

Number 105

April/May 2017

# Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine

A group of people, including children and adults, are walking along a dirt path through a forest. The path is partially covered in grass and fallen leaves. In the foreground, there is a small stream with a log lying across it. The trees are tall and thin, with some autumn-colored leaves visible. The overall scene is a peaceful woodland setting.

**A Ramble in the Woods**  
page 66



## Great Mothers Day Gift Ideas

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## Editor's Notes

Tony Bubb



So we have had storm Doris. My mother was a Doris (I wonder if anyone is named Doris these days) and anyone less stormy it would be hard to imagine, still I think she would have been flattered by the association. Surprisingly we seemed to suffer no damage, particularly to our 33 year old fence. Many of you may remember “Ginger” ( I never knew his real name) who drove a black Transit truck around dealing in scrap, logs and making fences. This was one of his. A real old character, he once told me of a wild life sighting he had the night before, so I enquired what he was doing in the wee small hours when it had taken place, expecting a tale of crafty doings or a poaching exploit, only to be told he had got up to go to the toilet and he had seen it out of his window.

Another old village character was Jack Bunn. Employed as a gardener at Sandringham, he was full of tales including one about the Queen Mother catching him scrumping an apple. Apparently she just winked and passed by. There don't seem to be such people coming along now, unless you know different.

This is my last Village Voice as editor, it really is this time. I tried once before but it came back to me and the long list of jobs that I hoped to do in the time freed up by my previous departure still awaits with a few more added in the mean time. We have a new man for the post, John Vost, who avid readers will remember doing some articles on antiques a few years ago. He introduces himself overleaf.

Steve Davis has been to Felixstowe and has written about it with pictures. My limited memories of the place include Charles Manning's dodgems and Cordy's Cafe. It's just along from Walton where there was a drinking establishment called Barkers Marine Wine Vaults. A strange venue as the landlord would only serve you if he knew you or you came in with someone he did know and even then he would only deal with the other person, completely ignoring you. Good business practice?

We have articles about butterflies, Lily of the Valley growers, networking breakfasts, bird feeding and school goings-on. Quite a variety as well as most of the usual suspects pieces. It really is amazing just how much copy we get from this fairly small community. Thank you to all contributors who have made this editing job so enjoyable and a thank you as well to the delivery team who get 7 good walks with a purpose each year - Dersingham Data counts as one. But the real providers of the feast to thank are the advertisers who make this magazine possible.

There have been many changes on my watch. It's got bigger, gone from a shiny, black and white cover to all colour throughout, via a colour cover and some colour pages.

Just before finishing this edition, the sun being out, I went on a walk around Wolferton and came across the entrance to Friar Marcus Yard. Who was Friar Marcus? Just to put the icing on the cake there were two buzzards wheeling around calling to each other, now that is a sight that would not have been seen when I started editing 50 or so editions ago. Over and out! □

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## Dear Village Voice

Please email ([editor@dersingham.org.uk](mailto: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.



### Brandenberg House and Mecklenberg House, Chapel Road

I live at Lane End, Sugar Lane, and have been here for twenty years. I am trying to ascertain why these houses were so named. My neighbour John Fell at Mecklenberg House (now sadly ill and in a nursing home) used to ask me why I did not change the name back to Brandenberg. I am sure you know that Brandenberg and Mecklenberg were princely states in East Prussia. I believe that George 3rd's wife Charlotte came from Mecklenberg Strelitz. I know that Theodor Jannoch ran his business from my house (Elizabeth Fiddick's article in Village Voice). My interest stems from my time as a Wimbledon GP. Our regional conference centre was in Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park. I went to many weekend conferences there. It was the Ranger's House for the park. The house was full of old photos of Queen Victoria's German relatives. My surmise is that when they became impoverished she placed them in houses around her estates.

**Peter Tudor Miles**

*As this query is worth a detailed answer Elizabeth Fiddick has written an article to be found on page 52.*

### Dersingham Library Friends

Last year East of England Ambulance Service donated a defibrillator so that we could use it if anyone fell ill while in the library. Since then we have tried to raise funds to have it boxed and fitted to the outside wall of the building so that the emergency services could direct people to it outside of library opening hours, making it a community resource.

It will cost £708.00 to supply and fit the Defib safe box. We have run coffee mornings with our Knit and Knatter Group and successfully raised £226.50. Since then our new Dersingham Library Friends Group has helped raise a further £45.00.

If you or your organisation would be willing to give a donation please visit the Library or call Kerry or Alison on 01485 540181.

If anyone wishes to find out more about Dersingham Library Friends please pop into the Library and speak to any of the staff. We meet bi-monthly and the next meeting is on Thursday 18th May at 5.30 p.m.

### Taking over

At the age of 71 I'm about to embark on a new career, editing the Village Voice! I have lived in Dersingham, I've recently been reminded, for seven years but have been in the area for much longer; my connection with Norfolk goes back to childhood. I had an aunt and uncle who had the Red Lion pub (long gone) and a small farm in Northwold and I would be despatched for school holidays by train from London to Brandon where uncle Cyril would collect me in his old Vauxhall with resident chickens - fond memories.

My background is in fine art and antiques as an auctioneer and valuer so I am well used to the pressures of catalogue deadlines. These days I still advise on art and antiques, especially where probate is involved, and I write novels but nobody buys them - I call myself a failed author!

Born in Epping I have lived in London, France and Russia but I count myself as a true



**Penny Bucke**

countryman and East Anglian having lived in Suffolk too. I have given up game shooting but continue to enjoy fly fishing in Scotland where I visit regularly.

Tony Bubb asked me to drop him a line to introduce myself to readers and to set out my stall so to speak. In simple terms, I will try to follow in his footsteps, not easy I suspect but I will give it my best shot.

It seems likely that I've been handed a legacy, the new Village Centre that should, I hope, see its funding in place by the time I take over - very exciting and there will be plenty to write about there. As the village and the surrounding area continues to evolve there should be an opportunity to engage more with inhabitants that now receive the magazine. I would like to see more correspondence dealing with current issues and how they affect our villages.

I do hope that those contributing articles presently will continue to do so; once I take over a regular article from West Newton will take its place with the others. Interesting contributions will continue to be encouraged, I would love to hear from those that have, or have had an exciting, adventurous career (that might inspire readers of all ages) and wish to tell us about it.

The lifeblood of the magazine is, of course our, loyal advertisers - thank you and please continue to promote your goods and services with us, as our readership grows the more this will benefit us all.

Last, but by no means least, is that band of 18 hardy volunteers that deliver each edition regardless of the weather - thank you too.



**John Vost**

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## **Dersingham Works** **The Skills Service working with Dersingham Parish Council** **and Dersingham Village Centre Association**

The third FREE Business Breakfast was held on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from local business and agencies received two excellent, informative, presentations from Apprenticeships Norfolk Network, and RAF Marham.

We are very grateful to St Cecilia's who provided the venue at the last minute following heating problems at the Church Hall.

Dersingham Works brings together local business and training providers to help our young people and adults improve their job prospects.



The next Business Breakfast will be held on Tuesday June 13<sup>th</sup> at St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road.

It is an informal meeting with a light continental style breakfast and an opportunity for networking following the presentations.

Breakfast will be served from 7:30am, presentations start at 8:00, networking 9:00 to 10:00. We are grateful to The Co-op who will be sponsoring this event.

If you would like more information, or wish to attend, please contact Jacqui Farrell at the Skills Service.

**Jacqui Farrell**

Business and Education Development Manager  
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk  
07931 206628

e: [jacqui.farrell@theskillsservice.co.uk](mailto:jacqui.farrell@theskillsservice.co.uk) w: [www.theskillsservice.co.uk](http://www.theskillsservice.co.uk)

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## St Nicholas Church News

Rev Mark Capron



Music has the power of communicating in ways that speaking is not able. Music has an impact on people from how they feel or how they respond to different situations. Charles Wesley is one history's great hymn writers writing hundreds of hymns, with still many of them lasting the test of time. There have been numerous hymn and song writers before Wesley and since who have been gifted by God with the ability to write beautiful and moving hymns or songs with words that communicate a message to God.

Sometimes when I read the scriptures and pray I seek to respond to God through listening or playing music; it is often to the Psalms that inspiration comes. Psalm 98 is a song of praise, speaking of giving thanks to the Lord in many ways from voices to instruments. On occasions reflective music is what I seek and at others jubilant is great; in the Lord there is much to sing and give praise ("Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music<sup>(v4)</sup>"). Through the church seasons the music has a great breadth not least from Lent the season which we are now in, through to the jubilant nature of Easter Day. The great Easter hymn "Thine be the glory" may not be by Wesley but it is another powerful and triumphant song of praise, one to which I look forward to singing on Easter morning celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus.

### Forthcoming Events

During Lent we have been having Reflective Lunches in the Church each Friday (3rd March through to 7th April) from 12noon with musicians playing and if you wish there will be a selection of sandwiches and tea/coffee to purchase as you are listening. All monies to go to the Diocese Lent Appeal raising money to provide a car for the Hospice in Ethiopia to help reach those in need of palliative care.

Good Friday, 14th April, we will be having our usual Walk of Witness round the village starting at St Nicholas Church with a short service at 9.15am, picking up our friends from the Catholic and Methodist churches on the way round and finishing at the Church Hall for Hot Cross Buns and coffee/tea.

Easter Sunday, 16th, we will be having a "early" 5.45am service at Shernborne Church, an "Easter Sunrise Communion" followed by our normal services at Dersingham of 8am Communion; 9.30am The Gathering, 11am Sung Eucharist. There will also be Holy Communion on Easter Day at both Anmer (11am) and Ingoldisthorpe (11am). □



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For more information, contact

Sue Payne

Dersingham Village Centre Association

07790 349896



## Snettisham Beach Sailing Club



Snettisham Beach  
Sailing Club

Snettisham Beach Sailing Club welcomes new full time Senior Sailing Instructor James Trim to their instructor team in April 2017. James is joining from the Northshore chandlery shop & Sail Craft Sea School at Brancaster Staithe where James was teaching and instructing students in sailing. After James's seven years at Brancaster Staithe, Northshore has closed due to the owner Jamie Borthwick's retirement.



James is making a full career out of his love of outdoor pursuits; after leaving Springwood High School, King's Lynn in 2009 he took the College of West Anglia's Higher Outdoors Activities Course and completed it in 2010.

He took his Senior Sailing Instructor course in March 2016 at Bradwell Outdoors Centre in Essex on the Blackwater River. That is a packed 5 days of being taught to teach, management of groups, management of staff, first aid and safety and managing fleets of sailing dinghies under instruction.

Besides sailing, James is into white water canoeing, hiking and cycling. He swims a mile a week and goes to the gym just to keep fit. He also recently acquired a Wayfarer dinghy from Northshore that he sails with fellow sailing instructor Nick Williams and keeps at Brancaster Staithe.

If you want to try sailing then have a look at the opportunities on the Club's website at [www.snetbeach.co.uk](http://www.snetbeach.co.uk) and speak to Jane Leet: Chief Dinghy & Power Instructor  
c\_instructor@snetbeach.co.uk 07938 190 846 or 01485 779 027

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## Name That Child

We have been sent this photo of children at Dersingham school dated 1912. Now, assuming them to be on average 10 years old, it is unlikely that any of them are still around but are any of them your parents or grandparents? If you can provide any names please get in touch.



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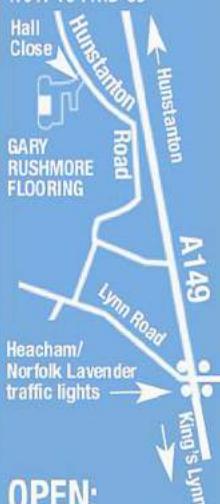
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## Dersingham Day Centre by Alice Worth

February was a particularly difficult time at the Day Centre due to the fact that the central heating in the Church Hall failed yet again. It was off for three weeks when we were having a particularly cold spell of weather. This meant that we had to squash everyone into the small room at the back which, fortunately, did have wall heaters. Everyone made the best of the circumstances and we were able to serve lunch in there, rather than in the main hall which was very very cold.

