

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



**George Skelton and the
Dersingham Decoy - page 65**



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Editors Notes

Tony Bubb



Sorry, you have me at the helm again but not for long. Sadly my brief predecessor had a falling out with management so for the sake of continuity I am back at the coal face. There is a new appointment for next time and I think I will leave the country.

It's not often that one gets to praise a utility company but where praise is due I think it is justified. Our lights were flickering, mainly noticeable in the kitchen lit by fluorescent tubes. Occasionally dimming we noticed that it seemed to coincide with switching on other appliances but initially I put it down to the age of the lighting unit and set about researching replacements. I even discovered that there are LED versions of striplights at considerable expense. However, the problem came to a head when, on putting down the toaster slider, all the lights went out. I quickly looked at the trip but no, it was still OK and on ejecting the bread on came the lights again. Repeating the action resulted in the same. I rang EON, after all it is they who we pay, and was directed to another phone number, supposedly being that of the power supplier for our area. Wrong! After a bit of defensive talk from them I was redirected to UK Power Networks. Details were noted and within 30 minutes an engineer had examined our overhead supply, diagnosed the fault - corroded contacts, they all do that sir, and summoned a repair team. In less than an hour they were fixing it. So well done them.

We usually take part in the open gardens weekend and this year, with near perfect weather, we saw over 320 visitors. I find it fascinating to learn where our victims came from. Few from the village, some from Norfolk, a lot from the midlands down here for a few days and this year even folk from California and British Columbia, though they did not make a special trip. It's great fun and raises money for good causes.

If we get time we like to visit the gardens at Sandringham. Our recent visit was during the long rain free period we have had so the grass was brown and some of the plants were suffering. What we did see was an eel in the stream that runs to the east of the garden. Now the last time I saw an eel in the wild was in late August 1965 when I was fishing in Loch Ness from a small boat. The Scottish eel was a good 5 feet long and thick with it, the Norfolk version was probably much younger as around 15 inches. Still, with that and 11 sunbathing carp, it was a good visit, not to mention the tea, cake and ice cream we felt compelled to sample.

The next edition of Dersingham Data looms and to this end can all you club and society bods please check your entries as they need to be up to date. Data is the once a year village handbook that people seem to keep for reference (or kindling) so it does a valuable job.

And so to this edition which is bursting with good things. Readers can travel to The Broads, Yellowstone Park, back in time to Decoys and village memories. We have a teenage blogger and a woody tale. Phew! All the usual bits are there as well making for, I hope, some entertaining reading. But, of course, these pages don't fill themselves so if you want to write - we want to print.

Right, back to the day job so watch these pages for some good news about food recycling coming soon. □



Dear Village Voice

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.



I have been a royalist since the age of seven, and I have decided to write my MA dissertation at Durham University on scrapbooks produced to celebrate our Royal Family. Given Dersingham's close proximity to Sandringham, I would like to ask if any residents possess scrapbooks that were compiled to celebrate a royal event in any part of the twentieth century. If any person who holds such a scrapbook (s) would be willing to loan or discuss their scrapbook with me, I would be most grateful. I would ensure that any information shared with me would be recorded anonymously.

Peter Darley South Holland, Lincolnshire 01775 762506
peter.i.darley@durham.ac.uk

I have lived in the village for coming up twelve years and I always wondered where the centre was. After reading your editorial it seems like this could be a new beginning and I think you have a great vision. You mentioned a band. Well that set me thinking, not about a band, as such, but about a meeting of musically minded people, say once a month, of village musical instrument players. I was thinking of stringed instruments, guitar, banjo, ukulele, fiddle and the like. Just a get together to mess about, a bit of a jam, swap ideas etc. Who knows where it could lead to?



I figure there are three types of players. Just starting out, needing confidence and guidance. The experienced player who is willing to give advice. Thirdly, the born again player, they learned years ago and have been promising themselves for ages to get their instrument out of the loft and start playing again.

I am a banjo 'player'. I've been at it for three years and I would think that there must be a number of people in one of the above categories in a village of our size. Just an idea which I thought I would share with you.

John Murray

Fake news in Village Voice

The last edition contained a photograph of a pile of rubbish that had been fly-tipped. The caption said that this was by the side of Mill Road and that the parish clerk knew nothing about it. It was, in fact, by the side of Chalk Pit Road, immediately south of the chalk pit and, therefore, not in Dersingham parish. As soon as I saw it, I contacted the Clerk of Ingoldisthorpe Parish Council who phoned the Borough Council who, with their customary speed and thoroughness, quickly removed all trace of the unsightly mess - at Council Tax payers' expense, of course!

Keith Starks

Having read the article, in the last edition of the Dersingham Newsletter, by Elizabeth Fiddick, I too am disappointed to see the old village school in a state of disrepair, because I went to that school too. I don't remember the two cottages but my granny lived there and when she moved out, my parents moved in. My sister Myrtle was born there in 1932. When the cottages were demolished the family moved to a Sandringham Estate cottage at Doddshill. I enclose a photo of my parents wedding taken in the school playground.

Hazel Allington (nee Biggs)



Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

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



Midnight Sun to Norfolk Winter with Dave Horsley

Tuesday 25th July, 7.30pm

Dr David Horsley is a former teacher at Gresham's School in Holt. Dave is now a keen wildlife photographer with a particular interest in Norfolk. But he has also travelled extensively, including giving talks on cruise ships. We can guess a couple of the topics of Dave's talk from its title – but will there be more?

Ramblings of an Accidental Birder with Steve de Roeck

Tuesday 29th August, 7.30pm

Steve de Roeck is a retired airline pilot with a passion for aircraft photography which has taken him all over the world. Steve has developed a keen interest in wildlife photography - thus becoming an 'accidental birder'. Expect his experiences of Kenya, but we might also get excerpts of Steve's trips to American National Parks, Patagonia and elsewhere. NarVOS should be in for a photographic treat.

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. □

I have just been past the fantastic rose bed on the corner of Post Office Road. May I express my sincere thanks to all members of the task force, past and present, for their hard work throughout the year; it is much appreciated.

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

From Sue Payne - chairman

Two of our Councillors have resigned due to work commitments, leaving us with vacancies.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact Sarah, the Clerk, in the first instance for information.

Village Centre

As reported in the last issue of Village Voice, we are getting closer to securing all the funding needed, and the legal issues are being resolved. As ever, support from parishioners is welcomed, whether by joining the Lottery managed by the Dersingham Village Centre Association, sponsoring a brick for £100, or buying a brick or roof-tile at £5.

At the Full Council, Members approved, in principle, an application for a Public Works Loan to a maximum of £150,000 over 30 years. Repayments will be offset by the fact that when the Council moves its office to the new Centre, it will not pay rent while servicing a loan.

We hope to take over the site of the current Church Hall early in August to enable work to commence soon afterwards.

Village Events

Please support 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.

Sports Field

The Parish Council has gone to considerable expense to clear the drain around the sports field and lay a French Drain to help water soak away from the area around the Tennis Courts.

There was a considerable amount of rubbish in the drain including garden waste (prunings & grass cuttings), toys, cycles and smaller articles including glass. This not only causes blockages preventing water from draining away, but should someone fall in to the drain submerged objects may injure them and/or impede their escape.

The Task Force did a litter pick a few months ago and collected several bags of rubbish, much of which could have been recycled.

Please help us and the Sports Ground Management Committee keep the Field in tip-top condition for our sports teams and visitors by disposing of your rubbish appropriately.

There are plenty of bins around the village, or you could take it home.

If you need advice on disposing of rubbish, please contact the Borough Council on 01553 616200, or visit www.west-norfolk.gov.uk

Village Voice

Tony Bubb is 'guesting' as editor for this issue, and we are in the process of firming up the editorial role to enable Village Voice to continue for many years to come.

Parish Council Meetings

Details of Full Council and Committee meetings can be found in the Parish Office window and notice-boards around the village. Members of the public are very welcome to attend and may ask questions at Full Council meetings.

