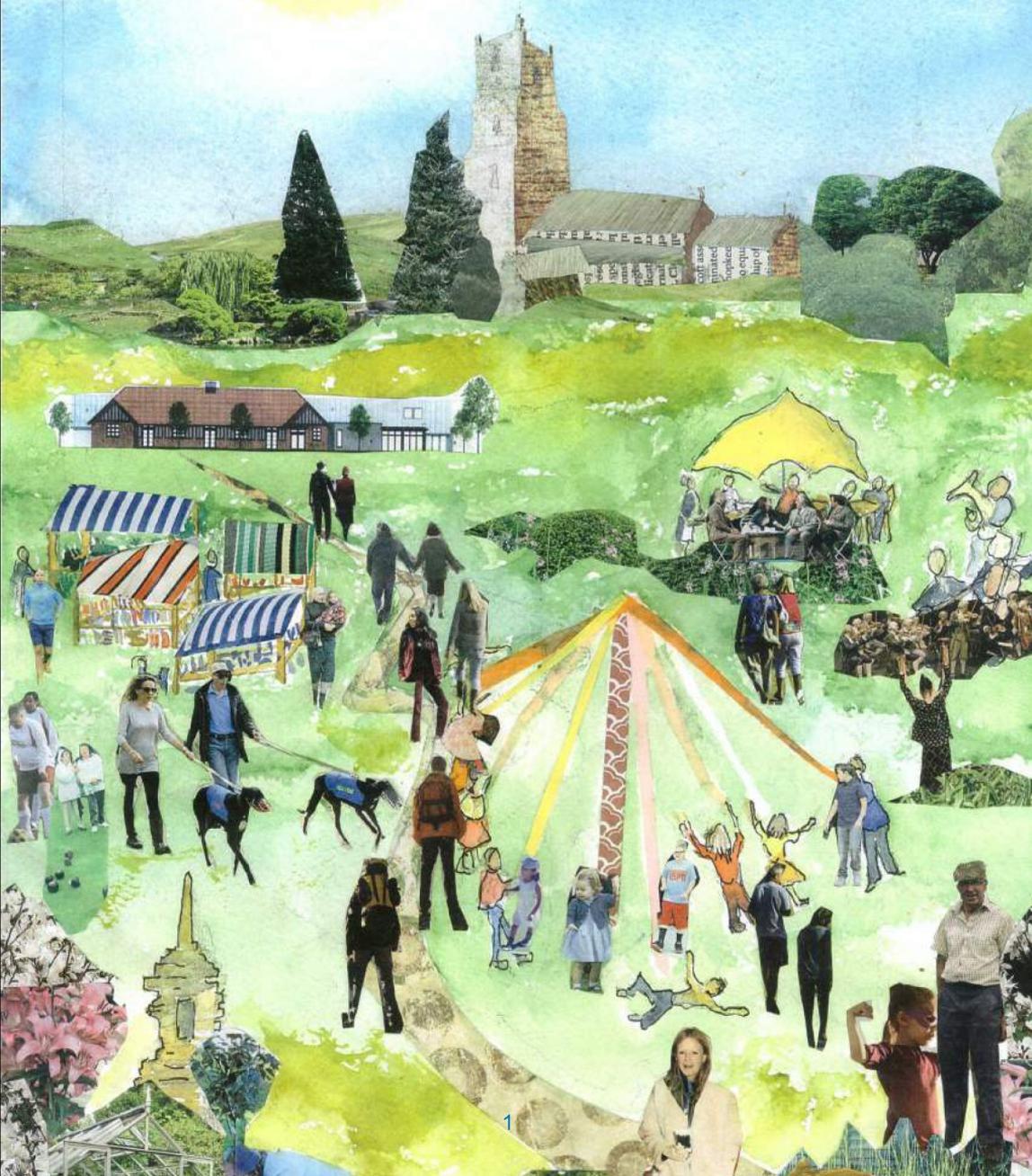


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EDITOR'S VIEW



You will no doubt have heard the wonderful news announced on the first day of spring that we have been awarded £550,000 from the Big Lottery for the new Village Centre, still a long way to go but well done and congratulations to everyone involved in obtaining this.

Welcome to my first edition as editor of the Village Voice, I hope that you enjoy it.

When I first came to live in Dersingham there were two things in particular that struck me.

The first, that this was a great village to bring up a young family - a safe and happy place; a view endorsed by the Sunday Times top 20 best villages in Britain - we came ninth.

The second, I couldn't find the heart of the village, I still can't and I'm not alone in that. The situation is historic - too many Manors in simple terms; the village resembles a series of hamlets strung together. Hopefully that's about to change with the creation of a beating heart.

A genuine attempt to form a village centre using the hall as the focus or hub is underway but, there is more to achieving this objective than just a building. I have spent years in remote parts of the Scottish Highlands on business and holidays and have attended many a party or meeting in a 'village hall'. More often than not this was nothing more than a large tin shed, usually with a leaking roof, and it rains...it rains a lot but it didn't matter, it was the people that made the event successful. Some of the tin sheds have now been replaced with new stylish premises but, they have no soul and they don't seem to get the attendance they once enjoyed; no doubt it will take time for a patina to develop.



Traditionally an English village was centred with a green or square and a Church and we are fortunate with the hall's proximity to our ancient Church as well as the small shopping centre, but it will take a lot more than that to make the concept work.

There is an opportunity here to have an operation that is partly commercial operating 6 or 7 days a week. This will generate income/profit that will pay for, or subsidise deserving village use as well as all overheads. I drove to the Spar shop on a beautiful spring Sunday morning and that combined operation of the shop, garden centre and tea rooms operation was buzzing, the car park nearly full. I came back home via the current village hall, it was deserted - dead, not even a parked car. This is fertile ground for what could be described as a new venture.

After giving this a great deal of thought I have compiled a short-list of the things I think that will help make the idea a reality. I believe the essential element, one that will draw locals and visitors alike, is a professionally run licenced café/bistro along Continental lines catering for young and old, it must have an outdoor area. There is an excellent tea rooms on the edge of the village but that is a bit under a mile away and it is a very different operation to what I envisage at the hall. The café, as much as the hall itself, will be the magnet.

To complement the café maybe a regular Farmer's Market; an annual village fete/ carnival and produce show and, while we're at it, why not move the War Memorial from its odd location on the corner of Station Road as well as form a village band?

This is my wish-list for the village centre - what's yours? Please write to the Parish Council office in Post Office Road or email me dvveditor@gmail.com with your ideas and we will see if we can help get this project off the ground and make it the success the village deserves.

With the kind permission of Liz Stockley the front cover illustration is reproduced from her collage/watercolour - A Village Centre. Framed prints and greeting cards of the image are available from Liz who can be contacted on 01485 540751. She has generously agreed to donate 10% of all sales to Village Centre fund.

CORRESPONDENCE



Please email (dvveditor@gmail.com) or write to us at Village Voice, Dersingham Parish Council, 2A 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.

Please can you help?

I am trying to find some details of my family.

My aunt Miriam married a Mr. J.J.Chilvers. My memory is that they moved from Gaywood to Dersingham (Woodside Ave) in the early 1940's. She died in Dersingham in 1961.

John Chilvers apparently died in Bournemouth in 1957. The Chilvers family think that Miriam only moved to Dersingham after the death of her husband.

Does anyone you have any memories of them which can settle the debate?
(name and address supplied)☐

Dear Sir,

I would like to announce a new web site for Dersingham; it may be found at www.DersinghamHistory.info

As the domain name implies it will contain only information about the history of our village and is an opportunity to make available to all historical facts that have been and continue to be, gathered and researched over time. The main researcher is Elizabeth Fiddick, a name well known to the readers of Village Voice for her articles and as historian and archivist for almost 40 years here. I have only been in the village since moving from Bedfordshire in August 2013 but have come with a background of research and of sharing my findings with the widest possible audience.

I asked Elizabeth if she would like to share the fruits of her labours and it needed just a few moments of consideration before I had the first task in hand; making available 35 tape recordings of interviews with villagers that were made between 1997 and 2000 as part of the Dersingham 2000 project. More about the project for those, like me, were not here at that time will be made available on the web site

The recordings, with transcriptions, are available for all to hear on the web site along with other material to get us going. It will be seen on the recordings page that a small number are missing; if you have copies of these please do make contact so we can arrange to complete the collection.

The site content will grow as I progressively work through the huge amount of material that Elizabeth holds and as time permits. One of the major planned projects is to republish all of Elizabeth's Village Voice articles with more photographs than could be included in the magazine. In-work, as I write, is a section that will identify every road within the parish boundary and provide its origin and location.

Other items available include a Timeline of the village covering almost the last 1000 years in some detail; a link to Monumental Inscriptions made from the gravestones in St Nicholas churchyard (we believe by the Women's Institute in the 1970s); listed buildings

as well as links to Dersingham pubs history and local history groups in the area.

The web site is a private venture with no commercial connection nor cost to the community. All that Elizabeth and I would like in return is for those with information about what they see on the website and to share with us records of any description and photographs for publication on the website.

Please contact myself or Elizabeth: Mike Strange, mike@dersinghamhistory.info or 01485 542876. Elizabeth Fiddick, elizabeth@dersinghamhistory.info, 01485 540940.
Kind regards,
Mike Strange□

Dersingham Library Friends Defibrillator Update

Firstly, a big thank you to the Dersingham Patients' Participation Group who gave the Friends the final cheque, so we have now reached our £780 target. We also wish to thank the gentleman who donated £250 anonymously to library staff earlier this month! Work will soon be carried out to arrange the electricity supply for the defibrillator box, and when everything has been installed we will be arranging a few training sessions with Norfolk Fire and Rescue.

Over the last few months we have had many people ask about being Friends of the Library. Being a Friend can involve anything from: sharing what we're doing with friends and family, taking some leaflets about our events to your club/society, helping with refreshments at one of our coffee morning volunteering at events we run.

At our next meeting on Thursday 18th May 5.30 p.m. we are hoping to elect a committee so that we can formalise our group which helps get it recognised by relevant bodies such as funders and the council. It ensures that the work involved in running the group is shared between a few people, rather than all falling to one person and it tends to make a group more organised. Funders much prefer groups with a committee – potentially]

Friends Groups can apply for grants to support their objectives.

The committee usually involves the following roles:

- Chair – leader and coordinator of group
- Secretary – does the paperwork, keeps members informed, keeps up to date mailing list, takes minutes etc.,
- Treasurer – looks after financial affairs of group. We have made arrangements for a Friends Group budget code to be set up to look after any funds raised by the group to be spent on the library.

It may also involve:

- Publicity and marketing organiser
- Events organiser
- Fundraiser
- Someone to organise practical tasks

If you'd like to get involved in a more formal way, please join us on May 18th. If you cannot make that date but would still like to get involved please contact Alison at the library on 01485 540181 or email alison.thorne@norfolk.gov.uk□

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for passing my enquiry to Mrs Fiddick.

I read her piece in the Village Voice with interest, and it answered all my questions fully.

Sincerely

Peter Tudor Miles□

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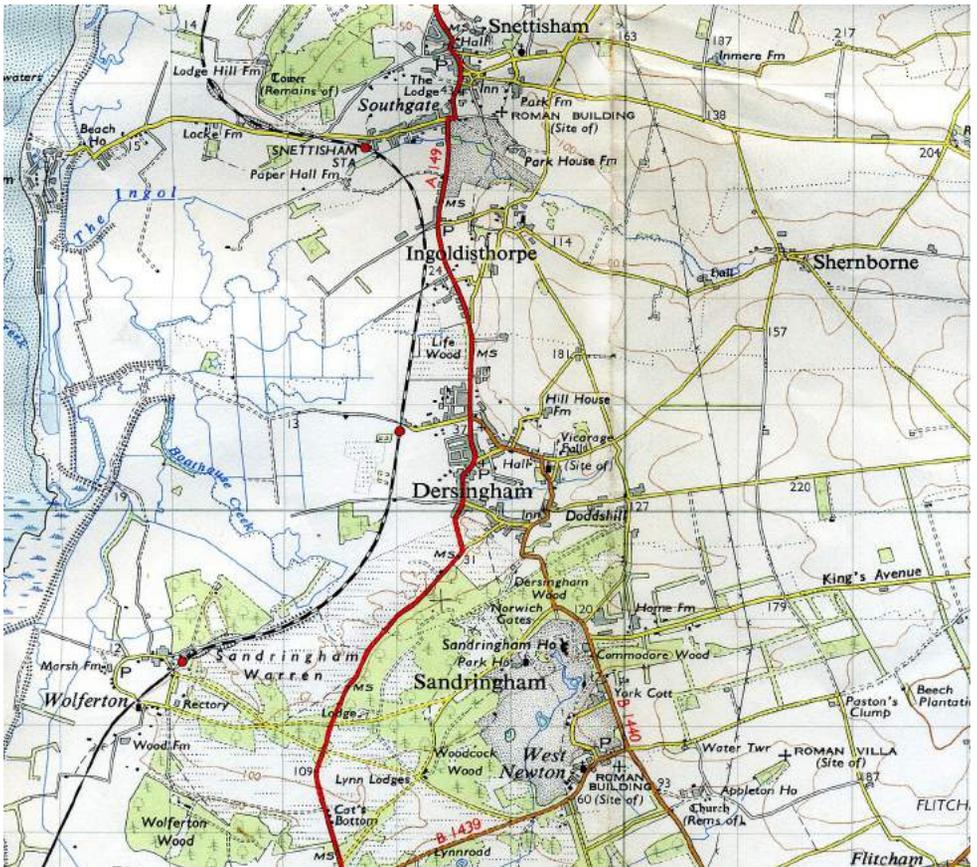
OLD MAP CORNER

by Tony Bubb

I have always been a big fan of the Ordnance Survey, particularly the One Inch series. For me the pinnacle of their mapping was the 7th series, first edition, as pictured below. This extract is from sheet 124 published in 1954 from revisions in 1950. Why do I rate this so highly? Well after previous series, which were rather heavy in their drawing, the 7th had a lightness making it much more readable. But this was also before the accountants got at it. There are 7 colours! Subsequent editions lost the subtle greeny grey of the grid and built up area infill and went to a black stipple.