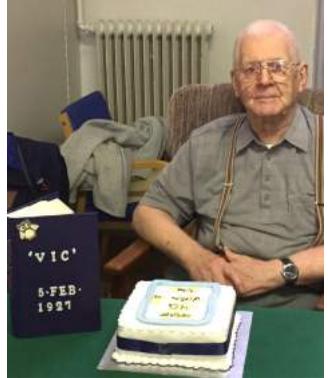
On the 1<sup>st</sup> February we celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Victor Byles with a special birthday cake and present. On the following Wednesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> February we had arranged for the Village Fryer to be outside the Church Hall for 12 noon to cook fish/scampi and chips for us all. This treat was paid for by Victor, to celebrate his special birthday with all the Members and Volunteers. They were a real feast enjoyed by us all. Thank you Victor.

We are continuing with our quiz afternoons every other month throughout the coming year as everyone seems to enjoy them. There is always keen competition between the teams as Members of the winning team win a free lunch the following week. Two teams tied this time, so it ended with a tie-breaker.

As I write we have room for new Members and anyone wishing to join the Day Centre on a Wednesday can seek recommendation from the Surgery (ask for referral to Tracy South), or contact me for further information on 01485 544673. We would also welcome anyone who is interested in becoming a Volunteer. It is a very worthwhile way of helping in the community and is also very enjoyable. Any time that you can spare would be appreciated and you are always welcome to come along on a Wednesday to see what we are all about.

Easter will soon be with us and we will be celebrating with our usual special lunch and party with live entertainment. On behalf of the Members and Volunteers of the Day Centre,

I wish you all a Very Happy Easter. □



## Dersingham Tennis Club



Spring is approaching and it is time to dust off the tennis racquet and think about playing again.

Dersingham Tennis Club welcomes all standards of players and, post Easter, hope to offer a coaching programme for youngsters and the more mature player alike. Meanwhile our Wednesday morning coaching for team players and improvers is proving popular.

Sessions start at 9.30 am till 11.30am; please advise Judy if you wish to attend.

We have a number of club sessions: Tuesdays and Thursdays evenings, with priority given to younger players from 6-7pm, and Sunday mornings from 10.30am. Your annual membership fee (£40 for adults; £90 for a family of two adults and any dependent still in full time education; £50 for a one adult family and Junior £20) includes all club sessions and unlimited use of the courts (subject to availability) all year.

Our website will give you details of club so do visit the site. [www.dersinghamtc.com](http://www.dersinghamtc.com).

Contact: Judy Collingham (Chair) on 01485 540271 or [jcainrscol@gmail.com](mailto:jcainrscol@gmail.com)

# DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE

David Collingham, Chairman, Dersingham Village Centre



## Village Lottery

We are actively seeking both new members (£15 per quarter) and renewal of membership which has expired. Please do support your village by subscribing to the Lottery – there are three cash prizes each month. Subscribing is easy – log onto our website: [www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk](http://www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk) and follow the link – or call in at the Parish Council office in Post Office Road for a form.

## Winning Lottery Numbers:

January 2017	1	46	31
February 2017	61	51	46

## Village Centre Events

Following on from the success of the Quiz Night in January, the next event was “Pancakes and Beetle Drive” on Shrove Tuesday. Great fun was had by all who attended; Olive and Suzie provided delicious pancakes.

In March we plan an entertaining afternoon Tea Dance on Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2pm – 4.30 pm at the Church Hall. Do come and join in, young or old alike. It promises to be great fun. Tickets available on the door.

April sees our first Village Centre Race Night to be held on Friday April 21<sup>st</sup>. Watch out for more details.

## Volunteers

We are seeking more volunteers to help us plan and run future fundraising events. If you are interested, please phone me on 01485 540271, for a chat about how you might be able to help.

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### **Can you see your house?**

The Village Centre Association will shortly be offering copies of this splendid aerial view of the village either framed or unframed and in various sizes.  
Contact the Parish Office for details.

**All Dersingham Parishioners**  
are invited to  
**The Annual Parish Meeting**  
on  
**7pm, Thursday April 20<sup>th</sup> 2017**  
at  
**St Cecilia's Church, Mountbatten Road**

Officers from the Borough Council will be attending and giving a presentation –**Managing Emergency Events.**

There will be an update on plans for a new Village Centre.

***This is an opportunity for you to raise anything of concern or interest.***

If you have an item for the Agenda, please contact the Parish

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## Dersingham Village Cinema from Tom Morris

**Creative Arts East** is an organisation that focuses on engaging with those communities who face geographical, physical or other barriers to participating in the cultural life of their area. Amongst other activities, it provides help to establish village cinema groups across East Anglia and in 2015, with this support and encouragement, a small group agreed to establish a Village Cinema in Dersingham and to undergo the necessary training as projectionists, promoters etc. Consequently, over the last few months a variety of films have been shown at St Nicholas Church Hall – usually on the last Friday of each month - and have been enjoyed by a faithful band of supporters, but on occasions, few in number. Over the winter months and when the Hall heating system has failed, attendees have shown how hardy Norfolk folk can be and their fortitude has been appreciated! It is good to report that at the showing of “The Theory of Everything”, (Stephen Hawking story) in February, the environment was warm and comfortable again.

To make the Dersingham Village Cinema venture successful and financially viable, the support of the Dersingham community is essential. **The cinema was established to provide a facility for the Dersingham community and not, as some may believe, as a fundraising tool for the proposed Village Centre.** In fact, by the time payment has been made for the film, for the license to show the film publicly and for hall rental, the income from admission charges barely covers the costs. So please, consider supporting the Dersingham Village Cinema, its organisers and volunteers and look out for notices in Village Voice, the Dersingham website and notice boards for further information.

The forthcoming programme of films is:

- March 24<sup>th</sup> - **Akenfield - Portrait of an East Anglian Village**
- April 28<sup>th</sup> - **A Street Cat Named Bob**
- May 26<sup>th</sup> - **Miss Saigon – a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary film of the show**



## 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.

By the time you read this, spring will be in the air. The trees will be showing the first tinge of green after their winter rest. So, why not stretch your own limbs and enjoy some of our local countryside. During April we will be venturing a little further than usual to the charming village of Castle Acre, with its historic Priory and the lovely chalk stream that is the River Nar. Nearer home there are walks at Sandringham and Courtyard Farm, Ringstead, both of which are always popular spots, plus one of our regular visits to the RSPB Reserve to see wading birds at high tide. This walk will, as always, be led by Steve Davis who is a volunteer warden at the Reserve and can tell us all about the birds that we'll see.

### Details of our next walks are:

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2.00pm. Starting point:** The Bailey Gate, Stocks Green, Castle Acre  
Grid ref: TF 817 151 Length of walk: 4.5 miles.

A circular walk round the picturesque village of Castle Acre, including a visit to the River Nar.

**Leader:** Stephen Martyn 01485 541333

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 5.30pm. Starting point:** Dersingham old railway station, Station Rd.  
Grid ref: TF 680 307 Length of walk: 5 miles.

An evening walk down to the RSPB Reserve to see the high tide which brings numerous wading birds on to the lagoons and islands there. The duration of the walk is about 3 hours.

**Leaders:** Steve & Lindsey Davis 01485 543138

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2.00pm. Starting point:** King's Lynn, Tuesday Market Place, outside the Corn Exchange. Grid ref: TF 616203. Length of walk: 4 miles.

A circular walk past the docks, over some fields and along the riverbank using a BOAT.

**Leader:** Tony Bubb 01485 542638

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2.00pm. Starting point:** The Courtyard Farm car park on the Ringstead to Choseley road . [Grid ref: TF 722 405 Length of walk: 4.5 miles.

There is a great network of permissive paths at Courtyard Farm and we will explore some of them. There should be cowslips and other wild flowers in abundance.

**Leader:** Pat Reed 01485 540757

You can see the full walks programme on our page at the parish council website. Just go to [Dersingham.org.uk/walkinggroup/](http://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](mailto:stephenmartyn@gmail.com)*

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Exciting times for Brittons Estate Agents with their expansion into Dersingham! Brittons completed on the purchase of Rounce and Evans Estate Agents at the beginning of December 2016 and promptly closed the Jubilee Court office for three weeks in order to undertake a major refurbishment project – this included new walls, floors and ceilings! Rounce and Evans Estate Agents have been well known in Dersingham as the local property experts for nearly 30 years and Brittons aim to continue in this vein. Teresa Fisher and her team have joined Brittons, bringing with her a wealth of local knowledge and estate agency experience.

Teresa is very well known in the village and looks forward to seeing both new, existing and previous clients in the newly refurbished office. Brittons were delighted when she chose to continue with them as her local knowledge and customer service skills are second to none and this is something Brittons takes a huge amount of pride in. Barbara Poll and Naomi Rix who were part of the original Rounce and Evans Estate Agents team have also joined Brittons so all clients can expect to see a familiar face in the office! So, who are Brittons Estate Agents? Brittons Estate Agents (Sales department) is a family run business started by Kathy Britton and now owned by Directors Damian Hills and Melanie Britton who are both members of the National Association of Estate Agents. Between them, Damian and Melanie have almost 25 years industry experience and are always looking to find ways to improve their clients experience when moving home, as well as insuring that their clients are given the most up to date advice to make sure they are complying with the latest legislation. Brittons have another well-established office in King's Lynn which means clients in Dersingham will also have the benefit of being advertised from the high profile Tuesday Market Place office too. Brittons are market leaders in King's Lynn and pride themselves on high levels of customer service during what can be a stressful time, as well as proving the most up to date marketing, ensuring clients get the best possible price. When Damian and Melanie undertook the refurbishment of the Jubilee Court office they decided on a bright modern look, and opted for eye catching plasma screens on the walls so they can easily show each property to its full potential at the click of a button. The office is open 7 days a week and as part of Brittons Standard service every viewing is accompanied by a member of staff. Brittons have found that a lot of clients enjoy this service because sellers feel reassured that they have a property professional acting in their best interest taking the pressure off of them at one of the most crucial times during the sales process. Brittons are more than happy to do a free valuation on your property, just call us 01485 541843





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## Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny

### **Pink-footed geese**

I was having a chat with my sister Janice, who lives in Dersingham, and she said to me, "Do you remember seeing so many geese about when you were younger and lived in the village?" So I thought a bit, then I thought, well no I did not.

You would see some down the beach out on the mud flats and on the mussel beds but not the large skeins flying over morning and night like you do nowadays, though people have been shooting geese on the marshes in The Wash and around the coast for many years. So I thought I had better look into this. Geese, mainly pink foot, have been flying into Norfolk since the latter part of the nineteenth century (1880-1890), but after the Second World War their numbers went down until about 1970 when their numbers picked up.

In winter of 1985-86 there was estimated to be 19,000 pink footed geese wintering in North West Norfolk, Snettisham to Wells. For some reason in the winter of 1988-89 this number had dropped to 13,500, but by the winter of 1997-98 the numbers had shot up to a staggering 76,000. That's twenty years ago, so what the numbers were this winter I have no idea, but no doubt someone reading the Village Voice will tell us.

### **Why is a ship called she?**

Now for a bit of squit. A ship is called 'she' because: there is always a great deal of bustle around her; there is usually a gang of men about; she has a waist and stays; it takes a lot of paint to keep her good looking; it is not the initial expense that breaks you, it's the upkeep; she can be all decked out; it takes an experienced man to handle her correctly; and without a man at the helm she is absolutely uncontrollable, she shows her topsides, hides her bottom and, when coming into port, always heads for the buoys.

### **Fisherman's lament**

Now for a true story. The alarm clock went off with a deafening ring. I shot up in bed, peered out of my half open eyes, it was 7 a.m. I dragged myself out of bed and looked out of the window. It was just beginning to get light and it was a nice dry morning. I had some fishing nets set out on the beach as I had been doing for many years, and the last thing you want is rain or wind when you have nets to tend to. So I had a quick cup of tea and a round of toast, lit up a fag, put my sea boots on, got my donkey jacket down off the peg and slung my game bag over my shoulder. It was not a bad morning, though I was glad I had put my donkey jacket on as it was September and there was an autumn chill in the air. It was about a one-mile walk along the beach to where I had my nets set out. I had always used this area of beach, though sometimes you would go for days and not get any fish and then, all of a sudden, you would get some good catches.