You can contact the Clerk for advice about Parish matters.

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 the Parish Council, Councillors, village events, and local news and information.□



Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Edmund Hunstanton

with St Cecilia's, Dersingham



On Saturday 1st July the parish celebrated the 40th anniversary of the ordination of Fr Henry McCarthy. The Mass was co-celebrated with several other priests from the Diocese. The Mass was followed by a shared lunch, which was attended by many people, not just from our parish but from other parishes that Fr Henry has ministered to. Also there, were his friends and family from around the UK and Ireland. Fr Henry "retired" to our parish, but is very involved with parish events and celebrates Masses regularly at both of our churches in the parish. It is with grateful thanks to Fr Henry that he continues to minister to us.



On Saturday July 8th we will be having the very popular Strawberry Fayre at St Cecilia's from 12 till 4pm, with all the usual stalls and goodies, refreshments, raffle and of course lots of strawberries. Please pop along to support this social get together.

The annual parish BBQ will this year be on 12th August between 12.30 and 4pm in the gardens at the parish church, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. Tickets will be on sale soon at both churches.

There have been a couple of Diocesan celebrations at the Cathedral in Norwich during June. Bishop Alan celebrated a thanksgiving Mass for the success of the 'Alive in Faith' campaign, which is ongoing in all parishes in the Diocese.

All married and engaged couples were invited to attend the special Mass to celebrate marriage and family life, followed by a lunch reception. This is an annual celebration where certificates are awarded to couples married for 1 year, 5 years and every multiple of 5 thereafter, also to couples who have had a new baby within the last year.

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:**

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Dersingham Guides have a "Wizard" time! by Elizabeth Wheeler

The May half-term saw the 1st Dersingham Guides head to Eaton Vale for a Harry Potter themed camp. The guides had already been "sorted into houses" and made tie-dye neckers to wear. At the end of the camp when the House Cup was given out, unlike the books, it was Slytherin who won!

The weather was wonderful and as the sun was setting on our first evening we enjoyed Clout Archery (Robin Hood style), and because the Guides were aiming for distance markers rather than a small target, everybody hit something. It was "how far can you fire the arrow" rather than "can you hit the target". The first day also saw the girls making wash stands, creating Patrol signs to go outside their tents, collecting wood and a rather competitive game of rounders.

The next day after Bacon & Egg bread it was time for Crate Stacking, the favourite part of which was pushing the stack over and watching those on top now swinging on the ropes! Before the destruction though, all the Guides had to work together, either building the stack or holding the ropes. House loyalties took over afterwards as each Patrol then raced around the site to complete the Picture orienteering challenge. After lunch it was Raft building with silly games on the water. Only one girl fell off a raft, but most of them jumped in afterwards! The rafts didn't take too long to build, which meant the Guides could enjoy a long time messing about on the water - steering in different directions.



Our big activity of camp was a trip to High Altitude Trampoline Park. The guides



bounced, flipped, leaped about for an hour, had a game of dodgeball and enjoyed Pizza, hot dogs and ice cream. They were worn out, but they still had enough energy to race around on the Go-karts when we returned to Eaton Vale. In between all the activities the girls helped with the cooking, washing up, had inspection, played silly games, went flying (space hoppers), ate lots of

cake and enjoyed making crafts. They created wands, modeled some fantastic beads, made bug houses, decorated hats and cloaks, made sock owls, hama beads and Slime! Our final evening also involved the ever popular campfire and toasted marshmallows.

It was a very enjoyable camp and all the Guides had a good time. □



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Dersingham Day Centre By Alice Worth



When our last report went in to Village Voice we had been unable to find a new meeting place for the Day Centre to go to when we have to vacate the Church Hall in July. Now I am pleased to report that the Dersingham Day Centre has been offered the use of the Ingoldisthorpe Sports and Social Club from September, until the new hall is built in Dersingham. We will have good cooking facilities there and a pleasant area to sit in. We are very grateful to our new hosts for coming to our rescue, and we now look forward to starting there in September.

We have had a busy few weeks since my last report. On the 10th May we went to the United Services Club in Hunstanton. As usual our lunch was excellent and everyone enjoyed our day out. On the 24th May we were treated to a lovely roast beef lunch and in the afternoon we were entertained by Brian Roy; all of this to celebrate the 61st Wedding Anniversary of June and Peter Damon. Thank you to them both for sharing it with us. On the 7th June the Village Fryer came to the Day Centre to cook lunch for us, all through the kindness of Colin Carter, who wished to share his 80th birthday celebration with us. Thank you Colin for your very kind and appreciated gesture.

Readers will think all we do at the Day Centre is "eat"!! True.....

Despite the heatwave experienced during June we managed to keep cool in the Church Hall with plenty of cool drinks for those who felt in need of them. Another special treat was arranged for us by Joe Earl, and on the 21st June we finished the afternoon with strawberries and ice cream. Just what we needed on a warm afternoon. Thank you Joe for your thoughtfulness.

On the 19th July we will be having a "leaving the Church Hall party" with a special lunch, followed by a musical afternoon with Leigh Murfet. Our last meeting will be the following week, 26th July, but before then we have a lot of sorting and packing of all our belongings, pots, pans and cutlery etc., to do. Organising storage of all these things, including any chairs we are unable to take to Ingoldisthorpe, is also under way and one of our Members has offered us the use of part of his garage. Well done to the Volunteers who have worked so hard to bring this about.

Several of our Members have been indisposed during the last few weeks, so we wish them well and look forward to them joining us again at the end of the summer. A happy summer to all Village Voice readers with thanks to all of you who continue to support the Day Centre. We hope to be back with you in the Autumn. □





The Hickling Experience

by Steve Davis



Considering we're now in our eleventh year enjoying the delights of living in Dersingham and the surrounding area, Lindsey and I have made very few visits to what many outsiders would consider the whole essence of Norfolk, namely The Broads. Each year we have said, we must try and get to see Swallowtail Butterflies, the UK's largest and indeed rarest native butterfly species, confined solely, so all sources tell us, to the Broadland Fens of East Norfolk. Now believe it or not, fifteen years ago, we did actually see and photograph a Swallowtail flitting about along the top of The Malvern Hills in Worcestershire, unaware at the time of its misplacement. No-one, including the *Malvern Hills Conservators* whom I subsequently emailed, had received any other reported sightings there nor could give an explanation and we'd certainly never seen one since.

Hickling Broad is considered one of the prime locations to see Swallowtails between mid-May and mid-July so, although only 50 miles away, this year we decided that a few days mid-June camping at the newly established Hickling Campsite (www.hicklingcampsite.co.uk) would fit the bill for us. Apart from some appealing looking, if a little pricey to hire, on-site *glamping* options in the form of pods, shepherd's huts and a bell-tent, this site accommodates tents only. Caravanners and camper-trailer users are generally well catered for elsewhere in the vicinity. Each pitch at Hickling Campsite is allocated its own fire brazier and bags of



logs, packets of marshmallows, firelighters and matches can be purchased onsite if required. The loo and shower huts are of appealing rustic construction; all very clean and functional. Mind you, midweek in June, we weren't exactly overcrowded!



Having pitched, we prefer to leave the car put and set off on a very pleasant walk to the Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) reserve that manages a large part of Hickling Broad. It was perhaps a little further from the site than we'd expected, taking us around 45 minutes, but it was difficult not to dawdle, especially with more dragonflies and damselflies than I've ever seen before in one place patrolling everywhere we looked. My photos here show a Black-Tailed Skimmer and our native green-eyed Norfolk Hawker, though there were lots of others too. As we have discovered before with The Broads, much of the water's banks and access to it is in fact privately owned and that, coupled with dense vegetation in parts, can make expansive vistas across the water few and far between. Although the NWT Reserve gave views of the Broad itself, clearly the greatest benefit was to be obtained from booking one of their guided boat-trips (www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife-in-norfolk/nature-reserves/facilities/boat-trips), which we gladly did while at the NWT Visitor's Centre, opting for the two-hour trip the following morning.