When the scale changed to 1 in 50,000 they went to a 4-colour process which is why you now get the rather continental magenta coloured "A" roads - yuk.

So here we have depicted the railway, double track till Wolferton and Dersingham having 2 level crossings, no by-pass and an awful lot of the village as yet unbuilt. The benchmark (it's still there) is shown at the traffic light junction as being 37ft above sea level. When the scale was changed it translated to 11 meters and on the latest edition has disappeared altogether. Footpaths, not many around here, were just a single line of dashes and not the more prominent features that we get today, which is probably due now to the increased use of these maps for leisure and pleasure. □



THE NORFOLK HOSPICE TAPPING HOUSE LAUNCHES A PALLIATIVE CARE ACUPUNCTURE SERVICE



Physiotherapist, Lauren Ely

The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House has just launched a new service to support patients with symptoms from their illness. Lauren is a physiotherapist who has completed an Allied (Acupuncture Learning & Integrated Educational Development) acupuncture course. She has set up the acupuncture service specifically for those patients referred to the hospice by their GP or Consultant who are struggling with symptom management. Acupuncture can help relieve symptoms like pain or nausea. Like other forms of treatment, it does not work for everyone. Each individual will respond in a different way and at a different rate. Lauren assesses patient's individual needs and selects treatment that is appropriate for them. Acupuncture can have a cumulative effect, with pain relief often increasing as treatment progresses.

Lyndsay Carter, Chief Executive at The Norfolk Hospice said, "I am really pleased that the hospice can offer another therapy to patients struggling to cope with the effects of their illness. Along with many of the other services offered at the hospice we aim to provide holistic care to support patients remain living as independently and as well as they can at home."□

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DERSINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH
by Elizabeth Batstone

Annual Flower Festival Thursday 25th to Sunday 28th May

We look forward to welcoming you to our Flower Festival, the theme is 'Called to Serve'. Each of the displays depicts someone who God called to serve and how they responded.

The festival is held from 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Thursday - Saturday. Children from Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School will sing at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday and Friday. You will be able to purchase items from various stalls - cards, books, gifts, cakes, plants, Fair Trade products, not forgetting coffee, excellent lunches and teas, and of course the usual mouth-watering selection of cakes.



The festival is also open on Sunday 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. for people to enjoy the flowers and a cup of tea and a piece of cake; stalls will not be available. Proceeds from the Festival are for Church funds and Look Good Feel Better.

The flower festival continues with services on Sunday at 10.30 a.m. led by the Revd Andrew Maguire, and a United Songs of Praise at 6.00 p.m. led by Rev Steve Oliver. Come along and enjoy the wonderful displays, excellent company and fellowship. Further information from Elizabeth Batstone - Tel: 01485 541068; email: pebatstone@gmail.com.□

STARRY, STARRY NIGHT by John Vost



Probably, not many of us could name more than two or three celestial constellations, usually the Plough, the Great Bear and perhaps the Milky Way will be among them. Nature has fewer sights that are more magnificent than the night sky and no, before you ask, I am not an astronomer. The little knowledge I have (and a star finder) tells me that on a fine night in April looking from my kitchen window I should be seeing Cassiopeia (above), instead I have a harsh LED street light blotting out the possibility of seeing any stars at all. I shouldn't complain, it was a garish sodium orange lamp until recently.



Gas lighting still existed in some parts of London when I was a child, along with the commensurate winter fog and smog.



Historically, the latter, in a large part, caused by the burning of coal to produce the gas - it had to stop. The Clean Air act of 1956 saw the start of many changes, one of the less pleasing being orange sodium lighting. It still casts its ghastly pallor over the land and creates depressing light pollution wherever it is present. It was supposed that this type of lighting would penetrate fog - in my view it had no effect at all, mainly because lamp standards are so high.

Those village lights controlled by the Parish Council have now all been changed, from

orange sodium to white LED light, under a County Council initiative - the savings have been significant. The lights controlled by the County, sadly remain orange.

This is progress and will go some way in helping us to enjoy the beauty of the night sky but, why do we need streetlights at all?

Which of these images of villages by night do you prefer?

A 2015 study published in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health found that streetlights don't prevent accidents or crime, but do cost a lot of money. The researchers looked at data on road traffic collisions and crime in 62 local authorities in England and Wales and found that lighting had no effect, whether authorities had turned them off completely, dimmed them, turned them off at certain hours, or substituted low-power LED lamps.

Fear of the dark, a common phobia especially in young children, is usually not fear of darkness itself, but fear of possible or imagined dangers hidden by darkness. Those that do venture out on foot at night will know that it is rarely pitch black and one's eyes do adjust to low light levels. The moon and stars will light your way and even when they are absent there is still the light from houses and passing traffic - if not then use a torch.□



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We live in a very small world today - everyone is accessible via the internet and families find themselves being able to keep in touch no matter how far away they live. But ask yourselves what happens when you need a little more support than a skype call or an email. All of us want to be as independent as possible but sometimes we all need a little care and attention even if just for a short while. Here at Hanover Housing we feel we fill this gap.

Our wonderful retirement complex contains fully independent flats with your own secure front door; no need to clock in and out. You are free to live your lives as independently as you want but when life decides to throw you a curve ball we offer staff based on site during the day and a 24/7 on call system. This offers the peace of mind that there is always somebody available to help.

We have a great community feel, lots of social events that you can join in with or not depending on how you are feeling and pets are welcome too. At Hanover Housing we like to make retirement housing a positive choice.

We are also excited to announce that Hanover Court will be joining in the Dersingham Open Garden event on the 28th - 29th May bank holiday. A wonderful opportunity to have a look around and everyone is welcome!

So, if you or anybody you know would like more information or a tour of the estate in Dersingham, please feel free to give the office a call on 01485 541604. □



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DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP

by **Stephen Martyn**

The Walking Group aims to provide a programme of guided walks around the local countryside, each one led by a volunteer leader. Naturally the walks vary in length but they usually take around a couple of hours or so to complete and we have a rest stop at some point along the way. The walks are free, just turn up on the day wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. Bring some bottled water and a snack if you wish. Dogs are welcome, provided they're well behaved.

We walk at least once a month, on the second Wednesday, but other walks are often slotted into the programme. Coming up over the next few weeks are walks at Courtyard Farm, Ringstead, the woods and coast near Snettisham, and the estate at Holkham Hall. We also have an evening walk on the 26th July, along the beach and coastal path at Thornham. Why not join us!

Date & Time	Venue	Miles	Grid Ref	Leader
Wednesday 24th May 2.00pm	Courtyard Farm near Ringstead has an extensive network of field edge paths. Explore some of them on this walk starting from the car park on the Ringstead to Choseley road.	4.5	TF 722 405	Pat Reed 01485 540757
Wednesday 14th June 2.00pm	A coastal and woodland walk starting at Ken Hill Car park, Beach Road, Snettisham. About 100 yards west of the bypass.	5.0	TF 672 335	John Ross 01485 543844
Wednesday 28th June 2.00pm	A circular walk from the heights of Ringstead to the coast path, then climbing back up by a different route. Meet at Ringstead Green Bank on the Ringstead to Holme road	5.5	TF 706 420	Steve & Lindsey Davis 01485 543138
Wednesday 12th July 2.00pm	A walk around the beautiful grounds of Holkham Park with a possible café visit at the end. Meet at the free Holkham car park.	4.0	TF 892 437	Tony Bubb 01485 542638
Wednesday 26th July 6.00pm	An evening walk from Thornham visiting the harbour, the beach and the coast path. Meet at Thornham church	4.5	TF 733 434	Stephen Martyn 01485 541333

Stephen Martyn

PLEASE NOTE THAT the leaders are happy to organize and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety. 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. then please contact the leader.

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



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WILL BE HELD

on
TUESDAY MAY 23rd 2017, at 6PM
at
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH HALL, MANOR ROAD.

ALL RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED FOR ELECTION TO THE DVCA COMMITTEE AND SHOULD BE RECEIVED IN WRITING BY 12NOON ON MAY 21ST 2017, ADDRESSED TO - DVCA, 2A POST OFFICE ROAD, DERSINGHAM, PE31 6HP.

Village Lottery winning numbers:

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April 2017	50	46	60
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IT'S CHRISTMAS - 2nd DERSINGHAM BROWNIES

By Lynn Wheeler

The Easter holidays saw 24 girls from the 2nd Dersingham Brownies and their leaders head to Swaffham Junior School for their Brownie holiday for 4 days. This would be 4 days full of Christmas cheer as this year's theme was "Christmas", so the Brownie Six names (Polar bears, Angels, Robins & Snowmen), Leader names (the Reindeer), crafts and activities were all based on Christmas. The girls arrived on "Christmas Eve" and soon they were making decorations for their Christmas Tree and decorating a Stocking, which were all left under the trees. The first evening also involves the eagerly awaited Pyjama Parade, with prizes awarded for the "Nicest Nightwear", "Prettiest Dressing Gown", "Cuddliest Toy" and "Snuggliest Slippers".



On "Christmas Day" we went to Pensthorpe and

had a fabulous day; the girls enjoyed playing in the Hootz House indoor play area before we had a picnic lunch and met Tula the Barn owl. We then explored the reserve with a nature walk which involved a Stamper trail, quiz questions and an Easter egg hunt! The weather was wonderful, but not very Christmassy - sunhats rather than wellies!

When we returned to Swaffham it was time to open our Stockings, which were filled with silly gifts, including a Santa hat. That evening we had a Christmas dinner - with all the trimmings and spent the evening playing silly games; Pin the nose on the reindeer, Blindfold present wrapping, board games and Reindeer beetle.

We also held a Christingle service with Rev Janet of St Peter & St Paul in Swaffham. The girls made their Christingles from a polystyrene ball covered in orange tissue paper and a pretend candle, but REAL sweets.



In between all our special-Christmas activities the girls enjoyed lots of crafts, some of which were; colouring a Biff-bat game, making a Reindeer crown mask, Sand-art and stained glass effect window decorations. The brownies also help with chores in the holiday home, so washing up, helping to prepare the meals and keeping their Six bedroom neat and tidy. On our final evening the brownies toasted marshmallows before squishing them between two chocolate digestives! We then had an indoor campfire with all our silly Guiding songs.

On the final morning, before the serious tidying up began, there was just time for a treasure hunt. All the brownies and leaders had a wonderful time, and were very tired by the end, but it had been a very successful and enjoyable holiday. All the Brownies earned their Toymaker and Reindeer Challenge badges and either their Brownie Holiday and Cooks, Holiday Advanced or Brownies Go For It; we also jumped our 4 oldest Brownies "over the toadstool" to Guides. Here's to 2018 - we've already got a few ideas!□

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

by Sue Payne

What a great month March was for Dersingham!

First, we were named as the 9th best village in England, to live in, by The Times. I, personally, don't need to be told that Dersingham is a great place to live, but it is rather nice to see it confirmed 'in print'.

Then, just after the deadline for the last Village Voice, we heard the fantastic news that the Dersingham Village Centre project has been awarded a grant of £550,000 by the Big Lottery.

The Centre will bring much needed services to benefit Dersingham residents, and those in neighbouring communities, as well as providing a first-class venue for large events. It is something that we will all be proud of for many years to come.

It is now even more important that we raise the remaining monies to enable building work to start late in the summer. Please do support the fundraising activities and events details of which are elsewhere in this edition.

Village Events

The next event organised by the Parish Council will be the Village Fun Day on Sunday, September 10th. It will be held on the Sports Field in Manor Road, and will include a Fun Dog Show. Stall holders are welcome (games, crafts, cakes, sweets etc), please contact the office for more information.