It was herring that I was hoping to catch at this time of year. As I got nearer to the nets I could see the white floats bobbing about in the water. That's good I thought. I liked to be there in good time and get there before the net gets high and dry on the beach. If you let that happen the gulls would peck all the fish to pieces and then they would be no good.

I stood at the water's edge and looked out to the net. All right, I thought it will be about another half hour before I can wade out to it. The sun was now coming up over my shoulder and it was shinning on the sea. As I looked harder I could see a few fish in the top of the net, their scales shimmering in the sunlight. Ah! You silver darlings I thought, that's what the old fisher boys always called herrings. It will not be long now before I have you out of that net and in my bag. The tide had gone out a bit more now so it was time to recover my catch. As I reached down to get the first herring out of the net I looked down at it and realised that there was only its head in the net, something had bitten off the rest of the fish. I made my way along the net and, to my horror, all I had in my net was 49 to 50 herring heads in my net, no whole fish at all. I looked out to sea, and there were three large seals with their heads above the water laughing at me.

### **Geese poachers**

Now we have another tale from Dersingham and this too is a true story. I have told it before, but that's a while ago. In the November of 1823 four men from Snettisham - David Burton, Tom Burton, William Burton and John Nobes - went to Dersingham to steal some geese from off the common. On the way they called in on a Mrs Ward who lived in a cottage in Dersingham, so as to borrow a sack to put the geese in. The four men were caught in the act and the sack was recognised. The old lady Mrs Ward was told that she would have to appear in

court to give evidence. This possibility of being remotely involved in the crime so preyed on the old lady's mind that she decided to hang herself from a beam in her cottage.

The next morning the neighbours coming into the cottage to visit found the old lady suspended aloft. Some wanted to cut her down, but others said that it was not lawful to do so until the parson Mr Brett was called to make sure she was dead. Before he arrived one of the neighbours carefully turned the body around three times and said to one of the other women, "There now Alice, you may cut her down now as I am sure that she is quite dead"

The three Burton brothers were convicted of stealing the geese, pig stealing, and the robbing of a pigeon loft in Shrestisham. They were then transported to Australia, but before their ship sailed David Burton, who was being held in the cage at Burnham Market, drunk too much gin and died. He was buried on December the 1<sup>st</sup> 1823 aged 34 years, and a headstone on the north side of Sedgfield churchyard marks his grave. What happened to John Nobes I have never found out.

### Bridge over the Albert Dyke

I would like to finish off this month with another little bit of squit. In the last issue of the Village Voice I wrote a bit about the old farm house and the long row of old cottages down Centre Vale, then I mentioned about the new estate of houses and bungalows being built after the war 1950s and 1960s. A gentleman came to live in a bungalow right down the bottom of the estate backing on to the Albert Victor. He liked to drink in the Albert, but because there was a dyke between his bungalow and the Albert he had to walk right round by Post Office Road and Lynn Road to get to the pub. So one day, joking like, he said to the landlord, who at the time was Peter Rogers, "Can you not build me a bridge over that damned dyke?" Peter thought about it for a day or two and then he went to see Ken Martins to ask if he had two railway sleepers to put across the dyke, and this they did. I wonder if those old sleepers are still there today. No doubt someone will tell me.

Well that's your lot for now, just keep on a troshin. I will just finish with an old Norfolk weather saying: thunder in April, floods in May, rain in May is good for the hay. □

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## Girlguiding Dersingham Lynn Wheeler



### 1<sup>st</sup> Dersingham Guides – Kindness and The Apprentice



The Guides have started this year focusing on kindness by completing a Kindness Challenge badge. This badge requires the girls to share and discover kindness, think about it on a global level and reflect how they can become kinder by making a “Kindness Pledge”. They have created posters using newspaper articles they feel demonstrate kindness, celebrated Chinese New Year to help understand other cultures festivals, tried to be helpful at home without being asked and during half-term several of the girls visited the Phobbies group in the village. The Guides took their badge blankets to show them all the badges they’ve achieved and talked with the members to find out about the Phobbies organisation.

Last summer several of the girls attended the Essex International Jamboree and brought one of the activities back to the rest of the Guides – an Apprentice challenge. Over two weeks the girls had to create a Team name, decide on a product to make and then advertise, make it and finally sell it to the other Guides. Each Patrol was given a set number of tokens and a price list for their ingredients and later each Guide was given her own “wages”, so they could go “shopping”. We had Taste T making mini decorated cakes, Undecided Unicorns made cake pops and the Rainbow Nuggets made fudge of different colours and flavours. As the second of these two meetings was our last of the half-term we finished off by having a sleepover in the HQ.



**Used Stamps** – the Guides are now collecting used stamps to help fundraise for their activities. There are collecting tubs in Dersingham Post Office, Dersingham Library and St Nicholas Church. Thank you

### Thinking Day is an Adventure

Since 1926 Guides across the world have celebrated World Thinking Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. The joint birthday of the Founders Lord & Lady Baden-Powell being the day chosen to celebrate and think about Guides throughout the world. Our district, encompassing Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Senior Section and Leaders of Dersingham, Snettisham, Ingoldisthorpe, Sandringham and Gayton, always holds a celebration and this year we had an activity day at Eaton Vale Scout & Guide Activity Centre in Norwich. Over 70 girls enjoyed a day of activities, which ended with an indoor campfire and a renewal of our promises. The guides took part in crate stacking, go-karts,





trapeze and climbing, while the Brownies took on abseiling, catapult shootout, go-karts and the trapeze. The Rainbows had transverse climbing, nightline and grass sledging. This was enjoyed immensely by the Rainbows, but not so much by the leaders as the girls needed several pushes to get down the hill and help to pull the sledges back up again. They did get their revenge as they finished up by the Rainbows pushing the leaders down the hill in the sledges! It was a very enjoyable and exciting day, with no rain!

As the 22nd February was a school day the girls all wore their Guiding uniforms to school to celebrate. □

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## Gardening with Disabilities (Norfolk)

Members of Gardening with Disabilities (Norfolk) enjoyed visiting a splendid display of snowdrops at Walsingham Abbey in February with tea afterwards at Great Walsingham Barns Cafe.

Their AGM at Park House was on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March where Mike Woods, the Head Gardener at Sandringham House, talked about his responsibilities.



### Future events:

**Friday 21 April** at Park House:  
Steve Cardell on “Garden Design”.

**Friday 19 May** at Park House:  
John Coles on “RE-MAP”, plus a quiz.

**Friday 16 June**  
Members’ visit to Sue Neil’s garden for tea.  
Meetings begin at 2pm, with tea at 3pm.

Entrance is £2.00, which includes a raffle ticket and tea. New members are always welcome!

For more information contact May Davey. Telephone 01485-544953

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**The Sandringham Newsletter**  
by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate  
**Compiled by Helen Walch**



In January and February, Forestry staff have been gradually clearing windblown trees across the Estate, and thinning trees in various areas. Much of the timber is taken to the Sawmill for use as posts and fences and for firewood logs. These were overall fairly dry months, which has been helpful for the Forestry team and also on the Farm, where the sugar beet harvest continued.

In the Gardens, this is always a busy time of year: the North End Garden has been mulched with composted leaf and the Jubilee beds are being mulched with composted woodchips. Repairs to the turf edges along the main drive and other pathways have started, the wall shrubs in the Square garden have been pruned and tied in, the holly hedges along the Dell path have been trimmed and the annual task of pruning the red-twigged limes in the North Garden was undertaken.

The outbreak of avian bird flu which was discovered in poultry in Lincolnshire and parts of East Anglia meant that the pigeons at the Royal Lofts were kept inside the lofts since November, on the advice of Defra and the Royal Pigeon Racing Association.

At the Visitor Centre, the usual stocktaking, spring cleaning and refurbishment was completed and the shops are now beginning to stock up with new lines for the coming season. □

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**Patients Participation Group**

**General Meeting**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017**  
**at 5.00 pm**

in

**The Carole Brown Health Centre**

**Agenda**

**Minutes of the last Meeting**  
**Matters arising**  
**Chairman's Report**  
**Treasurer's Report**  
**Secretary's Report**  
**Vida Healthcare Report**  
**Queen Elizabeth Hospital Report**  
**Any Other Business**

Patients and staff are invited to submit in writing by 3<sup>rd</sup> April any items they wish to be included in the Agenda to:

CBHC PPG Secretary  
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Hunstanton  
with St Cecilia's, Dersingham



Our first social occasion of the year was the pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday at St Cecilia's church. Thanks go to the helpers and the people who provided the many pancakes.

This year's Women's World Day of Prayer was held at our Parish church, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Edmund, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton, on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. This year it was the women of the Philippines who prepared the service and the topic of this year's service was 'am I being unfair to you'. There were refreshments after the ecumenical service, which was very well attended.

Once again the Stations of the Cross followed by a simple hunger lunch will be held every Friday during Lent starting at 12 noon either at St Edmunds Anglican church, Hunstanton and alternating Fridays at our Parish church, Hunstanton. Anyone is welcome to come, why not take time out and spend it spiritually preparing for Easter.

*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](http://www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org)  
**Email:** [parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org](mailto:parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org)



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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.**



## Just a Thought from Steve Oliver

Legends abound concerning the crucifixion of Jesus. The following is such a legend but it is one that I want to share with you this Easter.

### Dogwood Tree/Cross

• *As one legend goes, at the time of Christ's crucifixion, the dogwood tree was as tall as the oak and other forest trees. Its wood was so strong and firm that it was chosen for the cross.*

• *The tree was very distressed to be used for such a purpose and Jesus understood. He told the tree, "Because of your regret and pity for my suffering, I promise this: never again shall the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used for a cross. Henceforth it shall be slender and bent and twisted, and its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross. And in the centre of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints. And in the centre of the flower, brown with rust and stained with blood, will be a crown of thorns - so that all who see it will remember it was upon a dogwood tree that I was crucified, and this tree shall not be mutilated nor destroyed, but cherished and protected as a reminder of my agony and death upon the cross.*



But I do not want to dwell too long on legend as Easter and the resurrection is one of the most wonderful, amazing, exciting, awe inspiring true moments of history.

At times, we can forget that the passion of Christ is the story of humanity, the story of a human being, born through the power of the Holy Spirit and living a life which had the same joys, sadness, pain, enjoyment and love just as we do today.

What we see in the life of Jesus the man is lessons to be learnt about God. In his healings, in his concern and understanding of the outcast, his love for all peoples we see God, a God whom we can trust and a God who concerns himself with the lives of his children.

In His death Jesus the Christ bore the sin of the whole world upon his shoulders; he carried the promises of God and he carried you and me out of hells grip and laid us gently into His own keeping.

In his resurrection the Christ of heaven and earth removed our humiliation of death and laid it bare as the impostor it was, created in us new ways of being, and made way for the new and wonderful life promised to us since creation began.

As the Lent season closes and the Easter celebration begins let us all rejoice in all that the Lord has done and shout with joy that in His resurrection unquenchable love flows in streams of living water from his heart into our very lives.

I wish you all a happy and blessed Easter. □

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# DO YOU HAVE INCOME (OR GAINS) FROM PROPERTY?

## PART I: PART II: FURNISHED HOLIDAY LETS

By Kathryn Gigg (c) 2017

Furnished Holiday Lets (FHLs) inhabit a unique position in UK Tax legislation.

Their tax treatment floats between that of an investment (like their buy-to-let cousins) and a fully-fledged business (like a high street shop, for example). This is because they exhibit many of the features of both, and this can be used to advantage by the well-advised owner.

Firstly, it is important to be aware of how a property can qualify for treatment as an FHL. The property needs to be fully furnished, be situated in the UK or the European Economic Area and fulfil the qualifying requirements of being available for letting at least 210 days a year, actually let out for at least 105 days and not let for periods of "longer term occupation" (a let of more than 31 days) for more than 155 days during the year. The intention of these criteria is to only give the more generous treatment to properties that are genuinely being let as a holiday let on a commercial basis. Prior to 6 April 2012 the availability and actual letting requirements were less onerous, 140 and 70 days respectively, and HMRC became concerned that some properties were qualifying for the beneficial tax treatment where the emphasis was on family use, rather than for third party letting.

To assist those owners who have properties that previously 'qualified' but where there might be up to two non-qualifying years (perhaps because of a 'washout' Easter or Summer, preventing the occupancy meeting the 105 day requirement) the Revenue brought in special rules. If holiday accommodation qualifies for the special "period of grace" treatment, it will be treated by virtue of this rule as "qualifying".

