

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



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**February
Tips**

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Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off

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Seed Potatoes · Primroses
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Editor's Notes

Tony Bubb



It's interesting how smells can evoke long forgotten memories. I recently got a whiff of hot electrical metal when walking past a supermarket chiller with a seizing fan motor. In 1970 I was working for a publisher who also acted as agent to several foreign publishers of maps and guides. It fell to me to order stock and, to my considerable surprise, I discovered that there was no stock control system in place. Until then stock was merely ordered to the sales manager's whim without reference to the time of year or even what was already on the shelves. With a colleague, I got hold of the office electronic calculator, a new fangled device at that time, and a huge bundle of vast computer printouts.

It was limited in its capabilities so we went in search of its predecessor, a large Olivetti mechanical job, finished in dark red paint, that lived on its own dedicated trolley that also held the transformer needed to make the thing work. It was not in the first flush of youth, indeed it may have been liberated from Italy after the war, but it did work. You pushed the buttons, good stiff spring loaded ones, pressed go and with a load of groaning and whirring, an answer was spewed out on a strip of paper. Result! These numbers were then put into the modern version for a running total. But we needed to do over 700 such calculations. After some 200 operations my chum said that he could smell burning and sure enough there was smoke curling out of the Olivetti. Time for lunch then. We returned to the task later on, well refreshed.

The machine was now coolish again but after another 100 or so sums repeated it's overheating with the memorable smell of hot dust, wax and hot metal. The device went on to complete the task, which we felt obliged to break down into short bursts, and indeed put up with such treatment four or five times a year for several further years without expiring, but I will never forget the smell.

Quite a few roofs around the village now have photo-voltaic cells on them so I thought I would ask our tame scientist to look into the matter, seeing as that he has first hand experience to draw on.

As you will see from the advertisement further on, I am once again trying to retire from the editor's chair and the next issue will be my last. Whilst the girls in the office are well up to putting the magazine together they do need an editor to - well - edit. I find it very enjoyable but having now done it for nearly fifty editions I must get on with other things although I still hope to contribute.

Our Christmas parcel competition was won by Maggie Speed, seen on our cover receiving her prize token from Carol Prior from our village butchers, who generously donated it. Maggie was one of many who correctly counted all 17 parcels that were hidden in the last edition.

There is lots to read so don't let me keep you. □

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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.



It was good to see that someone has taken the trouble to enhance the village's rather neglected Eight Mile Stone next to the village sign, off Heath Road. It is a pity that the stone was already damaged but this piece of village heritage does look better with a bit of paint. The damage is still apparent but, at least, it makes the stone distinctive – and it is the original. A photo taken in 2011 is attached to show how the stone looked then, together with one taken after its recent makeover for comparison.



Unfortunately, the stone is set some 20 yards or so from the main road and is not obviously noticeable for a passing motorist. I assume that milestones were always set by the roadside and that, in this case, it is the main road, rather than the stone, that has been moved.

Rob Smyth

Other stones in the area have also been repainted, possibly by a Milestone Preservation Charity. Ed.

Task Force S.O.S.

Our recent appeals for volunteers to help with trying to keep Dersingham a green and pleasant village have met with little response. As some of us who have been working with the group since it started, more than a decade ago, are beginning to contemplate retirement, more volunteers are urgently required if the Task Force is to keep the footpaths open, rose bed weeded, etc., etc.. (More details of our activities are given in Dersingham Data and on the Parish Council website.)

If you feel you could spare 2 or 3 hours a month (usually on Wednesday mornings), please contact Cliff Jordan (preferably by email: taskforce@whiffersworld.co.uk) NOW so that he can include you when he begins sending out details of where the group will be meeting from March onwards. Once you receive these, you will be able to decide whether or not you choose to join us on each occasion.



Keith Starks

My name is Amii-Rose and I have been a resident in Dersingham for a year and work at a local dental surgery. Prior to that I lived near Walsingham and also worked at The Restaurant at Sandringham for 10 years and then decided to go into the world of dentistry as it has always been something I've been interested in and after having some major jaw surgery a few years ago, I decided that it was the career path that I wanted to pursue.

I have been a Dental Nurse for almost 4 years now and have jumped at the opportunity to volunteer with Dentaid after seeing the amazing work that they do around the world. Dental care should be available for everyone around the world and this trip will see me helping more disadvantaged communities in Uganda and providing chair side assistance as well oral health education. This will be a life-changing adventure for the patients that we see and for myself also.

This is something that I feel incredibly passionate about and would love your support to help so many people.

I will be volunteering as a Dental Nurse with Dentaaid in Uganda this September along with a fellow colleague and a group of 9 other dentists, hygienists, nurses and therapists.

We will be helping provide basic pain relief dentistry, fissure sealant treatments and oral health education. These pain relief clinics are held in schools, churches, health centres and sometimes prisons and clinics and are set up virtually anywhere due to all of the kit we transport from place to place.

We will run tooth brushing programmes and oral health lessons in nurseries, schools and community buildings, from sugar awareness to combating infant oral mutilation and helping provide safe oral care for all.

This will be a very challenging but rewarding adventure and your support would mean everything to us as well as all the people that we will be able to help.

We are looking for sponsorship to help us get to Uganda and to provide dental equipment and materials to Dentaaid too. We need to raise £4,200 in total.

To donate or sponsor please visit: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/amii-rosesteward2>
Or email me: amiisteward@gmail.com for more information.

You can find out more about Dentaaid at www.dentaaid.org



Amii-Rose & Sarah Drew

Amii-Rose Steward

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 . . .

GRAND SALE

at Dersingham Church Hall, Manor Road, Saturday 22nd April 2017,

9.00a.m. - 12.00noon

Admission Free. Light Refreshments available.

In aid of St. Nicholas Church

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Donations will be most welcome, but unfortunately we are not able to accept any electrical items, large pieces of furniture or anything that is upholstered.

Items of Bric-a-Brac should be delivered to the Church Hall as early as possible on Friday 21st April, from 9.00a.m. to 12.00 noon.

Books and clothing can be received at any time during the coming weeks, and can also be delivered to the monthly Coffee Mornings at the Church Hall. Alternatively you can contact one of the people listed below.

Clothing contact: Mary Sharpe, Tel: (01485) 540350.

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

Books contact: Peter Wright (01485) 543231

**Please make a note on your calendar, and tell your friends
Your support will be much appreciated.**

A look at photovoltaic solar panels by Brian Anderson

Well, should you install them or not?

Before I go into that I'm going to describe what happened to us. We decided to install solar panels right at the start of 2012 so we're now about five years in. The cost of our system was a shade over £10000 but the feed-in tariff (this - abbreviated to FIT - is the sum paid for everything the system generates, whether it's exported to the grid or used within the home) we got was about 42p per kilowatt hour (kWh) - this index-linked so we are now getting just under 50p per kWh. In addition there is a small payment for exported power, which is deemed to be 50 percent of generation. I estimated that we would take about seven years to pay off the system, assuming a figure for the reduction in the electricity bill arising from domestic use of the generated electricity. Five years in, I now estimate that the pay off time is six years.



With one exception, the installation was fairly painless. The house was surrounded by scaffolding for two days and the control units and cabling had to be installed in our loft. Our roof has less than the ideal geometry for solar as little of it faces south and there are many angles and heights to contend with - we ended up with 16 panels with an output of 4kW at peak (noon on a sunny day in June!). We had devices called micro-inverters installed to maximise efficiency - otherwise the whole system performs at the efficiency of the worst (most shaded) panel. The meter was installed next to our standard electricity meter. Now for the exception - the electricity company cable (we have pole-mounted power) entered the house near where the installers wanted to bring their cable in. Unbeknown to them - or

indeed to anyone - the company cable had a large downward loop within the wall cavity so when the installers drilled through (yes, you've guessed it), they also drilled through the cable so we were without any electricity for some hours on a cold night in February. This is so unlikely an occurrence that I don't think it should put anyone off installing a system.

So, let's bring ourselves up to date.

In the five years since we had our system installed there have been two big financial changes. The first is that the tariff has been cut drastically. It's now (if I read the charts right) only around 4p per kWh, less than a tenth of what we are currently getting. On the other hand the price of a system has dropped substantially. You can get a 16 panel system installed for less than £5000. The most modern solar panels are also more efficient so you might not need 16 panels. You might dispense with micro-inverters if your roof faces south and is unshaded.

So, is it worth it today? The payback time is certainly longer, probably over 15 years. However, if the price of electricity rises significantly and you are a substantial user of daytime electricity this time might shorten substantially. If the FIT drops a lot more it is worth remembering that the FIT contract term is 25 years - beyond that you'll just be getting the saving on your bill. If our house had a hot water tank rather than a combi boiler we'd have installed solar hot water too. We had this at our previous house and it was very efficient...but we can't face the disruption of a new boiler and all the plumbing!

For us it wasn't just the money but also about reducing our carbon footprint - but that's a whole different article.

A few, final cautionary words.

The adverts that you used to see offering to install a system for free in exchange for not getting the FIT (you just get the bill saving) have died out as the tariff has dropped. But I have seen some adverts offering to buy your existing system so you get a capital sum and then the bill saving. Both

these approaches have a problem. What you're doing is leasing your roof to a company. Mortgage providers really don't like this kind of thing and it may create problems for potential buyers of your property to the extent that they cease to be buyers.

I've seen adverts (and indeed been cold-called) offering to provide a battery system that feeds the power back to you after dark. Some of the claims regarding performance are really extravagant. My own calculations suggest a more modest gain. In my opinion, the current battery technology is not mature enough and the costs are way too high. So we're waiting this one out! □



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Dersingham Parish Council

Wishes to appoint a new Editor for its well-respected bi-monthly parish magazine

Dersingham Village Voice

**This is a Voluntary Position with an Honorarium
Out of Pocket Expenses will be reimbursed.**

The role includes receiving, vetting and editing articles and advertisements for the magazine, and will also involve close liaison with Parish Council Staff and Councillors.

The Editor will have an interest in Dersingham and its residents, and also Sandringham, Wolferton, West Newton and Anmer as the magazine is delivered to and includes some articles from these villages.

For more information and discussion about the role, please contact
Sue Payne, Chairman, Dersingham Parish Council

Email: sue.payne@dersingham.org.uk

Tel: 07790 349896

St Nicholas Church News

Rev Mark Capron

Firm Foundation



‘The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock’ (Matthew 7:24-27).

They are the words of the parable from the Bible that Jesus shared. We have recently had some stormy weather; at one point from a distance in Hunstanton I watched the high waves with the rain bashing against the promenade. Under the sea; the sand, shells and rocks will no doubt have been tossed around and dispersed unless they had a strong and sure foundation.

Jesus shared the parable as part of his Kingdom message but with the focus on what or where we build our lives. Jesus says “those who put my words into action are like the wise builder who built upon the rock, the wind came, waters rose (just like the sea at Hunstanton) and beat against that house but it did not fall”.

We don't know whether the weather we will have in Spring will be snow, sun, rain or a mixture of all. Nor do we know what lies ahead of us in our lives, but in our lives what we can do is to put our trust in God's Son, Jesus Christ the rock to build our life on.

Forthcoming Events

3rd February –Coffee Morning in Church Hall – each Coffee Morning there is a Charity Table – this month's is for the Brownies & Guides

During Lent – starting Friday 10th March we will be holding a Musical Interlude in the Church at lunchtime, during this time a light Lent Lunch will be available to purchase, all monies raised will be going towards the Norwich Diocese Lent Project. This year we are raising money to provide a car for Hospice Ethiopia to reach those in need of palliative care. □

Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

Indoor Meetings at the Barn Theatre,
Sacred Heart Convent School, Swaffham.
Access and parking from Sporle Road.



An Evening with Chris Knights Tuesday 28th February, 7.30pm

We look forward with eager anticipation to Chris Knights' presentation – on whatever wildlife subjects and locations he chooses. Chris is well known as a conservationist, award winning photographer and film maker. Whatever the topic it is bound to be enthralling, entertaining and informative with superb photography.

Dragonflies

with Dr Pam Taylor Tuesday 28th March, 7.30pm

We are delighted to welcome Dr Pam Taylor on her first visit to NarVOS. Pam is President of the British Dragonfly Society and she is also Norfolk County Recorder for Dragonflies. About 32 species are found in Norfolk. With such a knowledgeable and enthusiastic speaker we are bound to have a great evening.

Visitors most welcome at these 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.



Trees in Conservation Areas by Brian Anderson, Tree Warden

A large apple tree was recently felled within the Dersingham Conservation Area. The Borough Council's planning enforcement team became aware of this, although no action was taken apart from the property owner being informed of the correct procedure. The penalties for unauthorised felling within a conservation area *can* be large - up to £20,000 for each tree.

The trees included in a conservation area are those where the trunk diameter is 75mm (about 3 inches) or greater, at a height of 1.5m (about 5 feet) above ground level. You must obtain consent for :- Lopping, Felling, Topping, Uprooting or Wilful damage.

Fruit trees, where pruning is necessary to maintain fruit production, are excluded as are works for removing or making safe dead or dangerous trees. In the latter case, notice of works will still need to be given. In all cases where consent is sought the location and a location sketch must be provided.

The Dersingham Conservation Area covers many properties along Chapel, Shernborne and Manor Roads and some of the roads off.

For more information and advice, and to obtain the consent forms, contact the Tree Officer at the Borough Council or go to
https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20081/conservation_and_listed_buildings/139/conservation_areas

If you haven't got computer access, a map of the conservation area is available for inspection at the Parish Council office. □

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Volunteering by Carrie Carey

In my experience many people assume that a nature reserve takes care of itself and very little assistance is required to keep it looking wild and natural. To a certain extent this is true, but in much the same way as a garden needs attention throughout the year, the habitats in our reserve also requires considerable work to keep them not only looking their best, but viable for breeding birds and animals.

Much of the success of Titchwell Marsh reserve is down to the sturdy efforts of our gallant volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure that our habitats provide a welcome retreat for wildlife. You might see them outside helping the wardens as they coppice willow, cut back scrub or clear reedbeds. But volunteers do more here than just getting their hands dirty. Thanks to an array of helpers, our cafe is filled with the welcome aroma of baking as scones, cakes and Cornish pasties ready to fill hungry tummies. In winter, bowls of steaming soup are the order of the day and in warmer months our volunteers are just as likely to be serving up delicious ice cream floats or frothy milkshakes.

In the shop, other helpers are busy serving customers, assisting with a stock take or counting in the weekly deliveries. Most of our volunteers don't have any retail experience but have taken to the busy schedule here and really enjoy the variety that a day in the shop can bring. Those with a little birding knowledge step up to the information desk and confidently explain the day's wildlife sightings to newly arrived visitors. They are wonderful ambassadors for the RSPB and connect well with our varied audience, handing out maps, reserve guides or family adventure packs to budding wildlife explorers.



