Naval Reservist NCOs like my grandfather would be forming the backbone of this division. They still retained their Navy uniform (until khaki became available) and Navy traditions, like wearing a beard and having a tot of rum!

Each battalion was named after a famous admiral; Peter was in the "Anson" Battalion. As yet untrained (my grandfather had only been with the RND for 3 weeks, don't forget!), the RND first saw action on 8 October 1914 when they went to assist the Belgian Army defending Antwerp against the advancing Germans. Antwerp fell, but the Division was successfully withdrawn back to England. Incidentally, one of the officers in my grandfather's company at Antwerp was none other than the famous poet, Sub-Lieutenant Rupert Brooke RNVR. After its return to England, the

Division then started training as soldiers. Christmas leave was granted and my grandfather was able to be in Liverpool for the birth of his youngest son in early January 1915. This son was my father!

The 24th of May 2015 arrived at last and Adam and I drove to Stansted and boarded the Pegasus flight to Istanbul, which landed there just before midnight. My brother Tom was at the airport to meet us and we went by coach to the apartment in Kadıköy, which took just under an hour. The apartment was in an old part of the town, which had a busy ferry-boat harbour. It was still teeming with life even at this late hour.

The next day (Monday) we took a ferry boat across the Sea of Marmara to take in the sights on the Golden Horn and visit the “Egyptian Market” with its vast array of spices and local specialities, including of course Turkish delight! Everywhere there was a huge crush of people and it was a relief to find a café away from the crowds, where we could enjoy a quiet cup of tea, served Turkish style, in a glass, with free refills.



On Tuesday, we bought our bus tickets and left in the morning on our journey to the Gallipoli Peninsula, our destination being Çanakkale. We were most impressed by the bus service, which was not only comfortable, but like in an aircraft, had built-in screens with free Wi-Fi. We seemed to drive for hours before we actually left Istanbul behind us; it really is huge and continues to spread. Altogether the trip took about 6 hours and we drove across the huge bridge which crosses the Bosphorus, then hugged the coast down to Tekirdağ (coffee break), before turning along the valley road to Keşan. From there, the road swings south-west to the Peninsula proper and continues until you arrive at the small port of Eçeabat. Here we waited a few minutes for the ferry to arrive, which took us across the Straits of the Dardanelles to Çanakkale, which was to be our jumping off point for Cape Helles. After settling in to our B & B, we went for a meal on the rooftop of a restaurant overlooking the waters of the Dardanelles and enjoyed the sunset. Çanakkale is a small town, and although it also buzzes with life, it is a relaxing contrast to the crowds of Istanbul.

We picked up the hire car on Wednesday morning to go over to the Peninsula, so that we could get our bearings, prior to our little commemoration ceremony which was planned for Thursday. We drove to the ferry, which waits until the deck has been filled to the last millimetre with cars, lorries and buses. We noticed that several buses contained Turkish schoolchildren going to visit the memorial sites of their ancestors. This stretch of water is busy with huge tankers, freighters and naval vessels. We landed at Kilitbahir on the Peninsula and then drove south to Seddülbahir on Cape Helles, but indirectly due to the mountainous terrain. It struck us all as to how quiet and peaceful the countryside was. After





going through the village of Alçitepe (which was called Krithia in 1915), we drove past Redoubt Cemetery. This is quite near the area where we were going to look for our grandad's burial site and then past Skew Bridge Cemetery to the Cape Helles Memorial. This is a magnificent monument, an obelisk dominating the point of the Peninsula and the names of some 21,000 soldiers and sailors are inscribed on the wall panels. We found our granddad's name and then went for lunch before driving back to Çanakkale.

As we wanted to be at the Cape Helles Memorial at 10.30 am, we left very early on the ferry on the grey and blustery Thursday morning of the 28th May but by the time we reached the Memorial, the weather had thankfully cleared. We set up a large photo of our granddad by his name on the wall, pinned his medals on to Adam's jacket, before we each said a few words to

commemorate him. As I write this, tears start to well up again, because it was so moving. Adam concluded with the words "And now we are going to find where you were buried". Coincidentally, we had hardly finished when a Turkish air force jet thundered over at low level and three ships of their Navy rounded the Cape – which we took as a sign that we had been acknowledged...