Once the property is confirmed as being a FHL then the preferential tax treatment allows a tax deduction for capital allowances on fixtures and fittings, as well as any plant and machinery/equipment used for the 'business' including "integral features" (specific advice on this area should be sought to ensure that your claim is maximised). Note that there are no capital allowances on the cost of the property itself or the land on which it stands. Since 5 April 2016 FHLs also enjoy a preferential treatment where mortgage interest is paid, such interest being allowable at both basic and higher tax rates, unlike the treatment being phased in between 2016/17 and 2020/21 for normal "buy to let" properties

Additionally, any profits made on a FHL business count as earnings for pension purposes. Perhaps the most generous treatment in a rising market is for Capital Gains Tax (CGT) on the eventual disposal whereby Entrepreneurs Relief (ER) may reduce the CGT charged from 18% or 28%, to a flat 10%.

Two other taxes that should not be overlooked however are Inheritance Tax (IHT) and VAT: following recent Tribunal decisions made in favour of HMRC in the vast majority of cases a FHL left on death will be treated as an investment property (rather than business property), and, as such, will be fully chargeable to IHT as part of the deceased's Estate.

As regards VAT, the rental income from a FHL is treated as taxable turnover for VAT purposes which means that if the owner is already registered for VAT (even for a completely different type of business) then they must charge 20% VAT on the FHL rentals. This point quite frequently catches people out, so please do ensure that you take advice immediately if you have any concerns in this regard.

The special tax treatment, as set out above, together with the potential for higher rents when compared to a property simply let out on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy (AST) can make FHLs a very worthwhile venture particularly in popular holiday areas such as our own. The key to success with a FHL is to obtain good, practical, professional advice at each stage of the process, certainly in advance of the initial purchase, or, eventual sale. There is, of course an annual requirement to complete a Self-Assessment Tax Return and here, as with many things, early professional assistance makes sense. For example, there are specific rules about relief of losses

arising from FHLs, along with averaging elections in respect of the availability threshold that can be made where you own more than one FHL. With effect from April 2018 most FHL owners will also need to make quarterly submissions as part of the HMRC "Making Tax Digital" project.

As set out above there are tax planning opportunities there for the taking, but, care is required, and it is important to get good specialist advice throughout the period of ownership. □

*Caution: The information set out above is for general guidance only. You should neither act, nor refrain from action, on the basis of any such information. You should take appropriate professional advice on your particular circumstances because the application of laws and regulations will vary depending on particular circumstances and because laws and regulations undergo frequent change. Whilst I endeavour to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, neither I nor my firm shall be liable in damages (including, without limitation, damages for loss of business or loss of profits) arising in contract, tort or otherwise from any information contained in it, or from any action or decision taken as a result of using any such information.*

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help you?



## **Sandringham Parish Council from Ben Colson**

The next meeting of the Parish council is on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, at 6.30pm at the Sandringham Club, West Newton. We meet in the sports room, down the steps at the back of the club bar. Each May we hold our Annual General Meeting at which residents of the parish are very welcome to come and ask questions of Councillors, so all are welcome.

### ***Parish news***

The drainage scheme at Wolferton, which includes the road narrowing in the vicinity of the former station, is now complete and the new verge created by the kerbing is awaiting seeding. The purpose of the slight narrowing of the road is designed to try to slow traffic and actually to return the verge to its original position before cars overran it in order to save micro seconds on their journeys. Wolferton is a surprisingly busy village, and unusually a greater number of people coming to work in the village than going out from it, as well as a day nursery school creating a considerable traffic volume. It is to be hoped that the work will have the desired effect. Residents at West Newton have brought to the Parish's attention the poor state of the footpath alongside the B1440 road between the West Newton junction with the B1439 and the turn off to Anmer. This has been brought to the attention of the County Council, the body that is responsible for road and path maintenance.

The County Council operates a service called Highways Rangers, a team of staff that come out every quarter or thereabouts and clear drains, and undertake other minor maintenance work. The Parish Council can feed details to them of work that needs to be done, so please contact us at sandringhamclerk@btinternet.com if you know of any work that needs to be carried out.

### ***Living Independently in Later Years***

West Norfolk Befriending made a short presentation on living independently in later years at Wolferton Social Club at the Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March meeting.

### ***Wolferton Events Committee***

The Wolferton Events Committee held its Annual General Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February. Following the success of the Burns Night Supper – more of which below – it has been decided to add a couple of dates for your diaries:

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June – Midsummer Celebration

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Pumpkin Festival and Halloween Party

### ***Other events at Wolferton Social Club***

March 12<sup>th</sup> – Cash bingo, starting at 8pm

March 21<sup>st</sup> – Prize bingo in aid of St Peters Church, Wolferton

April 8<sup>th</sup> – Coffee morning in aid of St Peters Church, Wolferton, and for the King's Lynn Happy

Memories group, for people living with dementia and their carers

April 9<sup>th</sup> – Cash bingo, starting at 8pm

April 18<sup>th</sup> – Prize bingo in aid of St Peters Church, Wolferton

May 7<sup>th</sup> – Cash bingo starting at 8pm

May 16<sup>th</sup> – Prize bingo in aid of St Peters Church, Wolferton

June 4<sup>th</sup> – Cash bingo starting at 8pm

## Burns Night Supper

The Wolferton Burns Night Supper was a sell out on 27<sup>th</sup> January, with about sixty people attending, and the tradition of Addressing the Haggis was performed by Gareth Calway, the Bard of the Wire, who lives far from Bonnie Scotland in the local village of Sedgford. After the meal, the evening was taken with Scottish dancing, the source of much fun and hilarity amongst those taking part. Overall, a great night out, and thanks to the Events Committee for arranging it.

## St Peters Church, Wolferton, restoration project

St Peters dates from the fourteenth century and it has been found that the roof is in need of repair at considerable cost. The work is centred on the roof, especially the north-facing aspect, and it is essential if the fabric of this medieval building is to be maintained.

At its February meeting, the Parochial Church Council decided to pursue raising the funds necessary for the work, a sum which runs to six figures, and it has agreed to appoint a fundraising group to focus on raising this large sum. The group will start its work shortly, and the first step will be to identify what funds may be open to which applications can be made. It is unlikely, however, that grant funding in this way will cover the whole cost, and so, later down the line, other more local fundraising activities will be considered.

## Sandringham and West Newton – changes to bus times

The times of buses on the 11 route to King’s Lynn and Hunstanton are to change yet again, starting 2<sup>nd</sup> April. The route to King’s Lynn will also revert to via Castle Rising and South Wootton, so the Queen Elizabeth Hospital will no longer be served. Timetables will no doubt be available very soon but we understand that buses will continue to run every hour as now, but at different times in the hour, more similar to as it was last Summer. □



The poster features a green background with white line-art icons of a ham, a carrot, a wine glass, a slice of cheese, and a pair of lips. The text is centered and reads: "West Norfolk Food Festival" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, it says "Sunday 9th April" and "10.30 - 4.00pm". Further down, it states "Free Entry" and "The Great Barn Knights Hill Hotel King's Lynn". At the bottom, it provides contact information: "Call 0781 009 8303 or email [info@wnff.co.uk](mailto:info@wnff.co.uk) for stall enquiries".



The advertisement features a green circular logo with the text "claire's NORFOLK NIBBLES catering for you". To the right, a string of colorful bunting is shown. Below the logo, there are four images: a tiered cupcake stand, a large multi-tiered cake, a platter of party food, and a table set with a Spider-Man theme. The text reads: "Claire's Norfolk Nibbles will work with you to achieve what you need to make your event a real success." Below this, 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 contact details: "Mobile: 07810098303", "Email: [info@clairesnorfolk nibbles.co.uk](mailto:info@clairesnorfolk nibbles.co.uk)", "Web: [clairesnorfolk nibbles.co.uk](http://clairesnorfolk nibbles.co.uk)", and "FaceBook: Claire's Norfolk Nibbles".



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## Feed the birds, £3.67 a bag

David Bingham

Like many others in Dersingham, we feed the small birds in our garden to help them through the cold winter months. In most years this effort is rewarded by sightings of birds that are hard to get a good view of out in the wider countryside. And in some cases the birds that visit our bird table are absent for most of the year and only visit in the winter to escape the severe cold of central Europe. There is usually a supporting cast of common garden birds such as, great tits, blue tits, coal tits, greenfinches, chaffinches, house sparrows, blackbirds and robins. The star turns include marsh tits, bramblings, redpolls, goldfinches, long-tailed tits, siskins and great-spotted woodpeckers. We discourage the pigeons and collared doves by not providing them with their preferred food and by lowering the roof of the bird table so that larger species can't gain access. This may sound a bit 'birdist' but larger species are better at surviving the cold conditions (something about the ratio of surface area to volume if I remember correctly) and, like chicken feed, pigeon feed isn't as cheap as we are led to believe.

I don't know whether others have noticed but this year hasn't been a particularly good one for attracting small birds into the garden. The commoner species have been present but not in very high numbers. The more unusual species have been absent and I saw a siskin on the feeders for the first time this winter when the snowdrops were in full bloom and the daffodils were poking through. The lack of birds on our feeder was disheartening and I admit to losing interest and not noticing all of the comings and goings. I emptied an almost full bag of out of date raisins onto the table and when I next looked they were all gone. I wish I'd seen what had eaten them so if you spot a jet-propelled bird zooming across your garden let me know.

The lack of birds on our feeder this winter may be simply down to others in the village offering a more tempting menu. It could also be a local issue and in other parts of the country bird feeders could have attracted record numbers of birds. This is where the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch comes into its own. This nation-wide survey is carried out over a couple of days in January and not only does it give a snapshot of the situation in a particular year it also helps to plot long term trends in bird populations. I haven't seen any results from this year's count so don't know whether my subjective observations are mirrored in the data. However, I have heard that a BTO survey has highlighted the poor breeding season many bird species had in 2016 due to wet weather in June last year. The particularly severe winter on the continent this winter didn't coincide with winds that would have brought over smaller birds - although it was a good year for waxwings in the Britain.



I stop feeding birds in the spring. This is contrary to the accepted advice because birds do need food throughout the breeding season. My thinking is that the local habitats are rich enough to see them through the spring and summer. It also gives me a chance to clean and disinfect our table and feeders. This is important to prevent diseases from spreading through wild bird populations because in the wild birds tend to be more dispersed and rarely remain feeding in a small space for months on end. □

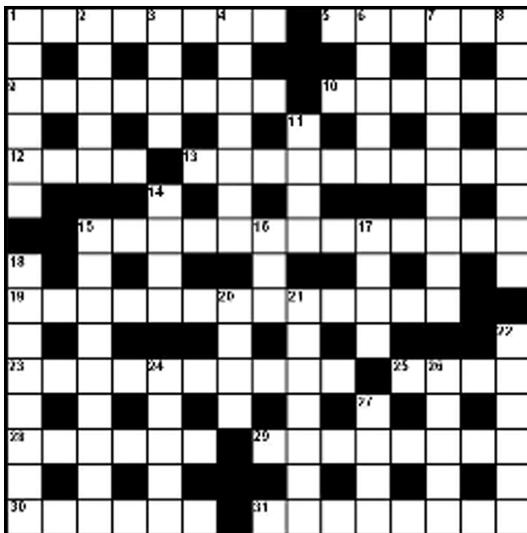
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# PUZZLES

## Crossword by Philip Neal

### Across

- 1 Two Michaels on the game (8)
- 5 Second class ways in Norfolk (6)
- 9 Resident on a Latin break (8)
- 10 Factory in which I made a good impression (6)
- 12 All spent sweet group (4)
- 13 Wet squeeze found in any hot kelp reptile (4,6)
- 15 Bills mate took her to untidy Asian flower and felines (7,6)
- 19 Brief trail wound round Northern Ireland and left for wartime evacuation (6,7)
- 23 Sounds like fruit and veg. or Smith and dog looking sad and dejected (10)
- 25 The French politician's illumination (4)
- 28 Mixed aromatic root was not good for the commissioned officer (6)
- 29 Dad retired with little desire (8)
- 30 Rendezvous in Kent say 15 surprisingly relaxed (6)
- 31 Enclosed somewhere within (8)



### Down

- 1 Baltic republican but not northern cessation (6)
- 2 Snooker player spent a penny in Holt (5)
- 3 Puff rap (4)
- 4 A gold ball thrown into a Congolese banker (7)
- 6 Early form of transmission (5)
- 7 Soldier who has MBE abroad finds humiliation (9)
- 8 Is it work of the devil when Sam collected nasty stain? (8)
- 11 Goodbye Tibet – and your inhabitant (4)
- 14 Nieve to leave drunk Vientiane contra (4)
- 15 Bad score worried the apprentice but no problem for T.T.s? (3,6)
- 16 50 garland (3)
- 17 Sir is keeping an eye on the pupil (4)
- 18 Victors flew valiantly (1,7)
- 20 Longing for hole in one (4)
- 21 Turn out of mixed pleasure and weaken (7)
- 22 Talk quietly in the diocese when going to church (6)
- 24 Funny thing happened after sunset (5)
- 26 Excuse broadcast in fifteen and nineteen (5)
- 27 Welcome to the garden party (4)

Sudoku No 53								
	3		6			8		
			9			6		4
	7			8	1			
5								2
		3	4				1	
	6					5		3
4				7			2	
	1			5	6			
	9							7



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## March Hares Carrie Carey

I am not a fan of February, it's a singularly grey month which does nothing to dispel the gloom and depression of a cold winter. March however, is a different fellow altogether and I always look forward to the change of pace that his arrival brings. From late season snowstorms to warm sunny days, I can understand how the saying "In like a lion and out like a lamb" might hold true.