A mixture of roles behind the scenes unfurl and are also filled by willing and capable volunteers, young and old. We know that not everyone wants to be out front and as one of my volunteers aptly put it, "I come here to be anonymous". Some people just prefer to be busy in the background and are happy to be in the stockroom or office providing much needed support to our small team of paid staff. Whatever skills and experience people turn up with, we can guarantee that they leave with a few more. Volunteering is a great way to rekindle the enjoyment of learning and re-discover forgotten skills.

From my time here I've learned that people volunteer for all sorts of reasons. For some, it adds routine to their week for others it's the reason to get up and get dressed. It's certainly a great way to stay socially connected and ward off loneliness. Many of our volunteers speak of a sense of fulfilment which comes through the donation of their time and talents and others find that their self confidence increases. Two of our volunteers have found love here, some have found employment and others, newly moved to the area, have fostered new friendships.

If you think that volunteering with the UK's largest conservation charity is right for you, then please do come along for a chat and a coffee. We are waiting to meet you! □

Horticultural Society

The Dersingham Horticultural Society has closed its doors for the last time. Members recently took the tough decision to disband the society and to donate remaining funds to local causes. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone for their support over the past 28 years.

Rob Lambert (for Dersingham Horticultural Society).

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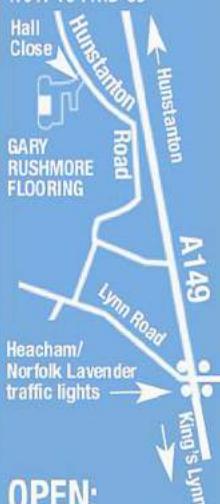
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Dersingham Day Centre by Alice Worth

On January 4th the Dersingham Day Centre opened after the Christmas holiday and it was good to see all our members again and to catch up on their news. Sadly, some of our members have been ill over the last few months but they have not been forgotten and we look forward to seeing them at the Day Centre as soon as they are better. It seems a long time ago now that we ended 2016 with a variety of special events, and in particular our 35th Birthday Party and our Christmas Party. Our next big event will be Easter and yet another party. In between times we will be enjoying our regular Wednesday meetings.

On the 24th of November we celebrated our 35th Birthday with a special roast chicken lunch provided by Paul Witt and his team of caterers. After lunch we welcomed Leigh Murfet, our regular entertainer on key board, who had had major surgery at the beginning of the year and had only just returned to working. It was lovely seeing him looking so well and on top form. The afternoon ended with tea and a lovely birthday cake made by Alison Girling.



Throughout the Autumn session work had been underway to make decorations for the Day Centre Christmas Tree, part of the St Nicholas' Tree Festival held each year. This year our theme was "A Merry Christmas" and our contribution, together with all the other trees, helped make for another lovely village event. I hadn't realized until recently that the Christmas Tree Festival is held as a celebration of the birth of St. Nicholas.

All that remained then was to have our Christmas Party on December 14th, 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 of us sat down to a superb

traditional Christmas lunch, cooked by Carol Kenny and, due to illness, just two volunteers in the kitchen. It always amazes me how they turn out such a wonderful dinner for so many without any fuss or panic. Our President Rita Fowkes joined us for lunch, together with Rev. Mark Capron and the Rev. Steve Oliver. Later, in what is now a Day Centre tradition, Steve and Mark led us in singing carols, and at one stage Leigh Murfet moved over to let Mark play the key board whilst Steve sang a carol. One has to experience this event to appreciate the lovely happy atmosphere that it creates and the fun that is experienced throughout the rest of the party. The afternoon ended with tea and home-made mince pies, kindly donated by Hazel Wolff. Thank you Hazel - they were delicious and very much appreciated. Christmas presents were handed out to Members and Volunteers, together with a large box of chocolates for everyone, donated anonymously to the Day Centre. On behalf of us all I would like to thank that person for his generosity yet again. I can assure him his kindness is very much appreciated by volunteers and members alike. Finally, a very special day ended another successful and happy year for the Day Centre. □





DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE

David Collingham, Chairman, Dersingham Village Centre

As reported in the previous Village Voice, we made the final Big Lottery application in October, and await the response. Before Christmas, the BLF were in touch to clarify a few points, so now all we can do is wait with crossed fingers. Meanwhile fund raising goes on unabated:

Village Screen

Proudly showing on our new state-of-the-art equipment and large screen, the Jungle Book Supper evening was a great success. Next showing is Eddie the Eagle on Friday January 27th at 7.30pm

Village Lottery

Thanks to all of you who support our Lottery. If you would like to join up, application forms are at the Parish Council Office or online at www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk.

Winning Numbers:	1st	2nd	3rd
October 2016	31	5	78
November 2016	45	19	47
December 2016	1	5	76
January 2017	1	46	31

Village Centre Events

Our Fashion Parade on November 18th, which raised over £500, was a huge success with over 90 fashionistas enjoying stunning modelling and great bargains from Allez Chic. We will be planning another such event for the Spring. Quiz Night on January 3rd saw 17 tables exercising their post-Christmas grey cells against tricky questions. Congratulations to the winning team: The Thickset.

The next event will be a Pancake Feast and Beetle Drive evening at the Church Hall on Shrove Tuesday, February 28th from 6.30pm. Lots of delicious home-cooked pancakes and fillings plus a fun game evening all thrown in. Tickets on the door or to reserve, phone: 01485 540271.

Coming up - A Tea Dance to be held at the Church Hall on Saturday March 25th, 2.30 to 4pm

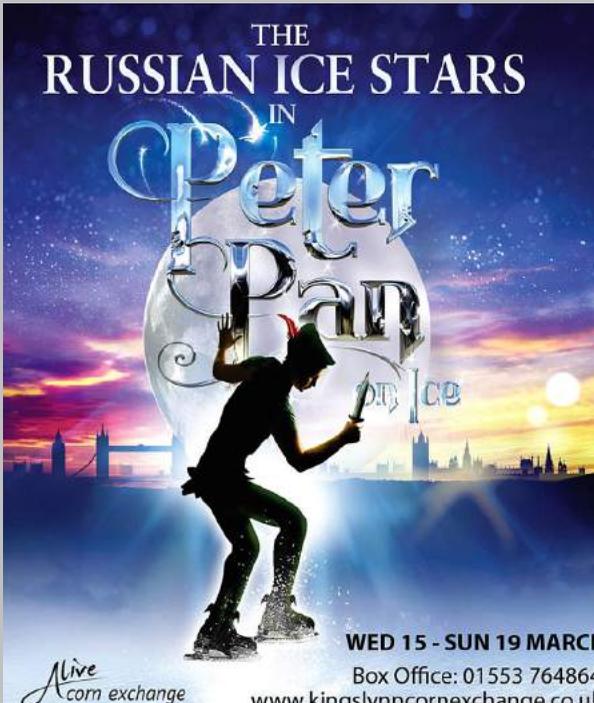
Dersingham Works

The third Business Breakfast, held in association with the Skills Service, will take place on February 7th, 7.30-9.30 am

We wish everyone a very happy and prosperous 2017 and thank you again for your support. □



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Dersingham Evening WI by Maggie Guest

The Annual Meeting was well attended. Members brought in examples of their hobbies and it was interesting to see the variety of interest the members have and the high standard. These included assorted types of needlecraft, researching family history and paintings. The fit 'n' dancing group led by Peg, treated us to a display of their dancing which impressed us all. We liked their Spanish hats! Congratulations to them!

The new committee was elected and Peg Hunter was elected President. The result of voting to hold winter meetings in the afternoons was decided in favour of carrying on in the evenings all year.



The smaller groups have continued to be active. The activity lunch group went to Hunstanton to play Ten Pin Bowling before lunch. Diane Hall had a most successful coffee morning... she makes fabulous scones which people could buy. This was followed by almost half of the members having mince pies, sausage rolls and sherry (or coffee/tea) at Maggie's home. Some of the money from this paid for the WI Christmas Tree in the church. Most of the members decorated cut out card jam jars which were put on the WI

Christmas tree like baubles. The MAD (knitting) group had a stall in St Margaret's Church during a craft day. They did very well and made lots of money to buy more wool which will be made into items for charity.

A group of members went to a variety show in the Arts Centre called Smile It's Christmas; the money from which goes to a local hospital charity. The craft group made lovely table decorations. Gilly started a crochet group for beginners and it is great that the group is still going even though their leader has left.



The December meeting was festive with members bringing a plate of food each to share and entertainment by the entertaining singing group 'West End Waiters'.

The meetings for 2017 are:-

- January 18th, Walter Blainey 'Ten Days in Arabia'
- February 15th, Tricia McCarron 'Women of the North End'
- March 15th, Brenda Packman 'ACWW'
- April 19th Our Birthday Party

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DERSINGHAM EVENING W.I
ANNUAL REPORT 2016
by Katrina Mundy, Secretary

We started 2016 with a new committee of 12 members including 3 new members Wendy Atkinson Jean Hall and Peg Hunter. Gilly was returned as our President for another year.

Thanks were given to Olive McCrea and Shirley O'Connor for their work on both the committee and in their organisation of the Sunday Lunch and Dining group in 2015. Thanks were also given to Stephanie Coulson for her brilliant work as Secretary in 2015.

Once again we had a lovely Christmas afternoon tea at Le Strange Hotel. We also participated in the Christmas Tree festival at St Nicholas's church decorating our tree with 100 crackers for the W.I. centenary. A New Year lunch was enjoyed by members at Le Strange Hotel.

We started our monthly meetings with a talk on Textile Conservation and have had a varied programme from History of Great Ormond Street hospital, Training Sheepdogs, Story of Edith Cavell and The Wonders of Woollies.

Two of our meetings had talks given by our own members-Dianne Hall – on her travels in Canada and Peg Hunter – story of Dance with great demonstrations- a very hot and tired Peg at the end of it.

Our birthday meet in April was themed 'Fun of the Fair' and members enjoyed playing games such as Roll a Pig, Fruit machine, Guess the Teddy's name and many more plus the addition of Hot Dogs for eats.

In June we donned homemade crowns and wore purple, red, white and blue in honour of the Queen's 90th birthday. Pat made a cake and even the birthday posies had a royal theme. During the year we have continued with quizzes, raffles, book stall and various Bring & Buy or Swap stalls.

We have continued to have successful coffee mornings once a month at various members' homes also with raffles, plant and cake sales, and sale of MAD group items involved.

Our regular groups continue to grow in strength. The walking group have completed a few walks this year of various lengths, in all weathers, with the necessary coffee or lunch at the end of them. Day outings have been varied, ranging from History walk of Dersingham to a trip to Tapping House Hospice (with a lovely lunch thrown in).

The theatre trips are still popular. Our *fit 'n' dancin'* class continues in numbers and the ladies gave a brilliant demonstration at our Annual Meeting. Craft groups flourish and our MAD group continues to support charities through Norfolk Knitters.

We have had a number of invites from other local W.I. groups which members have attended. One sad note of the year was the leaving of our President Gilly in July due to her moving out of the village. Peg hunter (Vice President) was voted in until the Annual meeting in November.

In August we held an Afternoon tea at Diane's house and we used this occasion to say goodbye to Gilly and presented her with 2 lovely cards (made by our craft expert Babs) and John Lewis vouchers. Pat had also made a beautiful cake that was enjoyed by all.

As a group we participated in the W.I. Salver cup and came 15th. Members attended both federation Annual meetings and Peg attended the Resolutions meeting so that she could then talk about the Resolutions at the meeting. Dersingham W.I. decided to vote for both of the Resolutions and this was passed onto our representative.

We continue to support various local charities such as Baby Basics (Davina Barret- local organiser came and gave a talk about it), Food Bank, and Women's Refuge. We have welcomed this year 5 new members and now have a total of 71 members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who have worked very hard over the last year to make us a success and I am sure we will go on to a successful 2017. □



Dersingham Walking Group by Stephen Martyn

Welcome to the Dersingham Walking Group, which provides regular guided walks around the local countryside. The walks are free, just turn up on the day wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. Dogs are welcome, provided they're well behaved.

As I write this we've just had our first snow of the winter, but it was gone by lunchtime and I still managed to get in a short walk round the village during the afternoon, just to blow the cobwebs away. Winter walks can actually be some of the most enjoyable, and although the going might be a bit muddy sometimes, there's that magical winter light, when the shadows are always long, and the views hidden in summer open up through the bare trees. Yes, winter walks have much to delight us.

We only have the one walk in February, but to make up for that there are three in March. One of these will be our popular Sandringham Sunday Explorer, which this year is led by Steve and Lindsey Davis. I've led this walk myself on a few occasions, and not only have you got good walking within easy reach of our village, but there's the lure of the Visitor Centre café at the end of it! I will just remind you that from the beginning of February our start time for most walks returns to the usual 2.00pm, as the days gradually lengthen.

Details of our next walks are:

Wednesday 8th February 2.00pm. Starting point: St Nicholas Church Hall, Dersingham. Grid ref: TF 692 302 Length of walk: 4.5 miles. From Dersingham to Ingoldisthorpe and back, along lanes and footpaths. **Leader:** Elizabeth Fiddick 01495 540940

Sunday 5th March 2.00pm. Starting point: Sandringham Visitor Centre. Grid ref: TF 690 288 Length of walk: 4.5 miles. Sandringham Sunday Explorer. Some of the many woodland ways of the estate, with a possible tea shop visit at the end.
Leaders: Steve & Lindsey Davis 01485 543138

Wednesday 8th March 2.00pm. Starting point: Snettisham Church. Grid ref: TF 690 342 Length of walk: 4.5 miles. Some of the lesser know footpaths of the Snettisham area.
Leader: Pat Reed 01485 540757

Wednesday 22nd March 2.00pm. Starting point: Ringstead Green Bank, on the Ringstead to Holme road. Grid ref: TF 706 420 Length of walk: 6 miles. A slightly longer walk as we descend from Ringstead to Holme, explore the village and then climb back up.
Leaders: Steve & Lindsey Davis 01485 543138

You can see the full walks programme on our page at the parish council website. Just go to Dersingham.org.uk/walkinggroup

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

Do something amazing this year and support an older person in Norfolk



Every year, thousands of older people look to local charity Age UK Norfolk for support. Whether it's a bit of advice in a time of need, help filling out complicated forms or just a friendly chat when they're feeling lonely, we are here to help.

But we can't do it alone. Without the help of our dedicated team of volunteers who give up their own time, we couldn't deliver all the services that we do. This year, following on from campaigns such as Good Morning Britain's 1 Million Minutes, we're asking if you could pledge some time to help make a change in someone's life.

No experience is necessary, and whatever your talents and interests, there is bound to be a voluntary opportunity where you can share your knowledge, make new friends and make a real difference.

All volunteers are offered full training and will get ongoing support and advice from the volunteer management team.

To find out more call 01603 785 241 or visit www.ageuknorfolk.org.uk

Trustees required, supporting older people in Norfolk!

Age UK Norfolk is entering uncharted waters and challenging times, as their services supporting older people become increasingly more in demand. The Norfolk charity is seeking Trustees who are experts in their field - strategic planners and landscape changers who can help drive the organisation forward.