The Christmas Lights Switch-On will take place on November 26th, on the Recreation Ground.

Aerial Photograph. As mentioned in the last edition, we have a superb aerial photograph of the village for sale. It was taken from a drone by The Sky's the Limit. We have A4, A3, A2 colour framed prints, and a mounted canvas version, for sale at £15.00, £20.00, £27.50, £35.00 respectively. They are also available in black & white.

We also have some old hand drawn maps of Dersingham for sale at £5.

Please contact the office if you are interested in purchasing a photograph or map.

Annual Parish Meeting

A small audience attended the meeting held on April 20th and heard from Dave Robson, Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, about dealing with emergency events.

Brian Anderson is compiling a Major Event Plan for Dersingham, which includes a list of those who can assist with generators, 4x4 vehicles, and assisting stranded or evacuated people. Please let the Clerk know if you would be interested in helping out. The plan is virtually complete and will need reviewing regularly to ensure it is up to date.

Parish Council Meetings

Details of Full Council and Committee meetings can be found in the Parish Office window and notice-boards around the village. 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. Please do visit the Parish website – www.dersingham.org.uk where you can find more details about Parish Council meetings, village events, and local news and information.□





DICK MELTON FROM SUNNY HUNNY

Village Characters

Tony Bubb says in his editor's notes that there does not seem to be many village characters about anymore. One of the reasons for this I am sure is that people don't stand on street corners anymore and have a good mardle. Also, you do not get the people in the pubs as there are not many pubs left and people tend to drink more at home. I remember if you went into the Albert Victor at any lunch time there would be three old boys, all over the age of eighty sitting round the fire drinking their pints of mild beer. Every now and again one of them would stick the poker in the fire then put it in his beer so as to warm it up. If you sat and listen to them you would have learnt a lot more off them than you would at school.

Tony mentions John (Jack) Bunn. I knew Jack very well as he was my wife's uncle. Jack was a very good swimmer and he would often swim with us boys down the pits; Jack was also a very good drummer and played the drums for many years with a local dance band. He told me once that when he started work as a gardener on the Sandringham estate in the nineteen twenties there were ninety gardeners working there. Another old village character was an old boy called 'Uncle Two Foot'. I can't remember his real name; he lived in a cottage between the old chapel and the Coach and Horses pub in Manor Road opposite the bottom school. He would lean on the school gate and tell us boys about the ghosts at Snoring Lodge hall; if he hung around a school like that nowadays no doubt he would get arrested.

Another very likable character was Tony Daniels, a cockle fisherman, who hawked fresh cockles around the village. He went around the village on his bike and he spoke to everyone whether he knew them or not. Tony could turn his hand to most things. My mother always kept a cat, when one died my father asked Tony if he could get her a kitten. "Okay," said Tony. A couple of days later Tony brought one round in a sack. As soon as Tony opened the sack the kitten jumped on a chair, then shot up the curtains and sat on top of the curtain pole. My father got it down and after a few days it got tame and turned out to be a good cat. Father later found out that Tony got it from an old shed down the marsh where there were lots of cats, but they were all wild.

There were many characters around the village when I was a boy, like Norman Towers the butcher who delivered his meat around the village with a pony and cart. He was one of the last people to keep a pony on the Shut-up Common. Another man to use a horse and cart was Mr Wilson the coalman. Also, Dan Andrews and his son Billy used a horse and cart to sell fruit and veg around the village. On a Wednesday, they would go up Sandringham to sell fruit and veg to the visitors. Then, of course, there was Billy Cook and his one-man band, who would play outside the pubs on a Saturday night; and who can forget Ken Martins, who was a village postman, also a little higgler (small-holder) who could always be seen around the village on his little grey Ferguson (tractor), delivering muck and ploughing allotments for people.

Cor blimey! I nearly forgot Joe (Philip) Painter the village chimney sweep, who lived in the end cottage at Pleasant Place, right next to the open common. He had a large shed in his garden in which he had a collection of over 300 goes-unders (chamber pots). Joe was also well known for his huge bonfires on November 5th that were mostly made up of old rubber tyres from the garage opposite his house and you always knew that at some time during the evening the common would get on fire due to sparks from the bonfire. I have no doubt left some old village characters out and I am sure there must still be some

characters about in the village.

The other day my sister, who lives in Dersingham, brought to show me a pencil or crayon drawing of the old flax factory at West Newton. A friend of ours had lent it to her to show me. The date on it is the 4th of April 1947; it is signed by a German p.o.w. H. Neumuller; it was given to our friend's father who worked at the flax factory for many years. If you are wondering what a German p.o.w. was doing in Norfolk two years after the war ended. Well, a lot of them at the Snettisham beach p.o.w. camp, were not repatriated until late 1947, so while they were waiting to be sent back to Germany they were sent out to work. Some did not go back at all, they stayed here and married English girls.

For those that do not know where the flax factory was, if you went to (The old flax factory)



West Newton by way of Sandringham, when you get to the Appleton Tower crossroads you turn right down the hill past the church and the club. Then take the first turning on your left then, after about half a mile, you will see what remains of the old flax factory on your right just before you get to the old narrow bridge and the old water mill.

The flax factory opened up in 1934 and closed down in 1958. Many people from the surrounding area, even as far as Hunstanton and King's Lynn worked there. I can remember the old dark green buses that went around to pick them up. Over 5,000 acres of flax was grown each year on contract by local farmers. When I was about 13 I went to work for Ken Martins part-time and I remember him growing some flax on a three-acre field that he rented down Manor Road called Tucks Field. When the flax was ready to be harvested it would be about three to four foot tall; it was pulled up by hand, but on a larger acreage it was done by a machine called a bobby.

I knew many of the people who worked at the flax factory but one who was a good friend of mine was Ted Cox. Ted was a scientist before he joined the flax factory; he went on an expedition to the Arctic region; he could build anything mechanical. When he lived down Glebe Road I remember him building a car with bits from a scrap yard. Around 1952/53 he built himself a television set.

When Ted finished at the flax factory he bought the 'Auto Service Station' in Hunstanton Road. There was a bungalow at the side where Ted lived with his wife and son Roger. Ted was always one for inventions so, when a petrol company brought out an automatic petrol pump that took a £1 note and gave you four gallons of petrol, Ted would switch it on in the evenings so people could get petrol at night. But Ted soon got rid of it as it was always going wrong so people would knock him up in the middle of the night wanting their money back. A lot of us lads with motor bikes would go to Ted's in the evening, as Ted would let us use his tools to titivate our motor bikes up.

Dersingham Fen access

I read in the March issue of Hunstanton Town and Around that Natural England is seeking views on proposals that will restrict public access to open access land at Dersingham Fen (not Bog). This site, which is made up of three areas (Wolferton Warren, Wolferton Fen and Dersingham Fen), is already very restricted to public access.

It is fenced in on the east and north sides and is inaccessible on the west side. In the early nineteen fifties, because of the many fires on the Fen caused by the steam train, a fire track was made from Sandpit Cottages to Wolferton Cutting for the fire engines to use.

There was already a track to the village dump that had been moved from the Shut-up Common to this area, more away from the village. After 1990, when the by-pass was built and the land fenced in, a five-bar gate was put up at the Dersingham end of the fire track but it had a lock and chain on it. So, I asked why this was so and was told if I wanted to go on Dersingham Fen from this area I could climb over the gate. I am sorry but I am not a young lad anymore, I am over three score years and ten so I gave up climbing over gates many years ago. I agree that all dogs should be on a lead all the year round, but I think more access should be made available to the fen at the Dersingham end. Well that's your lot for now, all the best, I will be back in two months' time in the meantime I am off to Swaffham to do a day threshing for nothing.□

Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

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

The Wonders and Woes of Madagascar with Allan Hale

Tuesday 30th May, 7.30pm

NarVOS member Allan Hale is a popular speaker to our society. Following in the footsteps of famous naturalists Allan and his wife Heidi visited Madagascar last year. The 'wonders' of the title will undoubtedly include exotic birds and lemurs. I wonder what the 'woes' could be. Please come along and find out.

Members' Evening including Butterflies with Graham Sherwin

Tuesday 27th June, 7.30pm

Local wildlife enthusiast Graham Sherwin will show us some of his video footage of UK Butterflies. Graham's presentation will be a highlight of this NarVOS Members' evening. Additionally, we invite members and visitors to bring along books, photographs, paintings or anything else of wildlife interest to this social and informal meeting.

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.□



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Sandringham Companion Dog Show
Held under Kennel Club Rules & Regulations
To be held at Sandringham Church
Saturday 17th June 2017
Show opens 10am. Judging starts 11am.



Ring 1

Pedigree Classes

1. Any Variety Puppy (0-12 months)
2. Any Variety Junior (12-18 months)
3. Any Variety Hound & Terrier
4. Any Variety Gundog
5. Any variety Utility & Toy
6. Any Variety Pastoral & Working
7. Any Variety Open (Bottle of wine for 1st-5th)

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Ring 2

19. Open Obedience Class
Open to any dog over 6 months
Winner to receive a bottle of champagne

Novelty Classes

8. Junior Handling
 9. Fancy Dress
 10. Best Veteran (over 7 years)
 11. Dog Most Like Owner
 12. Best Crossbreed
 13. Prettiest Bitch
 14. Most Handsome Dog
 15. Best Eyes
 16. Best Rescue
 17. Dog Judge Would Most Like To Take Home
 18. Best In Show (Prizes kindly donated by Dobson & Horrell)
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TWO CONTENDERS IN TRAINING (SORT OF!) FOR THE SANDRINGHAM & WEST NEWTON DOG SHOW—SATURDAY 17th JUNE



On the left Jack, the Beast of Dersingham. On the right George, a rare Balinese Whelk hound.



NEWS FROM WEST NEWTON

by Jayne Windsor



Hello, and welcome to my first contribution to the Village Voice. As Church Warden of West Newton's St Peter & St Paul's I will be able to keep you up to date on what's happening in the Church. We have a thriving Sunday School which is run by Mrs Bernice Allen and children from all villages are welcome to join. We have a 3.30pm Choral Evensong on the second Sunday of each month and a Family Service at 9.15am on the Third Sunday of each month.

Up to date service times for both Sandringham and West Newton Churches, as well as the other churches in our Group can be found on the Group church website www.sandringhamchurches.org.uk

Our Church clock has recently been fitted with an automatic winder paid for by fund raising events, donations and a "Sponsor a Number" scheme. We hope to be able to continue to renovate the clock by painting and re-gilding the four clock faces this year. This will happen when we have raised another £4,000!

In addition to the Church West Newton has a very successful Church of England VA primary school and is now in partnership with Flitcham School. The former Head Teacher, Mrs Jane Gardener is now Executive Head of both schools and Mrs Heather Strudwick is Head of School of Sandringham & West Newton School.

The village has a lively WI group who meet on the last Wednesday evening of each month in the Village Hall.

Sandringham & West Newton Sports & Social Club is well attended and is also the base of a flourishing Bowls Club. I will be reporting on forthcoming events at the club in future issues.

Finally, we are lucky enough to have a branch of Howard's butchers in the village, where we can buy locally reared meat and game and the shop is well stocked with groceries and fresh vegetables.

We are small but welcoming village. Many of the residents work or are retired from working for the Sandringham Estate, but in recent years more homes are occupied by families whose work is outside the Estate. This brings a welcome mix of families to the village, especially those with children – after all they will keep our lovely village alive for the future!□

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DERSINGHAM LIBRARY EVENTS MAY/JUNE 2017

by Alison Thorne

For further information about events and to book please call 01485 540181

Regular weekly events

Scrabble club - Mondays 1.30-3pm

Knit and natter - Thursdays 10.30-12

Baby bounce and rhyme - Thursdays term time 10-10.30am

In Good Company' - every Wednesday 2.30-3.30pm

Special events

Art in the Library - Saturday 3rd June 10-1 or Monday 5th June 5-7pm

Come along and create your own postcard work of art. Find out how you can donate your postcard to help raise funds for the Tapping House Hospice and be part of their Art in the Hut July exhibition. You can bring your own favourite paints if you wish and we'll supply the paper, card and colouring pens. Open to all ages. Please contact your local Library or email the Hospice on artinthehut@btinternet.com for more information.

Hatha Yoga Beginners class with Jayne Starting Tuesday 6th June 5-6pm

This is a free 6 weeks course for beginners. Please bring your own mat, blanket and water bottle. Places are limited so please book by contacting the library on 01485 540181

Friends of Dersingham Library

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

Celebrate Elmer Day – Wednesday 31st May 10.30-12

Have an elephantine day with stories and activities involving the Elmer the Elephant

Tickets are £3 per child bookable in advance. Please contact the library on 01485 540181

Summer Reading Challenge launch

Coding 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.