I find that March, rather than January, is the best time to resurrect my capricious exercise regime and as the days lengthen I am glad to get outside and take some long country walks. It relieves the stuffiness of winter and of being cooped up inside for far too long.

I love to watch nature as she shakes off her wintry coat; bluebells, primroses and campions come into flower peppering woodlands with vivid colour and young tree shoots reach out, arching their way to the sky. Bird song sounds more vigorous and the drama of rekindled or new love interests unfolds as males and females prepare for the nesting season. But perhaps my most favourite sign of spring is the sight of an elusive brown hare.

Hares are mainly nocturnal animals and enjoy a solitary existence. However, in spring you might catch a pair together, in a bout of fisticuffs. Ironically, it is the female who starts the fracas in an attempt to fend off the attention of an amorous male. Their strong back legs allow them to stand erect as they box each other with their front paws.

I've witnessed displays of mad March hares on early morning walks around RSPB Snettisham and it's well worth a visit just to see this strange courtship ritual. Another good time to spot hares on the reserve is at dusk when they leave their forms and move out into the open to feed. It's a fantastic sight to see them sprinting across the saltmarsh relying on their speed to put distance between themselves and danger.

Even without the presence of these elusive and shy creatures, Snettisham reserve offers a variety of walks alongside bird-filled lagoons, shingle beaches and the vastness of The Wash. It's the ideal way to step away from a busy life, relax, unwind and enjoy the simple company of nature. In early spring, seabirds and resident waders are also preparing for the mating season and looking for sheltered nesting places. Not always easy in the lionlike winds of March! But for me there's nothing I like more than a brisk stroll along the beach and the anticipation of what I might see crowning the crest of the salt marsh or peeping between banks of shingle.

At some point during my walk I like to take advantage of one of the reserves snug hides which offer a welcome hideaway where I can watch wildlife or doze and dream of sunnier days yet to come. □





## Butterfly report for 2016 from Brian Anderson

It was a bit of a funny year for butterflies. Periods in the spring were warm and sunny, most of the summer seemed cool and unsuitable for butterflies and the late summer and early autumn were often warm. Overall, the season wasn't great but there were some high points. As last year I am merging comments from the transect (the old railway line from Ingoldisthorpe to Dersingham), the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (Sherborne and Ling House Roads and Prisoner's Belt), the Garden Butterfly Survey and casual sightings.

### The transect.

There were a few changes over the previous few year. For most of the Whites, numbers were well up. The Small Copper and Common Blue were both absent but the Brown Argus (easily mistaken for a female Common Blue) made its first appearance. The White Admiral, recorded in 2012 but not subsequently returned this year with two sightings. It's established in Ken Hill Wood in Snettisham so it's not entirely surprising to see it in the more wooded section of the transect, where the caterpillar foodplant (Honeysuckle) and Bramble (on which the adults nectar) are fairly common.

### The Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey.

This survey is taken four times a year (May, June, July and August). The results more or less match the general form of the transect results. There is one notable exception - the Small Heath. I've seen this butterfly quite frequently on the coast between Holme and Brancaster but not (if I recall correctly) in Dersingham. Because the survey route approximates as near as possible to two parallel lines, there are areas which are not included in the survey records but which have provided numerous casual records.

### Comments on selected species.

#### The Whites.

The Brimstone maintained its low abundance of just a few a year but the Large, Small and Green-veined Whites and Orange Tips had the highest numbers recorded for at least three years. There are probably different reasons for the Large



Brown Argus



White Admiral



Small Heath

and Small Whites doing well compared with the Green-veined Whites and Orange Tips. The relative abundance of the Orange Tip and Green-veined White is probably due to breeding success in 2015, whereas the Large and Small Whites probably owe their higher numbers to a combination of less parasitism and an influx of continental butterflies (both species are migratory).

**The Blues.**

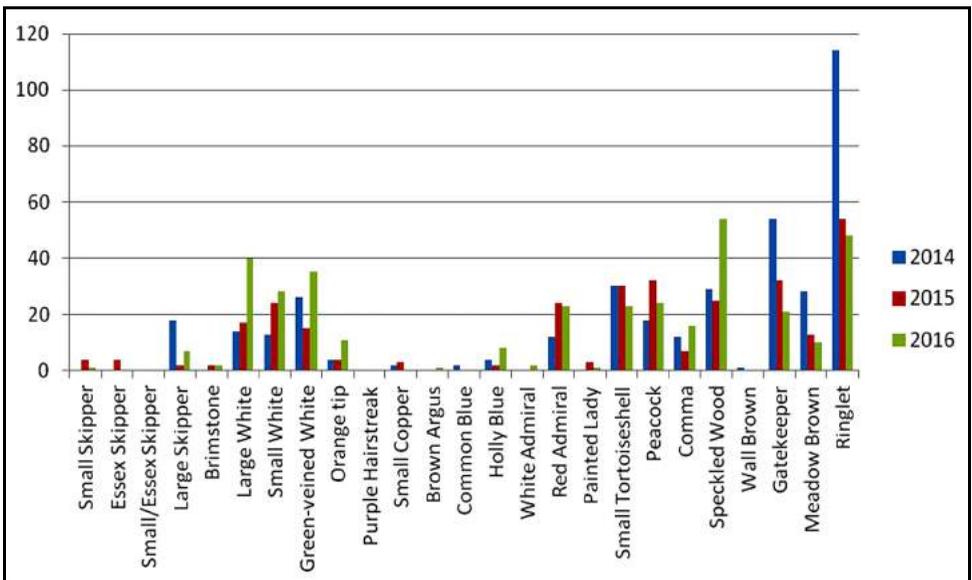
Holly Blues had a good season, both on the transect and with other survey methods. From this I conclude that the parasitic wasp *Listrodromus nyctemerus* is at its population trough - the populations of the butterfly and its parasite vary almost in antiphase. The Common Blue and Small Copper didn't do as well but I was pleased to see a Brown Argus on the transect (a first for this species on the transect). This is a butterfly that requires a little skill and experience to identify. It's similar to a female Common Blue but a little smaller, a little darker and has absolutely no blue scales on the upper wing surfaces.

**The Aristocrats.**

...by which I mean the Admiral, Tortoiseshell and Peacock etc. Red Admirals did quite well and the Comma was at a four year high,. The Peacock was a little less abundant than in 2015 but better than 2014. Early casual sightings of the Painted Lady led to hope for a reasonable influx of migrants but it never materialised. Which brings me to the Small Tortoiseshell. There were early warnings from Butterfly Conservation that numbers appeared to be well down. I found (a little later in the season) that the observations didn't seem to justify the pessimism. For instance, one walk down Station Road revealed over 20 on a pair Buddleia bushes. The draft report of the Norfolk transect recorder (circulated in January this year) showed that many transects had good numbers. Interestingly, many of these transects were near the coast and in North or North-west Norfolk, implying that we received an influx of Continental insects - the Small Tortoiseshell is well known for migratory habits.

**The Browns.**

The Speckled Wood did very well, about doubling its abundance on the transect over both 2014 and 2015 and in fact recording the highest count since the transect was started in 2012. The Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Ringlet did less well. □





## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT from Sue Payne

Two additional Councillors, Coral Shepherd and Dick Murrell, were co-opted at the January Full Council meeting so we now have a full complement.

The Council is reviewing its committee structure to help make it more efficient for both councillors and staff. This included setting up a new Planning Committee, while the role of others and the meetings schedule is being discussed.

### 2017/2018 Precept.

As promised, here is a summary of the precept which was set at £149,070.00. This amount is the net figure after income received from rental, advertising, events, and bank interest.

The Borough Council has again passed on the Council tax Support Grant and £3487 has been allocated to funds for a new Skate ramp on the Recreation Ground.

We have also very recently agreed that work should be carried out on the drain which crosses the Pastures and Sports Field, and which then flows west to The Wash. This is an extra expense but very necessary to protect the Sports Field and adjacent properties.

<b>Expenditure Summary (by committee)</b>	<b>£</b>
Finance & Administration (Staff, Office, Meetings, War Memorial, Sports Grd,)	53,250
Grants (Sports Ground, Churchyard, Community Car Scheme, Minor Grants)	9,550
Communications (Village Voice, Data, Village Voice Live, Website, Noticeboards)	18,400
Environment (Streetlights, Grass-cutting, Dog/ litter bins, benches, trees, planting) Includes £29,000 contribution towards the traffic light upgrade	47,010
Recreation (Christmas Lights, Events, Recreation Ground & Play Area)	8,125
Village Centre (development costs, fundraising)	36,350
Planning	nil

### Village Events

Please do support village events. The organisers work very hard to put these on and we hope you all appreciate them. Forthcoming events include a Tea Dance, Easter Family event, Race Night. The Village Cinema also continues in the Church Hall. More information can be found in this edition of Village Voice

### Village Voice

I am delighted to report that we have a new editor. He will introduce himself in the next edition. Thank you to **Tony Bubb** and **Steve Davis** for your hard work over previous years and for making Village Voice such a well-respected and widely read magazine.

### Dersingham Village Centre

At the time of writing we are still awaiting a decision from Big Lottery. We are asking for a sizeable some of money so the process has to be thorough and this takes time. We are applying for other grants and fundraising by various means.

Please visit the website for information on events and fundraising efforts.

[www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk](http://www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk)

### Parish Council

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](mailto:clerk@dersingham.org.uk)

Please do visit the Parish website – [www.dersingham.org.uk](http://www.dersingham.org.uk) where you can find information about Parish Council meetings, village events, and local news. □

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## Brandenburg House and Mecklenburg House

Elizabeth Fiddick

Theodor Carl Wilhelm Jannoch was born in Pomerania, Eastern Prussia in 1850. For religious reason his grandparents had migrated there from the Kingdom of Bohemia, a Roman Catholic state. Mr. Jannoch's father married the daughter of the Chaplain to the Court of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz. The independent state of Mecklenburg and the Electorate of Brandenburg were close to his birthplace.



T. C. W. JANNOCH.

As a young man Theodor came to England to further his study of horticulture at Kew Gardens. He was living at Barnes in Surrey. In 1874 he married Mary Ann Frost in Dersingham Church. Mary was born in the village, the daughter of James Frost who was a master Blacksmith. If I have read the Tithe Map of 1839 correctly, the Frost's Smithy was close to our present library. In fact I believe the building still stands but is now a comfortable residence. Perhaps it was on visits to Mary's family that Theodor first saw the property at the side of Sugar Lane which would eventually become the family home. Their first child Daisy was born in London in 1875 but it was shortly after that they moved here to Dersingham and Theodor set up his nursery business in the house at the corner of Sugar Lane. He named it Brandenburg House no doubt in remembrance of his birthplace. The following report copied out of the newspaper reveals that he had demolished the original cottage to build this smart new house. It also paints a vivid picture of the thriving business he ran from this site.