Before going any further, let me briefly explain the circumstances of my granddad's last days before he was killed. The RND took part in the Allied landings on 25 April 1915 and his platoon (D Company, 16th Platoon) landed on "X" Beach with no casualties. He took part in the battles to capture the village of Krithia (now Alçitepe), which we drove through a couple of times. His battalion was entrenched in the area known as "Backhouse Post". The fighting took its toll on both sides and one major task was to locate and bury the dead. It was during such an operation on 28 May 1915, that my grandfather was leading a party of men to locate fallen comrades, when he was shot in the cheek by a Turkish sniper and killed instantly. He was buried in the evening of the same day. He was 34 years old.

From my brother's research, we had 3 clues to go on as to where his burial site is located:

"Buried about 300 yards NE of Backhouse Post, behind the Gully" this information we extracted from Peter's record of service.

"He was buried under a big tree" Peter's brother, Henry, (also serving with the RND) was present at the burial service and wrote this in a letter to their mother.

"We buried him close to where he was killed" Chaplin Henry Foster wrote these words to my grandmother in a letter of condolence.

A historian friend of my brother's had previously visited this area and had actually located Backhouse Post. He supplied us with a Google Earth map, on which he had drawn a line 300 yards to the north-east. This now gave us a map reference. Although there are trees shown on the GE map, there are no "big" trees as such, which stand out immediately. We drove as close as we could and then went on foot to the referenced area. Adam and Tom both had a compass apps on their mobile phones which made it very easy, to go more or less straight to the location, which is now an olive grove. However we could not find a "big" tree and you can imagine our disappointment! But the curiosity of the younger generation came to our rescue! At the map reference point, Adam went behind the front growth of trees and found the stump of a really big old sycamore, which had regenerated itself and was thus obscured from first sight. We felt that this is grandad's probable burial location. We laid a cairn of big stones near the front of the old stump to mark the site. It was interesting that all the previous painstaking research was crowned by a great-grandson's curiosity and perseverance! Naturally, we were quite excited and Tom said he would communicate our findings to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, once he was back home.

So the next day, we boarded the coach for the return journey to Istanbul and proceeded directly to the airport to catch our evening flight back to Stansted. It was a long day, ending what was a very significant, moving and memorable trip to commemorate our grandfather, who died serving his country on that far distant shore.

Postscript: Tom contacted the Commonwealth War Graves commission to ask if our findings could be further investigated. Their reply was plausible." I'm afraid this case is unlikely to be pursued, the position is as follows:in this instance the information presented as evidence to support a burial location for Petty Officer Peter Iredale would have been available at the time and so is unlikely to be significant in achieving the resolution of the case. It is likely that the location was checked after the war and either the remains were recovered and buried as an unknown or could not be located."

We decided not to pursue the matter with the CWGC any further. Whether our grandfather's remains were reinterred to the Redoubt or Skew Bridge Cemeteries or are still near the stump of the sycamore we found at the edge of the olive grove, then in either of these places, he has a tranquil and peaceful resting place. All you can hear is the rustling of the wind in the trees and birds singing.

For much more information, pictures and videos, please visit our website at: www.facebook.com/capecelles100



Tom and me at the burial site



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The Sandringham Newsletter

by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate
compiled by Helen Walch

In the Gardens, the continuing mild weather in November meant that Garden staff were mowing grass all month, as well as trying to keep on top of leaf collecting. The leaves are mulched and then spread on beds and borders to help improve the soil structure which is otherwise very light and sandy. Gardeners have also been cutting down perennials, and have carried out a lot of thinning work at the head of the lower lake to improve the view across the water there.



Yew hedges were trimmed and some of the larger evergreen trees were pruned, lawns were scarified and herbaceous plants were cut down for the winter – some of them, like the Gunnera, with stems and leaves folded down over the crowns to protect them during the winter.

On the Farm, sugar beet lifting got under way and winter wheat has been sown, following on from the sugar beet. Farm staff have also been spreading horse manure from the Stud on fields to improve soil structure and fertility.

Another of the cars in the Museum collection went traveling in November; the 1961 Vauxhall PA Cresta Friary Estate is one of very few ever built and was borrowed by General Motors for display at the Classic Motor Show at the Birmingham NEC.