Monthly events

Peer support group for Carers led by the Alzheimer's Society – Tuesday 6th June 1-3pm

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

Colour yourself calm - Wednesday 7th June 10.30-12

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

Crime Book Club - 12th June 6-7pm

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

Walk and talk group -15th June 2.30pm

Join our volunteers 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 -19th June 6-7pm

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

Computer buddies - Thursday 25th May and 22nd June 3-4pm

Are you struggling with computers? Then come along and find out how the library can help you. There's no need to book, just come along.

Family History and Computer volunteers. You can also book one-to-one sessions with our volunteers. Just ask staff for details. □



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RANDOM JOTTINGS

by Tony Bubb

I was watching something on the box the other day when the name Chubb cropped up in relation to a security matter and I was set to wondering just how the names of, in this instance, freshwater fish became surnames. We get Rudd, Roach, Pike (stupid boy) and Salmon but I cannot find any Perch, Carp, Eels, Minnow, Barbell or Tench listed. Trout is used but only in North America it seems. So, what singled out the ones we do have for adoption?

Were these people's ancestors involved in the farming of these species or the go to person if you wanted one for the table, we are unlikely to know. When it comes to the sea, the list of ignored fish types is even greater with Bass, Herring and Haddock being the only ones that come to mind and even Mr Haddock may only be fictional as written by AJP Taylor, or over the door of a chip shop. Can you come up with any others?



Along with many others, I visited the Grand Sale on April 22nd and amongst the goodies on offer was this model of the village sign. Now I don't remember these being offered and I can't track them on the internet although the container did suggest that it was made in Ipswich. This is unlikely to be a "one off" so are there many more out there? Of almost as much interest however, was the photo that was in the container with it. It looks like a Norfolk scene and no it's not Gt Massingham or Wereham so can anybody beat me to locating it?

It never ceases to amaze me that people don't check the meaning of notices when putting them up. Take this one just inside the Norwich City wall where the Chapelfield development is. Not just the one but about six of these are screwed to the walls of the flats and none of the gardens had anyone living

in them, just the odd plant.

It is just as bad in print sometimes. How many times have we seen huge ad's for restaurants or wonderful offers in new premises, usually in the Lynn News, without any clue as to where to find the places. Ah well, at least the paper gets a fee.



I spotted the above whilst killing an hour in Norwich the other day, Mrs B was



engaged in a shopping mission at the time, on the way back from visiting the Plantation Garden. If you have missed this one you are missing a treat. For just £2 in the honesty box you can wander round this ex quarry which has been transformed into a little oasis. There used to be a palm house but this went about 100 years ago with the outline now traces with planting. The garden is well supplied with information boards showing the views of years ago and plans of the place. Where is it you ask, next to the Catholic Cathedral in Earlham Road and not too easy to find unless they replace the obviously missing sign on the inner ring road by the time you try to visit.

We are pausing Village Voice Live evenings whilst the church hall is being rebuilt into the Village Centre. Our last offering is a Bar-B-Quiz (see back cover), in other words a quiz with a Bar-B-Q at half time. Our January quiz was a great success and another was requested to round off the run. There have been over 135 Village Voice Live evenings so this gap will give time to come up with more ideas to keep you entertained and informed which, along with the chance to meet some of your Parish Councillors, was always the aim of the meetings. I hope to see you there. □



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SPECIALIST**

DERSINGHAM EVENING WI

by Maggie Guest

The author of this article has recently been travelling and the last week was spent in Oman which had me thinking of the January WI meeting when Walter Blaney had given us an excellent talk in January with slides on Ten Days in Arabia. Such an interesting talk and it gave me a good foundation for my visit - thank you Walter!



Christine, Roma, and Peg have all had successful coffee mornings. Great that members open their homes for these events. The hostess provides the ingredients of chairs, cups or mugs together with biscuits, tea, coffee and milk. There are two dedicated members who actually make the tea and coffee and help clearing up. Members sit and chat and it is a really good way to get to know people. Often there is a raffle. Not only do we have a relaxed morning but we raise a bit of money for our WI funds. Thanks to our hostesses. On that subject, we had a coffee morning for new members at Maggie's home. We have five new members who had coffee with the committee and heard what each committee member contributes to the group. Welcome to our new members and we hope you enjoy the group.

Our monthly meetings are always at St Cecilia's Church in Mounbatten Road on the 3rd Wednesday of the month except August. At the February meeting we had Tricia McCarron from True's Yard to give a talk with slides about the women from the North End of King's Lynn who were married to the fishermen. They had a hard life and lived in cramped accommodation. A trip to True's Yard reveals how they lived. How lucky we all are nowadays!

At the March monthly meeting we had Brenda Packman from Association of Country Women of the World. Since 1940 the WIs have collected 'Pennies for Friendship' - the money goes to empowering women worldwide. Projects take place in countries like Tanzania, Ghana, Africa, Bangladesh etc. Mostly in rural areas the charity is improving women's understanding of health issues, nutrition etcetera. The ACWW is able to discuss issues with the United Nations and so has the ability to make a real difference to less fortunate women. Our WI has a collection or raises money every year for this charity which makes us appreciate how lucky women are in our country.

Wendy always excels herself coming up with various activities and places for lunch. February saw the group doing a quiz and having lunch at Thaxters. Sensibly, it was a quiz with multiple choice answers. Not only was it great fun for the attending WI members, but other people eating at Thaxters were wanting to join in!! The winner (Jean) received a plant and the booby prize was a small cake but I won't say who got that!

The MAD group continue to flourish and still meet monthly with their wool and knitting needles.

Bab's continues to teach the craft group every month at her home where she has the most wonderful stash of craft papers etcetera (opposite Babs and Roma). She is so patient and helps individuals as needed. In February paper was 'marbled' by putting

shaving foam in a baking tin, stirring in colours so members could make a print from the surface. Imagine letting 10 ladies loose in your own house with shaving foam and paint!! March saw Easter cards made in part, with folded fabric - impressive to say the least!

The Fit 'n' Dancing now has two sessions on a Monday morning. The experienced group go first followed by the 'new girls'. These sessions seem great fun as well as keeping people fit.

Diann, who organises theatre trips, got us tickets to see Peter Pan on Ice at which everyone enjoyed and this was followed by a trip to see Opera Boys at The Princess Theatre in Hunstanton. The four Opera Boys had lovely voices and sang a variety of music. There was joking from the stage and some audience participation.

Babs and Maggie have planned some walks for the Walking Group and are hoping for fine weather! More on that later!

On May 27th Resolutions; June 21st a talk on Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and on July 19th A demonstration by Flowers by Yvonne.

Other activity dates are handed out at the meetings which are held at **St Cecilia's Catholic Church on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.15pm** - except August. We have meet and greet members on the door.□

Contact numbers - Peg 541162 Katrina 544773 Maggie 542424.□

A photograph of a living room. In the center, a Dalmatian dog is sitting on a yellow armchair. Behind the dog is a brick fireplace with a black woodburner stove. To the right is a wooden coffee table. The room has beige walls and a light-colored sofa on the right.

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ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

by Mark Capron - Rector

General Election – The Place of the Cross

Easter Day in the benefice was greeted in with a special sunrise Holy Communion service outside Sherborne church, followed by hot coffee and patisseries inside. We concluded by singing the wonderful hymn of 'Thine Be the Glory' celebrating what Jesus had done through the cross.



With the surprise announcement of the General Election on June 8th we now have a choice about the impact of the cross for us in electing our parliamentary representative. Where will we place the cross, will we think and pray about making the decision on who to vote for? Will we waste the cross and not bother with it?

God took the cross so seriously that he gave his one and only son (John 3:16) on the cross for each of us so that we can be free. The cross is powerful; in June at the General Election and also through the cross comes the Resurrection in Jesus Christ, God's gift to us personally. Both the cross marked on the ballot paper and the choice to follow Jesus who bore the cross for us are personal and life changing decisions.

Rev Mark Capron - Rector

Forthcoming Events at St Nicholas

10th June - Nelson's Shantymen 7pm in Church - Tickets £5 on the door.

13th - 16th July - Flower Festival 10am to 6pm in Church and 10am to 5pm in the Church Hall.

29th July - A Musical Night to Remember with Matthew Bason - Organist and Singer - Tickets £5 on the door.

JustOne at Emirates Stadium - 8th July

We are very excited that we have managed to get 100 tickets to go to JustOne at Emirates Football Stadium home of Arsenal Football team.

Many may remember or know of the Billy Graham Mission; this year Canon J John is leading one of 40,000 on Saturday 8th July

- Tickets are £15 each incl coach & entry.

To book your tickets contact Hadyn Martin on 01485 544561 or email hadyn3@googlemail.com.

EASTER EGGS

By Sue Payne

Our first Easter Egg hunt took place in the two weeks leading up to April 8th with participants having to find and visit local businesses via clues. All completed entries were entered in to a draw for a giant Easter Egg, kindly donated by Rossiters. (Image courtesy of Rex Makemson)



The draw took place at the Family Fun Event on April 8th. The egg was won by George Bushell-White, he also won first prize in the raffle – a 'Have a Go' session at Dersingham Pottery, donated by June Mullarkey.

We are grateful for the support we had from local business especially with the Easter Egg Hunt, and raffle prizes. Thank you- Brittons, Christyana, Co-op, Dersingham Library, Dersingham Post Office, Fade to Grey, Geoffrey Collings, Rossiters, Shoe Service, Thaxters, The Barn.

Feedback from participants in both the Easter Egg Hunt and family Event was very positive so we will repeat them next year. □

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OVER 40 YEARS OF A NATURAL HISTORY JOURNAL

By Brian Anderson



On 10th April 1976 my wife Yvonne and I went on a walk with two friends on the South Downs near Hassocks in Sussex. It wasn't the first walk we'd done with them but I was starting to think that I should record what we saw. So, I took rough notes and bought a notebook and started on the journal. What I didn't realise at the time (although I made passing reference to the dryness of the soil) was that we were entering one the hottest and driest summers on record. The entries for the next couple of months don't show any concern about the weather but do describe a holiday on the Norfolk Broads and a visit to Yvonne's parents' caravan at Heacham. It's not until July that notes for a Walk in Kent show that the River Darent was virtually dry for a considerable length. The remaining notes for the summer mention the heat and lack of rain repeatedly. Then in the September we had a camping holiday in the Lake District, starting on exactly the day when the weather broke and it poured with rain for two days!

When I look back over these early entries I am often embarrassed about the mistakes I made over the identity of the animals and plants that I recorded. One of the most glaring was the misidentification of the Fulmars of Hunstanton cliffs as gulls!

1977 saw a great variety of locations - the Brecon Beacons, Epping Forest, Oxfordshire, Norfolk, West Sussex, Northamptonshire - we were still living in London at the time so transport links were good. The journal now started to record detailed notes about the wildlife, especially plants, dragonflies and butterflies. In the pages for August 1977 I find a letter from the Natural History Museum replying to an enquiry I made regarding a variety of the Gatekeeper butterfly in Ken Hill Wood. The curator identified it as *Maniola* (now *Pyronia*) *tithonus* ab. *subalbidata*.

At the end of 1977 we moved to Bedford, so the journal contains many entries about wildlife of that small but very diverse county. For a few years, the journal continues in a chatty vein, describing the wildlife of Bedfordshire, Norfolk, Derbyshire and the River Avon.



In the spring of 1982 I went to East Texas on a work trip. I spent about six weeks there and the journal records fifty-one butterfly species seen. Some, like the Red Admiral, we have here but seeing Mourning Cloak butterflies (aka Camberwell Beauties over here), Monarchs and a variety of Swallowtails (especially the Tiger Swallowtail - 5 1/2", 140mm wingspan - opposite) was exciting. Quite a range of snakes and scorpions too!

Then in 1988 I bought a booklet published by the Norfolk Branch of Butterfly Conservation: *An Atlas of Norfolk Butterflies 1984 - 1988* by M R Hall. When I looked at the distribution maps I realised that there were gaps for some species where I recorded them in the journal. I tabulated these as best I could and posted them off (no email in those days!). It then occurred to me that the journal entries I had made in Bedfordshire could be used locally so another list was sent off to the Bedfordshire Recorder. This was the start of quite a range of multifarious recording activities and made quite big change in the journal - it became a lot less chatty and more filled with data tables.

Despite this, there are quite detailed highlights of notable visits or events. Every so often there is a note about some interesting church - I especially like old wood carving (opposite), original early glass and surviving wall paintings. Oddly enough I came to this via the ghost stories of M R James (covered in Village Voice a few years ago). In the late

1980's I began a series of working visits to CERN near Geneva in Switzerland (also covered in Village Voice!). The CERN management had an enlightened policy of leaving many of the open areas between the laboratories to grow **naturally as chalk grassland and a flock of sheep grazed these areas in rotation.** During my rather limited free time I was able to record large numbers of wild flowers not found (or not found commonly) in the UK. It was also great for seeing continental butterflies - The Queen of Spain Fritillary, the Scarce Swallowtail (actually common) and the Sooty Copper remain in the memory. The wildflower list was significantly augmented when we took a holiday in the Haute Savoie, not far from Geneva. We hired a *gîte* in the middle of a hay meadow. The enormous plant list showed just how much we have lost in our meadows in Britain.