### Report from The Lynn News and Advertiser May 1884

*DERSINGHAM. The lily nursery of Mr. T. Jannoch is now becoming a great attraction to visitors. The old dwelling-house which has weathered the storms of the past two centuries has been pulled down and in its place a neat and commodious residence is being constructed by Mr. Foster, builder, the plans for the immediately adjoining grounds being ornamental in design and quite in harmony with the proprietor's artistic profession. During the time that Mr. Jannoch has occupied the premises he has effected a variety of improvements and he has done much to promote a genuine taste for the floricultural art. He raises during the year something like a quarter of a million plants of the graceful lily of the valley which, in great variety of style and arrangement are sent to almost every quarter of the civilised world. The production of this plant (which may be obtained from October to June in each year) is Mr. Jannoch's speciality and he is admitted to be in possession of a secret which many would like to know. To meet the requirements of his increasing trade he has of late added another forcing house, 40ft. Long and 14ft. Wide and this and the adjoining houses are stocked with thousands of choice plants, including stephanotis, eucharis, Amazon lily, deutzia, gardenias, begonias, bouvardias, roses and ferns in great variety. The show house is a perfect blaze of beauty, the rhodanthes, azaleas, cystisus, heliotropes, mignonettes, hydrangeas, fuschias, etc. being in full bloom. Another house contains thousands of buds of gardenias which during the next few weeks will be constantly coming into flower. In the open grounds are large numbers of*

#### THE LILY NURSERY, DERSINGHAM.

T. JANNOCH

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*standard roses, tulips, shrubs, frames for rearing bedding plants and about half a million lilies of the valley. The packing house is generally a scene of busy activity as from this place are weekly sent hundreds of choice wreaths, crosses, bouquets, buttonholes etc. A very pleasant hour or two may be*

passed upon the premises.

It seems likely to me that the Jannoch family may have lived in Mecklenburg House while the building work was being carried out. In all the Directories of the time Theodor is always listed as residing at Brandenburg House. The map of 1884 shows both houses and the extensive nursery stretching up the land at the side of Sugar Lane. In the biographical details about Theodor recorded in The Key Guild Journal of 1926 it states that he “*founded a somewhat unique business at Dersingham, in the county of Norfolk, devoted almost entirely to the cultivation of Lily of the Valley and Lilacs. He was regarded as one of the pioneers in the application of the retarding principle to many forms of plant life and for a considerable time he interested himself in experiments intended to produce the reverse effect by subjecting the plants to ether. For many years the collections of lilacs in his nurseries was regarded as the finest in England.*” King Edward VII was a frequent visitor to the nursery.

When Dersingham Hall became vacant in about 1900 Theodor bought it and moved his family and business there. Brandenburg House and Mecklenburg House are then listed with new residents. The 1905 map shows the nursery stretching from the Hall over what is now the Old Hall Estate as far as Fern Hill. Theodor became a naturalised English citizen on July 30th 1880. He died in 1925 while Mary lived on at The Hall cared for by her daughter Dora until 1933. Theodor and Mary are buried side by side in the churchyard. A short distance away a stone marks the grave of her father James Frost. Brandenburg House, Mecklenburg House and more recently Jannoch’s Court keep their memory alive but I know I would love to have visited that nursery. □

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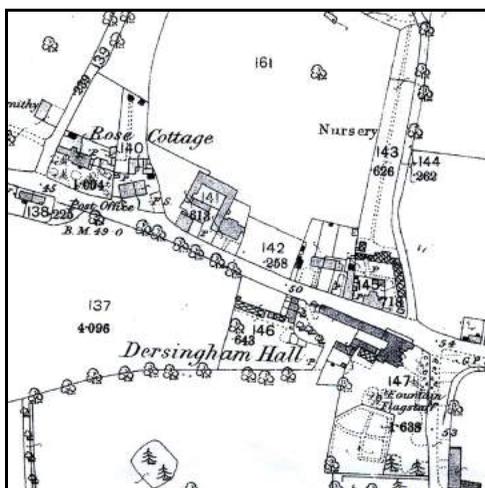
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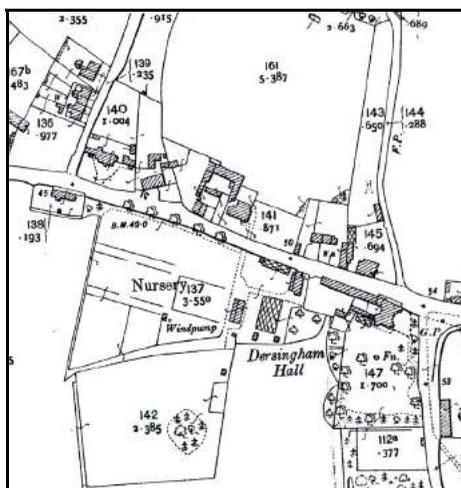
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## A word from Borough Councillor Judy Collingham



I am writing this the day after Storm Doris arrived and with it much devastation. I do hope you and your properties are none the worse for a weather “event” which saw wind speeds of up to 81 mph recorded at Weybourne. It has calmed down today and some early spring sunshine is making up for yesterday’s hurricane.

### VILLAGE CENTRE EVENTS

As we move into spring there is a series of events planned and, by the time this goes to press, the Pancake and Beetle evening will already have taken place. I have been asked about the rules for “beetling” the only important one being throw a 6 to get your beetle body. I hope those who attended threw lots of sixes!

Next up on the entertainment agenda is a Tea Dance where those of you who are aspiring, or competent dancers get the chance to take a turn.

### BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

A meeting with a representative from the King’s Lynn Internal Drainage Board took place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March and your ward councilors, Cllr Barry Hopkins of the Parish Council and the IDB rep all walked the drainage course across the Sports Field and down the watercourse until the drain flows under Lynn Road. Some clearance of the ditches is required and it would be helpful if those using the Sports Field did not throw litter into the ditches. Apart from the fact that this is unsightly it does encourage blockages. The issue of how and when the ditches will be cleared is a matter for the Parish Council.

Mention of the Sports Field brings me on to my unfavourite subject which is dog mess on the field. My fellow councillor reminds me that only those undertaking sporting activity should, according to the terms of the lease, be allowed on the field. However, it would be impractical to ban dog walking entirely as the field is not fenced off, but I would ask all dog owners to clear up after their pets. Just imagine it is your son or daughter who, while playing sport, puts their hand down onto the grass to steady themselves and comes up with something unpleasant. We all share a lovely sports field, and it is the responsibility of all of us to keep it clean.

Contact Details: [jcairnscol@gmail.com](mailto:jcairnscol@gmail.com); 01485 540271; 10 Fern Hill, Dersingham, PE31 6HT

## **DERSingHAM OPEN GARDENS 28 AND 29<sup>TH</sup> 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.

We already have a couple of new to view gardens come forward but how about opening yours?

It’s great fun and first timers usually carry on opening in following years.

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](mailto:jcairnscol@gmail.com)



## Dersingham Methodist Church News from Elizabeth Batstone

Our coffee mornings are very well attended and over the year raise funds to support our church flower festival, and several other local and national charities. The cake stall is always extremely busy, as are the jigsaw and book stalls. People do like browsing through the bric-a-brac stall and finding something of interest or a bargain. Many people like to buy the attractive hand-made cards, and this time of the year it will be the Easter cards which are popular. The Fair Trade products ranging from biscuits, chocolate bars, dried fruit, cereals, to gardening gloves and kitchen gloves, is another interesting stall. And we must not forget the excellent choice of cakes, scones and sausage rolls together with coffee or tea. There's usually a queue for these!

We look forward to seeing you at the next coffee morning to be held on **Saturday 25th March 10.00 am – 12 noon** when funds will be divided equally between the Action for Children and Methodist Homes for the Aged.

Easter services are as follows: **Good Friday 14th April** 10.00 a.m. meditation, followed by joining if desired the walk of witness round the village. **Easter Sunday 16th April** the service at 10.30 a.m. will be taken by the Revd Kim Nally and the 6.00 p.m. will be Easter Praise and Holy Communion with Revd Steve Oliver.

Plans are already being made for our **Annual Flower Festival**, from **Thursday 25th to Sunday 28th May**. The theme is 'Called to Serve' with each of the flower arrangements depicting men and women from the Bible. On Thursday to Saturday we will be open from 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and there will be stalls selling books, cards, cakes, gifts, Fair Trade products, plants, as well as serving coffee, tea, cakes and of course lunches.

The 10.30 a.m. Sunday service will be led by the Revd Andrew Maguire. We will be open between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. for people to see the flowers and enjoy a cup of tea. The final celebration will be at 6.00 p.m. for an ecumenical Songs of Praise Service led by our minister Revd Steve Oliver. Please make a note of this in your diaries and support our celebrations. We hope to raise funds for the cancer charity 'Look Good, Feel Better'.

For more details of any of our church activities please ring 01485 541068 or email [pebatstone@gmail.net](mailto:pebatstone@gmail.net).

### Word Wall 20 by Philip Neal

Sort the following into 4 groups of connected words:

<b>YAM</b>	<b>CELERIAC</b>	<b>APPEAL</b>	<b>FASCINATION</b>
<b>CHARD</b>	<b>BEAR FURY</b>	<b>KALE</b>	<b>MOTH</b>
<b>CHARM</b>	<b>LILY</b>	<b>SHARK</b>	<b>MAGNETISM</b>
<b>BEETLE</b>	<b>PARSNIP</b>	<b>ALLURE</b>	<b>COT ROBE</b>



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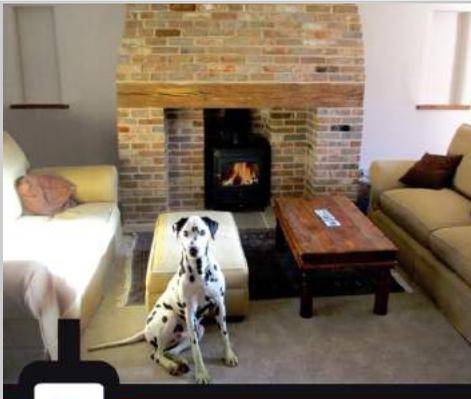


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## Bog News from Tom Bolderstone



Spring is finally within touching distance and many of the birds on the reserve have begun singing and setting up territories on the site in preparation for the year ahead.

We have been around the site checking the bird boxes to make sure that they are suitable and in good condition for the season ahead. After five years of monitoring a number of nest boxes on site there were a number of boxes that weren't being used or hadn't been used since we started checking them. These boxes have been removed and this has reduced the number that we need to check! These boxes are monitored throughout the spring and the contents recorded which then contribute to the British Trust for Ornithology's Nest record scheme. This information is collated nationally and is useful in showing changes in species nesting habits over time.

The warm sunshine of mid-February provided the first butterfly sightings on the reserve with a few warm days producing the first sightings of the Brimstone butterfly. The Brimstone is a real sign of spring and its distinctive yellow green colouring is difficult to miss. It is a large butterfly with a wingspan of up to 60mm. The brimstone however is not just confined to heathland it can often be seen in areas of scrubby grassland, roadside verges and woodland. As the season goes on and the weather warms up the number and variety of butterflies to be seen will increase. In the not too distant future we will soon begin to think about starting the butterfly transects on site.



During this spell of warm weather in February the first Woodlarks were heard singing, heralding the start of spring at Dersingham Bog NNR. These birds are just in the process of setting up their territories and have returned to the site from their wintering grounds. Not much is known about where Woodlark winter but it is thought that some birds winter on arable fields mixing in with flocks of finches and Skylark. These birds will be on site for the remainder of the breeding season. Due to their nature of being ground nesting birds they can be susceptible to disturbance so it is especially important to keep dogs on leads and on the tracks

at this time of year. Staff and volunteers are out on site wardening regularly to ensure that the Woodlark get the space and time to nest and ensure that they nest successfully.