A busy few weeks at the Visitor Centre and in the Park in November included pottery courses, a charity horse ride, a scout camp and of course the monthly farmers' market, finished off with the Christmas Craft Fair.

The Visitor Centre was very busy in the weeks before Christmas. Between preparing meals and producing jams and chutneys, the chefs also found time to make a gingerbread village, complete with sledging Santas and a toy train set, which has been on display in the main Restaurant. Gift Shop staff have made a record number of hampers this season which, along with delicate glass tree ornaments and British-made china, were strong sellers in the lead-up to Christmas. □

Just a Thought from Rev Steve Oliver



ARE YOU WILLING TO EXPLORE?

I spent much time before beginning this thought bewailing the fact that I could not think of anything to write. Perhaps I should write about the Last Supper or maybe the arrest of Jesus in Gethsemane, or perhaps the trial, the scourging, the crucifixion or maybe or maybe.....; but what struck me was that having thought of all these things, I had actually been on a Lenten journey; I had walked the way of Jesus in my head.

It seems to me that we are all on a journey at some point in our lives, but I believe that Lent is a time when we all need to slow down a little on that journey and prepare ourselves for the opportunity to take a new direction. Lent can be a time when we either think we know the story of the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem and His death too well and there is really nothing new to hear, or we have never really thought about it but want to question/explore what on earth it all means.

Whatever your thoughts about Jesus, whether a Christian or not do not be afraid to ask your questions. It is in those questions and resulting answers that faith can begin or a different understanding of the scriptures can grow and flourish.

If you wish to discuss/explore any aspect of Lent over the coming weeks then please feel free to contact any of the Churches Together and we will be more than happy to explore things with you.

I believe the next few weeks leading up to and including Easter are very important to our life journeys so please make the most of the Churches in your area whether you believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus or not. The Church is there for exploration, questions, doubts, fears, joys etc. etc. and not to judge. Who knows, you may just find a new direction in your life which in turn may bring you into a new relationship with Jesus. So may your journey through Lent, in whatever direction it may take you, be an inspiring one and your Easter a most blessed and joyous celebration. □

Dersingham Methodist Church News from Elizabeth Batstone



Our grateful thanks to you all for supporting our various Christmas activities and for helping us raise funds for 'Sense' charity for the deaf/blind, the Purfleet Trust to support the homeless and the Water Aid appeal to provide clean water and sanitation for new born babies and their mothers. At a time of giving to each other we have been able to give to many others who are in need of so much.

On Monday 14th December we were delighted to host the Carol Service of Years 5 and 6 from Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School. 60 children plus teachers and helpers arranged themselves across the front of the church and with carols, readings, poems and prayers took us through the story of the first Nativity. Parents, grandparents, friends and church members thoroughly enjoyed seeing and hearing their enthusiastic re-telling of this. Rev Steve gave the children much to think about with his talk about a chocolate orange and the children were delighted when they were all given a piece at the end of the service!

This was the first time such a service has taken place and we hope and pray it will be the first of many.

2016 will see all our usual activities in action including the coffee mornings on Saturday 30th January and Saturday 27th February. Look forward to seeing you.
We wish you all a Happy New Year and God's richest blessing for 2016. □

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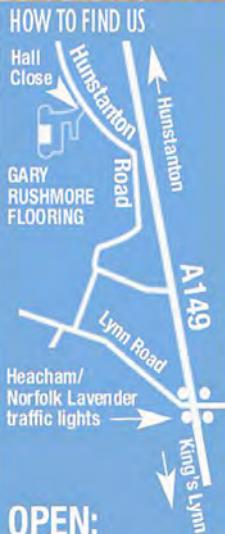
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The Daily Doings of Mrs Dolittle (a.k.a. Valerie Anckorn)

Builders Bums, Bakers Bums and Butchers Bums. This is my moan for the month. It's time that Braces were brought back into fashion to keep men's trousers up, for I don't know if anyone else suffers from revulsion at seeing that unpleasant sight, accompanied by hair, fluff, and pimples, and these days what with the fashion being drooping-crutch-around-the-knees ghastlies, the phenomenon can be sighted on any street corner, shop, hotel, pub, in fact, wherever you go, plus of course, the top of the wearers' underpants too. I, for one, do not wish to see them.