So, Day 2 and off we went again, walking back to the reserve, allowing ourselves plenty of time to include the extra 15 minutes it was suggested we needed to walk from



the Visitor's Centre to the jetty from where we would go aboard. Just as well we did, as *en route* several Swallowtails graced us with their presence; such a delight, even if it did double the time to reach our waiting boat. Dave our guide and skipper gave us all the safety spiel and helped us don our life jackets and step



aboard before starting up the very quiet outboard engine, giving us a full commentary as we glided gracefully around the reaches of the Broad, stopping off at two rustic thatched hides, only accessible by boat and then a short trek to a 60 foot high woodland observation tower from where we could see far and wide across the treetops. Mute Swans, various ducks and great crested grebes, all with their respective young families, paddled around us whilst Marsh Harriers winged their aerobatic manoeuvres overhead as well as, of course,

lots of dragonflies, damselflies and more quavering calls of Reed and Sedge Warblers. A great two-hour excursion. After a sandwich lunch and another walk around the reserve, we headed back to the campsite calling on the way at the



Whispering Reeds boat hire yard (www.whisperingreeds.co.uk) to check out the hire of a canoe for the next day.

Now we are used to a bit of canoeing on the sea at Hunstanton but on Day 3, after three hours in an open Canadian canoe, enjoyable though it was, we could feel the effects! Quite glad we hadn't opted for a full six hours hire! Although it had been suggested to us that

some had managed to paddle from the boatyard at Hickling Broad down and along the connecting dyke to Horsey Mere and back within the three hours, we were more than satisfied with covering about a third of the distance with a brief stop at a convenient mooring point to climb out on the bank to eat our sandwiches. Whispering Reeds will also hire you a motor craft or even what looks a relatively easily managed sailing lug, but maybe that'll be another time for us. We got back to our tent a little earlier than previous days to rest up a bit then, after our evening meal, took a little



drive out and a stroll along a nearby section of the Weaver's Way footpath bordering the south of Hickling Broad in its meander all the way from Cromer to Great Yarmouth and where we were treated to another dragonfly festival.

Day 4 and, after a bit more of a lie-in than usual, we took another jaunt to the NWT Reserve to be greeted at the Visitor Centre by a duty staff member who suggested that we might

like to take up two of the available places on the shorter one-hour afternoon boat trip, this time with a different guide and skipper Phil, which we felt unable to refuse. Although it's good cruising the open expanses of water, I think my favourite part was when we edged our way slowly along some of the channels between the reed beds, with reeds brushing the boat on either side. I was also pleased when Phil pointed out examples of the Milk Parsley plant (a relative of Cow Parsley) which grows, it would appear, only amongst our Broadland reeds and is the sole





food plant of our UK Swallowtail caterpillars, onto which the adult butterfly lays her eggs, hence their precarious confinement to the locality. Once back ashore, we made our way along pathways to the furthest reach of the reserve at Stubb Mill where, we were told, we might see some of the indigenous colony of Common Cranes that have taken up residence in these parts. Unfortunately, though there had been some sightings during the day, we were not so lucky, but we did manage a good view of

a very large pale raptor patrolling the area which we were later told was a known, particularly light coloured Marsh Harrier.

On our last morning, with a less favourable weather forecast for later in the day, we packed up and left the site, making a couple of extended stops nearby on our way home. At Winterton-on-Sea we took a short bare-footed stroll along the soft golden sandy dunes and beach, before visiting the Dunes Café, where generous helpings of hot drinks, breakfasts and delicious looking cakes were much appreciated at this obviously dog-friendly haunt. After that we drove onto Horsey Mill situated by



Horsey Mere and managed by the National Trust where, discovering that the Mill itself was closed whilst being lovingly and meticulously renovated, we idly enquired about the one-hour boat trips advertised there (www.wildlife-boat-trips.co.uk). "Oh, there's one leaving in about five minutes" we were told, "which you might just catch if it's not fully booked". So without really thinking we dashed down to where the MV Lady Ann was moored and just made it onto this rather older, more distinguished and authentic looking vessel than our previous one. This time we cruised Horsey Mere and travelled down the dyke linking it back into Hickling Broad where we reached the same point that we had been on our previous days trips from the other end. Contrasting views but equally as pleasant. On our return the skipper announced that he'd just caught a glimpse of a Common Crane disappearing in the distance off to the rear of the boat; alas, we were too late to see it! Such a shame; we would have so loved to have seen one

before we left.

Back at Horsey Mill Visitor Centre, after a last cuppa, we thought we'd stroll down to the signposted Mere View Point. Moored on the opposite side of the creek was the MV Lady



Ann its skipper tucking into his sandwiches before his next trip. We waved, and after admiring the view headed back toward the carpark. "Cranes!!!" he yelled out from behind us. We turned and there they were; four of them, quite high up and silhouetted against the sky but flying towards and eventually over us. What a perfect finale; our Hickling experience now complete. □



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Summer events for your diaries...

Saturday 29th July – Monday 31st July 2017: Historic Lifeboat Festival, Wells-next-the-Sea

The inaugural Historic Lifeboat Festival, part of the 2017 Wells Carnival, is on Saturday 29th, Sunday 30th and Monday 31st August at The Quay, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk.

Six historic lifeboats will be moored at Tug Boat Yard throughout the festival. There will be a parade of Historic Lifeboats down the channel, led by *Lucy Lavers*. There will also be a display of model lifeboats in Wells Library, continuing throughout Wells Carnival week to Sunday 6th August. Visit us at our stand on the Quay during the Festival, and come to see the parade!

Saturday 12th August 2017: Film screenings and maritime heritage event at Creake Abbey Barn (*by kind permission of Diana Brocklebank-Scott*)

A great day of local maritime heritage displays, family activities, and films!

Events include **two screenings of our film, *Lucy Lavers return to Dunkirk 75 years on*, at 12 noon and 3pm.**

This evocative hour-long film tells the story of how our newly-restored lifeboat *Lucy Lavers* made the commemorative journey from Wells-next-the-Sea to Dunkirk and back in May 2015, 75 years after she joined the Dunkirk Little Ships in 'Operation Dynamo'.

Proceeds from the day will kickstart the fundraising for our latest restoration project,

Whelker Bessie. An important local boat, *Bessie* also has her own intriguing Dunkirk history...

We look forward to welcoming you!

10am - 5pm, Saturday 12th August, Creake Abbey, Creake Road, North Creake, Norfolk NR21 9LF.

Book your tickets for the film shows in advance. Choose from 12pm or 3pm screenings, tickets cost £7.50 and include a drink – book online at www.rescuewoodenboats.com or in person from Wells Tourist information Office (details above) and the Maritime Heritage Centre (details above).

In the meantime...

Get in the mood by checking out our website for its large and fascinating collection of films and photos:

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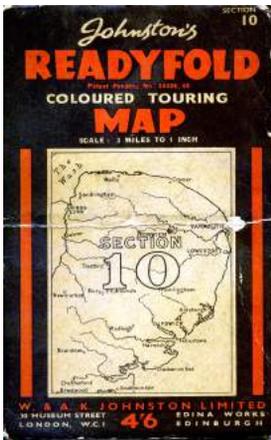
Old Map Corner

by Tony Bubb

One of the least thought about areas of map production was, and sadly still is, is the fold. How often have you opened up a map to find you are looking at blank paper or the map you expected but upside down. It is such a simple thing to get right but for years no thought seemed to be given to the problem.

Below is Johnston's Readyfold map of this area. Unusually dated (1947), it was always a bad idea to date maps as the retailer could otherwise get stuck with old stock, this brave but flawed attempt to make life easy for the traveller did not meet with great success and was not adopted widely. It was folded in two and glued to the covers top and bottom then concertinered up. German publisher Falk did use a somewhat similar fold for their town plans but with slits for ease of use. These were quickly destroyed in high winds.