Our visits to Norfolk continued until we moved to Dersingham in 2011. And the wildlife recording continued too. An entry in 2003 expresses the excitement at seeing Stone Curlew at Roydon (opposite). An entry for June 2014 describes my first sighting of the British subspecies of the Swallowtail butterfly at Horsey. A walk at Holme Dunes in June 2015 finds me trying to grapple with the species, subspecies, hybrids and colour varieties of Early and Southern Marsh Orchids (below) - it was the following year

when, under the expert guidance of Adrian Winnington of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, I finally sorted it out!

So, does the journal have any value? I think I have demonstrated the objective value of systematic recording - after all, conservation efforts will not succeed unless you know what you've got before the start - or indeed, whether you have a problem at all. But beyond that it's an aid to personal reminiscence - memories are surprisingly fallible as we often discover when looking back over old volumes of the journal.



The other asset is that by writing up notes reinforces the knowledge across a wide range of wildlife and requires that you check uncertain identifications before formally committing to paper. It's been very useful in that context for plants, insects, birds and mammals although I admit to still struggling with fungi. In the days before the digital camera it was also useful for dating and locating photographs. One other application came rather out of the blue. In 2010, we went to a family history exhibition in London as Yvonne was (is) interested in tracing her antecedents. One of the stalls was intriguingly entitled *Cognitive Archaeology* and was being run by a group from Swansea University. They were interested in anyone who was keeping a diary and had done so more or less continuously for about thirty years or so. I asked if they were interested in my journal - and they were. They were looking to see if the number of different words used declined with age. I submitted sample pages at their specified dates and it seems that my vocabulary hadn't declined. Mind you, that was nearly seven years ago...

I'm still writing the journal, the original, in a notebook in longhand. I can't face the task of transcribing all those pages on to digital files. and anyway, I like doing it like that! □



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DERSINGHAM INSTITUTE BOWLS CLUB
by Helen Young



The green opened for the start of the 2017 season on Saturday 22nd April. Club President Bob Meredith bowled the first wood before 40 bowlers took to the green and enjoyed a full afternoon of bowling.

The season was only eight days old when the first internal competition of the season took place on May Bank Holiday. Thirty bowlers competed for the Edie's Cup which was eventually won by Alan Toppin. Alan has only been bowling for a couple of seasons but having won through to the last eight of the competition he went on to beat two of the Club's strongest bowlers to lift the trophy. Well done Alan!

Next year DIBC will be 100 years old and to celebrate its centenary, the Committee is keen to put together a history of the Club. **Can you help?** Perhaps you were one of the members who raised funds and built the current clubhouse? Were you a past playing or social member or just a regular spectator? Do you have any photographs or newspaper cuttings related to the Club and its history? Whatever your memories the Committee would love to hear from you and can be contacted in the first instance through the Chairman, Richard Bridges on 01485



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LITTER PICK IN THE SPORTS FIELD

by Brian Anderson



6 people, 1 hour, 12 bags, estimated weight 100kg. No further comment should be necessary...

WHODUNNIT?

A mystery worthy of Agatha Christie



This appeared on Facebook on the 10th April, 2017 - rubbish fly-tipped beside Mill Road, Dersingham - by the next day it had gone, every last scrap.

Who removed it? A good Samaritan? The council - no, the parish council had no knowledge of it. Maybe we are indebted to Facebook, perhaps the perpetrators saw the posting and, deciding they couldn't face the public humiliation of being identified, removed it themselves, we may never know.

Is social media a metaphor for the village stocks of old? If you see a similar spectacle anywhere then photograph it and post it online - this scourge of despoiling our village and the countryside must stop. □

THE SANDRINGHAM NEWSLETTER

by kind permission of Sandringham Estate

Compiled by Helen Walch



Gardens staff spent much of the last few weeks completing winter pruning and undertaking the annual task of pruning and tying in the red-twigged limes which surround the North Garden. Storm Doris caused quite a large amount of damage and mess throughout the Gardens, including the loss of a mature beech tree which was snapped across the trunk rather than uprooted. However, the Gardens are looking beautiful at the moment, with magnolias and camellias in full bloom. Lawn mowing has started up again, and the winter pruning has been

completed.

On the Farm, March was a relatively dry month, which made it easier for Farm staff to get machinery onto the fields and sow a range of crops including sugar beet, barley, wheat, peas and beans. Farm staff have also been getting machinery serviced and overhauled, and spending time trimming and tidying hedges and headlands. Hedge cutting has now finished for this season, to avoid disturbing birds building their nests.

At the pigeon lofts, the young racing birds have now all hatched. The older young birds are now exploring the outside ground and roof of the lofts and will be gaining valuable knowledge of the surrounding area. The racing birds have now started training in earnest for the start of the racing season.

At the Visitor Centre, spring cleaning of the buildings and car parks was completed in good time to be ready for the many visitors who arrived when Sandringham House opened to the public at Easter.

In the year which marks the 70th anniversary of Indian independence, the theme of the Museum exhibition this year is India and the exhibition includes Indian landscapes and portraits, as well as examples of work in brass, silver, ebony and ivory. Elephants abound, as well as beautiful figurines, vases and caskets and a collection of beautifully bound books.

Also in the Museum there is a new vehicle on display; HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's taxi, which he used for travelling to both official and private engagements in London, has arrived at Sandringham and has been added to the display in the Royal Garages. □



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A NEW GUIDE TO CARE AND SUPPORT IN NORFOLK

A crucial time for information

A new, updated Norfolk – *Your guide to care and support for adults 2017/18* has been published today in association with Norfolk County Council. It gives readers crucial information on how to find and access care and support services throughout the county.

If you are looking for information on what your choices may be, this guide can help. With information to help you understand your options, where to go for advice and how the paying for care system works, the Norfolk guide to care and support for adults 2017/18 can support you to make informed decisions.

The new edition of Norfolk guide to care and support for adults and accompanying website give information on all aspects of arranging care and support in and around Norfolk. It includes how to stay independent for as long as possible, the different care and support options available and what to look for when choosing a care provider if you need one. It also offers guidance on important issues such as paying for care and what financial assistance may be available from the local authority. There are comprehensive listings of all registered care services throughout Norfolk, plus checklists to help you ask the right questions when visiting services.

It can be downloaded from www.norfolk.gov.uk/careservices and is available in spoken word. For a free copy of Norfolk guide to care and support for adults 2017/18 contact Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020 or email information@norfolk.gov.uk. It is also available throughout the region from various outlets including hospitals, GP surgeries, Age UK and the Alzheimer's Society.

Robert Chamberlain, Managing Director of the guide's publisher, Care Choices, commented: "This is an invaluable source of information for anyone looking for care and support options in Norfolk, and contains vital information to help people decide what type of care and support is best for them. "With the current crisis in social care, finding a care service for yourself or a loved one that meets their needs and is affordable can be a daunting and unfamiliar task. This new guide has been compiled to help people understand the process and offer them reassurance at every step of their journey."

Care Choices is the UK's largest independent publisher for social care and adults with additional needs. It is also the largest publisher of care directories for local authorities in England. □



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SNETTISHAM BEACH SAILING CLUB



On Saturday 18th March Snettisham Beach Sailing Club's first event of the 2017 season was the Prize Giving Evening for 2016. For the first time this annual event was held in the newly extended and refurbished clubhouse, thanks to the newly installed central heating we kept warm. Fifty-eight members attended a lively

social function at which a very tasty and colourful buffet was provided by the new club caterers, Jeremy and Caroline Wright of West Norfolk Flying Chef fame. A great opening to a new season of sailing and socialising. The prizes were presented to both Junior and Senior Fleet winners by Commodore Adrian Tebbutt.

Prize Winners from bottom left: Jasper Barnham, Ben Charnley, Katie Landles, Robert Fletcher, Jack Napolitano, Simon Landles, Paul Norris, Finlay Barnham, Tim Landles, Commodore Adrian Tebbutt, Howard Hawkes, Rose Edmonds, Amelia Eaton, Eva Miller, Matthew Lloyd and Guy Playford. Other prize winners not present on the night were; Fergus Barnham, Paul Bloom, Rosy Charnley, Colin Dacey, Mark Foley, Nimal De Silva. □

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DERSINGHAM VA PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

by Sue Picton

Spring made a grand entrance with warm sunshine and bright blossom, only to be replaced at the end of April with snow and hail storms! Fortunately, the children haven't been so confused and have attacked the new term with gusto! Each class has performed an assembly to family members and the rest of the school and had the opportunity to share their amazing floor books, packed full with beautiful work.

Stories have been the theme for this term's work in Nursery and Reception class. The children's work will culminate in a performance of Little Red Riding Hood, the musical, for their parents. Look out for the photographs in the next edition! In keeping with the theme, the children in Reception have a new pet goldfish, following a very close vote, the children chose the name Goldilocks! All the children on site have had a visit from a dental health nurse who reminded the children how to look after their teeth, we will be making posters to remind the wolf how to take care of his gnashers! The preschool has been very fortunate to win a new wooden playhouse for their outdoor area and the children have thoroughly enjoyed playing in it!

Year 1's topic is called Enchanted Woodland. The children have been taking every opportunity to visit and explore the local woodland. They used their 'super senses' to observe nature's beauty and magic. They have made friends with many trees, learned that some trees are deciduous and some are evergreen. They even made bark rubbings and explored the best way to measure a tree!



Observing bird life was great fun and the children learned how to identify them by sight and the noises they make. They enjoyed taking photographs of the wild flowers and spotted Forget-Me-Nots and Bluebells. Collecting fallen treasures on each visit, creating outside sculptures and building an amazing den, to share woodland stories in, was magical. The children are getting really good at describing some of the woodland creatures using their imagination, and yes lots of them do have 'wings and pointed ears'!

Year 2 Dragons enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day and ventured to the library, where Alison Thorne hosted a dinosaur workshop with a fabulously rude dinosaur story to end the session! They have been busy learning about how to stay healthy and made a huge splash at Oasis during their swimming lessons! Look out Holme Dunes Nature Reserve! The next topic is taking the children to the seaside to learn about habitats and coastal features, let's hope the sun shines and the hail and rain stay away that day!

Year 4/5 are making the most of Spring by studying mini-beasts! They imagined finding a mini-beast in their food as a revolting way to start their topic and are currently using this scenario to practise writing letters of complaint and newspaper articles. They looked for invertebrates around the school grounds, and hope to go out into the woods too. A

special visitor will bring a selection of creatures for the children to learn about and handle, and they will then move on to finding out about identification keys and life cycles. Parents have been a great support, bringing in props for the children to use, such as tanks to create a wormery in, and even a huge mini-beast nearly the size of Miss Seaman's foot!

Premier Sport have been supporting children during lunchtimes and Golden Time to help them stay fit and focussed on their chosen sport, which has given them a tremendous boost. A big thank you to Mr Seal who has been helping coach our footballers and to Mrs Neil and Mrs Hamilton who have been successfully running a cookery club. Other Golden Time activities include computer club, sewing, gardening, Zumba, art, Japanese club, Pamper club, singing, keep our school beautiful club, fun sports, board games and science club.

The Eco-Council have organised two exciting campaigns. During *Waste Week*, the challenge was to reduce waste at lunchtimes by eating more food and producing less rubbish. Again, the children stepped up to the mark and managed to reduce lunchtime waste by a whopping 49%! Classes also made sure they saved energy by switching off lights, shutting doors and turning off unused monitors. Some children upcycled unwanted objects into attractive plant holders, while others learned about recycling and water consumption. *Keeping Healthy* week was hugely successful, with a sporty launch day and active sessions happening daily. Children entered a competition to bring fresh fruit to school and learned about the importance of having a healthy, balanced diet. Hygiene was a high priority and KS1 children benefitted from a visit from the dental nurse, where they had a teeth cleaning lesson!

As usual, sport is in the spotlight! KS1 and KS2 netballers competed in their own tournaments with the older children progressing to the next level. Year 2 joined in with a fun festival, where they showed true Dersingham spirit, by graciously swapping with other children to accommodate teams and displaying great respect and sportsmanship throughout! Football has been high on the agenda, with the U11s competing at Glebe, taking two teams and Year 3/4 entering two teams in a cluster competition at Hunstanton Primary School, where Dersingham Daredevils came runners-up in the Premiership!



Again, children took pride in their school by behaving impeccably and showing great discipline. Year 2 joined in with a fun football festival, where they emulated the older children's positive behaviour. With tri-golf, cricket, athletics, swimming galas and water polo coming up, it looks like the children will be keeping themselves busy!