Age UK Norfolk's Chair of Trustees, Helen Jones, may be in her 60s, but she shows no signs of slowing down. Passionate about older people's rights, Helen jumped at the chance to be a Trustee for Age UK Norfolk when a vacancy arose.

Helen has had a successful corporate career as the Director of Governance and Company Secretary. She currently works as a management consultant.

Helen enjoys giving something back, lending her business skills to assist the development of the charity. "There is great satisfaction in what we achieve. Trustees provide insight, decision making and guidance on the direction of the charity".

This year, three years after joining the Board of Trustees, Helen was elected Chair of Trustees. Helen says, "*Age UK Norfolk is often the first port of call for so many older people and their families, who otherwise wouldn't know who to turn to. I would absolutely recommend volunteering for Age UK Norfolk, there is a real need for the services we provide*".

Age UK Norfolk is recruiting Trustees with skills in areas such as accountancy, health and social care, commissioning and service development, social policy and fundraising.

Contact Paula Skelton on 01603 785 235 or email paula.skelton@ageuknorfolk.org.uk for more information.

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Old Map Corner with Tony Bubb

One of the earliest petrol company sponsored road atlases was by Pratt's, the trading name of the Anglo-American oil Company. Published in 1905, this was produced by George Phillip for them. Road numbering did not come in until 1923 so that bit of useful information is missing. Priced at 2/6d, this volume was bought by the presumably wealthy Mr H. C. Thompson who has marked trips to the west country and the midlands in pencil on the maps. I say presumably as not only did he splash out on the atlas but also could afford a car, not cheap back then.

Phillips drew each page, or pair of pages, individually which is why my scan of two pages does not fit together perfectly. They also left out most of Scotland and a gazetteer from the book but did, strangely, include Croydon in the town plans at the end together with ads for "Petrol Lighting", "Gladiator Vaporising Oil" and "Roadoleum Asphalt". I haven't seen any of those about lately. I would think it interesting to make a journey today just using this atlas. □





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Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny



The Chaplins of Centre Vale

I was interested in the letter from Peter Singleton about his great-grandfather Edward Chaplin or Chaplyn. As he says in his letter Centre Vale cottages were built around about the year 1895; up until then the only house down Centre Vale was the farmhouse where James Jackson lived. He farmed most of the land in the vicinity until he moved into High Farm to the north of the village; he then sold the land after the Second World War for building on. The old farmhouse is still there and there was always a footpath from Post Office Road to Manor Road coming out near the Coach and Horses public house. This footpath has been there for many years as a way for the people living up Doddshill to get to the village to do their shopping.

Now as for Mansfield House, it's a detached house, up Sandringham Hill, and that too is still there today. When I lived in the village two sisters lived there who ran a grocery shop and ladies' hairdressers shop in Manor Road, next to Playfords the bakers.

Dersingham Marshes

People often ask me about Dersingham Marshes, as not many people know where they are. Well up till 1942 the only way down to the marshes was by way of The Drift. Then, in 1942, because of the shortage of food, a concrete road was laid down from the station as far as the Dersingham boundary, which is about 200 yards east of the old sea wall. Another branch of this concrete road went to the south to link up with The Drift. A concrete road also goes from Wolferton village as far as the pumping station (built in 1947) and a carstone link road goes from the pumping station to Dersingham Beach Road. Of course, you can only get down the marshes now on a push bike or by walking. Sandringham Estate put up gates along these roads, as they said they were getting too much farm machinery stolen from their sheds near the pumping station. Nearly all of the land down Dersingham Marshes is now farmed by the Sandringham Estate.

After the great flood on the night of the 31st of January 1953, when the water came up as far as the railway station and nearly into Wolferton village, the land was not fit to grow crops on for three years until thousands of tons of lime was spread on it. When I was a lad many Dersingham farmers had land down the marsh. I will just mention a few of them: Stantons of Manor Farm, who grew many acres of potatoes; James Jackson, who, for few years had a field of strawberries, Fred Wagg, Baulding brothers, who I remember kept turkeys on a field near the little wood and roasted them on an old elevator; Mr Varser; the Lincoln brothers; and Mr Billy Bird, who had a dairy and a herd of cows just over the station. I remember too a farmer from Ringstead, who had some grazing land near to the duck decoy, whose shepherd would drive a flock of sheep along the roads with his pony and cart and three dogs from Ringstead to Dersingham Marshes every spring time, then in the autumn time he would drive them back again. I wonder how he would get on nowadays with all the traffic. What a lot of people may not know about Dersingham marshes is that in the duck decoy there used to be a Heligoland trap. This is a trap made from netting and wire hoops; it had a wide open mouth with a narrow tied-up bottom; men would drive ducks and any other birds into this net, then the men would ring them make a record of them and then release them.

I can remember the story in the *Lynn News* of a blackbird that was caught and released in Dersingham, then a year or two later it was caught and released in Northern Germany, then later on in the same year it was found dead by the crew of the *Lynn Well* light ship in the mouth of The Wash. It is a shame that people cannot wander around these marshes like they used to do. We would fish in the drains, watch the kingfishers and, best of all on a hot summer's evening, swim in the shingle pits.

East Winch Common

David Bingham's article called 'Treasure Hunt' made my memory go back a bit when he mentioned East Winch Common. I lived at No 3 Station Road, East Winch from September 1939

until the summer of 1945 with my granny, my mother, two uncles and an aunty and we lived right close to the common so it was our playground, the whole 80 acres of it. There was very few trees on it them days, plenty of heather and gorse bushes. I remember there was a pillbox where my uncles would usually find a snake, lots of skylarks and linnets by the hundreds. As you entered the common from the busy A47 there was a grass area where people tethered their ponies. A small fair or even a small circus would set up there about once a year. Also there would often be gypsies with their horses and smart bow top wagons on there; they would stay a day or two, go round the houses selling pegs then move on to the next village. At one time there was a cricket pitch on the common. The people of East Winch have been asking for a by-pass and I believe this was planned to go through the common but it has not happened yet. At one time every village had a common to be used by the village people but unfortunately there are not many of them left. One more thing I remember about the common - as you got over the common towards Bilney Hall there was a track to your right and down this track was a large pit. My uncles would take me eel fishing in there. Every time we went my granny would say to them 'You make sure you look after that boy'. Years ago a man driving a wagon and horses drove into that pit and it was so deep the man, the horses and the wagon were never found.

Winter of '47

Winter is here and we could get some snow. We only have to get a few inches of snow nowadays and chaos is caused, traffic is brought to a standstill, the schools are shut and people stay off work. You really have to be over 70 years of age to remember a hard winter. In 1947 it started snowing on the 24th of January and then it snowed most days until the middle of March and with it we had strong winds. On the 11th of February Norfolk had the worst snowstorm of the year, roads and railways were blocked, trains were marooned and for a day or two Cromer and Sheringham were blocked off. At Hunstanton, Redgate Hill was all twists and turns those days, so it got blocked every day. In 1947 there were still some prisoners of war in the camp at Snettisham beach waiting to be repatriated; they were brought in every day to clear the hill with shovels.

Then at the end of March, when the better weather came, the snow melted and we had floods. I remember one weekend at the end of March my mother took me by train to see my grandparents who lived in Brandon. We got on the train at Dersingham station, changed trains at King's Lynn for Ely, then changed again for Brandon. When we got near Shippea Hill the Little Ouse had burst its banks. The railway line was up on an embankment, so that was okay, but all around the land was flooded with trees, telegraph poles and houses sticking up out of the water. But one thing about that winter - everyone tried to go about their business as usual. We lived near the common at Dersingham and I went to school at Dersingham Primary (bottom) School every day and there were no school dinners them days, so you walked to school and back through the snow 4 times a day. The postman and all the tradesmen got through though some days they were a bit late. What happens nowadays - five flakes of snow and everything grinds to a standstill.

Well that's your lot, have a Happy New Year, just keep on a troshin. □



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Girlguiding Dersingham What a term it has been! from Lynn Wheeler

When you read this, it will be the start of February and the Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies & Guides will be full-swing into their Spring Term activities and looking forward to celebrating Thinking Day. However, we are writing this having just broken up for Christmas after rounding off a very busy term with Christmas parties.



The Rainbows have earned their Roundabout Rainbows badge, requiring them to complete 4 special activities; a Look, Learn, Laugh & Love activity. They made bubble wands, which they tried out, decorated biscuits blindfolded, explored Sandringham in Autumn and had a very messy week Foot Painting - colouring a butterfly by holding the brushes between their toes. The year was completed with a Christmas party complete with food, silly games, Children's Entertainer "Uncle Len" and a visit from Father Christmas, laden with presents!

The 2nd Brownies have had a Badge-tastic term; earning Home Skills, Brownie Traditions and Circus Performer, while the new Brownies also gained their Hostess badge the week they made their Promise. The Brownies completed their Home Skills badge over several meetings, as well as making their bed at home for a week and keeping their bedroom tidy! They also learnt how to iron their Neckers and the different laundry symbols in clothes. During one meeting the girls were kept very busy as they enjoyed hoovering, cleaning the windows, dusting, washing the basins and laying the table at our HQ. A key clause for the badge requires the Brownies to try and understand how difficult these home skills can be for a blind person, so they played a silly game blindfolded where they had to try and create pairs of socks, which all felt different. Every autumn the Brownies have a sleepover and this year we stayed at St Edmund's Church Hall in Hunstanton and our theme was our Brownie Traditions badge. The girls found out about the history of Brownies and saw how the uniform has changed – this involved dressing up! They learnt how the Union flag is made up as well as knots, plaiting and how to tie their shoelaces.



Many years ago each Brownie Six had its own song, so we challenged the girls to learn their Six's song and make a dance – which they did. Our final badge of the year was Circus Performer. The girls made a silly face mask one week with lots of collage bits and bobs and glitter! The following week "Crazy Bananas" came with all her circus equipment and the girls tried everything and had lots of fun!

The Guides have enjoyed varied activities this term both at our HQ and away. They have earned their Survival badge; some of the activities involved created shelters, home-made compass, recognising poisonous and edible plants and then using them – we created blackberry and apple pies. We also included a First Aid week, where the girls learnt the recovery position and practised

bandaging each other. To put survival in a different context we played the Paper Bag Game – a cooperative game requiring the girls to see if they could survive as a poor family in India making paper bags. The Guides always enjoy anything to do with food, so at Christmas we decorated Yule logs with many different colours of icing and decorations and made pizzas at our Christmas party, plus we celebrated National Chocolate Week. For this celebration, each patrol made a different chocolate sweet, fudge, creams, rocky road and truffles, which they then had to convince everyone else to taste! Away from the meeting place we have been bowling in Hunstanton, but at half-term we went to London with the 1st Sandringham Guides. On a day, which started very early, we visited the Royal Mews & Girlguiding’s HQ on Buckingham Palace Road before completing the London Explorer Challenge – an interactive walking tour, where we visited many of the key sites of London. It was an enjoyable day, luckily it didn’t rain.

All the groups took part in the Shoebox Appeal; sending presents to disadvantaged children across the world. We also joined in village events – attending the Remembrance Sunday Service at St Nicholas Church and decorating a tree for the St Nicholas Christmas Tree festival.

Our year is not quite over, as before the New Year strikes we are all going to watch Hunstanton Town Hall Pantomime – the Princess and the Pea as one of the Guides is performing and we are going to cheer her on.



Girlguiding, like so many other organisations requires Volunteers and all our Uniformed Leaders and Unit Helpers are volunteers. They give so much time to the girls of Dersingham (and the surrounding area) and without them around 100 girls aged 5 years and upwards would be missing out on something very special.

Girls, if you would like to become a Rainbow, Brownie or a Guide talk to your friends at school about

why they enjoy it and then look in your Dersingham Data for contact numbers or go direct to www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus and a leader will soon be in contact.

Adults, do you have a New Year’s resolution to do something different for 2017, to become part of a worldwide family where Being Our Best is what we strive to be...

If you would like to volunteer in whatever capacity you will be warmly received. Not all our volunteers are Uniformed Leaders and it is often Unit helpers and Occasional Unit Helpers who leaders cry out for. As a Unit helper you do not have to plan the programme, you are there as extra help at meetings ensuring that the meetings happen and that the girls enjoy themselves. Please go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus to register your interest and your adventure can begin.

Or maybe, you have a special skill or interest, which you would like to share with the girls, then contact our District Commissioner at chaffinch_ew@yahoo.co.uk □

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The Sandringham Newsletter

by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate
Compiled by Helen Walch



In the gardens over the winter staff have been very busy. Yew hedges have been trimmed and some of the larger evergreen trees have been pruned, lawns have been scarified and herbaceous plants have been 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. Work has been completed on the West Terrace, removing tarmac, grading and levelling the ground and resurfacing with gravel. Rainwater drains along the Terrace were also uncovered, cleared and repaired after not working for several decades.

Work on the stream from the Lower Lake, dredging out silt and repairing banks and weirs with carr stone has also been completed. Dredging the lower lake is a reasonably regular job; leaves and other plant material falling into the lake do not rot down because of the lack of oxygen, so they gradually build up and need to be removed every few years. The lake then becomes slightly cooler because the water is deeper, which helps to prevent algae build-up and makes a better environment for the fish and other water creatures living in it.

Much of the Autumn was quite frustrating for the farm department, with a fortnight of easterly winds that brought in regular showers from the North Sea which meant the wet conditions made it impossible to sow cereals. Once these abated and things dried out, winter wheat was sown. Sugar beet lifting is also well under way.

The Pigeon Lofts were presented with a white pigeon from pigeon fanciers of Doullons in France to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. The pigeon has a gold ring with the date of 1916 engraved on it and is known as the pigeon of peace and friendship.

A busy few weeks at the Visitor Centre and in the Park included pottery courses, a charity horse ride, three car rallies and of course the monthly farmers' market, finished off with the Christmas Craft Fair. The Visitor Centre Restaurant hosted a lunch for West Norfolk Befrienders clients and volunteers at the Visitor Centre in November. Between preparing meals and producing jams and chutneys, the chefs also found time to make a gingerbread village, complete with skating snowmen and a railway line, which has been on display in the main restaurant. □



The West Norfolk Members Group invites you to:-
the illustrated talks:-

Norfolk's Marine Habitat & Wildlife

by Rob Spray on
Thursday 23rd February- 7.30pm
and

Saving Norfolk's Ponds & Pond Species*

by Carl Sayer of UCL on
Thursday 23rd March- 7.30pm
*after a brief AGM

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





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Our social calendar is yet to be prepared but the first occasion is usually the Pancake Supper on the evening of Shrove Tuesday at St Cecilia's, Dersingham. All are welcome as usual.

This year's Women's World Day of Prayer will be held at our Parish church, OLSE, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton, on Friday 3rd March beginning at 2.30pm. This year is the turn of the women of the Philippines who have prepared the service. There will be refreshments after the service and all women are invited to this ecumenical occasion.