This map was based on an Ordnance Survey original from the early part of the century which was what became the Bartholomews half inch series and Johnston, later to team up with Bacon, were a part of this publisher's outfit. Always notable for the poor quality of their reproduction, it used to amaze me that they ever sold anything when much better stuff was readily available, as was even worse stuff but we won't go there. At 3 miles to the inch and showing no contours, this series was squarely aimed at the motorist who could with practice open up the map in the confines of the car, which of course, offered far less space than we get today. □





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Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny



The centre of the village

Now where is the centre of the village? Well it must be and always has been Centre Vale. That's why the church hall was built between the church and Centre Vale cottages. Because of the many manors the old village was split up into three. Highcrofts then Dodd Hill now Doddshill was where the farm workers lived. As Dersingham was a fishing village, the fishermen and tradesmen lived in Chapel Road and Manor Road, much nearer the sea.

The village stayed this way until about 1890/1900 when the houses were built along the Lynn Road, Hunstanton Road, Station Road and the Glebe, There were several individual houses built around before the First World War, then by 1925 there were five public houses and a working mans club but, except for Centre Vale cottages and the one farm house (Mr Jackson), the centre of the village was still all farm land.

Then straight after the Second World War, when there was a great need in the village for more houses, the Gelham Manor estate came about, most of the houses being built by my great uncle Mr Tom Drew (the Dersingham Building Company). Up till then he was the landlord of the Albert Victor public house. Tom Drew and his brother, Will Melton (my grandfather), also built some houses along Lynn road where there were empty plots of land.

Then in the 50s and 60s the land down Centre Vale was all built on and some council houses and bungalows were built on Sandringham estate land up Doddshill, along with three police houses. Then came the Mountbatten estate on land that was Dun-cow Farm at this time. A lot of small estates sprang up like Manorside, Valley Rise, Willow Drive and Hanover Court. So as now with 5,000 people living in Dersingham there is not much land left. I forgot to mention Park Hill estate, which seems to have been there forever.

Sandringham estate still has some spare land around the village like the old Doddshill allotments, though if they built on them I reckon they would have to make the road wider. Then there is the 24 acres of unused allotments at the top of Fern Hill. During the Second World War they were put aside for ex-prisoners of war. My father was offered one but we lived near the common and it was a long drag from there to the top of Fern Hill. Then he got one behind the police station; when he had to get off that he took one up Sandringham Hill. Sandringham estate still has four rough fields down The Drift; if you had a house built on them you would be all right for wildlife. So it looks like there is still room for more houses in Dersingham.

The Feathers

What an interesting article by Elizabeth Fiddick about the Feathers Hotel. When I was a lad Mr and Mrs Prime kept the Feathers and we all used to ring the big brass bell on the front door until it was taken away. In the early nineteen-sixties Jack Spencer took it over and he kept horses in the old stable buildings. After a while Jack took over the Ingoldisthorpe Manor Hotel, then he moved up to Hunstanton and took over the Garden House Hotel on Cliff Parade.



Elizabeth mentions the old cottages that were in the school gardens being knocked down. It was still a vegetable plot when I went there in the forties. Some times there were not enough tools so us boys would take our own spades and forks. When I went up the top school in 1950 we had a vegetable plot there just inside the main gates.

As for the Mann family who had kept the Feathers, a relation of theirs, a Miss Grace Mann, still lived in the village in 1960s. She lived in the last big house on the right going up Heath Road. There was and still is a large barn next to it where the fire engine was kept. This was the ideal place for a fire station as the common and fen were always getting on fire.

Friendly societies

Elizabeth mentions the friendly society that held their meetings at the Cock Inn. When I was a lad my father belonged to the sick and dividing club that was run by Mr Chester, who was landlord of the White Horse public house. My father would go there every Friday night to pay his dues. You got money if you were sick and they had a share-out at Christmas time. He also belonged to the same sort of club that was run by the landlord at the Queen Vic at Snettisham.

Manor Road after the war

I see from the press that Parker's old shop at the bottom of Sandringham Hill is up to let again. When I was a lad I worked there for a while as an errand boy. In those days in the 1950s it was the largest and busiest shop in the village. When you went through the big white double doors at the front the shop was divided in two: to your left was men's and ladies' clothes, knitting wool and the like; to your right was the grocery department. Right down the bottom was a large coffee-grinding machine right next to the cash office. Up to six people would be working there at any one time. There was also a rounds man who had a small Morris van; he would go round the outlying villages at the beginning of the week taking the people's grocery orders, delivering the goods at the end of the week. My job with my trade bike was to deliver just round the village. I also had to skin the big round cheeses and weigh up the sugar into one pound and two pound bags. Parkers done a lot of trade with Sandringham House, they had a Royal Warrant. I would often have to go up to Sandringham House on my bike as they had run out of something. Up until the Second World War Parkers also had a shop in Hunstanton, in Le-Strange Terrace near to The Wash and the public house.

Manor Road was a busy end of the village then days with the school at the bottom of Doddshill, the Feathers hotel and the Coach and Horses public house, opposite which during the Second World War was a butcher's shop that later became a fried fish and chip shop. There was a butcher's shop and slaughterhouse on the corner of Heath Road and Manor Road. Also in this area was the police station and Terringtons grocery shop, next door to Playfords the bakers. There was a branch of Barclays bank that opened on a Thursday, Fred Easton's second-hand car yard and George King's barbers shop opposite Mr Dobbs's electrical shop, which at one time before the war had been a fish and chip shop. After Mr Dobbs gave the shop up and moved away at the end of the fifties his shop was turned into a flat and was rented out to an American family. Just off Manor Road is Brook Road; before the war there was a laundry at no 8 so many locals called this Laundry Lane. Opposite Brook Road in Manor Road there is a pair of cottages that are called 'Trescoe' cottages. Up until 1920 my grandfather, Will Melton, had a shop (tin shed) up the corner where he sold paraffin and all sorts of gardening tools. Further along Manor Road on your right is a large house that was called 'Wellswell'. This was a public school for girls with an open-air swimming pool in the grounds. After the school closed a gentleman had huts full of laying hens in the grounds and on the field opposite. When the chicken farm closed down it was turned into a private house and called 'Woodroyal'.

You then came to my local pub, the Albert Victor. Next to the Albert is a row of cottages where the workhouse used to be; there was another small laundry there so this was called 'Wash House Yard'. Up towards the Lynn Road was George Blowers blacksmith's shop. Us boys would go in there and pump the bellows for the fire to keep warm or hold the horses for him whilst he shod them. Next to the blacksmith was Mr Tuck's nursery where you could buy the best tomatoes in Norfolk. So see in them days, 40s, 50s and 60s, Manor Road was most probably the main road for shops and business in Dersingham even though there was only 2,000 people living there, half of what there is today. By the time you read this harvest will be here, so just keep a troshin.□

An Extraordinary Tree

by Alan Coleby - photo Steve Davis

People who go through the gate at the end of the tithe barn and walk along the gravel path, will be going to the south door of the Church or to the Health centre, or even to the butcher's, the hairdresser's or the solicitor's. Whichever it is, they will be occupied in thinking about events in their busy lives and will be looking down. However, if they look up, they will notice, a short distance along the path, a seat facing the Church tower. If they have the time to pause and sit on that seat, or turn and look behind it, they can experience a beguiling picture of grace and elegance.



Behind that seat, and a few yards towards the tithe barn, is a remarkably beautiful and uncommon tree. It is a tulip tree, and it dominates that side of the churchyard. One of that size is unique in Dersingham, though tulip trees are sparsely distributed throughout the Midlands and the South of England. Tulip trees are so called because their blooms resemble those of the tulip flowers that grow in our gardens in the early Spring. That is, they are a pale greenish-yellow and are cup-shaped, with the erect petals over an inch long, and the flower nearly two inches wide. The cup contains orange-yellow stamens and the tree pollinates itself. It blooms, but only briefly, in June or July. This June, it has bloomed more fully than for many years, and has attracted much interest. Any later blooms develop a rich yellow autumnal tint. Indeed, in America they are known as yellow poplars.