In March, Mums were justly rewarded with a wonderful afternoon tea, kindly organised by The Friends, to celebrate Mother's Day. Don't worry Dads...your turn next! Red Nose Day was a great excuse to wear something funny and raise money for an excellent cause. The children had the opportunity to enter a talent contest, with finalists competing against each other in a nail biting final! It was amazing to see so much versatile talent on show! One of the highlights of last term was the Bollywood experience. Children spent time, class by class, learning a dance, which they then performed to parents in the playground. Many parents joined in, making it a fun, family event! Easter heralded some balmy weather and the children enjoyed their Easter service at St Nicholas Church and the Easter Fair at the Early Year's Site.

With Bank Holidays abounding, let's hope we have a return to that gorgeous sunshine as we gallop towards the summer holidays!□

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DERSINGHAM OPEN GARDENS AND ART TRAIL

Sunday May 28th and Monday May 29th 2017, 11am to 5pm

The annual Dersingham Open Gardens and Art Trail goes from strength to strength. Nearly twenty gardens will be open for this two-day Bank Holiday event. They are joined by about a dozen artists who are opening up their studios and many are also displaying their gardens.

New gardens are joining old favourites, where there are always changes going on. New beds and features have appeared, new plants are being tested to see if they have found the right spot, trees and shrubs come and go. Despite a mild winter, there have been late frosts which have caused some damage. Muntjac deer continue to be a problem with many gardens, even in the centre of the village. Gardeners have resorted to wire netting to protect particularly favourite plants.

The local artists are either opening up both their studios and gardens or are exhibiting with another open studio. The public can meet the artists, take a look at their work, and may even be tempted to buy an original work, a print or a greetings card. The artists are mainly painters, but there are also a potter, a photographer, a card maker and someone working with fusing glass to create various objects and images.

Spread out through the gardens are opportunities to buy plants, asparagus, bric-a-brac, and second hand books, and Ken Warner returns with his stand of glorious geraniums and other plants for sale.

Refreshments will be available throughout the day in St Nicholas Church Hall, starting with coffee at 11.00, then lunches, and the Church catering team's well-known cream teas in the afternoon.

Tickets are £5.00 each (under 16s free) and are available on the day at the Church Hall or from participating gardens. They cover both days. You can buy your tickets for £4.00 each in advance from Dersingham Post Office. The proceeds are to be shared between the Church and funding for the new Village Centre.

The event offers an entertaining day out and an opportunity to enjoy the creativity of our villagers in their beautiful gardens and with their artwork. Full details at www.DersinghamOpenGardens.co.uk.

Dersingham is also offering another event to create a whole weekend of entertainment: The King Swingers Jazz Evening will take place on Saturday May 27th at 7.00pm in Dersingham's St Nicholas Church Hall. Tickets £5.00. Food and drink available to buy on the night.



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www.DersinghamOpenGardens.co.uk



A WORD FROM YOUR WARD COUNCILLOR

By Judy Collingham

First of all, I wish our new editor of Village Voice good luck and interesting contributions to the publication in the future. It is a hard, and I imagine sometime thankless task, to edit this periodical but it serves a vital role in our community, and I for one am very grateful to anyone who takes on this project.

As I write we have the usual Spring weather – warm and sunny one moment and then a chilly wind reminds us that we are not done with colder temperatures yet. I am keeping my fingers crossed that warmer weather will prevail at the end of the month at least, as we look forward to Open Gardens 2017. This year we have more gardens than ever, and a real mix of small and large, private and commercial premises. Amongst other contributors, I am delighted to say that Hanover Court are opening this year to show us what a community garden can look like.

Of course, the political landscape is dominated by elections. First County Elections which will have taken place by the time you read this, and then our snap General Election. Whatever your political affiliations, this is a vitally important election as our Prime Minister seeks a mandate from the electorate to pursue her government's vision for Europe and ratify the Conservative manifesto. I hope voting fatigue will not overcome us in this ward and that we exercise our voice at this important time.□

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DERSSINGHAM DAY CENTRE

by Alice Worth



One thing can be guaranteed in April and that is rain, rain and more rain. This year we have had the hottest day for this time of the year, followed by some very cold weather with frosty mornings and, on one occasion, hail. We have managed to keep ourselves warm at the Day Centre, despite there being no heating in the main hall on several occasions. Ah well, our members are pretty tough and they didn't let the lack of heat spoil their day.



On the 19th April we celebrated our Easter Party. We had a lovely turkey lunch with all the trimmings. After lunch, we had our usual entertainment with Leigh Murfet and everyone was in good voice singing along to the music, and the Volunteers demonstrating their dancing skills!!!!

Members had, once again, made a great effort with their Easter Bonnets and the winners were Joe Earl for the best decorated gentleman's hat and Pat Andrews for the best decorated lady's hat. Both were presented with a special Easter Egg. We also

celebrated Pat Andrews' birthday, so our traditional afternoon refreshment of tea and hot cross buns was enhanced by a lovely birthday cake. The afternoon ended with all the Members being given an Easter Egg as they left for home.

On the 26th April a new activity for the Members and Volunteers, "Fun Keep Fit". The lady who ran the session for us, Shelley Ross, really made it very enjoyable. All the exercises were done sitting down, which I for one appreciated! Everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It was done to songs, familiar to all of us of a certain age, and we were encouraged to join in singing as we did gentle exercises. We will certainly be doing it again in the future.

On the 10th May we will be going to the United Services Club in Hunstanton again. This is always a good day out and a lovely lunch to look forward to. Hopefully the weather will have improved by then and we will be able to have a drive home along the front.



As readers may, or may not, now know the Church Hall is going to be shut from the end of July until the new Hall is built. No one knows exactly how long that will take but one can assume it will be at the very least twelve months from September, if all the legal requirements and finances are in place by then.

The Day Centre has been actively making enquiries and looking for an alternative meeting place in the meantime. The Parish Council suggested we approach Orchard Close, which has cooking facilities - our main requirement. However, when we approached Orchard Close our request was turned down. We provide a service for up to 25 elderly people in Dersingham. We care about these people, some of whom only get out to socialize on a Wednesday. We provide transport both ways, drinks on arrival, a hot two course lunch, cooked on the premises and tea before they leave mid-afternoon. We make sure that their day is as happy and as interesting as possible. It is very disheartening to those of us who care about these people, most of whom are recommended by our surgery, that no one else seems to care whether we are able to

keep the Day Centre going in the future or not. After nearly 36 years we will not be giving up easily though and if any of Village Voice Readers have any suggestions which might help, we will be very grateful.

Hon Secretary: Mrs Alice Worth, 53B Chapel Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn, Norfolk.
Tel: 01485 544673

It would be a travesty if the Day Centre should be a victim of the village's success in raising all this money for a new village centre. This organisation is vital to ensuring the elderly have some joy in their lives - what can we do? If readers have any ideas or can help in any way then please contact Alice Worth or me. Editor□

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Any business based in West Norfolk is welcome to attend the next FREE Business Breakfast on Tuesday June 13th, at St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham. 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.

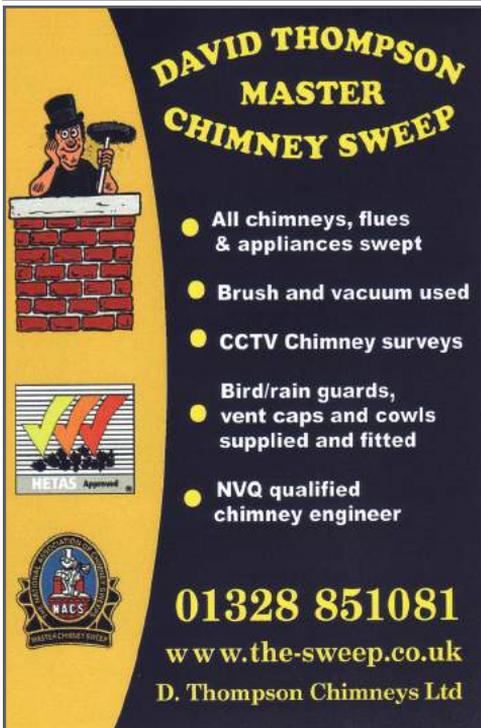
We are grateful to Dersingham Co-op who will be sponsoring this event.

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

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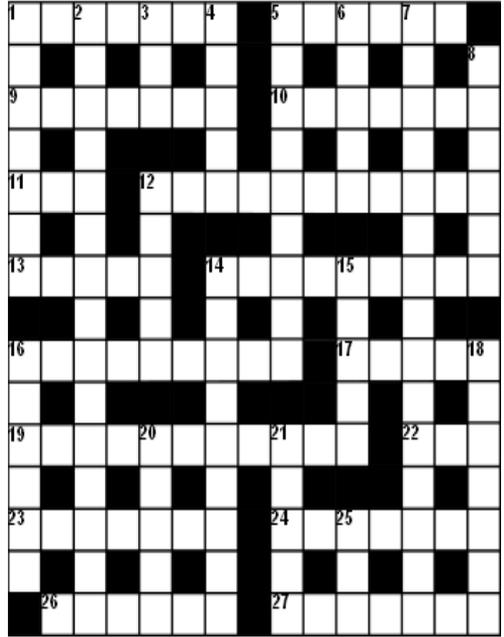
Across

1. Bone found by archaeological research party (7) **5.** Keep in keypad herewith (6) **9.** Withdraw from bet with old fellows (4,3) **10.** Did Allan really know Suzie, Ken and you? Initially threatening (4,3) **11.** Ulmus corgi lost in ornamental drapery (3) **12.** Me and them working in retro instrument (11) **13.** Liquid state to savour (5) **14.** Doctor deacon is exulted (around 3rd January) (9) **16.** Pearl grip dancing in her rags (5,4) **17.** Gymnastics in proposal for you (5) **19.** Fashionable work time with four in seventh note un-serviceable (11)**22.** Temperature lost in canter and decay (3) **23.** Fat tenor wealthy and flightless (7) **24.** Things brewed for cats (7)**26.** Sad D.U.P. swing in count (4,2) **27.** Play marbles for rabbits (7)

Down

1. Undermine green coach reversing (7) **2.** Come in drunk and swig wine with newspaper boss

while socially se-cured (6,9) **3.** Pair of Hindu offerings (3) **4.** Foreman lost right to blunder (5) **5.** Gastric juice in a mad lob (9) **6.** Wives are in the middle of Her Majesty's protection (5) **7.** British writer didn't pass away but, this year scrambled to evening meal (not quietly) in Houston (4,2,5,4) **8.** On the outskirts of Hungary flyer trained to become a compound (6)**12.** Associated with the Inland Revenue (5) **14.** Vegetable boiled in head office caused bull's antics here? (5,4) **15.** Change for one pound in old money (5)**16.** Cooler or spin rinse (6) **18.** Abhors sets drunk after Ted retired (7) **20.** Times broadcast leaks (5) **21.** Conclude doctor escaped conflagration (5) **25.** Flower from the Ouse slider (3)



			4	7		2		
1	6						8	
9		2						3
			5		9	6		
	5		7				1	9
	4					3		
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	8							
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PAPER	BISMUTH	BERYL	DAPHNE
RUBY	STEEL	TIN	PEARL

THE DAILY DOINGS OF MRS DOLITTLE

(a.k.a. Valerie Anckorn)



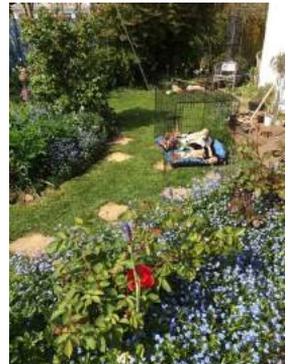
I've often wondered if nuns are fitted with castors, as they seem to glide effortlessly hither and thither on their holy perambulations. I noted this whilst living in the Shrine village of Walsingham for fifteen years. I mention this, for I also note that some small mammals, such as mice, shrews, stoats and weasels resemble sausages on wheels as they swiftly dash across the road, or other areas of exposure, without a hair of their coats even rippling. Finishing schools in Switzerland should take

note in order to teach any stray debutants that may still exist to walk without the hems of their designer dresses moving at all.

As dawn broke recently, I lay supine upon my bower-bed drinking my early morning coffee, watching my garden through the floor to ceiling bi-fold doors. And there, before my very eyes, a swift sausage, black in colour, dived smoothly and without any apparent leg movement from the pathway into my nearest flower bed. Clearly an early riser, the little wood mouse - for that is what that particular sausage was - seems to find many nutrients in this particular bed, as I have espied her most mornings as I lie, propped lazily upon my pillows, deciding what I am going to do during the rest of the day. I imagine she has many tiny children curled up under my studio and there is probably a whole colony of them secreted in various corners of my garden. They are so sweet and I have no designs to rid my property of them.