By the time of the next Village Voice spring migration will be in full swing and the arrival of many of the summer bird visitors will be imminent. Nightjars will arrive back on site in April with birds such as Willow Warbler and Grasshopper Warbler arriving slightly before. Tree Pipit will also begin arriving in April as well as the Chiffchaff with its familiar "chiff chaff, chiff chaff" call. Swallows, House and Sand Martins will also be piling in and can sometimes be seen migrating along the high ridge from Hunstanton towards King's Lynn and a good viewpoint for these on the reserve is the cliff top area very early in the morning. □

Thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk

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0004/14

# Dersingham Library News

from Alison Thorne



## Regular weekly events

**Scrabble club** - Mondays 1.30-3pm

**Knit and natter** - Thursdays 10.30-12

**Baby bounce and rhyme** - Thursdays term time 2-2.30pm

**NEW 'In Good Company' formerly 'Just a cuppa' – NOW every Wednesday 2.30-3.30pm**

Fancy making some new friends, or just to have a good old chat? Then come along to this FREE drop in session.

## Special events

**Library Coders – Thursday 5th April 2.30-3.15 or 3.15-4pm**

Come along and try out some simple Scratch programming: make animations, games, electronic instruments and more, and find out how you could join our new Coding Club. This event is suitable for children 8+ years old and their parents. Booking is essential. Please call 01485 540181

**Aliens love underpants – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2.30-4pm**

Come along for a story and some amazing alien crafts – including making flying saucers, an alien model, and an underpants washing line! Suitable for children aged 5 and over. Tickets are £3 per child payable in advance. Please book by calling 01485 540181

## Monthly events

**Peer support group for Carers led by the Alzheimer's Society - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 1-3pm**

For further information contact the Alzheimer's Society on 01603 763556

**Colour yourself calm - Wednesday 5th April 10.30-12**

Just bring along your colouring books and pens. Tea and coffee is available.

**Crime Book Club - Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 6-7pm**

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

**Walk and talk group - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 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.

**Book Club - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April (one week later than usual for the Bank Holiday) 6-7pm**

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

**Community Marketplace day – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 10-1**

Come along and chat to some local organisations about the services they provide. Organisations present will include Careline, Care and Repair, Homestart, the Wellbeing Service, Volunteering with Norfolk Libraries and Hunstanton Children's Centre.

**Computer buddies - Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 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 and find out how the library can help you. Please let us know you're coming by calling 01485 540181.

**NEW – Norfolk's Most Wanted – continues throughout April**

Our big read this year is made up of 20 of the most asked for books in Norfolk Libraries in 2016. There's something for everyone so pop in and pick up a good read.



## Friends of Dersingham Library - Thursday May 18<sup>th</sup> 5.30-6.30pm

Could you help...

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

### Family History and Computer volunteers

You can also book one-to-one sessions with our volunteers. Just ask staff for details.

### Volunteers needed!

Could you help inspire the next generation of computer coders? We want to run an after school Coding Club at the Library, using projects from the Code Club website. Please contact Alison at the library on 01485 540181 if you'd like to find out more. □

---

## New website for Hospice

The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House has recently launched a brand new website. The new website, which officially went live on 8<sup>th</sup> February, was made possible by the Transform Foundation who funded the design, development and build of the new site. Designed by Raising IT, a specialist in charity websites, the new site features enhanced functionality as well as a new modern easy to use design.

Some of the new functions on the website include the ability for supporters to set up their own fundraising pages and Tribute Funds. Event and news pages in the new format allow supporters to keep up to date with what is happening at the charity.

Earlier this year Mr Ian Devereux and his family sponsored the development of the new community pack (featured above), which has lots of useful information, inspiration and advice on how to plan your own event or sponsored challenge in aid of The Norfolk Hospice. The new website allows users to download a copy or fill in a form to request a pack to be posted to you. Lyndsay Carter, Chief Executive of The Norfolk Hospice, said: "Our old website was built in 2011, since then website technology has come a long way, particularly for charities. The new website is fantastic; it has brought us up to date with technology and has been designed to be easy to read and navigate meaning that the community can find the information they need quickly. Lindsey Atkin, Community Fundraising Manager said "Our new community pack is a fantastic resource for anyone thinking about Fundraising for the Hospice and covers all the essentials from how to keep your event safe and legal, inspirational stories from past fundraisers, how to boost donations online and details of other Hospice equipment and resources supporters can borrow to help make their event or challenge a big success. It doesn't matter whether you're able to raise £50 or £500, we appreciate every £1 and our Fundraising Team are always happy to provide any advice and guidance you might need along the way."

The Hospice website can be found at [www.norfolkhospice.org.uk](http://www.norfolkhospice.org.uk). Community Fundraising Packs can be requested from the website or from the Fundraising Office on 01485 601701. □



Pictured: Chief Executive Lyndsay Carter and Fundraiser Sue Lane with the new website and Community Packs



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## Let's go to Felixstowe with Steve Davis

Remote extremities of land, especially islands and peninsulas with that time-forgotten atmosphere about them have always held a great fascination for me. Our east coast has quite a few such places that fit the bill for me from Beal Point and the Holy Island of Lindisfarne in Northumberland down to Dungeness in Kent.



A couple of months ago I was studying Google maps, as one does, and noticed the lovely sharp point of land at Felixstowe, the most southerly tip of our neighbouring county Suffolk, a place we'd never had cause to go to before; well you wouldn't, would you? A few clicks later and *laterooms.com* had found me the very promising looking and reasonably priced sea-front Malborough Hotel, which we booked for a couple of nights stay from Wednesday 22nd to Friday 24th February, little realising that the enclosed Thursday would play host to the spectacular Storm Doris!

Wikipedia describes Felixstowe as an Edwardian seaside town and civil parish between the River Orwell and River Deben that includes the Port of Felixstowe, which is the largest container port in the UK. However, what drew me was the fact that much of Felixstowe's southernmost area,

otherwise known as the Landguard Peninsula, was a nature reserve of botanical and migratory bird significance though, as things turned out, the strong winds put paid to much by way of birdwatching during our stay. A robin, a couple of grey wagtails, lots of gulls and a few ever-present turnstones, were about as much as we managed for sightings!

Although many of the sea-front attractions of Felixstowe were on hold or very reduced service for the mid-week winter months, the promenade made for a very pleasant, if a little bracing stroll and the town centre itself had some



interesting shops, including its high proportion of charity shops, which we had ample time to browse. We'd certainly recommend the very stylish and reasonably priced Café Benecotto, specialising in Italian and Mediterranean cuisine where we enjoyed our first evening meal and returned to on our last morning for coffee. Although like many of our Victorian and Edwardian seaside resorts, Felixstowe had that slightly run-down though none-the-less appealing time-warp feel to it, it was good to see evidence of restoration work in progress, in particular some major

reconstruction going on with the pier, a much loved feature. To the rear of the pier, on the opposite side of the road, the steep-banked sea-front gardens were a delight too and will obviously be quite a picture in the summer months. On the promenade across the road from our hotel a new shelter was being constructed, in keeping with the traditional design of other similar ones along its length. Come wind, rain or shine, we walked the whole length of that promenade several times



during our stay.

At the southern end of the promenade it was necessary to make a short detour around a private static caravan park before entering the bleaker reserve area managed by the Landguard Partnership comprising English Heritage, Natural England, Landguard Conservation Trust (Bird Observatory), Landguard Fort Trust, Felixstowe Museum, Port of



Felixstowe, Felixstowe Town Council and Suffolk County Council. Unfortunately the huge Landguard Fort with its 'rich military and maritime history' was closed during the winter months, as was the Museum alongside, though an assortment of concrete relics of clearly military significance, were dotted around the reserve area. As the wind blew, we made our way around the tip of the Landguard Peninsula along a thoughtfully provided board walk. I think it was a case of been there, done that!

Perhaps the most striking feature of all in Felixstowe however is the impressive line-up of cranes along the dockside nestled in the shelter of the twin river estuary at the start of the west side of the peninsula. Strategically placed, overlooking the docks, is the Landguard Visitor



Centre and View Point Café from the comfort of which activity can be monitored. Now as a child I was just crazy about cranes. I loved to watch them in action; I drew pictures of cranes on my chalkboard; I played with a little yellow dinky crane and later a big red Tri-ang crane, and no prizes for guessing what I built most of with my Meccano set, my set 5 gantry crane being my most memorable. For much of our stay, the high winds dampened down the dock activity. Vast shipping vessels with



their decks stacked up to eight high with containers along their length were well and truly secured against the docks as they rode out the storm. Come the last day of our stay and we checked out of our hotel and headed back to the Visitor Centre Café for a fish and chip lunch. This time I was not disappointed as I regained my childhood obsession watching the vast MSC Reef vessel be relieved of its seemingly top-heavy cargo. My hitherto uncalled-for birdwatching binoculars were soon trained on the activity from our prime window seat position. If I had my working life again, then surely it would have to be right up in the



cab of one of those gantry cranes as it ran back and forth along the length of the jib, picking off each of the thousands of containers in turn and depositing it nimbly onto the trailer pulled into place by the next tractor in line, all in the space of 2 minutes—and yes, I'm afraid I did time it!

So that's another tick in our book of travels. As a seaside town, I think I'd have to say give me Sunny Hunny anyday, but certainly our experience of Felixstowe is one I shall long remember. Find out more at [visitfelixstowe.org.uk](http://visitfelixstowe.org.uk) and [discoverlandguard.org.uk](http://discoverlandguard.org.uk). □





## Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

Spring is racing towards us and the children have been busy getting creative with their new topics.

What an amazing half term the Early Year's children have had! They were fortunate enough to have BBC's Countryfile film the children taking part in the RSPB's schools big bird watch. Matt Baker and the children took part in a wide range of activities to create bird feeders, thanks to Carrie and Judy from the RSPB, before hanging them in the fantastic Forest school area. The children then spent the week counting the birds that visited the area, the children were even lucky enough to spot a curlew. Dersingham Social Club kindly hosted the premiere screening which was attended by staff, parents and children alike. An amazing time was had by all.

Year 1's returned to school with a dramatic discovery of a crash scene in the school grounds. Broken engine parts, burnt metal, junk and footprints were found! Everyone was excited to find out who or what might have landed. The children explored samples collected from the crash site and decided that Aliens had landed! Everyone designed their own model alien spaceship, gathering inspiration from books and stories, as well as their own imagination. They investigated how to send a light signal to the alien's home planet by creating simple circuits that light a lamp and enjoyed taking them home and testing them out. The children learnt all about space, planets and astronauts. They found out about the job they do and a visiting planetarium gave the children the chance to enjoy a bit of virtual star gazing!



Year 2's had a dinosaur adventure when they received a challenge from Professor McWallis to find his pet T-Rex. What they did find was a dinosaur egg and a very large lump of dinosaur poo! On careful inspection, the children found large bones which hadn't quite been digested, so they guessed the T-Rex had visited the school grounds. Eventually the egg hatched and the children had the chance to care for a baby dinosaur! They also became archaeologists, excavating a site of special interest and were able to identify different bones and fossils!

Year 3's have travelled back 5000 years ago to the dusty realms of Ancient Egypt. The topic started by watching a live mummification, acted out by Mr Platt, then taking part in an Egyptian day at Norwich castle. The class are now preparing for their class assembly, setting up their own Ancient Egyptian museum, to showcase all their knowledge and information that they have learnt about Egyptians, including wonderful acting and fabulous singing!

Years 4 and 5 have worked collaboratively on the topic of Stargazers. They learnt about the moon, space exploration and our solar system. The film Avatar was an exciting starting



point and the children were able to study the planet Pandora and create their own fascinating, fictional planets. The children enjoyed writing stories about a strange alien spaceship landing as well as learning about gravity and producing newspaper reports. The children are now beginning to plan their special Easter performance, which will be presented to parents, children and staff at the end of the term.

Year 6 are working hard to get the best results they can in their SATs in May, with many children coming in to our tea and toast early morning club for a bit of extra revision. To keep a good balance the children are also enjoying their topic work on tomorrow's world. They are learning how to set up a class blog and build their own website. They have researched the movers and shakers in the world of technology, built circuits, broken codes and investigated gadgets.

It has been very busy again on the sporting front! Since Christmas the children have trained hard and represented the school at the local Rugby tournament at West Norfolk Rugby Club, where they came a commendable 4<sup>th</sup> position. Congratulations to the cross country team, where we had 3 children go forward to the Sainsbury School Games finals at Greshams. Year 5 and 6 children have had the opportunity to complete a cycling awareness course and are now competent and safe cyclists. The Year 2 gymnastics team came 2<sup>nd</sup> at the local event and the KS2 team came 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Year 2's will now travel to Norwich to compete in the Sainsbury School Games finals and we wish them the best of luck!