If anyone looked at it from the path, they would first be struck by its great height. At present, it stands at about 40 to 45 feet high. There are some in this country that have grown to over 100 feet, and this would take our tree to the top of the tower. The species was brought to England in the seventeenth century from America, where it is known as one of the largest, finest trees of the American forests. It is the state tree of Kentucky, Indiana and Tennessee. In those areas, it can grow to 150 feet tall and can live to be 300 years old, though most live to between 200 and 250 years.

This tree was planted in the churchyard by the Dersingham W.I. on the 75th anniversary of that organisation in 1990. One of its characteristics is that it does not bloom until it is at least 15 years of age, and so our tree may well have been blooming for eleven or twelve years.

It is thought by some villagers that there are many years when it does not bloom at all, and that it has had many barren years. What may well happen is that sometimes it blooms only near its top, so that the flowers are not noticed. Lower down, they may in effect hide behind the light green leaves, which are thin and flexible, and could easily cover the flowers if the observer gives only a casual glance, or looks from a distance. The leaves are indeed unlike those of any other tree. They are pale green, with a slender stalk, and are saddle-shaped, without a tip, each leaf coming to four points. They are cool and soft to the touch.

Another feature of the tree when looked at from the path is the enormous size of its canopy. It stretches from the wall at the side of the graveyard to the path itself, a distance of some 24 yards. In the north/south direction, it covers about 15 yards.

Sometimes, I walk towards the centre of this great canopy. It is easy and quick to do because the lateral branches do not grow outwards below seven feet from the ground. Then, at the outer edge of the canopy, they sweep down to the ground, and those soft, fleshy leaves can make me feel that I am in a natural, domed tent, reaching skywards. Despite the nearby road, I experience a soft hush. It is as if the bark absorbs sound and creates a silence.

Like most people, I lead a hurried, crowded life in this modern world of constant artificial stimulation. However, while standing under the middle of the tree, I am affected by this feeling of stillness, by the quiet strength conveyed by this living tree. There is a feeling of awe and wonder, of a breathing presence, whether in the thin light of early morning or in the whispering dusk. During the middle of the day, the mantle of interlaced branches overhead softens and filters the sunlight to a green gold and distributes it on the ground in speckled patterns of light and shade. When I pause and take it all in, the awe and wonder grow to a deep respect.

Then I return to the seat and look up at the clock which is facing me. It reminds me of the time which is calibrated by men. We count the minutes, hours, days, of what time we have to do all that we want to do. But what of that feeling that I had under the tree, a feeling that the tree, by comparison with people, is timeless in its strength and stillness? There is a feeling that human beings are young and callow in a world that is infinitely older than they are. There is also the feeling that this living world will continue on its steady and serene way when we no longer inhabit it. □

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Dersingham Teenage Blogger



Hello Dersingham,

I'm going to be your Teenager Blogger. I'll be letting all of you know what is going on outside of your busy adult lives and what we get up to as Juniors.

To get started you can call me DTB (Dersingham Teenage Blogger), it's not my actual name and I have absolutely no reason for choosing it, but the name just sprang to mind.

Whilst we wait for the new skate park, don't get bored during the holidays or weekends, here are my seven top things to do in our village:

- Try Geocaching (I have recently started and I'm having a blast)
- Go for a walk in Sandringham Woods, the Heath or Common.
- Try out for a local club, there are lots featured in Village Voice.
- Treat yourself to a Shmoo Smoothie from Thaxter's Coffee Shop.
- Organise a sleepover with your friends.
- Play football on the sports field.

Go for a long bike ride.

Let's talk about Geocaching a bit more, if you haven't ever heard of it, it's basically an app that you download to your mobile phone which shows you locations of boxes/tubs. Each contains a piece of paper where everyone who has previous found it signs and dates. You can work as a team or individually. Some teams have cool names but you must never tell others where the items are hidden. Some boxes have items that you trade. Who would have thought that over 15 Geocaches are located in our village and nearby. When you start a geocache on your phone there is a guide to the exact spot. You need to use your phone like a compass and follow the orange line to the hidden treasure. Why not give it a try?□

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2nd Dersingham Brownies: Murder, Farming and Fun

We had quite a day at Holkham Hall! from Lynne Wheeler

This year, the 2nd Dersingham Brownies headed to Holkham Hall for their summer coach outing, and it was brilliant. Throughout the day we were looked after by Emily, the Education Officer, who told the Brownies, on entering Holkham Hall, that there had been a murder and the police needed the Brownies' help to solve it. It turned out that a young heiress had been found in the kitchen stabbed with a pair of antlers and there



were five suspects. The Brownies were divided up into groups and given their first clue to a room which they needed to find, as within this room was a clue to the suspect. The Brownies headed off in different directions, exploring the house and rooms as they went looking for clues. Everyone managed to find all the clues and solve the murder, it was a great way to explore the house as the girls had to look around the rooms to find the clues. We then went to the old servants area, where the girls dressed up in the old uniforms and tried polishing shoes and carpet beating!

As the weather was bright and sunny we were able to eat our picnics outside before descending on the gift shop. In the afternoon we were taken on the Field to Fork tractor ride around the estate with an I-spy quiz and finding out all the different things the crops are used for; oil, beer, Maltesers, sugar, gas for natural grid. Emily then took us around the Field to Fork exhibition, where the girls saw old style farm machinery, more dressing up and enjoyed an interactive game all about the farm produce. We then rounded off the day with a quick walk to see the deer before having fun in the adventure playground. It was a wonderful day and all the Brownies and leaders had a great time. □



This Might Help

I came across the following recently and although it obviously isn't new it still possibly has some relevance. Ed.

The European Commission has just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the European Union rather than German, which was the other possibility.

As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a 5-year phase-in plan that would become known as "Euro-English".

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c". Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of "k". This should clear up konfusion, and keyboards kan have one less letter.

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f". This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter.

In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible.

Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling.

Also, al wil agre that the horibl mes of the silent "e" in the languag is disgrasful and it should go away.

By the 4th yer people wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v".

During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vords kontaining "ou" and after ziz fifz yer, ve vil hav a reil sensibl riten styl.

Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech oza. Ze drem of a united urop vil finali kum tru.

Und efter ze fifz yer, ve vil al be speking German like zey vunted in ze forst plas. □



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The Sandringham Newsletter

by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate
Compiled by Helen Walch

Throughout the month the Country Park played host to a range of events including car club visits, the Samaritans Charity Bike Ride and charity walks for the Stroke Association, the Benjamin Foundation and Nelson's Journey.

The last month has been very dry, so irrigation has begun throughout the garden, particularly in the shrubbery and woodland walk. The water comes from the Upper Lake, which in turn is fed partly by natural streams and partly by pipes collecting any run-off from the roof of the House. The dry weather has slowed the growth of the grass on the lawns, which is a help. Some areas of grass are always left unmown to allow wild flowers to grow and seed, and to provide areas where ground-nesting birds can raise their young. Clusters of spotted orchids are slowly colonising these wilder areas and are gradually spreading in the damper parts of the garden.

On the Farm, preparations for harvest are well under way, so pot holes in the farm tracks are being filled and grain stores are being thoroughly cleaned.

The Visitor Centre has been busy, particularly in the recent hot weather, with people enjoying the shade of the Country Park and the air-conditioning in the Gift Shop and Restaurants. A border of culinary herbs has been created at the Visitor Centre for the restaurant kitchen staff to use and fresh flowers, from the beds and borders in the gardens, are now arriving twice a week for the restaurant tables. □

Successful First Laceday from Lynn Halifax

The Lavender Lacemakers of Dersingham held their first Laceday on 20th May at the Community Centre, Avenue Road, Hunstanton, and what a successful day we had.