Young builders, bakers and butchers, if they are fit, strong with no flab in sight, can pose in my garden whenever they want, so long as they are nude.

Neat bums, in the buff, can be most attractive – but when barely encased in droopy pants the scenario is No, No, and NO! Please purchase braces for the men in your life. I bought some for Remote Control man, and he immediately put them in a drawer, where they remain. Thankfully, though, he hasn't yet caught the B's Bm syndrome and if he does, I shall dial 999.

I may have mentioned I am writing a novel. It's not as if I have panting publishers waiting to pay me huge sums of money, nor do I even have an agent, full of plans on how to market my magnificent wordsmithery. Since a child, I have wanted to write books, and while I have one out on the shelves - as I have gone on about on numerous occasions in my column – it has become a compulsion. I shall worry about agents, publishers and so on, once I have completed The Current Book. In the old days, authors would present a chapter and synopsis of a book that had not yet been completed, and publishers would send an advance for the author to happily press on. These days it doesn't work like that. You spend months writing and writing, honing and editing, revising, scrapping, adding and tearing your hair out. Then you pay someone to read it through and hope they don't tell you to take up pottery instead. They correct all the errors that you have missed. With luck, they tell you they like it.

Then, you write your synopsis, send your manuscript and a covering letter, knowing that IF somebody actually opens the envelope and glances inside, those first words have to stun them into excitement and read more...

I remember reading about a budding author who was constantly getting letters of rejection (dreadful let-downs) and deduced from the pristine state of his manuscript that it hadn't even been looked at. So he devised a cunning plan. He typed out the script from a washing machine manual, wrote a covering letter, with the statutory SAE – I believe he described it as a children's story – and waited months for the rejection letter. It did arrive eventually, returning the pristine manuscript, with a letter explaining that while they enjoyed reading his story, it wasn't quite right for their lists... But that, as they say, is the way the cookie crumbles, so I have absolutely no expectations that my work will be accepted – or even looked at. I hope it will, of course, but common sense tells me that it has about the same chance as me managing to ride that purple bicycle that I never did manage to master! (Having spent the first part of my life on wheels, I thought a new bike would be as easy as, well, riding a bicycle. No, it isn't. I wobbled like mad, then realised that in my day, there wasn't much traffic on the road and was scared stiff. But that is by the by.)

Still, I soldier on, I enjoy what I do, and as I have set my deadline to complete by the end of February, my days and mind are filled with my Hero and Heroine as my fingers fly across the



keyboard. I have to take a break every now and again, to ease my back and legs, walk around, have a coffee, try and cease thinking. It doesn't work, so I turn on the TV and watch something, but whatever it is, superimposed over the screen are the images, in full colour, of my story. I want it to stop, so I pick up my current read, and the words disappear as mine take their place – it's very odd. Then, when I retire to bed, the story-lines are still whirring through my brain and I find it difficult to switch off to sleep, but eventually I do. Then, on awaking to a fresh new day, up starts the Novel-Engine, immediately my brain engages, the story now more coherent, with the questions answered on how to approach the next chapter. The heroine waits hands clasped and smiling at me, waiting for me to put words into her mouth...

Well, it's better, in my opinion, than Bingo.

Time changes things doesn't it, and not necessarily for the better. In my childhood, all the children spent every day out of doors. As I was a country girl, I was in my element, spending hours walking through woods and fields, picking flowers, learning their names, and there were so many beautiful wild flowers to discover then. I found a secret place where orchids grew – amazing little flowers. I found bee orchids, with little 'bees' hanging from them. 'Men' orchids, with what looked like little men. I don't remember now what else, but I was enchanted by them. I lived in Kent with lots of chalk under the soil, and I think this is what the orchids thrived on.

We had a nature table at my primary school, and we children were always looking for something unusual to take and display. Flint arrows and fossils were fun to find, and then the boys would bring birds' eggs. There were so many birds then, that one egg taken from a nest was deemed to be okay. The boys would make a pin hole either end of the egg and blow the contents out. They often had shoeboxes full of different eggs. Of course, we were war babies, so on our wanderings we would find shrapnel – twisted bits of metal from buzz bombs or exploded aeroplanes. Bullets, of course, were, a great find and we all kept our eyes open for parachutists from burning planes. I never saw one, but we knew to be careful in case they were 'the enemy'.