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.

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.



Daily Masses will be 10am in the parish church at Hunstanton on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday mass is usually at 10.15am at St Cecilia's, Dersingham.

Sunday Masses are 9am at St Cecilia's, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and 11am at Parish Church, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton.

The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.

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

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



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Days of Future Passed

With thanks to The Moody Blues for the title

by Brian Anderson

As she walked through the gates into the front quad and looked at the imposing classical portico with the dome above she thought *it never seems to change*. And neither did her familiar route: bear left across the lawn through the corner door and into the cloisters. Another door, down some steps into a corridor. She stopped at a door with a plate on it: *Departmental Office*, knocked and entered.

"Hello, I'm here to see Dr Newman - I said I'd arrive about now." The secretary looked up. "I'll see if he's in his lab, Ms..?" "Doctor...Jilly South". He picked up the phone. "Hi Greg, I've got a Jilly South to see you." He cupped the phone "He says you know the lab?" "Yes, it's fine - I'll make my way up - thank you."

Upstairs she knocked lightly on the door and pushed it open. There was music playing gently in the background. She recognised *Bad Moon Rising*, a track favoured by her aging hippy parents. The music was coming from a rather battered I-pod on the desk in the corner. "Hi Greg." Greg Newman turned. He was fairly tall, slim and dark-haired. He was wearing a purple t-shirt and lime green jeans. He smiled. "Hi Jilly." "I see you haven't lost your lack of taste in clothes."

"Well, you know how I am - I like bright things. How's work - and how's Manchester? It's awhile since you've been down."

"Oh, it's OK. The commercial stuff isn't as exciting as research but you have to go where the jobs are. How's your project going?"

"Pretty well. I'm just writing up a paper on some new aspects of laser coherence. And thinking about some new lab work in a bit of a different direction."

The tone of the voice made her look up and regard him closely. *He's onto something* she thought - *it's like when we were students. His posture changed when he'd cracked a problem, looked sort of...perky.*

"So what is it? You seem sort of excited."

"Well, I'm not sure *what* I've found. Not from a theory point of view anyway. It's just...rather odd. I haven't discussed it with anyone. Actually, it'd be a relief to explain what happened. Is that OK?" "I don't think I'll be able to stop you..."

He sat down on a stool and rubbed his face. *Bad Moon Rising* had finished and *Spirit in the Sky* started playing. He seemed uncertain how to start. Then he said "I was getting a lot of low electrical interference. That's not surprising really - people in other labs are doing things that can generate fields but I couldn't get rid of it. So I built a screened enclosure - usual thing, a box of unetched printed circuit board tied to a reliable ground. I put some Helmholtz coils round as I wanted to neutralise the Earth's field. I wanted to use copper screws- not easy to get - to make sure I had good conductivity. I thought I had exactly fourteen left in my stock. I used twelve and put two back in the drawer. I turned on the system and looked for interference. It was better but not perfect. So I tried changing the grounding a bit. But when I looked in the screening box I found a copper screw in it. I really didn't understand that. I thought I must have miscounted and left a screw behind. I was fiddling about a bit for a few days and thought I'd change the screening a bit - put in another lead. Which I did. I got the three copper screws out and did the wiring. I needed two and the third I left in the screened box. I turned the system on, then thought I'd save the odd screw. But when I looked in the box it'd gone. I thought I was going mad. A screw had disappeared but a few days previously another screw had appeared. If I *wasn't* suffering extreme memory loss I couldn't explain it.

"Then a few days later I wanted to reconfigure the laser so I took one of the lenses out and placed it on the shelf while I messed about. But when I looked in the box there was another lens, identical to the one I'd removed. Now, I had only one these lenses...but now I had two. I felt really shivery and queasy. The implication was clear. At some point in the future I'd put the lens in box

and *it had travelled back in time!*"

Jilly said: "Greg, that's nuts - there must be another explanation. Otherwise it's going to breach causality. And where does the extra mass come from?"

The I-pod had changed tracks again. It was a Leonard Cohen track she couldn't remember the title of but one line stood out: *Dance me through the panic 'til I'm gathered safely in.* She thought *Oh, how appropriate.*

"Ah, but I didn't leave it there. I did put the lens in the box and it did disappear. I haven't worked out the mass problem yet"

" But suppose you decided not to do that."

"Then I wouldn't have got the surplus lens. It's as though the "system" knows. It's just a tiny bit like the Copenhagen interpretation in quantum mechanics where the act of observation determines the outcome."

"So...what then...what did you do?"

"Quite lot of tests. I made the screened box bigger to see how big this portal is - if that's what it is. I found that it would only work if the space was within the Helmholtz coils and they were powered. And tried sending various things back. I received and then sent back a loaf of bread with one slice cut off so the object was unique, although I already had no doubt."

"What did you do with the bread?"

"Oh, I ate it...it seemed fine. Then the box delivered some hair, some nail clippings and a drop of blood in a Petri dish. I knew that at some time I'd be sending back little bits of me."

She said: "Sounds a bit like...witchcraft. Was it altered?"

"Well, short of doing pathology, no. But there's another thing - it's always sent back to the box, even though the Earth is spinning and going round the sun and the sun is rotating round the galaxy. It always goes back to box, and it never just gets lost, but the arrival time seems random within the limits of sending back and creating the box. It'll make one person pleased, though."

"Who?"

"Stephen Hawking. He said that if we ever invent time travel you'd never be able to go back further than the creation of the machine."

"Can I see the box?"

"Well, it's quite a lot bigger." He pointed to a corner of the lab. There was a cupboard with a door, about the size of a telephone box. He went over and opened the door. Inside, Jilly could see a maze of wires and coils. He pushed the door slightly closed.

"Why so big?" she asked.

"Because I'm going to send myself back."

Oh my God she thought that's really reckless. But with the hair, nails and blood it had to be leading up to this. What's going to happen if he goes back and meets himself? There'll be two of him here and none in

future until they arrive at the send point. And who's going to be the one endlessly consigned to travelling the loop? No, that's not right...he's creating different futures each time.

Before she could voice her concern he said: "I've done a sort of map of the portal. I'll just show you."

He went over to the desk in the far corner of the lab. The I-pod was playing *It's good news week.* He rummaged about, bending over to show the lime green jeans to good effect. Just then Jilly heard a soft rustle and thud from the screened box. A faint draught pushed the door a little more open. Intrigued, she pulled the door open. On the floor she saw what seemed to be a bundle of sticks and rags. Then the horror struck. It was a jumble of bones covered loosely with a purple t-shirt and lime green jeans. Scraps of skin adhered to the bones.

"Greg...don't do it, don't send yourself back. *You're going to your death!*"

She turned to look back to the desk. But the lab was empty. Greg Newman had gone. *Bad Moon Rising* was playing again on the I-pod. □



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DO YOU HAVE INCOME (OR GAINS) FROM PROPERTY?

PART I: THE TAX IMPLICATIONS EXPLAINED

By Kathryn Gigg

For an increasing number of people, property is a popular form of investment. Since the 1990s there has been an exponential increase in people holding a portfolio of “buy to let” properties; and of those who could be described as “reluctant landlords”, who have found themselves having to let out their property, whilst waiting to sell if they relocate with their jobs. A further type of property investment is the “furnished holiday let” (FHL), sometimes managed via specialist holiday cottage agencies with the rental providing an additional income stream for their owners.

In each of the above cases, the tax position is often the last thing to be considered. This can cause problems especially if there are unexpected tax bills, which may not have been budgeted for. More recently, tax changes introduced to free up the housing market have also created unforeseen problems for some private letting landlords.

This article aims to provide an overview of the property tax issues arising from letting out a residential property.

The first thing to attend to is to notify H M Revenue & Customs (HMRC) of your new source of income. When you first let out a property, you need to notify HMRC by 5 October following the Tax Year (to 5 April), in which you first receive any income.

The rental income, to be reported, may be sourced from either an FHL or a residential tenancy, whether furnished or unfurnished.

FHLs are treated in a similar manner to businesses and benefit from more generous allowances and Capital Gains Tax (CGT) rates but, for a property to qualify, it needs to be available for holiday rental for a minimum of 210 days a year and actually let out for a minimum of 105 days. This is something quite distinct from the furnished or unfurnished “buy to let” rentals, which are usually operated as Assured Shorthold Tenancies (ASTs) for a minimum of six months, with an option to extend.

There are different rules for each type of rental but in all cases, you need to keep records of the rents received, as well as the expenses which you incur in running the rental property. In the case of FHLs, there are likely to be numerous expenses including agents’ fees, business rates, water rates, heating, lighting, insurance, TV licence and cleaning; whilst for the “buy to let” properties expenses may only be agents’ fees and insurance together with, hopefully, occasional maintenance and repair, and landlords’ certificates etc.

For each type of property, for Income Tax purposes, one is allowed to offset running costs such as maintenance or insurance (but not the cost of capital improvements), and, with FHLs, there are further allowances for the furniture and fixtures, which are needed to run a holiday home. If a “buy to let” property is let as a furnished property then 10% of the rent has in the past been deductible as a “wear and tear” allowance. No such allowance was ever available if the property is unfurnished and from April 2016 it has also been removed for furnished lettings.

In addition to the removal of the wear and tear allowance two further changes take effect from April 2016. Mortgage interest relief, which had previously been an allowable expense for all landlords, is now restricted for higher rate taxpayers. Ultimately they will only be allowed a tax deduction at the basic rate, the transition being phased in over four years. For those landlords with high personal income and significant borrowings, this may mean a steady increase in the tax burden between 2016/17 and 2020/21. Moreover the rate of Stamp Duty Land Tax (payable when a property is purchased) has increased by an additional 3% for properties which will not be used as the purchaser’s “main residence”. This not only makes entry into the market more expensive, but may also create complications where mortgaged properties are being gifted, even between spouses. Any resulting surplus is added to any other taxable income you may have in the year from other sources (perhaps a salary or other investment income). The resulting tax is payable on 31 January

(and, depending upon the amount, possibly 31 July) following the tax year concerned.

With effect from April 2018 many rental property FHL owners will need to make quarterly submissions as part of the HMRC "Making Tax Digital" project.

When, eventually, you decide to sell a property which you have let out, the other major tax liability may be CGT. This is levied on the difference between the purchase price of the property (plus Stamp Duty Land Tax and solicitors' costs) and any improvement costs, and the eventual sale proceeds (as reduced for solicitors' and agents' fees). Each taxpayer currently has an annual CGT allowance of £11,100 with any excess charged to tax at either 18% or 28% depending on your other income levels in the year of disposal. In some circumstances the CGT rate on a FHL might be as low as 10%.

Good records, sensible planning and professional advice are key to running a successful and rewarding rental portfolio. □

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Sandringham Parish Council from Ben Colson

Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 4th January at the Sandringham Club at West Newton. One member of the public was in attendance, and we always welcome others at our meeting, both to observe and contribute.

The two issues of main interest are the major roadworks to be started in Wolferton either late January or early February which is primarily to improve drainage in the vicinity of the old railway station, whilst at the same time, to slightly narrow the road on the blind bend in the same area.

Secondly, we considered the closure of our two red telephone boxes, at West Newton and Wolferton. British Telecom had supplied annual use data which showed both to be in single figures, but Councillors present were sure that they had already been decommissioned – if so it is odd that a number of calls were recorded, but if not so, then there is no chance they will be used if all concerned *believe* them to have been out of use. It was decided that, under the circumstances, it would be futile to object to their formal closure, but we did wish to purchase them for posterity and that is now being arranged.

Unusually, for our parish council, we had a Planning Application to consider, for the refurbishment of outbuildings and change of use at Church Farm House in Wolferton. Our response was broadly supportive, but with reservations mainly concerning car parking arrangements.

Broadband in Wolferton

The last Parish Council of 2016 met on 9th November at Wolferton Social Club and started with an open village meeting to discuss our broadband and internet issues. The meeting was well attended – over thirty people from a population of just over ninety – and was addressed by the Project Manager for Better Broadband for Norfolk.

Residents, and especially those with businesses, were vocal in the ever growing failure of the internet and broadband, and the disadvantage that it puts us to was well voiced. Examples cited include older schoolchildren unable to do their homework properly, inability to buy or renew online, such as insurance, train tickets with higher costs for using the phone instead, and even professionals not being able to complete their annual competency updates.

We had initially been told that the likely date for an improvement here would be in the Summer of 2020, but it was announced at the meeting that this is now rescheduled for Summer next year. Since then, the Government has announced further funding for rural broadband to bring forward dates to before the end of this year, so we wait to see whether Wolferton will be included.

Living Independently in Later Years (LILY)

This is an initiative by the Borough Council and a representative from the charity Norfolk Befriending will attend the start of the Parish Council meeting on 8th March (details below) to tell people about what can be done to encourage older people who want to live independently at home. As this is an important topic, the meeting will be an open one and you are all welcome to attend. The Parish Council meeting proper will start at the end of the Norfolk Befriending presentation.

Future Parish Council meetings

The next two meetings of the Parish Council are on 8th March at Wolferton Social Club and 3rd May at the Sandringham Club, West Newton. The 3rd May meeting starts with the Parish Council's Annual General Meeting after which the ordinary meeting is held. Meetings start at 6.30pm and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Wolferton happenings.....

For a small village, Wolferton packs the events, and punches above its weight! During December the annual carol service was held at St Peter's Church and was well attended, followed a few days later by about sixty parents and grandparents attending the Child's Play Nursery service.

Then as Christmas approached, always a fun event, the ‘round the village’ carol singing – that is to say carol singing interrupted with mulled wine and mince pies, with all monies raised being donated to the Church of England Children’s Society. For the first time in many years, a Christmas Day service was held at the Church.

‘Eyes down’ for the traditional Christmas bingo in the Social Club, with a full house and no room for more, which raised tantalisingly close to £500 and the organisers send many thanks to all who gave prizes, helped with catering and those who attended.

A disco was held at the Social Club on both Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve. Future events include a Burns Night Supper on Friday 27th January which has been organised by the Wolferton Events Committee, which gets down to the business end of things by holding its Annual General Meeting at 8pm on Friday 24th February in the Social Club. All are welcome to attend.

And finally – traffic speeds

West Newton has a 30mph speed limit and the Parish Council frequently has reports and complaints of speeding traffic in the village, which is said to be every bit as much residents and locals as it is those from further afield. The Parish Council can apply for a Neighbourhood Speed Watch scheme – which is what it says – and those found to be exceeding the limit will, on the first occasion, receive a warning letter from the Police, and on a second occasion could face a stiffer penalty. Residents and locals can help slow traffic by themselves, sticking rigidly to the limit, and that was that it reduces the pressure to go down the heavier handed route.