We set up on the Friday so everything was laid out for us on Saturday. There was a second hand stall, where we sold things fairly cheaply, but a dealer was available so you could buy brand new. A bobbin maker and a bead lady were also present.

People started to arrive at 9.30 am, the day was about to begin. Tea and coffee flowed all day, with biscuits in the morning and cake in the afternoon. There was a lovely variety of both.



We were also fund raising and the charity we chose to support was Alzheimer's. It has come to light that there are so many people with it now, you either know someone with it or about to go down with it. Quite frightening as it could be you next. We arranged for a representative of the charity to come and we presented her with a cheque for £882. Even she was surprised by the amount, and we stood very proud with the result of our efforts.

The day went just as we wanted with plenty of talking and laughter. There was a really good atmosphere in the hall all day. 4.00 pm arrived, some of the lacemakers had already left; it was now time to pack up and be homeward bound ourselves.

I would like to say a really big 'thank you' to everyone who helped on the day and made it a great success. We are going hold another Laceday next year on 19th May 2018, again at the Community Hall, Hunstanton. □

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The Dersingham Walking Group by Stephen Martyn

Well, summer's here, at least for a few days, so there's no excuse not to get out for a walk, stretch the legs, get the dog wagging its tail and feel that you're a bit more in tune with nature. During the summer months the Walking Group have at least one evening walk, so even if you're not able to make the time during the day you can still get your boots on.

When you look through our programme of walks you'll see that most of our ambles are within a fairly short drive of Dersingham, such as Massingham, or Brancaster and Thornham on the coast. Sometimes we start from a point within our village itself, so that you can get a bit of extra walking in by legging it to the start point! In summer we try to have two walks per month, nearly always on the second and fourth Wednesdays. However that can sometimes change for special reasons, so do check the programme before setting out. The next few walks are always published here in Village Voice, or you can see the whole programme online by visiting the Walking Group page on the website Dersingham.org.uk. You'll find it in the Village Groups section.

The approximate length of each walk is listed in the walk's information, but they usually take around a couple of hours, with a short rest stop along the way. Bring some water and a snack, particularly if it's warm. Your dog is very welcome providing it is well behaved and tolerant of other dogs. Everybody knows that country walking is good for you, so I'll look forward to seeing you on the next walk!

Our next few walks

| Date & Time | Venue | Miles | Grid Ref. | Leader |
|---|---|-------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Wednesday 26 th 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 |
| Wednesday 9 th August 2.00pm | A mosey around the <u>Massinghams</u> . Meet on Great Massingham village green. | 4.0 | TF 798 230 | Pat Reed 01485 540757 |
| Wednesday 23 rd August 2.00pm | Meet at Brancaster Church to walk up the <u>Peddars Way</u> and return along the beach near the <u>Titchwell</u> bird reserve. | 4.5 | TF 772 438 | Elizabeth Fiddick 01485 540940 |
| Wednesday 13 th September 2.00pm | Meet at <u>Great Bircham</u> windmill for this circuit of some of Norfolk's higher ground. Possible tea shop stop after the walk! | 4.5 | TF 760 327 | Elizabeth Fiddick 01485 540940 |
| Wednesday 27 th September 2.00pm | A circular walk via Roydon. Meet in the layby on the A148, opposite the turning to Sandringham. | 4.5 | TF 711 253 | Pat Reed 01485 540757 |

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!" Group coordinator:
Stephen Martyn Tel: 01485 541333 Email: stephenmartyn@gmail.com

26 August - Car Boot Sale on the Playing Field Snettisham 8.00am - 12 noon.
Stallholders from 6.00am Cars £5.00, vans £10.00. All proceeds to

The Salvation Army Snettisham

16 September - Harvest Supper at
The Salvation Army Snettisham - 7.00 pm
Tickets £5.00 from Tel: 01485 543493



DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CINEMA



Since the Village Cinema was set up, we have shown a variety of films to cater for all tastes and have gained a loyal following, despite trials and tribulations with the equipment in the early days and the temperamental heating system in the Church Hall. We now have our own equipment so our volunteers do not have to travel to Wells to collect and return hired kit.

We have had to look for a temporary venue to use while the new Dersingham Village Centre is constructed. The last film show at St Nicholas Church Hall will be on Friday July 28th 2017.

The Social Club on Lynn Road have offered to host the Cinema, but this means the films will have to move to a Tuesday evening (the last Tuesday in the month) and we hope you will continue to support the project.

Although not intended as a primary fundraising event, any profits are put towards the new Village Centre. However, once the room hire, refreshment costs and licence/promoter fees are met there is not a great surplus. We have a small, very willing, band of volunteers who help with setting up/clearing away, serving refreshments, projection, front of house, running the raffle etc. If you could help, please talk to one of the organisers.

We are looking forward to moving in to the new Dersingham Village Centre in 2018. Meanwhile if you have any requests for films, please let us know on 01485 541450 or 01485 544866.

Thank you for your support ☐

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Dersingham Tennis Club

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/dersinghamtc>

The club now has a good number of members but we are always looking for new ones so if you are interested please contact me (details below) or look at our new Clubspark website as above.

Thanks to the Parish Council for organizing a new French drain in the corner of the Sports Field, to minimize flooding to the courts. A suggestion has also been made that we might plant a row of trees in that corner to soak up the excess water.

The League teams have started promisingly with some positive results, though a few matches which have not gone our way. Given our modest membership our success is impressive and thanks go to the teams and those organizing the fixtures for their commitment.

The committee is keen to organize a tennis open day – if there is any interest from Village Voice readers do get in touch.

For non-members wishing to play, the Coach and Horses (01485 540391) have agreed to be “code holder” – call in and get the code and check out the scale of charges. Balls are available from the pub for use by anyone wishing to play.

Judy Collingham

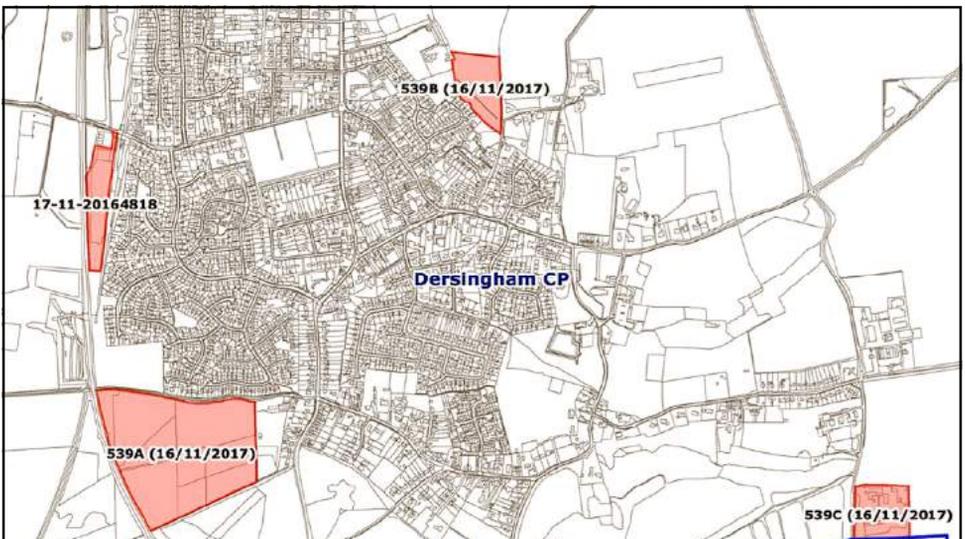
Email: jcairnscol@gmail.com mobile: 07425 138 160; phone: 01485 540271

Call for Sites by Coral Shephard

What is this intriguing title about, a good question. It is about planning, don't stop reading now as this could be the biggest planning issue for the village since the building of the Mountbatten and Sandringham View estates. If you are not familiar with the intricacies of planning, the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk have a local plan that aims to guide development in the Borough for the period up to 2026. The plan is currently in two parts: a Core Strategy document which provides a framework; and a Site Allocations and Development Management Policies document (SADMP), that complements the core strategy by providing detailed policies and allocates sites for housing development. In Dersingham it showed two sites, one to the north of Dodd's Hill for 20 houses and one in Manor Road close to the Doctors surgery for 10 houses. No planning application has been made for either site to date.