The Councils have been busy organising events for the school. The Children in Need Peer mentoring ramble through Sandringham woods was great fun and raised awareness of the plight of children in this country and around the globe. A new Student Governors Council has been selected and they have already started canvassing for views and ideas to improve our school and liaise with the full governing body. Children, staff and parents are busy raising funds for two externally mounted defibrillators for the community. They have already hosted a disco, non-uniform day, bingo and fill the jar competition. Thank you to all those members of the public and community groups who have already been generous and made a donation. If you would like to make a contribution to the fund or hold a fund raising event yourself, please contact the school office. 01485 540308

As Spring and the warmer weather approaches, the children are looking forward to taking advantage of our wonderful outdoor spaces. □

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## Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

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Access and parking from Sporle Road.

### Dragonflies with Dr Pam Taylor Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Dovestep with Jonny Rankin Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm

Jonny Rankin says that he lives for nature. Since 2012 Jonny has fundraised for the RSPB's Operation Turtle Dove, achieving £8,500 so far, by walking over 1000 miles. At the time of writing Jonny is on a fundraising walk across Spain for Dovestep 3. We very much look forward to Jonny's talk after he returns.

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.

## Crossword Answers

### Across

1.FOOTBALL 5.BROADS 9.NATIONAL 10.PLIANT 12.SORT 13. LAKE PYTHON  
15.BENGALI TIGERS 19.BERLIN AIRLIFT 23.MELANCHOLY 25.LAMP 28.ENSIGN  
29.APPETITE 30.SEDATE 31.HEREWITH.

### Down

1.FINISH 2.OTTER 3.BLOW 4.LUALABA 6.RELAY 7.ABASHMENT 8.SATANISM  
11.YETI 14.ANTI 15.BAR CLOSED 16.LEI 17.IRIS 18.V BOMBERS 20.ACHE  
21.RELAPSE 22.SPEECH 24.NIGHT 26.ALIBI 27.FETE.

## Word Wall Answers

Sudoku No 53 solution								
9	3	2	5	6	4	7	8	1
1	5	8	9	2	7	6	3	4
6	7	4	3	8	1	2	5	9
5	4	1	6	3	8	9	7	2
7	2	3	4	9	5	8	1	6
8	6	9	7	1	2	5	4	3
4	8	6	1	7	9	3	2	5
3	1	7	2	5	6	4	9	8
2	9	5	8	4	3	1	6	7

Months (Anagrams) - Bear Fury (Feb), Yam (May),  
Cot Robe (Oct), Charm (March)

Tiger - ...Moth, ...Lily, ...Shark, ...Beetle  
Attraction - Appeal, Allure, Magnetism, Fascination

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



Well, as previously reported, doing this and that, I finally got my house all designery and how I have been wanting it for the past eight years and sat back in my newly covered velvet chair and admired the two new silver velvet sofas, pleased with all my hard work and thinking how lovely everything looked – a bit chateau chic, a style I love. At last, I am satisfied!

Then, for some inexplicable reason, I found myself trawling the net (as they say) looking at Lurcher Puppies for sale in Norfolk...and I noted this dear little cream Saluki Lurcher puppy and e mailed her photo to Remote Control Man at work... He said reservedly that he would ‘think about it’ - at the same time enquiring, have we still got the travelling cage? Two days later and we travelled to Boston, Lincs to pick the little lady up!

Now, is this a sensible move? Of course it isn’t. I shall be eighty in just two years and no old biddie should have a fast moving young doggie belting around knocking her over every two minutes. I fall over easily enough on my own with dire results, so what am I getting a puppy for, for goodness sake? If I remain alive throughout her boisterous puppyhood, I shall still have her when I am ninety. Silly, silly, silly, though hopefully as I become more and more doddery, so shall she.

But, oh, what a sweetie! I’ve not seen R.C.M. smiling so much since we first had our other dog, and I have a constant grin on my face – but oh! I am exhausted! Constantly anticipating ‘tinkle or poo time’ and rushing to pick her up and get her out on the lawn for her ‘curtsey’ - so far I haven’t had too many accidents indoors - and I have actually lost some weight by the constant getting-out-of-the-chair-or-whatever to rush and pick her up and get her into the garden. Then there are the cries in the night, me keeping an ear open for distressed sounds, getting out of bed to sooth her, just like I did with my own children...then her cage is full of wee and poo first thing in the morning, which I clean up before I have had my coffee and woken properly. What a spoil child. I feel tired, and dizzy and can’t think straight.

And, of course, my lovely designery house is going to be completely ruined, isn’t it? I’ve removed one large kilim rug, and will have to take up another lovely turquoise mat before it is ruined. It’s not just accidents, it’s the biting and pulling of *everything* with needle sharp teeth. I have, amongst other arty-farty stuff, an oriental brass jug with an arrangement of extraordinarily long Lady Amherst Pheasant feathers that look stunning. That’s going to be a temptation, once she notices them, isn’t it...and all the other subtly arranged bits and bobs. They will all have to go into the loft as otherwise my open plan room will resemble the Somme with everything I own chewed up and destroyed. I do feel white faced and exhausted, but so far I don’t regret our, perhaps, rather irrational decision. Her name, by the way, is Florence and she has black edging around her cream ears, which will turn into long black ‘feathers’ once she is grown. Very designery, as by now you know I love.

Enough of Florence. What else to relate? Blessed if I know, I am that brain dead!

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Bit of a rant coming up. What ever is all the fuss about wolf-whistling? I never minded anyone whistling me! I pretended to ignore it, naturally, but was secretly flattered. There was never any malice in it, nothing to be frightened over, and the same applied to any ‘phwors’ or whatever in the workplace. Boys will be boys and girls will be girls. However, I do think that some girls these



days, especially when they go clubbing (is there a more up-to-date word for it now?) are practically naked, done up to the nines, looking as if they are ‘asking’ for it, and that can be quite dangerous, especially if they trit-trot out of the club on their own at the end of the evening. When booze or drugs are involved, I don’t think you can blame fellas for getting ‘keen’ when a girl is ‘flaunting it’. It’s a fine line, isn’t it? Another thing. What is all the getting blind drunk about? Girls, I mean. Why? You see newspaper photos of them pouring out of night clubs, vomiting, falling into the road, lying blotto in the gutter. How undignified. I’ve always felt girls and women should remain in command of their faculties – but it seems, these days being blind drunk is par for the course. Call me old fashioned, and I clearly am, but apart from anything else, just think of their poor kidneys!

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I told you a while ago that I had a past-life regression and found myself as a young Red Indian girl from the Little Shell Tribe who lived on the Great Plains. On research, I actually discovered there is a tribe of that name in Montana. I said I would tell you of another of my regressions, so here it is:-

I found myself getting into a splendid coach (drawn by white horses) that was painted and padded in white and cream. I was dressed in the same colours, all co-ordinated and over-the-top, my high heeled shoes with jewelled buckles, white silk stockings, cream pantaloons, embroidered cream frock coat, white periwig in a queue at the back and rolls at the side, while I wafted a white silk handkerchief at imagined specks of dust upon my person, or on the pristine padded seats of the coach. No, not a woman, I was a French fop, being driven towards my chateau. The regressionist asked me what I could see out of the coach windows, and I said, ‘Oh just the peasants toiling in the fields. I couldn’t give a jot about them, they were beneath my dignity. When the chateau was reached, I alighted to be greeted by all the staff lined up on the steps but I ignored them all, and minced into the great hallway, still wafting the handkerchief and made a beeline for a cut glass decanter of brandy. Oh, and by the way, the clue is that brandy...(there are often ‘clues’ to follow up) I was able to Google the name of my French fop and discovered that special apple brandy was/is made at that particular chateau... coincidence, or what?

I really didn’t like this person at all! (When you are being regressed, sometimes you are watching ‘yourself’ and at others you are ‘inside’ that person. I was both in and out of the French fop, and when I was ‘out’ I was thinking, what a complete waste of space he is!!!)



Well, I next found myself up in the bell tower of the chateau, where the bell rope dangled down into a dark space. I was wondering if the rope would be too thick to hang myself, but clearly I succeeded, as there I soon was, a-dangling. It wasn’t frightening, for it wasn’t ‘real’ and I felt quite dispassionate about the experience.

Is it all in the imagination? Is it triggered by something seen on TV and lurking in the recesses of the mind? Or could one be homing, somehow, into someone else’s life in a time travel moment? Or was this really my soul experiencing a memory of living in the body of a French dandy? I can’t honestly say, but when having a regression, the experience always feels very real, and apart from anything else is really exciting and

interesting.

I have to say, I have always had a desire to live in a French chateau and have all that wonderful furniture around me, so maybe my unconscious mind recognises that, hence my recently getting the velvet sofas and satin curtains, reminiscent of Chateau chic and feeling so much happier once everything had fallen into place. And, I also have to have everything co-ordinated in my clothing and decor, and ‘over the top’ at that. Shades of a past life creeping in, or just coincidence?

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I was conned this afternoon when a man in a white coat and white trilby hat rang the doorbell

(that woke me up from my much needed afternoon snooze). He spoke very quickly in a regional accent hard for me to follow, saying something about fresh fish for the freezer and that the van was 'down the road' where it was very busy selling the fish and did I want any as well? Still dozy, I asked if he had any plaice. Yes, he said, so I nodded and went back inside, expecting a long wait. But the door bell rang again in three seconds flat (not that busy then) and another man, also dressed in a white coat and trilby hat was there and a big van painted with fish signs and Scottish fish, or something like that parked outside. No, he wasn't selling fish per item, you had to buy a pack. For forty pounds. What! I said, certainly not, I'm a pensioner, and I can't afford that kind of money. He waved a nicely printed pamphlet saying, this is what we do. I couldn't read it that quickly of course, and I was still dozy and stupid from my sleep. He said, yes, he had plaice, and I could have a pensioner's pack for only twenty-six pounds – which sounded a lot cheaper than forty quid. I said, can I have a look? I followed him to the van, where he made sure that the door shut on his back and I couldn't see inside. He slid out three polystyrene packs covered in Clingfilm with what looked like plaice in them, so I bought them. It wasn't until I was back inside my home and the van had gone that I realised how smelly the packs were. Fresh fish should not smell. I took off the slimy Clingfilm and washed all the 'plaice' – the skin had been cut off so it was difficult to tell. I put the surplus in the freezer and cooked one thick fillet for my supper. It didn't taste good, nor did it taste like plaice. I thought that probably any salmonella or botchulism had been boiled away (I cooked it in milk on the hob) but moreorless expected my stomach to revolt that night, though it didn't. All I know is that I don't have any money left in my purse now for the rest of the week and I was stupid to be so taken in. Has anyone else been conned by these men, or have they been pleased with what they purchased? It would be interesting to know. I must be going off my rocker to be so bamboozled, especially when the very nice fish man with very fresh fish is always outside the Co-op on Friday mornings.

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A point of interest. When Crow, our established Lurcher, goes out into the garden for 'a tinkle' the blackbirds and other birds take no notice of him, presumably realising he will do them no harm – we have trained him to leave them alone. Every time little Florence goes out, the blackbirds sound a loud alarm call, which sets off the smaller birds, all busy, busy at establishing their new nesting places. It just goes to prove, doesn't it, that they notice what goes on, and realise what is new, and what might be dangerous to them. Animals, birds, they are all sentient and we should remember that.

That's it for now. Enjoy Spring. A very silly Mrs. Dolittle. ☐

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

Issue	Copy deadline mid-day on	Publication date
No 106 June/July 2017	Wednesday 3rd May	Monday 22nd May
No 107 Aug/Sept 2017	Wednesday 5th July	Monday 24th July
No 108 Oct/Nov 2017	Wednesday 6th Sept	Monday 25th Sept

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These should be preferably emailed directly to the Editor: [editor@dersingham.org.uk](mailto: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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# VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday April 4th

## A visit to **Lundy Island**

With Richard Campey  
of One Stop Nature



**Plus Tips On**

**Getting More From Nature**

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

# VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday May 2nd



## **The Working Horse in Norfolk**

Horses at work on farms, breweries,  
railways, roads and with the military

An illustrated talk by

**Stephen Pope**

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