In Wolferton there is no such limit. We know that much of the really excessive speeding for the road conditions is by people who are not local but who use the road regularly, many daily, especially those bringing their children to the nursery school in the village and picking them up in the afternoon. If you are one such, and reading this, please slow down and respect the safety and comfort of residents – who are constantly complaining about the speeds at which you drive. And remember, there will be traffic lights near the old station for a few weeks soon, and after that you’ll find that the road has been deliberately made narrower, so PLEASE SLOW DOWN NOW. □



The poster features a green background with white icons of a ham, carrot, wine glass, cheese, and a pie. The text is centered and reads: 'West Norfolk Food Festival', 'Sunday 9th April', '10.30 - 4.00pm', 'Free Entry', 'The Great Barn', 'Knights Hill Hotel', 'King's Lynn', and 'Call 0781 009 8303 or email info@wnff.co.uk for stall enquiries'.



The advertisement features a green circular logo with 'claire's NORFOLK NIBBLES catering for you' and a string of colorful bunting. It includes five images of various cakes and pastries. The text reads: 'Claire's Norfolk Nibbles will work with you to achieve what you need to make your event a real success.' Below the images, it says: 'Celebration cakes , cupcakes , party catering and light luncheons are our specialities !' and 'Contact Claire to find out more.' At the bottom, it lists: 'Mobile: 07810098303', 'Email: info@clairesnorfolk nibbles.co.uk', 'Web: clairesnorfolk nibbles.co.uk', and 'FaceBook: Claire's Norfolk Nibbles'.



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Spearhavoc David Bingham

Before the advent of computer games, small boys loved to spot things. My brother, cousins and classmates really enjoyed spotting trains. I wasn't immune from the allure of the locomotive because, despite the fact that diesel trains were in the ascendancy, the sight of half a dozen or so steam trains would usually be the reward for a day spent by the railway track. These weren't the polished heritage trains we see today, gleaming in their pre-British Rail livery. They were black soot covered workhorses, belching out steam and smoke and manned by equally grimy drivers and stokers (women may have worked on the foot-plate of steam trains but I never saw any). These working steam trains are the closest I've seen a machine come to being a living creature. The only issue I had with train spotting as a hobby was that trains are very big and they run on rails to a set time table – spotting them just didn't seem much of a challenge. Bird spotting was more demanding and this meant writing down what I spotted because there wasn't an equivalent to the books train spotters could buy to underline all their treasured sightings (I think they were produced by someone called Ian Allen but I could be wrong about that). I still have the notes I took in those days recording the birds I saw around where I lived and on holidays in various parts of the country, including a couple of trips to Norfolk. Looking through these notes it is obvious that I was pretty good at what I was doing and that I didn't miss much. However, in all of these juvenile jottings there is no mention of a sparrowhawk.



Sparrowhawks were in serious trouble in the days when I started bird watching. Their numbers had plummeted, along with the populations of other birds of prey, and the reason for this decline wasn't clear. Eventually researchers discovered the cause of the problem. The shells of the eggs laid by birds of prey were becoming thinner and this led to hatching failures, on occasions even leading to the eggs breaking under the incubating parent. The finger of suspicion began to point towards DDT, a widely used pesticide in those days. Birds of prey were being particularly affected because the chemical became concentrated as it

moved up the food chain. Predatory insects fed on the pest species that had ingested DDT. Small birds then fed on these predatory insects and the small birds were then caught by birds of prey. At each stage the concentration of DDT increased, eventually leading to the thinning of the eggs of apex predators. Rachel Carson brought the situation to the attention of public with the publication of her book- 'Silent Spring'. The use of DDT came under strict control, but was not completely eliminated because it still plays a part in controlling diseases in some parts of the world. The control of DDT, and increased legal protection, has enabled the population of sparrowhawks and other birds of prey to bounce back from the brink of extinction.

Nowadays, hardly a week passes without me spotting a sparrowhawk somewhere in Dersingham (I've seen two so far this week and it's only Tuesday). One of their old English names was spearhavoc and, even though the derivation of this name isn't what it appears, I think it captures something of the essence of the bird. They are stealth hunters, flying low and fast then suddenly appearing over the garden fence to pounce on any unwary small bird. Mature male sparrowhawks are striking looking birds with blue/grey backs and white breasts - set off with orange barring. Females are considerably larger (and drabber), they can therefore overpower larger prey than the male. This disparity in feeding preferences is sometimes called the Jack Spratt effect after the nursery rhyme. A pair of sparrowhawks can maximise the resources in their territory - just as Mr

and Mrs Spratt could maximise the resources on their dinner plates.

The sparrowhawks that hunt through the gardens of Dersingham do take some birds from bird feeders but it is still worth feeding garden birds because lack of food is a far greater killer than any bird of prey. In our garden, sparrowhawks have dispatched a collared dove, starling and a wood pigeon, the latter was suffering from some illness and this made it easy prey for the alert hunter. I don't put food out to attract the birds that have been taken so don't feel guilty for their demise. The photo shows our bird feeder and this is situated next to a tree where feeding birds can escape to if a sparrowhawk pounces. It is always best to locate your feeders in places like this and to think about the welfare of the birds you are feeding rather than simply positioning them where you will get the best view from your window. □



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- Saturday 20th May 12.30 onwards
- Saturday 8th July 2.00 pm onwards

The Open Meetings in 2017 (i.e. when non-member sailors can bring their boats and join in the racing sailing) are:

- Saturday July 1st 12.15 Topper Travellers Open
- North West Norfolk Sailing Association "Norfolk Week" at SBSC: Friday 11th August 08.00 & Saturday 12th August 08.30
- Lionel Wilkinson All-comers Memorial Cup and Ken Gray trophy: Sun 13th Aug 09:00
- 2000 Class 2017 Millennium Series: Sunday 27th August 09.10 and Monday (bank holiday) 28th August 10.00

If you want to try sailing then have a look at the opportunities on the Club's website at www.snetbeach.co.uk

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Wildlife in the Winter of 1892

By Allan Coleby

Mary of Tech stayed at Sandringham for Christmas and New Year in 1892/3, by the invitation of the Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII. For three days after Christmas, Edward's son, George, invited Mary to join the outdoor pursuits that he so loved.

On Boxing Day, it was agreed that Mary, not being experienced in shooting, should follow George and his small party, so that she could see what happened. George explained that they would shoot pheasants on Boxing Day, and hares the day after.

With the pheasants, a line of beaters advanced across a terrain where a good population of game was crouching and hiding. The beaters flushed the birds into the air, and the shooters, standing at right angles to the beaters, shot at and killed them, the carcasses being retrieved by trained dogs. It was competitive in the sense that the sizes of 'bags' were compared afterwards. The shooting took place in various coverts, heathland and marshes on the shore of the Wash: Wain Hill, Folly Hang, Cat's Bottom, Ugly Dale, Babingley Flat.

Mary followed and watched the procedure from a short distance. She had been given ear muffs to smother the noise, but still found it uncomfortably noisy, and she would never forget the smell that came from the spent cartridges, especially as there was no wind, and it was a still, frosty day.

She noticed a variation in the style of shooting, most people having both hands close to the trigger, with one eye closed, and pulling the gun hard into their shoulder: this steadied the sights for a better aim and minimised the effect of the sharp recoil. Others, including George, had the left arm extended straight along the barrel, and kept both eyes open. The beaters usually worked towards an obstacle, such as a hedgerow, so that the birds were forced to rise in flight, and were unable to fly low, straight and fast, which otherwise they would have done. Some people would shoot the birds early in their flight, when they would be closer to them and to the ground. Others, having tracked the birds for longer through their sights, would shoot them on the rise.

Mary stayed with the shooting until it finished early in the afternoon, but she said very little. She walked quietly back to the house, and joined everyone else for glasses of warming punch in a marquee erected on one of the lawns. George had concentrated intensely on the shooting, with no time for talk, and did comparatively well. He spoke with some degree of exhilaration to his fellow shooters afterwards.

Next day, the shooting of hares took place in the larger, more open fields, past the windmill in the direction of Shernborne on the northern edge of the estate. Mary had seen the hares in the fields, and thought what noble, handsome animals they looked compared to the hunched-down rabbits. She got her enjoyment, not from shooting them, but from admiring the blistering speed with which they ran across vast, open fields.



There were no beaters for the volatile hares, because they would run in any direction when alarmed. The shooters advanced in line abreast, suitably spaced, and 'walked' the field. Fire was in the one forward direction.

There was the same variation in style as she had seen the day before, but the shooting seemed to be less accurate, with fewer clean kills. Sometimes the air was split by the screams of injured animals, and the retrieving dogs would end up chasing their limping, zig-zagging quarry to a bloody, agonising and cruel death.

There was a similar social conclusion to the events of the day during the afternoon, and Mary was surprised to hear that the total count of the dead was eight hundred. She kept her thoughts to herself, but privately she thought of it as a waste of life. She was in a minority because most of the talk was of culling the older and weaker hares, of strengthening the local stock and keeping it healthy.

The next day, December 28th, was Sunday. Everyone went to the small church for a service with carols, and they were gracious to the onlookers who watched them go in and out. Then they had a rather long and formal lunch with duck on the menu, and either walked in the grounds or stayed in the house for the afternoon. George suggested that the next day he and Mary could walk along the foreshore near Snettisham, on the east coast of the Wash. There would be no killing, he assured her, but an observation and appreciation of the beauty and variety of the winter wildfowl that inhabited the area.



Next day, they went on horseback, down the hill from Sandringham, through Dersingham village, and then turned west along straight dykes and embankments until they came to Shepherd's Port, a tiny inlet on the edge of the shore south of Snettisham. From there, they looked across the vast expanse of open tidal mudflats which are the Wash. The area is fed by four rivers from the Midlands, East Anglia and Lincolnshire. Before these waters join the North Sea, they expand across a huge area of saltmarsh, sand dunes, mudflats and creeks.

George and Mary handed the reins to attendant grooms and set off walking. They each had a pair of heavy binoculars, through which, by adjusting the focal length of the lens, they could see a larger and closer image of the feeding wildfowl. The tide just now was coming in, and so numbers of these wading birds were reasonably close to the shore. George said that at low tide, the birds were so far away that it was not possible to identify them. He also pointed out that from this point, the southern shore of the Wash, stretching across to Lincolnshire, could be seen. Mostly, it was a thin, grey line without definition, as the marsh shaded into the mud, which shaded into the shallow sea. The line continued along the west bank until, opposite to them, a small, vertical finger of grey could be seen.

'Boston Stump', said George, smiling. 'That is the nickname of Boston's church. It will be about twenty miles from here, because it stands back a little from the coast and the dock area. It is the place from which William Brewster and the pilgrim fathers sailed to found the first settlement in America.'

Along the shore, there were flocks of wading birds. 'The smaller ones are the Brent geese from northern Russia,' went on George. 'Then there are the pink-footed geese from Iceland. They come here to roost in safety at night, and in the morning you can see great skeins of them in arrowhead formation, flying inland to feed on the sugar beet tops on the Norfolk farms. Free labour for the farmers,' he said, still smiling and looking into Mary's face. She seemed to be enjoying the sight. George was in his element, keen to pass on his happiness to Mary.

'They are jolly noisy devils, though. At about four o' clock in the afternoon, they all come back again and fly in to roost on the mudflats. The sky is full of their "War-wark" noise. You can hear them before you can see them, and when they can see by the light of a full moon, they fly back at any time of the night. There are so many of them, they seem to be flying all night.'

Mary had always been an urban person, living among many buildings and lots of people, trade and noise. To derive joy from this kind of wild beauty, vast open space and quietness, was a new experience, and she could see how much George enjoyed it.

'There are also the bigger greylag geese,' he said, 'which don't migrate so much, and spend as much time inland as on the shore. Apart from the geese, you can see smaller numbers of shelduck, oyster-catchers and curlew, with the smaller redshank and flocks of the tiny dunlin.'

‘As you look across, it is certainly a desolate area,’ said Mary, ‘but I suppose there is a beauty about the desolation. But what numbers of wildfowl. There must be thousands.’

‘There are hundreds of thousands,’ said George. ‘A quarter of a million at least, and that’s only those staying here, let alone all those which pass through on migration.’ He was glad that Mary seemed interested and appreciative. He felt a need to impress on her that this area that he loved was not just empty and featureless, as some people thought, but was full of excitement and interest.

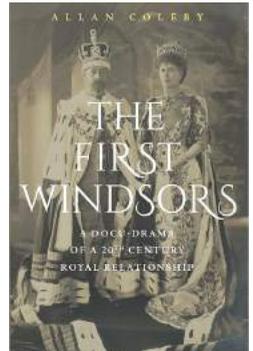
‘We are only talking about wading birds,’ George continued, ‘but some people on the estate like shooting duck on the inland lakes and ponds. That is a whole different world of species: Mallard, Teal, Wigeon, Tufted duck, Pochard. They don’t provide as much to eat as the geese, but are much more tasty. The whole area is teeming with wildlife and it all makes food.’ He really warmed to his theme. ‘That is why the fen men live so well. They also have wild swans in the winter in the fens, the Whoopers from Iceland and the Bewicks from Russia. The wildfowlers net and shoot birds, fish and eels by the ton in long, funnel-shaped traps in the water and on land. They also have reeds and sedge for thatching and peat for fuel. Greylag geese are farmed in hundreds of thousands, pinioned so they can’t escape. Apart from the meat, even the feathers are sold for bedding. Boatloads of fish and great wicker traps full of eels are marketed in Lynn.’

George and Mary walked a short distance further south and, in front of them and slightly to the right, a huge flock of waders rose into the air. The tide had come as far as it was coming inland, and had forced the birds into the air. They twisted and turned, whirled and dived in a fluid, flowing pattern. It was a fascinating aerial dance as they rose like a cloud of moving smoke, swooping again as one, the end of the cloud folding and curling round and the rest of it flinging itself into a new shape. Mary gazed, awe-struck. She had never seen anything like it.

‘It’s a flock of Knot,’ said George, ‘yet another winter visitor from the arctic. Heaven knows how they do it. You get it with starlings coming in to roost, too. It’s as if they have one mind. They must be in touch with each other’s movements, wingtip to wingtip. It’s wonderful.’

‘It is,’ enthused Mary. ‘I have never seen anything so beautiful.’ They returned to their horses and it was a happy pair of riders who made their way back to Sandringham.

*This is the second extract from my historical novel,
‘The First Windsors’, published by Arena in January, 2017.
It can now be ordered from any bookshop. ISBN 978-1-909421-94-3*



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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT from Sue Payne

By the time you read this, the Parish Council will have set its budget, and therefore the precept, for the coming year. There were two large amounts included this year –funds for the new Village Centre and to upgrade the traffic lights on Hunstanton Road to include pedestrian crossing. These will have been debated at the Precept Setting meeting on January 23rd. We will include a summary of the budget for 2017/18 in the next issue of Village Voice.

Please do visit the Parish Council website – www.dersingham.org.uk where you can find information about Parish Council meetings, village events, and local news.