I know computers and other gadgets are wonderful things, but it is such a shame that today's children miss out on the kind of life we had. They have all their games at the tips of their fingers whether it is on a mobile phone, computer, wi fi, or whatever, but their eyes don't look up to see what is around them. What they could do, if they used their own imagination! We used to make camps in the woods, light a little fire and be Robinson Crusoe. Yes, I know, horror, horror, but we were responsible then, and could do these things without setting fire to the country or burning ourselves. And, every child, girl or boy, had a penknife. We had to sharpen our pencils all the time, but they were also very handy for cutting our initials into the bark of trees. Some of the penknives had a host of different utilities that one pulled out of the handle, including the ubiquitous 'thing for getting stones out of horses hooves.' I remember how we would stand around showing off our penknives in a totally innocent manner. Unthinkable now, isn't it? We never, ever thought to use our knives as weapons. It's also unthinkable to let your child wander off on their own to spend the day in the woods or fields – so much danger from fast cars and psychopaths. I wonder what type of childhood our great, great, great grandchildren will have? Something entirely different, I shouldn't wonder. Maybe they will have some kind of spacesuit with buttons that when pressed zoom them off for a Moon visit. What fun that would be!

Well, that is enough rambling for now. Let's hope the weather continues to be mild, but we are going to miss all our daffodils in the Spring, because they have already bloomed just past Christmas!

I shall be opening my garden and studio at the end of May for the Dersingham Open Gardens and Art Trail, so perhaps you would like to pop in and visit.

P.S. I shall be doing a flower arrangement in Old Hunstanton Church for their Flower Festival and will need to borrow a small hay cart and also a milk churn for dates from July 28th to 31st. Can anybody help? □

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PUZZLE CORNER

Where is it What is it?



Sudoku No 46

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

Word Wall 13 by Philip Neal Sort the following into 4 groups of connected words:

RETURN	MISERY	HEAD	DOLE
BRASS	ANGLED	ELASTIC	ENCORE
BIASED	SLOPED	REGRET	EMOC
SORROW	LEANING	DANCE	REVIVAL

Cryptic Local Place Names - Compiled by Barry Beales

The following is a list of encrypted local place names and, although they would not qualify for a Bletchley Park entrance exam, I feel that they should as Poirot might say get “the little grey cells” working.

- 1) Old punishment for a bad actor.
- 2) Sugar on cereal
- 3) Sounds like calling Edward
- 4) The German and Indian meet before noon
- 5) Our WW enemies sunbathe with a heavyweight
- 6) Fifty in family residence
- 7) Olly's mate's garden implement
- 8) Silica round bacon
- 9) Canus Lupus joins the Queen at 100mph
- 10) Royal addition to a computer file.



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Bog News

by Tom Bolderstone

NATURAL
ENGLAND

The weather since the last article has been surprisingly mild and not very typical of a British winter. Some days the temperatures have been in the mid-teens. This has meant that some of the animals on the site have been behaving as if it is spring.

Recently there has been a particularly vocal Great Tit singing around the offices and I heard a Great-spotted Woodpecker drumming on the coast at the weekend.

If the weather does stay warm at the beginning of 2016 this could mean an early start to the bird breeding season, and with Dersingham Bog NNR hosting an early breeding species in the form of the Woodlark, the first nesting of the season may not be too far away.

A woodlark is a small streaky brown bird which is similar to the Skylark but is more associated with heath and woodland habitats such as the reserve at Dersingham Bog. Woodlarks can start nesting in February and in a good year will nest up to four times, potentially raising 20 chicks over the breeding season. They do however have a flaw. They like to nest on the ground and due to their colouration can blend in quite well with the surroundings. This has its problems and can cause a bit of difficulty for the birds when faced with visitors to the reserve. Woodlarks can be disturbed very easily off their nests so it is at this time of year we remind people about keeping their dogs on a lead and keeping to the paths. As we have cattle on the site dogs should be kept on a lead at all times and by keeping dogs on leads and keeping to the paths ground nesting birds such as the Woodlark can nest without disturbance.