A couple of years ago when my studio was being insulated with all the contents temporarily under a huge tarpaulin on the lawn, I discovered, when the work was completed, that a very busy field mouse had garnered vast quantities of aquilegia pods and stored them away in copious places such as shelving, teapots, boxes, the odd sculpture and even shoes. I felt terrible at disrupting her various larders after all her hard work but guessed that eventually she gathered her food up again and found another safe place to hoard them for the rigours of winter.

How I love this time of the year! I couldn't believe how my bare garden was suddenly full of growth – no signs of brown earth, so depressing during the winter months – because foliage and flowers were pushing their way into fruition. I always let my forget-me-nots seed wherever they will, and therefore the first swathes of colour are that lovely blue, with the new red tinted edged leaves of the rose bushes bursting forth and tiny buds forming. It is such an exciting time, and darker blue grape hyacinths push themselves above the f.g.m.nts. and proud tulips open their buds wide to the sun while buzzy bees come to forage and harvest. I have different varieties of euphorbias and I like to see that acidic green complimenting all the other colours.



I love to see the first Iris unfold – such a shame that they don't last very long, and have observed, on very rainy days, deep purple dye leaching out and dropping onto the ground below. Well, I could wax lyrical on my spring flowers all day long, but shall report instead that the garden blackbirds not only aerate my lawn beautifully as they prod and probe to extract long succulent worms, but they trot into my home leaving little messages across the lime stone flooring (thank goodness we have no carpets) and help themselves to ants that are availing themselves of our good natures. They were here during my mother's reign, and despite poison (not so good natured on my part you might think) they are still

going strong. I am very pleased the blackbirds are ridding our home of the busy little insects in the time-honoured way of nature. No doubt a few will remain to live another day. Maybe eventually our home will disappear into a void in the ground, excavated by generations of ants. Now there's a thought!

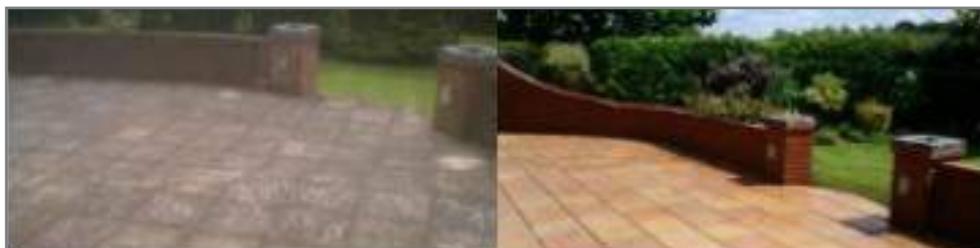
This morning Mrs. Blackbird hopped and trotted her way through the sitting room, across the kitchen, down the steps to the second level and eventually into the parrots' night room where seeds and nuts are scattered liberally.

A pigeon had discovered this food source a few days ago. On his first entrance our number one parrot, Mr. Flynn, reprimanded her with an outraged, "Oii!" but the next day I hadn't noticed it was in there as the dog and I went into the room to wheel out the parrots in their cages to their nearby aviary. A frightened pigeon went berserk, flapping its wings and beating itself against the windows, so Mr. Flynn tried to calm the creature down by saying in soothing tones, "It's okay, it's okay." A little soothed (but not a lot) the bird settled enough for me to pick it up and take it outside. Unfortunately, though, the dog had got to it first and performed some quick plucking. Luckily the skin, though nude and pimply, was not broken, and the bird flew off, no doubt back to its worried mate and a bit of billing and cooing. More annoying pigeons will soon be pulling all the blossoms and blooms off everything in the garden. I should have wrung its neck and had it for dinner. But I can't do things like that, unfortunately!

We have already had some beautiful hot weather with cerulean blue skies, a few fluffy white clouds and the sun beating down benevolently. This of course brings out my sunhats. Having had skin cancer and consequent scarring on my face, it's necessary for me to don sensible hats, so to make them more attractive, I had fun with my glue gun and began sticking a few flowers on. Then a few more, then a couple of little birds, then a bunch of grapes – a couple of pheasant feathers, a scarf...well, I never did find it easy to stop...I just love 'fiddling creatively' and end up looking a right weirdo. But I don't care! You can see an example in the attached photo – and that is one of the conservative hats. Note the pair of birdies in the front, and more flowers tucked under the brim at the back. Such a hat looks very nice as decoration, so I have a row of them adding to the decor in my boudoir.



Last Christmas I made everyone I love a snugly fleece scarf upon which I applied a design. They were so well received I decided to make some for the Dersingham Art Trail and Open Gardens, when people visit and like to purchase a few things. I realise that nobody will want a warm fleece scarf in the summer, but they make excellent pressies for Christmas and winter birthdays so bear them in mind! All unique and individually made. I'm also making more wheat and lavender bags that you warm up in the microwave to place on aching necks and legs...they sold well last year. It's surprising and heartening how many people come to visit the studios and gardens around the village - make a note in your diary - Sunday 28th May and Monday 29th May. You can get advance tickets cheaper at the Post Office. No doubt there will be an advert placed in this magazine with all the details and I look forward to meeting you in my cottage garden. □



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HOW THE COCK GAINED HIS FEATHERS

By Elizabeth Fiddick

As I walk around our village these days I am saddened by the sight of our old school at the bottom of Doddshill. The building, that once echoed with children's voices, is now silent, its windows barred and boarded. The playground, where the children raced about, shouted and even squabbled and Gunner Sydney Rainbow, invalided home from the Boer War, taught them military drill, is now being overtaken by weeds and thistles.

Since 1875 generations of Dersingham children have walked from their homes along the roads and tracks of the village to their lessons at this school under the stern eye of the first headmaster Mr. Alfred Firth. Boys like Ronald Beck who was in trouble several times for "*chasing horses in Pastures Field*" or little Roland Linford, aged just 7, who was given 4 strokes of the cane for "*rowdyism on the road and in the playground*". The children came in all weathers but the log book records many absent during severe snow storms. June 1913 was an extremely wet month and during one very heavy downpour many children had to be sent home as they were too wet to stay. In 1914 poor Willie Bird was sent home as it was suspected he had Scarletina. Soon afterwards many were absent with measles and Scarlet Fever so that the school had to be closed for over a month. Later that year Diphtheria was reported among several families and the school was closed again due to an outbreak of Mumps.

Other children went on to great success passing their exams for further education in Lynn and beyond. Singing classes were held in the school on Saturday evenings, and young men attended evening classes in Agriculture, Mensuration and Drawing. I have seen many old photographs of these children all gathered together in front of the school, the building is easily recognisable and in the middle of the playground the grand old chestnut tree is there for us to see so many years after it was removed. Also, in some photographs there is the tantalising glimpse of the corner of another building that also once stood on the playground.

When the school was built in 1875 on land given to the village by the Prince of Wales a pair of cottages occupied part of the site. These carrstone cottages had stood there for as long as even the oldest resident could remember but in the autumn of 1934 it was decided to demolish them as the school needed more space for the growing number of children in the village. The last occupants, the Melton and Biggs families, were moved to other cottages and were perhaps among the villagers who stood to watch as their former homes were reduced to a pile of rubble. The walls were reported to be over three feet thick so these were no ordinary cottages. The best of the carrstone was removed and used to build a wall around the land granted to the village by the King for an extension to the churchyard. Mr. Ken Martins recalled the event. "*There was a house in the school yard and they were pulling it down. Us boys had the job of wheeling the bricks and rubble rather than doing our lessons. We used to volunteer for that.*" The school managers met Mr. Beck the Sandringham agent to report that a school garden had been created from the extra land. Doreen Asker remembered it. "*My brothers did a lot of gardening there. The garden was at the back. We used to grow marguerites and if you were good you were allowed to pick a bunch.*"

The garden and the extended playground were a great asset to the school but with the demolition of those old cottages the village lost a tangible, visible link to its ancient history. The area where these cottages stood and that around the Feathers and Doddshill formed the Manor of Pakenham one of the seven manorial estates that made up this village.

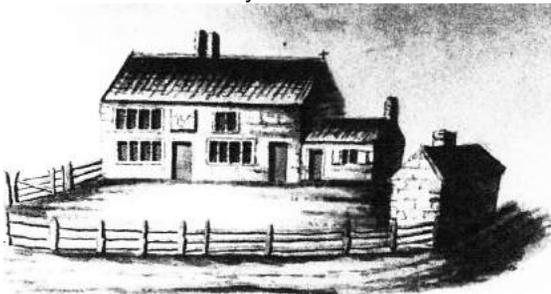
Pakenham Manor (opposite) was at one time part of the Houghton Hall Estate before being acquired by Sandringham. An old map I have from 1720 shows much of the land in this area was owned



by Robert Walpole of Houghton. About 1804 the owners of Houghton commissioned a survey of all their holdings which included the properties here in Dersingham. So, I was delighted to discover not only a description of the cottages but also an illustration.

A valuation of 1804 describes it as a Dwelling House let in three tenements. The surveyor writes, "*The stacks, the long low windows, and the heavy dentellated quoins suggest that all three parts date from the sixteenth century*". He continues that the right-hand range is perhaps the latest and the latin-cross windows are an updating from the eighteenth century. He suggests that it may have been the home of a well-to-do yeoman farmer. So, these are our cottages but in fact they formed the Manor House of the Pakenham Estate built about four hundred years earlier. The illustration makes it easy to imagine the house as one comfortable dwelling with associated farm buildings surrounded by pasture land that probably looks much the same today. The Lord of the Manor would sometimes appoint a manager or steward to administer his lands and he would often be the one to occupy the Manor House. There are extensive records about Pakenham Manor and the many different families who owned it over the centuries before it was absorbed into the Sandringham Estate and this small part of it given to the village for its school. I do not know when the house first ceased to be a single large dwelling and was divided into separate tenements but we do know that after 400 years it was demolished in 1934.

On the opposite side of the road to the Manor House, there was another property described in the survey of 1804. It was recorded as The Cock Public House (below),



garden and pigstye with one James Yates as a tenant. It was let at £12 per year. The surveyor believed that the style of the chimneys and the three long windows suggested a sixteenth or seventeenth century origin for the building which would put in the same time frame as the Manor House, our cottages opposite. It would seem to have been built of carrstone like the cottages and was

surrounded by a post and rail fence. The door on the left probably led to a cellar or

storeroom and the domestic quarters were probably at the rear not shown in the drawing. The small detached building was likely to be a brewhouse. The pightle which was the name given to any small piece of land was used for cultivation rather like the allotments of today.

The Cock Inn was an important meeting place in the village for centuries and the Royal Archives have numerous mentions of it. The earliest reference they have is in 1844 when Abraham Gay was the tenant. In 1847 when the Hon. Charles Spencer Cowper, the then owner of Sandringham mortgaged parts of his estate for £5,000 The Cock, with accompanying land and cottage in the occupation of one John Wells as a yearly tenant is one of the properties involved. It is mentioned again in 1861 when a mortgage for £10,500 of the whole estate is taken out. It was purchased as part of the whole estate by the Prince of Wales in 1862. In 1864 it is insured for £300 and is described as "stone and brick built and tiled or slated." In 1869 it is insured for £250 and is then described as "Dwelling house and Offices known as The Cock Inn, Dersingham all attached and occupied by Widow Petrie"

The 1861 census lists The Cock Public House with Archibald Petrie as Innkeeper and farmer of 40 acres. He lives there with his wife Sarah, sister in law Mary Ann Holland and an unnamed lodger who was a drover. Archibald employed a man and two boys to help with the farming. Once a month members of a Friendly Society held their meetings in the Inn. Members were to be between the ages of 18 and 40 and would pay one shilling each month to attend. The Society would then support members financially if they became ill, were unable to work, or in the event of death help towards funeral expenses. Stewards would visit the sick members regularly. Each member paid a shilling a quarter for the doctor to attend any members who were sick once a letter was sent by the clerk. This must have been a great help in the days before the welfare state but there were several strict rules to be followed. Members could be excluded for using bad language, failing to pay their dues, or being found intoxicated. If any were found to be doing any sort of work while receiving sick pay they would be fined for the first offence but excluded if repeating the offence. That reminds me of something I have read about recently! The General Courts Baron of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales were held at the Inn in 1880 when tenants occupying property on Sandringham land had to attend to pay their Quit rents and perform their suits and services. Sales of property were often held there as well so it was a busy thriving part of the village.

In 1871 Enoch Taylor took over and the Inn is now recorded as The Cock Hotel. Ten years later in 1881 Enoch is still the occupant and is now farming 75 acres employing 3 men and a boy. At the Hotel, there are now three domestic servants Kate Morley, Mary Balding and Barbara Bell. Thomas Dent is listed as a grocer and draper is a boarder with a John Storer who is a gas fitter. This suggests to me rather bigger premises and we know that sometime about now the little



Cock Inn was demolished and the present much larger premises were built. I have read reports that The Cock was badly damaged by fire in the early 1880s and so demolished to make way for the larger premises. It has also been suggested that the new premises were briefly called The Lamb before being renamed The Feathers (below) in honour of the Prince of Wales. I have not yet found any reference to The Lamb but am still trawling through newspaper reports of the time in the hope of finding an account of these events. Certainly by 1883 Enoch Taylor is for the first time recorded as *the Proprietor of The Feathers Hotel and Posting House with good stabling for hunters and first class accommodation for visitors*. Later Enoch advertises that conveyances were able to meet any train at Wolferton or Dersingham. Clearly the original Cock Inn is gone and the “pretentious sub-Sandringham building of dark carrstone and red brick” as a Houghton report described it is established.