Village Events

Huge thanks to Keith Blackwell and his family who organised the Christmas Lights switch-on event. It was a lovely occasion with local children singing Christmas carols, rides, games and food & drink, and a visit from Father Christmas. **Thank you Keith!**

Watch out for information on this year’s events. There will be a Family event in April in conjunction with Dersingham Village Centre Association, the Village Fun day in September and Christmas lights switch-on.

Village Voice

Tony Bubb is stepping down as Editor and we are looking for a replacement. Please see the advert in this issue. The Parish Council is prepared to pay an honorarium but we are not in the position to be able to employ another member of staff or enter into a commercial contract. We are looking at cutting costs where possible.

The magazine is highly regarded in Dersingham and beyond, and the Parish Council is keen that it continues. Our staff do not have the time nor the specialist knowledge required to take on Editorship although they would do so if asked. Geraldine has been learning to set out the articles and advertisements with help and advice from Steve Davis. We could ‘outsource’ it but it would lose its identity. *If you want the magazine to continue, please help us find an editor.*

Dersingham Village Centre

At the time of writing, we are still awaiting news from Big Lottery on our grant application. Fundraising is carrying on and will step-up this year. The recent Quiz Evening was well-supported, and raised a good amount of money. Thank you to the folk who organise and help at events; plenty more are being planned. Do watch out for more information in Village Voice, around the village, and on the Parish Council website (see above) and the Association’s website - www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk

Parish Council Meetings

Members of the public are welcome at Parish Council meetings, with allotted time to ask questions relating to agenda items, or raise other issues.

If you have any comments about a planning application, please let us know, as well as advising the Borough Council, so we can take these into consideration when making a decision.

Details of Full Council and Committee meetings can be found in the Parish Office window.

You can contact Sarah, the Clerk, about Parish Council matters, Village Voice, and any of the items above. Tel: 01485 541465; email: clerk@dersingham.org.uk

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Improve your computer skills Meet your friends
Meet an author Watch a play Be read to
Connect to free Wi-Fi Buy food waste bags

Answer – everything listed. *Why not visit and find out more!*

Answers to Brain Teasers 3 & 4 (edn 103)

3 This is a finite series and there only are two remaining numbers, 121 and 10000.

The series is formed by counting the same number of objects each time but to a different base, starting with base 10 (decimal), then base 9, base 8, base 7, base 6, etc., to base 2 (binary).

Adding in 1's in Base 10, the normal way we count, there's never more than 9 in any column.

9 + 1 becomes 10 (a 1 in the tens column, & a 0 in the units column).

99 + 1 becomes 100 (a 1 in the hundreds column, 0 in the tens & 0 in the units columns),

999 + 1 = 1000, 9999 + 1 = 10000 etc., ad infinitum.

The 1st number is reached by counting sixteen objects using base 10. One lot of 10, + 6 = 16.

The 2nd number, 17, is reached by counting those sixteen objects in Base 9,

when no more than an 8 can appear in any column. There is one lot of 9, + 7, = 16.

The 3rd number, 20, is reached by counting those sixteen objects in Base 8,

when no more than a 7 can appear in any column. There are two lots of 8 (16), + 0, = 16.

Similarly... the 4th, 22 is base 7. There are two lots of 7 (14), + 2, = 16;

the 5th, 24 is base 6 two lots of 6 (12), + 4, = 16;

the 6th, 31 is base 5 3 x 5 (15) + 1, = 16; and

the 7th, 100 is base 4 (1 x 4 = 4, + 0 = 4; 4 x 4 = 16, + 0 = 16).

The 8th is 121. 16 to base 3 (1 x 3 = 3, + 2 = 5; 5 x 3 = 15, + 1 = 16), and

the 9th is 10000. 16 to base 2 (1 x 2 + 0 = 2, x 2 + 0 = 4, x 2 + 0 = 8, x 2 + 0 = 16).

4 1st Weighing – place 4 balls on each pan of the scales...

If 1st Weigh balanced these are 8 normal balls, and the 4 not yet weighed are unknowns,

2nd Weighing – use 3 normal balls against 3 of the unknowns

If they balanced the odd ball is the unweighed 4th unknown, so

3rd Weighing – use a normal ball against the odd-ball to determine if it is lighter or heavier than a normal ball.

If they didn't balance, the odd ball is lighter or heavier if the 3 unknown balls weighed rose or fell respectively; the 4th unknown is a normal ball so

3rd weighing – use two of the 3 unknown balls from 2nd weighing if they balanced the 3rd ball from the 2nd weighing is the odd ball (&you already know if it is lighter or heavier than the rest).

If they did not balance – select the lighter or heavier ball, as previously determined, to be the odd ball.

If 1st Weigh did not balance – there are 4 (unweighed) normal balls; refer to them as N N N N.

The pan that rose must have a light (L?) ball amongst the 4 in that pan, or, the pan that fell must have a heavy (H?) ball amongst the 4 in that pan. Let's refer to these 8 balls as L? L? L? L? and H? H? H? H?.

2nd Weighing – weigh an H? an L? and an N, against an H? L? and another L?. (leaving 3 balls aside – H? H? L?) If they balanced - one of the 3 balls set aside is the oddball, so

3rd weighing – compare the two unweighed H?'s If they balanced – the unweighed L? is the odd ball (light) If they didn't balance – the odd ball is the (heavy) H? in the pan that fell.

If they did not balance – **If the H? L? N pan fell**, either it contains a heavy ball, or the H? L? L? pan contains a light ball, so

3rd weighing – compare the possibly light balls in the H? L? L? pan If the L?'s balance – the oddball is the (heavy) H? in the H? L? N pan If the L? do not balance – the L? that rose is the lighter odd ball.

If the H? L? N pan rose, either it contains a light ball, or the H? L? L? pan contains a heavy ball, so **3rd weighing** – use a normal ball against the possibly heavy ball in the H? L? L? pan

If they balance – the oddball is the (light) L? in the H? L? N pan If they do not balance – the odd ball is that (heavy) H? just weighed in the H? L? L? pan. □

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A word from Borough Councillor Judy Collingham



January 2017

My previous article for VV spoke of Dersingham basking in an autumnal glow. As I write this, Dersingham is bathed in a gloomy January fog, all the fun of the Season has finished and we wonder what there is to look forward to.

Well, watch the space in this magazine and elsewhere for upcoming events which look for your support and participation and which will lighten up these rather dreary winter months. It seems to me that we increasingly demonstrate a confidence in our ability to create entertainment for ourselves and our neighbours.

VILLAGE EVENTS;

We had a successful beginning to the New Year with a well attended Quiz, testing the brains of our finest minds. This was a joint event between the DVCA and Village Voice Live. The Thickset – what a misnomer! – won as they have done at PPG/Friends quizzes and I think we will have to handicap them in future. I hope everyone enjoyed the evening; the hall was welcoming and warm and participation was good humoured.

BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

Little to report during this quiet period for the Borough. I am still concerned about drainage issues on the Sports Field and beyond. The Parish Council have the matter in hand and I will be asking the Chairman of the Parish Council how I can best assist.

Upgrading the Guildhall with, hopefully, Heritage Lottery Funding, is very much on the agenda for 2017. The challenge will be to find new audiences and customers for the venue. A vitally important initiative as this beautiful old heritage building needs to find its place in the town in the future.

I conclude by wishing everyone in the ward a Happy, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year. □
Contact Details: jcairnscol@gmail.com; 01485 540271; 10 Fern Hill, Dersingham, PE31 6HT

DERSSINGHAM OPEN GARDENS 28 AND 29TH MAY 2017 GARDENS WANTED!! No plot too small or too modest



The Dersingham Open Gardens Working Group continues the planning process for this popular event in the village. We will again link up with resident artists to open our village to visitors keen to inspect the gardens and admire, and hopefully purchase, the artwork.

This article is to encourage anyone who feels they would like to show off their garden to come forward and be part of the Garden Tour. Dates are above, and I am happy to hear from those with small and modest gardens as well as the larger plots.

It is a commitment I know but a very important part of church funding raising. Diverting some of the funds to the new Village Hall Centre, which we intend to do, as we did last year, is welcomed by the Association who are working so hard to see this project to a successful conclusion.

Contact me, Judy Collingham, on 01485 540271 or jcairnscol@gmail.com



Dersingham Methodist Church News from Elizabeth Batstone

Our Christmas Celebrations started in early December with a short carol service before the monthly 'Lunch at the Chapel'. Revd Steve, resplendent in a new Christmas jumper, led the carols and distributed crackers for us to pull and enjoy and based his message on this. After all this excitement everyone enjoyed an excellent festive lunch.

A week later we were privileged to have 80 children from Dersingham Primary School for their annual carol service. As you can imagine with this amount of children, staff, parents and grandparents, plus some church members, the church was full. The children told the Christmas story with readings and prayers, as well as singing several carols. They did extremely well and everyone enjoyed the service. Revd Steve gave a talk about the candy cane and the children were delighted to be given one to take home as well as a Christmas puzzle leaflet.

We were joined at all our church services by visitors from other churches and others staying in the area. The church decorations looked lovely and added to our sense of wonder as we celebrated the birth of our Saviour Jesus.

Our Christmas collections were for All We Can Extraordinary Gifts and we wanted to raise £267 to build a pig farm for a vulnerable widow. The total raised, and sent to All We Can, was **£488.39**. We were able with this excellent result to purchase these Extraordinary gifts: build the pig farm for a vulnerable widow £267; Girl power - sanitary products for a girls' school in rural Nepal £50; Fired Up – to train and supply bricks for 50 households to build fuel-efficient stoves - £50; for the emergency fund for refugees fleeing Syria providing whatever is needed £121.39. We give thanks for the generosity of all those who gave.

In 2017 we have several dates already in the diary, starting with our coffee mornings on 28th January, 25th February, 25th March. The first Chicken Foot evening in 2017 is on 3rd February at 7.30 p.m. A date for your diaries is our annual Flower Festival 25th to 28th May, theme 'Called to serve'. □

Just a Thought from Steve Oliver



A couple of years ago I was reading a book by Geoffrey Heawood, a famous headmaster and there was sentence he wrote which continues to stick with me. He said '*The world is standing at a crossroads, and the signs have all fallen down*'; and I couldn't stop thinking about the crossroads in my life and where I would have been if I had taken a different path. Of course I will never know, but what I do know is how empty my life would have been if I had decided to take the road away from my faith.

What Geoffrey Heawood said was right, but is it not the same when we come to any crossroads in life. There are no signposts saying go this way or that, but as Christians we are not alone. Our signpost is Christ and we cannot go far wrong if we ask Him which way we should take.

We live in an age of uncertainties, where people have ceased to be sure about anything. Life seems so full, yet deep down right where lives really matter it is empty, and having no signpost to lead the way, people turn to wealth and possessions. There is, of course, no problem in wealth and possessions, but it needs to be tempered with a spiritual inner self which can help find peace and truth in an unsure world. And this is where the church comes in.

The church itself can be a signpost to Christ; it can shine out to people who need spiritual direction and an inner peace which only Christ can bring through prayer and reflection. The church's problem of course is how do we go about it? How does the church become this signpost? The lead we have to take can only be from Jesus, and in the gospel of Matthew He commands us to *'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you'*.

We may not be able to go out to the world and make disciples, but we can go out to the community we live in and be ready, wherever possible, to tell of who and what we are as Christians. So as we go about our daily lives let us keep a lookout for those who stand at the crossroads of uncertainty, because the signpost of their new life could very well be you and me. □

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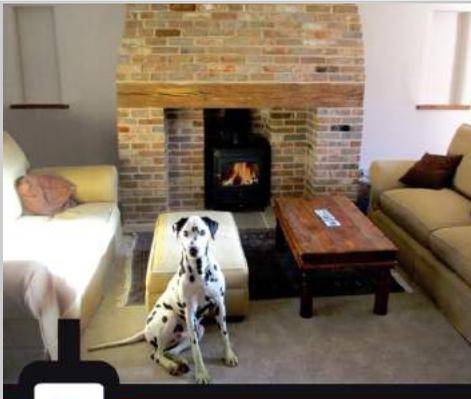


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CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE (CBHC) PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) NEWS

From: Tom Morris, PPG Committee

Retirement.

In December, another of the doctors who was instrumental in the development of the Carole Brown Health Centre (CBHC) retired from the practice. Dr Liz Vaughan-Williams had been with the practice that evolved into Vida Healthcare for 26 years and the expertise and continuity she provides will be sadly missed. At a farewell lunch at the CBHC on 2nd December, Liz was presented with farewell gifts and flowers by Dr Mark Funnell on behalf of the partners, Hilary Judd on behalf of the PPG and Sharon Leggett on behalf of CBHC staff. Dr Vaughan-Williams and her husband Lawrence – who retires from the Southgates practice, will now be able to enjoy a well deserved but active retirement which we understand includes skiing and watching the British Lions rugby in New Zealand. We are advised that Dr Vaughan- Williams will be succeeded by another lady doctor in due course.



Generous Donation

On November 18th at the West Newton Village Hall, Mrs Bernice Allen starred in one of her annual solo celebrations of a programme of sketches, monologues and more. A wonderful evening of entertainment was enjoyed by a packed village hall with the audience marvelling at Bernice's memory and acting skills. Bernice had determined that any proceeds from the evening would be shared between Sandringham and West Newton Churches and the Carole Brown Health Centre PPG, the latter being in appreciation of the (health) service she had received from the practice and one doctor in particular. The PPG share of the proceeds came to £610 for which we are truly grateful.

The PPG uses its funds to purchase medical equipment and services not normally funded by the NHS and so enhance the service available to patients. □



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The following meetings will be held in the Community Hall, Hunstanton.

At 2.00 p.m. on Monday 20 February 2017 when the speaker will be Kate Dunbar on

Hunstanton Community Orchard

and

2.00 p.m. Monday 20 March 2017 when the speaker will be George Waugh on the Experiences of a Butler.

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Dersingham Library News

from Alison Thorne



Dinomania - Wednesday 15th February 2.30-4pm

Come along and join in with a whole host of dinosaur themed crafts. This event is suitable for children 5 and over. Tickets are £3 per child payable in advance. Please book by contacting the library on 01485 540181

Family fun with the Dog's Trust - Thursday 16th February 10.30am-12

Come and join the Dogs Trust for a morning of doggy storytelling and craft activities. Children up to 12 years and their families welcome. This activity is FREE but must be booked in advance by calling 01485 540181

Walk and talk group - Thursday 16th February 2.30pm from the library. Join Mick for a short walk around the village and then refreshments at the library afterwards. This walk is perfect for those wanting to gently build up their walking stamina. Dates for Spring are: Mar 16, and Apr 20.

Book Club - Monday 20th February 6-7pm

New members always welcome. Ask staff for details of the books being discussed

Tablet helpdesk - Wednesday 22nd February 2-4pm

Need help with your tablet? Then why not book a 30 minute session with library staff? We can also direct you to other helpful resources if required. For more information contact the library on 01485 540181. Booking essential.