The volunteer team and contractors have been working on clearing the scrub from the reserve and have been focussed near the mire and heath around the small flight pond in the centre of the reserve. This has been a much bigger job than first expected and we have been working in these areas since late September and are finally catching up with clearing the scrub re-growth. Volunteers have been cutting and chipping the scrub and moving the chippings off site. With the windy conditions over recent weeks we have had a few

trees blow down. These have been cleared by staff and volunteers and made safe. Volunteers have also been completing their monthly recording of the water levels on site.

The Black Galloway cattle have been making good progress with helping us to manage the site and have been keeping many of the grasses in check. They have also been getting out into the middle of the bog and breaking up the tussocks of Purple moor grass. This has allowed species such as Sphagnum moss to start growing in these areas and started improving the species diversity in parts of the Bog. Purple moor grass forms quite large tussocks which can grow quite close to each other and prevents the smaller bog plants from growing. The cattle manage these and create new areas for the Sphagnum mosses and other plants to spread into.



In January and February there can be quite a lot of things to see on the reserve. The colours of the heather are ever changing particularly when the scrub is cleared from an area and the colours below are revealed. Woodlarks will start singing in earnest towards the end of January and there is a good chance to see Stonechats on the site as they begin pairing up before breeding. In the not too distant future the first migrants will be arriving back to the reserve and spring will arrive with a vengeance. □

Thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk

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 99 (Apr/May)	Wednesday 2nd March	Monday 21st March
No 100 (Jun/July)	Wednesday 4th May	Monday 23rd May
No 101 (Aug/Sept)	Wednesday 29th June	Monday 18 July

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 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. □

Cryptic local places

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) Birch Ham = Bircham | 6) 50 is L in Home =Holme |
| 2) Bran Caster =Brancaster | 7) Stan Hoe = Stanhoe |
| 3) Rings Ted = Ringstead | 8) Sand Ring Ham = Sandringham |
| 4) Der Singh Am =Dersingham | 9) Wolf ER Ton = Wolferton |
| 5) Huns Tan Ton = Hunstanton | 10) Doc King = Docking |

Word Wall

Bands: Elastic, Brass, Head, Dance.

Grief: Misery, Regret, Sorrow, Dole.

Comeback: Encore, Return, Revival, Emoc.

Inclined: Angled, Biased, Leaning, Sloped.

Where is it? What is it?

These are where the Dersingham Bog ranger checks the height of the water table with a dip stick.

Sudoku No 46 solution								
5	2	9	8	7	6	1	4	3
3	1	8	9	5	4	6	7	2
7	6	4	3	2	1	8	9	5
4	3	6	7	1	8	2	5	9
2	5	7	6	4	9	3	8	1
8	9	1	5	3	2	7	6	4
6	7	5	2	9	3	4	1	8
9	4	2	1	8	7	5	3	6
1	8	3	4	6	5	9	2	7

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Tuesday February 2nd

CROMER THROUGH THE AGES



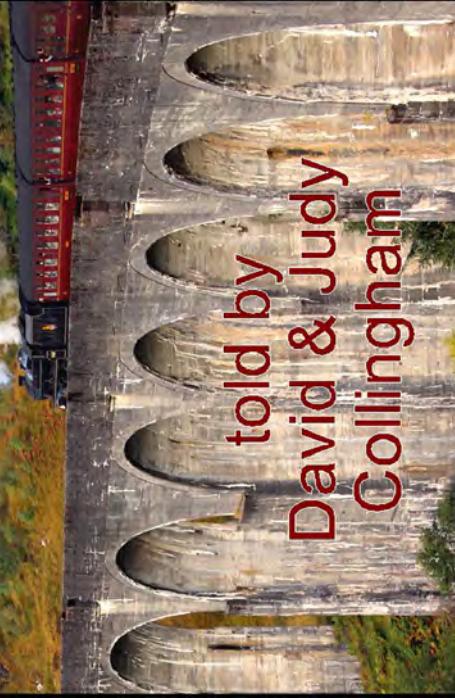
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from CROMER MUSEUM

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Tuesday March 1st

A Highland Wanderin by Train



told by
David & Judy
Collingham

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