The Feathers remained in Royal ownership until 1932 when it was sold to the people’s Refreshment House Association which had leased the property since 1916 when William Mann, Postmaster at Sandringham, gave it up. This association was formed in 1896 by the Bishop of Chester as he was very concerned about excessive drinking and the abuse of alcohol. The Association

paid its hotel managers a fixed salary, but they could make no profit on the sale of alcoholic drinks. They were allowed to make a profit on the sale of tea, coffee, and light refreshments. Although alcoholic drinks were on sale there could be no advertising of the fact although adverts for the sale of non-alcoholic drinks were to be placed prominently throughout the rooms. If a customer asked to be served an alcoholic beverage the manager was expected to suggest that perhaps lemonade would be better. At its peak the Association owned 130 Inns and Hotels throughout the country. In 1962 the Charrington & Co Brewery purchased the chain of freehold and leasehold premises owned by the Association.



A little further on from the old Cock Inn stood two small very modest cottages. One is described as Gay’s cottage and was rented to Abraham Gay for £12 a year. The illustration shows there are two lean-tos in the yard, open and roughly thatched, with a light two wheeled cart and a tiny mushroom shaped haystack close by. All presumably part of the product of the pigtle rented with the cottage and giving a small glimpse of the daily life of one of the villagers.

The second cottage was even smaller and no tenant is mentioned. Both cottages have long gone to be replaced by nineteenth century carrstone and brick cottages.

So, with the help of these illustrations it’s possible in your mind’s eye to travel back in time to see this small area of our village as it used to be over 200 years ago. □



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Crosswords Solution

Across:

1. SHINDIG 5. ADHERE 9. BACK OFF 10. DARK SKY 11. ELM 12. THERMOMETER
13. TASTE 14. CANONISED 16. PAPER GIRL 17. BIPED 19. INOPERATIVE 22. ROT
23. OSTRICH 24. FACTORS 26. ADDS UP 27. RAMBLES

Down:

1. SUBVERT 2. INCOME SUPPORTED 3. DUO 4. GAFFE 5. ABDOMINAL 6. HAREM
7. RUSH TO SUPER BOWL 8. HYBRID 12. THEIR 14. CHINA SHOP 15. NOBLE 16.
PRISON 18. DETESTS 20. EMITS 21. INFER 25. CAM.

Sudoku Solution

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

Word Wall Answers

Metals: Silver, Bismuth, Copper, Tin

Anniversaries: Paper Bronze, Steel, Cotton

Gems: Coral, Rub, Pearl, Beryl

Girls' Names: Pamela, Suzanne, Mary, Daphne

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Sandringham Parish Council held its Annual General Meeting on 3rd May, followed by an ordinary two monthly meeting. No members of the public attended the AGM, and the election of officers led to the same job holders, being Ben Colson as chairman and Cecil Smith as Vice Chairman.

The Council is currently working with the Borough Council on a review of road names in the various villages in the parish, this as a result of a request by the Borough to help emergency services access addresses with minimum delay in the event of a call out. This process does need some changes to the road names as recorded at the Borough and County levels, not least because they would not be especially helpful to emergency crews accessing us via the A149 main road. Technically all roads should have name boards but our hope is that some degree of sense will prevail, given that Sat Nav systems use post codes anyway, and that the intrusion into the country scene, when they are erected, be minimised.

The Council discussed its policing priorities so that we can feed them into the local police liaison meetings system. We concluded that the single matter of greatest concern to residents is the extent of motorists speeding – some of which we know to be residents themselves. We believe that a 'one size fits all' approach to dealing with this issue is not the right way to go, and in fact there are four distinct and separate issues here. Firstly, there is the straight forward, simple, breaking of the 30mph speed limit in West Newton, secondly inappropriate speed for the road conditions in Wolferton even though it has no speed limit as such, thirdly the same issue on the B1440 between West Newton and the Norwich Gates, and fourthly the downright dangerous driving we witness on the A149. The Parish Council will be feeding this into the police and county council.

Broadband and internet issues continue to be a key local issue within Wolferton village. In the last few weeks there have been signs that BT could, at long last, be starting to address the issue seriously rather than making excuses for its inaction. Since Easter there has been a survey to consider where to place the green cabinet to extend fibre into, or closer to, the village. This suggests that it could be later this year that we get access to faster broadband, but after so many dashed hopes in the past, it is better to wait until it is actually installed before we get the bubbly out.

The Council also expressed its concern that the significant growth in the amount of litter being dropped on roadsides in the parish. This has been especially noticeable this year, and not only in the area where walkers tend to congregate, such as at the Dersingham Bog car parks, in addition now evident throughout both the main villages as well as alongside the main A149. Some local residents are considerate enough to litter picks when walking in the villages but that really should not be necessary, the right and proper answer is for it not to be dropped in the first place. This is a police request therefore for locals not to make the situation any worse.

The Council is investigating the possibility of developing its own website, but that is in the earliest stages of being considered, and whether or not we proceed will depend largely on government grant funding given that we have no precept, so no locally collected funds.

Amongst the correspondence we received in the past two months was a letter from the Stagecoach bus company telling us what a good bus service it provides, especially on the Coasthopper route, and asking specifically that we bring its various virtues to the attention of our residents.

Other news

A fundraising group has been established to try to raise the funds necessary to repair the

roof to St Peter's Church in Wolferton. This is a challenging 'ask' and the Parochial Church Council has therefore decided that a dedicated group would be better to tackle it rather than they themselves. The main potential source of funds will be the Historic Lottery Fund (and an application is being prepared to submit to them) and various other funds, but there is no doubt that the village will need to mount its own events to raise funds.

For that reason, the coffee morning held in the Social Club on 8th April was a rip-roaring success. The weather on the day was good, and the social club was described as being so full that everything was a blur! A total of just over £1000 was raised – amazing for such a small community – to be shared between the Happy Memories Club for people living with dementia and their carers, and the church restoration fund. Congratulations, and thanks, to Jacquie Dennis of Wolferton for arranging such a fun, amazing and successful event.

The next big event for your diaries, again in aid of Wolferton Church restoration fund, is at 7pm on Saturday 5th August, at the Church, entitled 'take an informative walk around Wolferton church, with Dr Ayla Lepine'. Dr Lepine is a renowned sacred art and architectural historian. Tickets will cost £15 (under 12s free) and you will be offered wine, cheese and 'nibbles' in the interval. Tickets can be obtained by emailing churchoffice.sandringham@gmail.com.

Forthcoming events – both in the Social Club in Wolferton. May 16th - Prize bingo in aid of St Peters Church, Wolferton. June 4th – Cash bingo starting at 8pm. Finally, some disappointing news, namely that the planned Midsummer Celebration on 24th June will not now go ahead.□

EDITORS NOTE

Many thanks to all contributors to this issue.

For future issues please try to be timely with your submissions, although we give you a deadline date sometimes that is overridden by the mechanical demands of publication i.e space.

I would be most grateful if your submissions could be in Word document using Arial font size 9 where possible.

Many thanks and I look forward to receiving your next contributions.

Best wishes

John Vost.

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Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Edmund Hunstanton with St Cecilia's, Dersingham



Once again, the Stations of the Cross followed by a simple hunger lunch was held every Friday during Lent. Alternating between St Edmunds Anglican church, Hunstanton and our Catholic Parish church, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton.

The Lenten Alms charities for this year are 'Aid to the Church in Need', who work in over 140 Countries, helping Christians who are persecuted, oppressed or in Pastoral need and 'The Medaille Trust', which is a significant provider of support and safe house provision for the victims of human trafficking.

The fun Quiz on St Patricks Day, 17th March in the Garnet Room of the Parish church, Hunstanton was an enjoyable evening and the money raised was sent to the famine appeal.

Events that we have coming up are; June 27th feast day lunch from 12 till 3pm in the Garnet Room: July 1st a celebration of Fr Henry's 40 years' ministry to be held at St Cecilia's from 12 till 3pm: July 8th will be the very popular Strawberry Fayre at St Cecilia's from 12 till 4pm, with all the usual stalls and goodies.

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

Daily Masses will be 10am in the parish church at Hunstanton on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday mass is usually at 10.15am at St Cecilia's, Dersingham. **Sunday Masses** are 9am at St Cecilia's, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and 11am at Parish Church, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton.

The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675. If you require a Priest urgently please telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220.or email; parishpriest763@gmail.com

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

Forthcoming Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

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

Issue	Copy deadline mid-day on	Publication date
No 107 (Aug/Sept2017)	Wednesday 5th July 2017	Monday 24th July 2017
No 108 (Oct/Nov 2017)	Wednesday 6th Sept 2017	Monday 25 Spet 2017
No 109 (Dec17/Jan2018)	Wednesday 1st Nov 2017	Monday 20 Nov 2017

Advertising in Village Voice

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

clerk@dersingham.org.uk and returned together with payment by mid-day of the copy deadlines given above at the latest.

Articles and Non-Profit Making Promotions for Village Voice

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

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

Dersingham Parish Council Office

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The Production Team for this edition of Village Voice consists of

Editor: John Vost

Administration & Publication Sarah Bristow (Parish Clerk) & Geraldine Scanlon

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Gallipoli and Dardanelles International

cordially invites you to its
Gallipoli Luncheon



King's Lynn Town Hall
Saturday Market Place
King's Lynn
Norfolk PE30 5DQ



Friday, 14th July 2017 12 noon for 1pm

Guest Speaker: Mr Neil Storey, Norfolk social and military historian

On arrival at this wonderful old Town Hall you will be welcomed with a glass of wine in the presence of the mayor of King's Lynn in the historic Stone Hall, which dates from the 1420's. This Annual Luncheon will be a great opportunity for you to meet up with old friends and to make new acquaintances in sharing a common interest. Lunch will follow at 1pm in the impressive Georgian assembly Rooms. All wine is included.

This will be a unique opportunity to meet military historian Mr Neil Storey, who will later address us and speak about the creation and training of the Norfolk 'Territorial Force Battalions! or 'Saturday night soldiers'. Two battalions including the 'Sandringham men' went on to serve at Gallipoli. King's Lynn is ideally located as a base to explore the nearby Royal Sandringham Estate. You can comfortably spend the weekend visiting Sandringham, Castle Rising, and the many other attractions to be found in this very rural 'Nelson's county'.

All inclusive cost of the luncheon is just £43 per person. RSVP is essential to confirm bookings for this perennially popular event.

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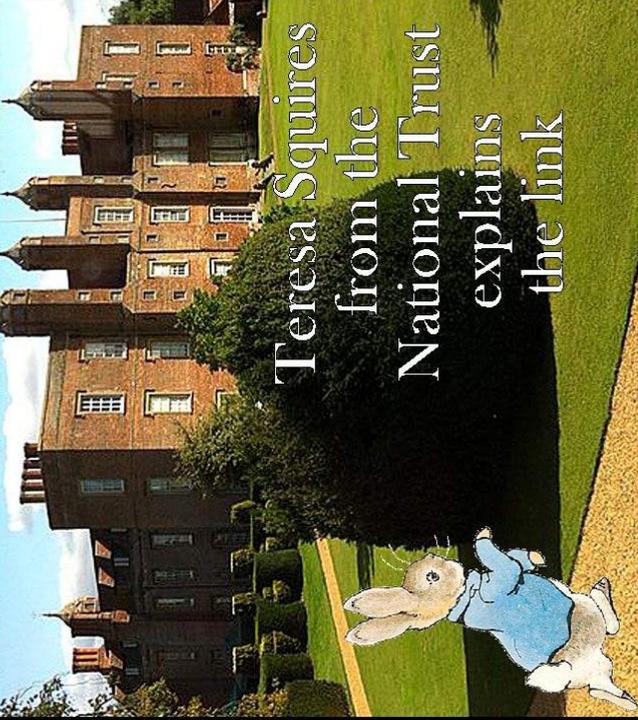
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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday June 6th

Melford Hall and the Beatrix Potter connection



Teresa Squires
from the
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explains
the link

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

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday July 4th

INDEPENDENCE DAY Bar-B-Quiz

Our last event before the hall redevelopment, with all proceeds going to the New Village Centre

Admission is by ticket only - £10
includes Bar- B- Q by Priors

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Tickets from Dersingham Post Office

or The Parish Office

or ring

Judy Collingham 540271

or Tony Bubb 542638

7.30 pm St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.