Time for Parents - Thursday 23rd February 2-3pm

Join other parents for a cuppa and share your experiences. Library staff can also direct you to other sources of information which you might find helpful!

NEW - Computer buddies - Thursday 23rd February 3-4pm

Are you struggling with computers? Need help sending emails? Not sure how to Skype? Want to manage your digital photos? Then come along to our first Computer Buddies session and find out how the library can help you. We want to make this a regular group which meets monthly, with a new topic each month so you can pick up hints and tips. Please let us know you're coming by calling 01485 540181.

Become a Dementia Friend - Monday 27th February 10-11.30am

Dementia Friends gives people an understanding of dementia and the small things you can do that make a difference – please join us at our free session. Booking essential. For further information or to book your place contact the library on 01485 540181 or visit www.dementiafriends.org.uk

Friends of Dersingham Library - Could you be part of a group which would

- develop ideas for events held at the library and promote the library and its services
- plan and hold fundraising activities, library sales, community events or raffles
- act as a link between the library and local community?

For further information please contact Kerry on 01485 532280 or Alison on 01485 540181

Library Big Read 2017

‘Norfolk’s Most Wanted’ is a selection of our most requested, wanted and in demand titles in Norfolk Libraries over the last year. This will launch on Monday 20th March from 3pm and run until 22nd April 2017. Come along and discover what everyone’s been asking about!

Bookstart gifting session

These packs are for children aged 3-4 who will be starting Reception in September. Dersingham will be hosting a gifting and family join-up session on Thursday 11th May from 3-6pm. There’s no need to book, just come along! □



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1st Dersingham Scout Group by Lynn Wheeler

Looking back over our the final few months of 2016 the 1st Dersingham Scout Group, comprising Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, has been very busy with a wide variety of activities ranging from village events to joining in with national Scouting Celebrations.

The Group attended the annual village Remembrance Sunday Service at St Nicholas Church as well as making decorations for their tree at the Christmas Tree Festival. This year their tree was slightly different as it was not a real tree, but one they made themselves. Taking a bunch of wire coat-hangers and green tinsel to make the tree, their decorations then had a very natural theme, using fresh gingerbread that the Scouts made themselves in the shape of the Scout Promise Badge, and pine cones that had been liberally “glittered” by the Cubs & Beavers festooning the artificial tree.

The Beavers began their term by joining over 1600 Beaver Scouts & Leaders from across Norfolk at “Bewilderwood” in order to celebrate 30 years of Beaver Scouts. Once they returned from a day swinging through the trees they turned their attention to a series of challenges revolving around the number “30” – to mark their birthday – which culminated in a Coffee Evening where they attempted to raise over £30 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Having smashed their target by achieving a total of over £40, they then enjoyed completing their Space activity badge with activities including star gazing (on the few Wednesdays when the clouds cleared enough to see), studying constellations and finding out about Tim Peake and his time on the ISS. They also worked towards their Communications badge, learning about the different ways in which people communicate, from the traditional letter to the more modern text message. They then rounded off the term and the year with a Christmas Party at which they held a Christmas Hat competition – for which the entries were many and varied.



The Cubs have had a very busy term earning their Home Help badge where they (surprisingly!) helped at home – making their beds, tidying the house and doing the washing! As well as learning how to iron, how to sew on buttons and how to do “hospital corners” at their weekly meetings. The Cubs also worked towards and earned their Backwoods Cooking badge (featuring Chicken, Sausages, Bread and Potatoes all cooked on a wood fire) and their Disability Awareness Badge. For this last badge, they learnt their promise in Makaton (a form of Sign Language), were visited by a gentlemen with a guide dog, had a go at drawing using their feet to hold the

pens, and learnt something about mental disabilities. An attempt to play “blind football” using a ball with a bell in it, was rather unsuccessful – they merely succeeded in kicking the ball in every direction except towards the goal mouth! We also decamped to St Edmund’s Church hall in Hunstanton for a sleepover at which they enjoyed bowling, swimming, games, crafts and earning their Science badge.

The year ended with a very special and unique celebration as 2016 has been a very important year for Cubs nationwide – it being the Centenary of the formation of the Cub Section. On the 16th

December the Dersingham Cubs joined others from their District at Castle Rising Castle for a National Promise renewal at 19:16 – a time chosen to correspond with the year Cubs began. Although it was a dark and foggy night the West Norfolk Gospel Choir provided ample entertainment before the big promise renewal.

The Scouts have achieved both their Survival Skills and Pioneering badges as well as completing the Skills Challenge – one of the badges required to achieve the Chief’s Scouts Gold Award. The Scouts have therefore been busy focussing on all the different ways in which they might need to survive – from different styles of fire-lighting, through making methylated spirit stoves out of old drinks cans, to constructing shelters out of traditional and some not-so-traditional materials. This then culminated in a Survival weekend at the Wolferton Campsite with Scouts from Kings Lynn and beyond, with 5 different troops coming together to “survive” for 24 hours – even if a little of the food came out of a tin! The Scouts have also spent evenings shooting with the 1st Snettisham Scout Group, and cooking, spending an evening at Prior’s Butchers to made Pork Pies and Christmas Cakes. These were left to be baked and the following week back in the HQ, the kind people from Prior’s came to us and the Scouts decorated their cakes. As has become traditional over the last few years, the final meeting of term was a night of bowling – this year held in Hunstanton.





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This year also marked the departure of Paul, Debbie & Zoe from their roles as Akela, Bagheera (Cub Scout Leaders) & the Beaver Scout Leader respectively to move away to a new job. Wishing them well the group returned from the summer much depleted in the leadership positions, but fortunately new leaders in the form of Victoria Benham, Mark Middernacht & Jane Wood have helped to fill the gap(s) at Beavers, Scouts & Cubs respectively as we’ve continued to offer the best Scouting that we can in Dersingham.

The Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, says that life is about grabbing opportunities and in Dersingham anyone aged between 6 – 14 years can grab the opportunity to join either Beavers (6 – 8 years), Cubs (8 – 10½ years) and Scouts (10½ - 14 years). Scouting is about enjoying yourself, whatever you are doing and with over 200 activities to try there is always something new to try, whether it be badges, camps, outings, adventures, being outdoors or making new friends so contact Group Scout Leader Tom Wheeler tgowheeler@yahoo.co.uk and make 2017 the year you grab the opportunity to join Scouting. □

Bog News from Tom Bolderstone



Winter seems to have flown by at Dersingham Bog NNR and in a few short months Spring and the beginning of the bird breeding season will be upon us.

The focus of the winter works has as normal, been on managing the scrub across the heath and the mire and staff and volunteers have been working hard in many areas of the reserve. This winter the weather has been fairly in our favour whereas sometimes the wind, rain and frosts can slow us down. The numbers of birch and pine trees regrowing in these areas seems to be getting less each time we go back to cut them and this is normally done on a 3 to 4 year cycle. Although there is less regrowth it doesn't mean that we reduce our effort as if we were to leave some of these areas the scrub would instantly recolonize and we would be back to where we started.

Many of you will remember that we have been monitoring Stonechats on Dersingham Bog quite intensely, and have been colour ringing birds to learn more about their habits on the site. In an exciting development we have just set up a website which gives more detail on the project and over the course of 2017 we will be blogging some of the highlights and interesting stories from our monitoring. The web address is northwestnorfolkstonechats@wordpress.com. This website is very useful in giving an overview of the habits of the Stonechat and also some interesting observations between family members as well as some interesting movements on and around the local area. If you have read about the colour ringing project in Village Voice before and want to know more please visit the website. There are also contact details to submit sightings of any colour ringed birds that have been seen on Dersingham Bog and in the surrounding areas. If you are keen to help out with the Stonechat monitoring project please also get in contact, we are always looking for new people to join us in a bit of Stonechat madness.

This time of year sees us nearing the beginning of the bird breeding season and many of you will know that many of the bird species that breed at Dersingham Bog NNR are ground nesters. This means they are particularly vulnerable and can be disturbed very easily. Dogs should always be on a lead at Dersingham Bog as we have the cattle grazing the site year round but it is also important during the breeding season. When a nesting Stonechat or Woodlark is scared off the nest by a stray dog it leaves the nest vulnerable to predation. We also ask people to keep to the main tracks as this reduces the risk of disturbance and trampling particularly as some Stonechats have a habit of nesting in close proximity to the paths! Site staff will be out regularly during the season to ensure that our key nesting species are given the space they need.

By the time of the next Village Voice article the breeding season will be well underway and we will be waiting for the arrival of the Nightjars. It doesn't seem like that long ago they began their journey back to Africa and in a few short months they will soon be back for breeding at Dersingham Bog. □

Thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk

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The Willy Fluffy-Mouse Trilogy

PART III – “A Scorching Summer’s Picnic” or, “Saved by the Fluffymouse Fire Brigade”

© Brian Eldridge

One fine summer’s morning Mummy Fluffy-Mouse awoke very early and crept silently downstairs to the kitchen. She found the picnic basket in the pantry and began to fill it with all the good things to eat that she could find. There were sticky iced buns, chocolate and crisps, apples and carrots, cress and cucumber sandwiches, lots and lots of drinks (it was going to be a very hot day – in more ways than one!) and lots of nibbles. The picnic basket was more than full but Mummy Fluffy-Mouse managed to close it with the straps and although it was very heavy for her, she lifted it back into the pantry where it would not be thought to be out of place.

After a while the rest of the Fluffy-Mouse household came bleary-eyed down the stairs and sat at the breakfast table still half asleep. They ate their whole-grain toast and drank their carrot juice and when they had all finished, Mummy Fluffy-Mouse knocked on the table and stood up. “Today” she said, “Today, is Grandad Fluffy-Mouse’s birthday. He has invited us to visit and stay awhile. It will be a holiday for us all!” There was a loud cheer from the children and they quickly scampered back upstairs to get what they thought would be necessary for the journey. Willy grabbed his special tennis racquet off the wall (you know, the magic one, with all the broken strings and the splintered wooden handle). “Just in case” he thought. Penny declared “You will not need that broken old thing today. Leave it behind! Please!” Begrudgingly it was tossed on to his bed, “I bet her grey whiskers have turned white with age now and she cannot understand its magic anymore”.

Anyway within double-quick time Willy and Penny Fluffy-Mouse, the children, were ready and excitedly waiting to go. Mummy and Father Fluffy-Mouse finished loading the goodies into the car. Well Father called it a car. It was his pride and joy, but as you would already know, Willy and Penny considered it to be more of an old jalopy. So old it had no seat-belts, no flashing indicators (just arrow-pointers that erupted from between its side doors) and only the rust held it together they thought. Off they all set for Grandad’s house. Down the track they went, bouncing along, throwing up the dust behind, with smokey fumes billowing from the exhaust. Willy and Penny coughed and spluttered, but Father Fluffy-Mouse said it would be alright when they reached the main road and the engine had warmed up. Grandad Fluffy-Mouse lived a long long way away, it would take almost all day to get there. It was a good job Father Fluffy-Mouse was at the wheel, he knew the route very well and the children felt secure.

If they had to do the journey by themselves, well that would be a completely different story After some three hours of travelling (and as many “Are we there yet?” as you wouldn’t believe) the sun was now blazing in the sky and it *was* hot! “Please let’s stop for a while Father. I’m so thirsty.” said Willy. “Yes Father” added Penny “we need a break and must have something to drink.” Father Fluffy-Mouse had had the same thought and just up the road they came to a lovely spot where a babbling brook rippled around a green and grassy bank. “We will stop here” he said, and immediately pulled off the road without looking!

But oh dear! He hadn’t seen the jagged rocks that were hidden by the long grass. There was an almighty crash as the front wheel bent double under the car, which then went to topple over and as it did, threw Willy and Penny onto the ground. They were the lucky ones, for when they found their senses they were absolutely horrified to see the car was upside-down, with Mummy Fluffy-Mouse *and* Father Fluffy-Mouse trapped inside unable to move. What were they to do? How could they get help?

Willy and Penny both shouted out and as luck would have it both Mummy and Father Fluffy-Mouse answered their children’s cries. The parents were both very shaken and felt very bruised, but no bones were broken. They were safe – or were they? Willy sniffed with his grey fluffymouse

whiskers and the air was full of petrol – it was dripping from the tank. Willy yelled to his father who tried not to show his fear to Mummy Fluffy-Mouse, but she already knew they were in great danger.

When Willy turned round he saw his sensible sister dragging a broken fir tree branch towards him. It was quite a long branch and it was quite thick. It was certainly easier for Penny when Willy started to help her. “Wot-cha-doin’?” Willy asked (he sometimes spoke like that). Penny responded saying that she remembered from her fluffymouse school science book that she could make use of the branch as a lever to try to lift the car. Willy pondered a thought that as her whiskers were turning from grey -to-white, was rational thinking replacing imagination? It was too complicated a problem for him, so young. He just wished he had brought his magic tennis racquet that, like a genie, fulfilled every wish.

Penny laid the branch over a rock and under the roof of the upturned vehicle and then pulled down as hard as she could. The car lifted a little but not enough to allow anyone to get out. It was only when Willy flung himself onto the end of the branch and hung full-length from the end that Penny managed to lift the car sufficiently for Mummy Fluffy-Mouse to just about crawl out. With the three of them now it was much easier to lift the car so that Father could escape. He was extremely lucky for just at the instant when his foot cleared the window, the branch snapped, flinging the three rescuers to the ground as the car fell back to wedge itself between the rocks again.

The family embraced for they were so glad that they were all safe and sound. They walked to the roadside to see if anyone was coming, anyone who might be able to help. Suddenly there was an enormous explosion as the petrol tank blew up! – the four were flattened to the ground and bits of the car crashed out of the sky all around them. A huge pall of black smoke was rising from orange flames that engulfed the car. Father Fluffy-Mouse let out a scream the likes of which no-one had heard before. (Willy imagined that Father was lamenting the loss of his ‘pride-and-joy’ but...)

The spare wheel had hurtled from the sky and hit his right leg – it was well and truly broken. Oh the pain of it! As the flames died down, Mummy Fluffy-Mouse finished strapping two splints to Father’s leg (She was a nurse at the Fluffymouse General Hospital before the children came along). It made him more comfortable although his leg was still very painful.

Willy cocked his head to one side as he listened intently with his ears and his whiskers – yes, indeed fluffymouse children can listen with their whiskers (didn’t you know that?) but like all good childhood senses, grown-ups do not understand the magical phenomenon. There was a faint sound coming towards them. Was it friend or foe? Willy told his mother and father that he knew something or someone was coming and they decided they would find themselves hiding places until it was clear to them who or what it was.

They all scampered off and hid as the sound became louder and louder. Despite his pain, Father Fluffy-Mouse burst into laughter and called the children out from their hidey-holes. The noise that sounded so menacing was the Fluffy-Town Fire Brigade! Firemaster Fluffymouse had spotted the smoke and rallied all the Fire-fighter fluffy mice crew – they had driven full pelt to the rescue, ding ding dinging the bell and toot toot tooting the horn. The flames were soon out but nothing much was left of the car, it was a wreck!