The Borough Council have now begun a review of the local plan and the aim is to bring the core strategy and SADMP into one document that will cover the period up to 2036. The process began last year with what was titled a call for sites. This invited land owners, developers and residents to suggest sites that would be suitable for development. By the deadline four sites had been proposed for Dersingham, three for housing and one for employment. The latter is an extension to the facilities at Sandringham sawmill. The three housing sites are to the north of Tudor Way and west of Fern Hill (2 hectares), Bypass Wood to the south of The Drift (11.6 hectares) and land at the end of Station Road (1.75 hectares). The proposals do not mean that the sites will be allocated for housing, that planning permission has been given or that the sites will be developed. The plan is shown below but can also be viewed on the Borough Councils website at: https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20091/local_plan/510/local_plan_review_2016-2036

These sites will need to be assessed for their suitability by the Borough Council over the summer and they will be carrying out a formal consultation on the proposals later this year. However as the consultation period will be only 6 weeks the Parish Council wanted to make residents aware of the proposals to allow time for the parish council to gather opinions and alternative suggestions so that we can pass them on to the Borough Council



once we have been consulted. If you have any comments about these suggested sites or alternative suggestions houses please let us know so that we can include them in the Parish Council response to the formal consultation later this year. Email clerk@dersingham.org.uk or myself at coral.shepherd@dersingham.org.uk



YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU

by Coral Shepherd

Do you care about the future of Dersingham and would you like to become involved in shaping its future development then read on. The Parish Council would like to prepare a



neighbourhood plan and needs your help, but what is a neighbourhood plan and why do we need it.

It is a new way for the community to decide the future of its area. It will identify any preferred locations for new development, it can help preserve the character of the village and protect and enhance its

environment, it can be used to influence development design and dwelling mix. Other issues such as recreational facilities and the needs of the business community can also be included. It does this by setting out policies to guide any future development projects.

Unlike the local authority's Local Plan, the Neighbourhood Plan is not restricted to pure land-use or infrastructure related items and can include inspirational issues, such as transportation links, highways, preserving the village's character and enhancing community facilities. However it cannot stop all development in the area and it cannot plan for less development than the Borough Local Plan requires.

Once adopted it becomes part of Borough local plan and means that the village will have a greater influence over planning decisions.

Without your help we will not be able to prepare a plan so we need volunteers to be part of a steering group that will oversee and produce a neighbourhood plan. You do not need to have any particular expertise, just lots of enthusiasm and patience. If you are interested in becoming involved or want further information please contact me via e-mail at coral.shepherd@dersingham.org.uk □

Bog News

from Tom Bolderstone



It's amazing how quickly the seasons seem to fly by when working on a nature reserve. Not many months ago it was winter with skeins of Pink-footed Geese flying over and then suddenly we are basking in 30 plus degrees of sunshine.

Nightjars have been back on Dersingham Bog NNR since the end of April/early May and this is a sure fire sign that summer has arrived. Nightjars migrate from sub Saharan Africa to their breeding grounds. What has happened in recent years is that the males arrive before the females and what we have found when monitoring nests is that there is low numbers of females compared to males. This seems to be that the males arrive first then we have some northerly winds for a few months which block the females from crossing the channel and as such they don't arrive until much later in the season. This then means that some females have only one nesting attempt rather than two. Whilst not a major issue if nests are successful it does limit the number of birds being born in the population that year which could have an impact in the future. We will be monitoring this over the coming years to see whether this becomes "the norm" or whether we have just had some strange years in terms of migration.



female stonechat

The Stonechat monitoring project is progressing well with lots of hours put in by the volunteers watching and monitoring nests. This is quite a time consuming task and can often mean lots of hours watching and waiting for that one bit of information that gives you the location of the nest. Once the nest is found there is a great deal of satisfaction in knowing that you have managed to untangle the bird's deception tactics and work out what they are doing. The numbers of Stonechats seems to be increasing year on year on the reserve which is great but this does mean that there are more

nests and subsequently more time required to look at them to monitor them. The project is always looking for extra help with

monitoring and whilst there is quite a lot of time required it can be immensely satisfying. If anyone is interested in helping out please visit northwestnorfolkstonechats@wordpress.com . Whilst the 2017 season is getting on, it may be a good opportunity to hone your skills before putting them to use in 2018!

Volunteers don't just help us with survey work they also take part in a wide range of other activities that help us in managing Dersingham Bog NNR. Volunteers help with practical habitat management works such as clearing scrub, spraying rhododendron and bracken, footpath and track repairs, sign making, fence repairs tree safety works and visitor engagement to name but a few. Volunteers based at Dersingham Bog NNR also have the opportunity to work across other National Nature Reserves in North and West Norfolk. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers and if you are keen to help out on the reserves or have a particular skill set that you think would be useful then we would be keen to hear from you.

By the time of the next article the breeding season will be all but finished and we will soon be awaiting the arrival of some of our winter visitors. But there is still plenty of warm weather left to enjoy before we get to that and Dersingham Bog NNR is a good area to enjoy it! □ Thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk

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DERSINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

Elizabeth Batstone

Post Office Road became a very busy road during the days of our Flower Festival, fortunately everyone was able to come in to enjoy the flowers, stalls and eat delicious food. Many thanks for your support and generosity in making the festival such a success. Our thanks also to the children and teachers of Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School who came on the Thursday and Friday to sing for us. We were all impressed by their singing, reading and excellent behaviour. Thanks also to the Dersingham Rainbows for their colourful board display in the hall.



The total raised after expenses is £2,390.88, of this sum £500 has been donated to the cancer related charity 'Look Good, Feel Better'; the remainder is for Church Funds. The Sunday evening Songs of Praise service was very well attended, and everyone was in good voice. The collection at the service raised £251.40 for the Mission Aviation Fellowship, which works in countries to fly aid, medicines, food to remote areas.

Our next **Coffee morning** is on **Saturday 29th July**, 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon and is for Vasculitis UK and Church Funds. Look forward to seeing you there.

Harvest Festival Weekend is 23rd and 24th September. The Saturday coffee morning will be raising funds for 'Farming Community Network', a voluntary organisation which supports farmers and their families through difficult times. The Sunday services will be at 10.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. when gifts for the King's Lynn Food Bank will be collected. For more information about any of our activities please ring 01485 541068 or email pebatstone@gmail.com. □



The West Norfolk Members Group invites you to:-
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King's Dyke Nature Reserve *by Philip Parker*

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Breaking Enigma By Brian Anderson

The Enigma encoding machine is regarded by many as the ultimate refinement of machine-generated substitution ciphers. So what is a substitution cipher? Quite simply, it the substitution of one letter of the alphabet for another. For example, you can substitute X for A, F for B, T for C and so on until you've gone through the whole alphabet. This kind of cipher (known as a monoalphabetic cipher) is, if you have enough enciphered text (ciphertext), vulnerable to a technique known as *most frequent letter analysis*. In English, the letters most frequently encountered are E, T, A, O, I, N, S, H, R, D and L. So the original message (the plaintext) can be revealed by looking for enciphered Es, Ts, As and so on. This cipher has appeared in fiction more than once - for example in the works of Edgar Allan Poe (*The Gold Bug*) and Arthur Conan Doyle (*The Dancing Men*).