As Father Fluffy-Mouse was lifted gently into the cab of the fire engine to be taken to the hospital by the Firemaster, another burst of laughter went up as Penny emerged from the woods dragging an intact picnic basket along behind. She cheekily looked through twinkling eyes and said “Do we have our picnic now father?”. Everyone was in stitches; except Father, he was in plaster! For six weeks! □

Coming soon... “The Tale of the Pink Bluebell Fairy”

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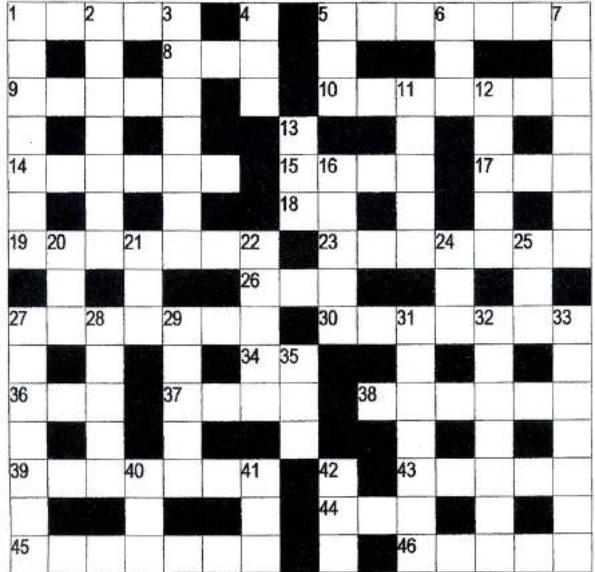
Crossword compiled by Barry Beales

Across

1. coffin carriers (5) **5.** plague (7)
8. bad actor (3) **9.** paper or pancake (5) **10.** joining with a hammer (7) **14.** seer (6) **15.** bellow (4)
17. dread (3) **18.** communication company (2) **19.** Egyptian boat (7)
23. place of residence (7) **26.** fight a container (3) **27.** US state (7)
30. gaping (7) **34.** tuberculosis (2) **36.** trouble (3) **37.** containing oil (4)
38. word type (6) **39.** of the seven seas (7) **43.** overlord (5) **44.** pub drink (3) **45.** the last (7)
46. Madness frontman (5)

Down

1. recoil (2 words) (7) **2.** look at (7)
3. type of varnish (7) **4.** electric measure (3) **5.** hairstyle or cake (3) **6.** nocturnal bird (3) **7.** cob's offspring (7) **11.** lazed (5)
12. stupid (5) **13.** opposite of flow (3) **16.** nervous disorder (5) **20.** snakelike fish (3) **21.** universal serial bus (3) **22.** lessen (5) **24.** rush (3) **25.** transgression (3) **27.** shellfish (7) **28.** sun-dried brick (5)
29. oak nut (5) **31.** duck walk (7) **32.** Titanic's nemesis (7) **33.** gallows (7) **35.** marsh (3) **40.** body appendage (3) **41.** crib (3) **42.** flat fish (3)



Word Wall 19 by Philip Neal

Sort the following into 4 groups of connected words:

BOOK	FACSIMILE	BRAKE	EAGLE
BARN	BAG	LONG-EARED	ROCK
REEL	EXAMPLE	BELLY	PATTERN
REPLICA	CUFF	LITTLE	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

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

Crossword Answers

Across 1. Biers 5. Bubonic 8. Ham 9. Crepe 10. Nailing 14 Oracle 15 Bawl 17. Awe 18. BT 19. Felucca 23. Address 26 Box 27. Alabama 30. Yawning 34. TB 36. Ado 37. Oleo 38. Adverb 39. Oceanic 43. Liege 44. Ale 45. Endmost 46. Suggs

Down 1. Back Off 2. Eyeball 3. Shellac 4. Amp 5. Bun 6. Owl 7. Cygnet 11. Idle 12. Inane 13. Ebb 16. Ataxy 20. Eel 21. USB 22. Abate 24. Run 25 Sin 27. Abalone 28. Adobe 29. Acorn 31. Waddle 32. Iceberg 33. Gibbets 35. Bog 40. Arm 42. Dab.

Word Wall Answers

Hand - bag, book, brake, cuff.

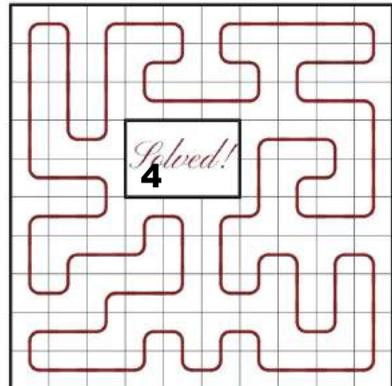
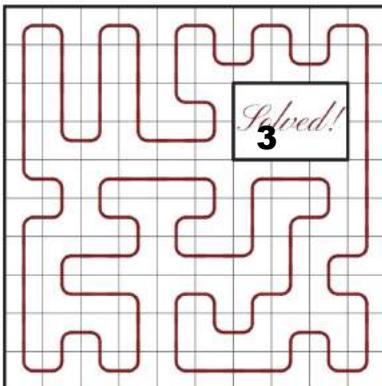
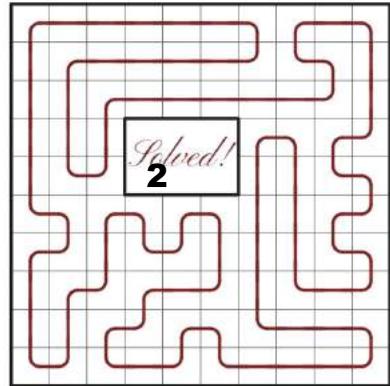
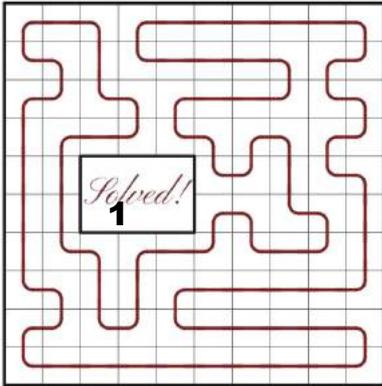
Model - replica, facsimile, pattern, example.

Owls - little, long-eared, eagle, Sheffield Wednesday.

Dances - barn, reel, rock, belly.

Sudoku No 52 solution								
1	6	9	7	2	4	3	5	8
8	3	5	6	1	9	2	7	4
4	2	7	8	5	3	9	1	6
5	7	3	4	9	8	1	6	2
9	1	6	2	7	5	8	4	3
2	8	4	3	6	1	7	9	5
6	5	2	1	3	7	4	8	9
7	9	8	5	4	2	6	3	1
3	4	1	9	8	6	5	2	7

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GUARANTEED TO BEAT ANY GENUINE LIKE FOR LIKE QUOTE



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

There was huge excitement on my part when I won a competition to join the ancient Rolling Stones on a sandy beach in the South of France where they were doing a promotional video. How lucky was I, though I have to admit having never been a fan of Mick Jagger, and yet, he had the good manners to seek me out, sit down on the sands and give me some of his time. I felt flattered as we chatted, and he seemed genuinely interested in what I said though of course, with all the other slim young lovelies cavorting nearby, I knew he was just being polite. All those wrinkles and the man is still sexy. He asked me if I was going in for a swim and I said – God, no. I might look okayish in my old age dressed in my clothes, but not with them off, and then gave a coy little laugh, waiting for him to say something along the lines – Yeah man, but you do look good. And then, I woke up!

For goodness sake, a dream about Mick Jagger? What was all that about? Then, I realised, it was all about wrinkles and losing one's sex appeal. Since I have lost weight, all of a sudden crevices and ravines have opened up on my face. Fat had kept them all at bay, but now there they all are and not a thing I can do about it. I also had another awakening when lunching with friends the other day. My friend's Mum – a smashing lady – and my friends were lamenting the loss of my fringe – telling me how much they had liked it. I've been growing it out, as well as growing my hair longer – I felt like I wanted a change even though I've always thought that ladies of a mature age should not have long hair – kind of the mutton dressed up as lamb look – and yet here I am doing just that. I think it is probably a last desperate attempt to snatch back my youth... anyway, the Mum said to me in stern tones, "If you asked for my opinion, I'd tell you to go to a good hairdressers and get him to give you a nice short hair style with a side parting." So there I was, told.

Then, I go and dream about the Rolling Stones. I think my sub-conscious is trying to break it gently to me, so maybe I should go for the side parting and maybe a perm when my hair is chopped off to ear length. There's not a thing I can do about the wrinkles though...

This morning, after trying the lengthening fringe in another style that looked no more attractive, I asked Remote Control Man for the brutal truth. I might moan about him in this column, but he has always been a gentleman to me, and has never made any adverse comments about my looks. He paused for a little while, clearly searching for the kindest words. "Well", he said eventually," I have to admit that those clips you use and the central parting do remind me a little of Joan Crawford in 'Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?'" Hmm. (Clearly why Mick Jagger didn't sweep me into his arms.) Perhaps I should pop along to the nearest hairdressers and get my locks sorted after all.

As I write this we are well into the New Year, with rime covering the lawns, rooftops, trees and foliage in twinkling frostiness. All very pretty and I appreciate Nature's artwork, but I shall be pleased, as I am sure will you, when spring arrives. My daffs have been pushing their way through the soil since December, so hopefully their yellow cheerfulness will soon be perking up our dulled spirits. I always go into a decline in February and I accept that now making sure I have a nice log fire to brighten up my room and a good book to bury myself into, once all the chores are completed.

I've been making some cushions for my kitchen chairs – long, long overdue. The miracle of Google is that you can find people who cut foam to size – I received mine the next day. My kitchen is black and white, with red as an accent colour. I have black and white spotted curtains, so cut out the shape of the cushions in that material, with some red and white parrot material for the three-inch depth of the cushion. I've always sewn, but haven't done much, other than my trademark fishermen smocks for years, so had kind of forgotten the tricks of the trade. I used to make my own patterns (cushions are easy enough) but this time, I just couldn't figure out the way to do them (corners and so on.) I sewed on velcro for the openings, but that kept snarling up the

thread and I got fed up with repeatedly rethreading the needle so decided to ditch that and just hand sew the openings. I can barely see the needle, let alone the eye! Anyway, the covers were a bit baggy and I was disappointed with my first efforts, but by the fifth cushion, I'd got it...My brain just wasn't working like it used to.

My rather desperate attempts with the cushion covers brought to mind my very near appearance on your television last springtime, as I had applied for a place on The Great British Sewing Bee and only missed being accepted by a gnat's whisker – something to do with regions and race, I suspect. As I was asked to sign a clause of confidentiality, unfortunately I am not allowed to tell anyone of my adventures to get that far.... but I think, had I competed on the show (as I really, really wanted to) I would have made a pig's boot of things. I watched the show when it was aired, and at the beginning thought, 'yes, I could have done that easily' as each task was presented but as the show progressed I began to be grateful that I hadn't been there after all! After my cushion fiasco, I know I would have made a fool of myself. So yes, it was a disappointment, but just as well as it happened...

I had a really nasty fall at the beginning of December and thought I had further damaged my back. I was in pain for weeks and was quite frightened in case I had done some long-term damage, but at long last the pain is disappearing and I am walking a bit better now. Because of this, the weight I had lost has crept back on – so disappointing. I haven't seen my feet for years. But, unfortunately, I am back to using my walking stick again, but hey, perhaps I can join an agency to be a Joan Crawford lookalike! There is always an upside to the downs in life!

Like many men, Remote Control Man does like his telly, so therefore we have a huge one that dominates the room. He has 'soundbars' and speakers and all sorts of gadgets that completely bewilder me. All I know is that I find it very difficult to arrange the furniture in a pleasing manner so decided that the wretched thing must be mounted on the wall like a stuffed stag. Naturally, himself was not keen, being a person who likes things to stay in the same place at all times, but I can be persuasive, or maybe I am a bully, or perhaps is it that he just gives up in the end as it is the easier option? Anyway, as it was something I wanted, I knew I had to do all the arranging and phoned up a big store in town to make an appointment to have the tv fitted on a bracket. You would think this would be a reasonably easy task to arrange, but after having been on the phone for at least three quarters of an hour, listening to interminable plinkle-plunkle music and being fobbed off onto more and more disinterested and unqualified people and got absolutely nowhere, I decided to put the phone back on the hook, get in my car and roar off in annoyance to King's Lynn to sort it out in person.

I was persuaded to purchase an extremely expensive mount thing, that turned out to be one you could move around and therefore stuck out a lot – something I had said I didn't want. I was also sold a cable tidy, also quite expensive, that turned out to be an attractively packed box of simple cable ties, that can be purchased anywhere for very little expense. The cost of a technician was also very high but, even knowing I was being shafted, I went for all of this as I wanted the blankety-blank telly on the wall.

Remote Control Man did not tell me off or tell me I was stupid (which I was) but at least it brought his attention to the fact that I was serious about this. He went with me to the store to return the goods, cancel the appointment and have my money refunded, then got a far cheaper and better mount online, and found a local man, who came round immediately to assess the job in hand, and who will shortly be coming to do the work at a very reasonable rate indeed. Just shows you, doesn't it!

Soon, I hope that I will have arranged my furniture to a more pleasing format, himself will have become used to viewing his programmes on the wall, and we all will hopefully be basking in better weather. Good weather is always something to look forward to isn't it? □



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 105 Apr/May 2017	Wednesday 1st March 2017	Monday 20th March
No 106 June/July 2017	Wednesday 3rd May	Monday 22nd May

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

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Tuesday February 7th

The Genealogy Of SHEFF WARFAR



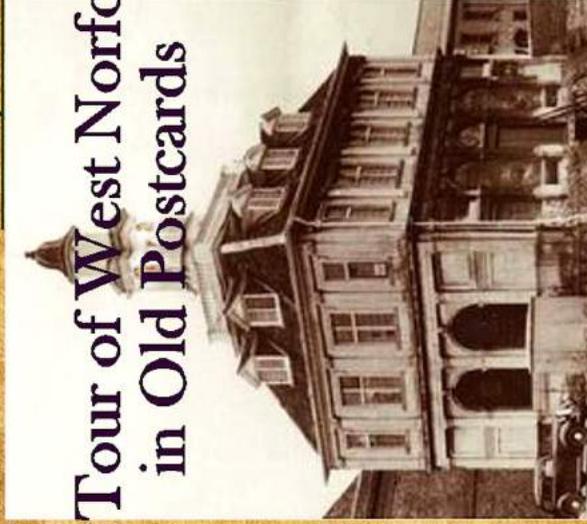
with
Ash Dyer
from the **Norwich & Norfolk**
Medieval Association

St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £3.00 including refreshments & raffle

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday March 7th

A Tour of West Norfolk in Old Postcards



Your Guide -
Simon Massen

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