Many techniques were developed over centuries to overcome this defect, all involving means of changing the key so that, say, the first encipherment of G would be X and the next would be S. Some systems were hard to crack but this came with the drawback they were often cumbersome and were difficult to use where there was a lot of message traffic to many recipients as, for example, an army in the field.

Just after the end of First World War the Germans discovered that many of their codes had been broken by the Allies, especially their naval codes. They were determined to find a coding system that was extremely hard to break but also was relatively easy to use. Enter Arthur Scherbius, a German engineer and inventor who developed an enciphering machine primarily for confidential commercial traffic but in which the German military became extremely interested. This was the first Enigma machine. It consisted of a conventional typewriter keyboard as the input and a lampboard with the same geometry for the output. Between these were three scrambler wheels where the 26 electrical contacts were cross-wired to the outputs and the three wheels are wired so that the signal has to pass through each. When a key is pressed, say **A**, the scrambler would encode it as another letter, say **P** (which shows on the lampboard) and moves the wheel one position so that the next time the **A** key is depressed **A** is encoded as a different letter. This can be repeated 26 times when the first wheel comes back to the starting position. But on the 26th movement, the second wheel moves one notch. When that wheel has rotated 26 times, the third wheel moves. This gives $26 \times 26 \times 26 = 17,576$ possible keys. Scherbius also made the wheels interchangeable so that they could occupy any of positions in the Enigma, increasing the number of keys by a factor of 6. Scherbius then added a plugboard that allowed the enciphered letters to be swapped by moving 6 cables to any of the remaining 20 positions on the board. The number of ways of swapping 6 pairs of letters out of 26 is 100,391,791,500.

This gives a total possible number of keys of about 10,000,000,000,000,000! Scherbius considered his machine impregnable and so, after a few refinements, did the German military. But Enigma had its vulnerabilities as a machine and also in the way that the Germans used it.



Marian Rejewski

However, the first chink in Enigma's armour was not by some effort of cryptanalysis but by old fashioned espionage. A disaffected German named Hans-Thilo Schmidt approached French secret agents and sold them enough documents to allow an Enigma machine to be built and also important operational documents. The French were not interested enough to take the project seriously (this was in 1931, before the rise of the Nazis). However, they had a military cooperation pact with Poland and passed the information to them. The Poles took the whole thing much more seriously - as a new nation re-established in 1918 they were nervous of their big neighbours - Germany to the west and the Soviet Union to the east. The Polish cryptanalysts were very interested indeed. Schmidt's data told them that each day all Enigma machines operated by the Germans were set to a day key, which told the

operators the plugboard settings, the wheel order and the starting letter for each wheel. If this was done one operator would encrypt a message and the receiver, having set the machine to the same key would be able to read the plaintext. But Schmidt had provided another key fact - the Germans were worried about using the same key over a day for thousands of messages. So they specified that the day key would be used only to send another key for the actual message to be sent. To avoid error the message key would be sent twice. Suppose the operator decided that the message key was **WTB**. He would type this twice and the message key might emerge as **APGHNQ**. Note that the message key affects only the starting positions of the wheels - the wheel order and the plugboard settings remain unchanged. A young and very gifted Polish cryptanalyst named Marian Rejewski began to look for patterns. He knew that the first and fourth letters of the encrypted key were encryptions of the same letter and likewise for the second and fifth and third and sixth letters. He began to build a table of relationships and noticed that the encrypted letters formed chains that looped back to the first encrypted letter. He realised that the number and length of the chains was unique to the starting positions of the wheels and was independent of the plugboard settings. If he had enough encrypted messages in one day he could deduce the starting positions of the wheels - there were a possible 105,456 possible settings. This is a big number but achievable. Rejewski compiled a catalogue that allowed the starting positions to be revealed.

This still left the plugboard settings but this proved simpler than might be imagined. Rejewski entered the ciphertext into his replica Enigma with the deduced wheel settings but no plugboard cables. Suppose the partial plaintext came out as **KRIPGHMARINP**. A good guess was that this should read **KRIEGSMARINE**. So the plugboard cables in the original machine had been set to swap **E** and **P**, and **S** and **H**. This gives you not only **E** and **S** but also **P** and **H**. There are now only four pairs of letters to find. A break or two in other parts the message and a little trial and error would produce all the plugboard settings. If he had enough enciphered messages in one day Rejewski could read all the German traffic. He then developed a machine that could hunt for the chains so that finding the day key was at least partly automated. He called this a *bombe*. Then in December 1938 the sky (metaphorically speaking) fell in on the Polish cryptanalysts. The Germans introduced two more scrambler wheels. Although the Enigma still used only three wheels the choice of wheels and positions rose from 6 to sixty. The Germans also increased the number of plugboard cables from six to ten. This was just eight months away from the German invasion of Poland and the start of the Second World War. Poland

had neither the resources or time to break the upgraded Enigma. The Poles sent an urgent message to Britain and France, inviting senior cryptanalysts to Warsaw. When they arrived they were dumbfounded at the progress the Poles had made - they were years ahead. The Poles then offered the replica Enigma machines and the blueprints for the *bombes*.

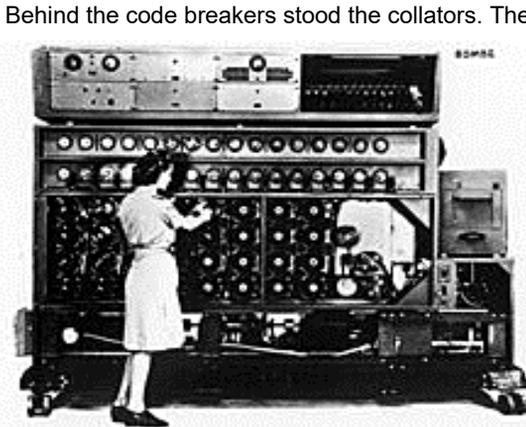
In Britain, most of the code breaking work was done at Bletchley Park (which you can visit today) under a global title ULTRA. At Bletchley Park (also known as Station X), the British scientists and mathematicians soon grasped the way Enigma worked and also the Polish techniques. Given the larger number of staff and greater resources Station X was able to break Enigma regularly and on a daily basis. But still they sought for short cuts. One was the use of *cillies*. This was the name given to more predictable message keys - the German operators were supposed to choose three letters at random. Quite often, though, they would use consecutive letters on the keyboard or their girlfriend's initials - this latter might be used repeatedly.

Here the Y service was of great use. This was a network of radio listening stations (staffed by Wrens) that would record the encrypted Morse traffic and transcribe it for passing on to Bletchley. They were able to locate and identify transmitters using direction finding and frequency setting, sometimes being able to recognise a German operator by his Morse technique or "fist" - knowing it was the same operator made it more worthwhile to see if a cilly would prove fruitful. There were five Y stations in Norfolk. Another technique was known as the *pinch*. This involved capturing a German vessel at sea, stealing the codebook, killing or imprisoning the crew and then sinking the ship so that the German Navy did not know that the codebook was in Allied hands. A third method was the *crib*. For the most part the Germans had very formal ways of communicating. A successful use of the crib would translate at least part of the ciphertext to plaintext. A way of generating a crib was called *gardening*. The RAF would drop mines in known German Naval grid squares within sight of the Germans. The subsequent Enigma alert would generate ciphertext that could be matched to the plaintext of the map reference. Here we have to introduce Alan Turing. Turing was a Cambridge mathematician who was recruited by Bletchley in 1939. He had worked on the concept of machine intelligence before the subject even had a name. There were many brilliant cryptanalysts at Bletchley but Turing was unique in that he saw ways in which Rejewski's work could be extended to solve the problem that would inevitably come - that the Germans would realise that repeating the message key made Enigma at least potentially vulnerable. He developed a machine method of linking guessed plaintext to known ciphertext. With enough iterations (and enough machines) he could determine the scrambler settings and order without the benefit of the repeated message key. In honour of Rejewski he called these new machines *bombes*. Turing was aided (and knew he was aided) by one defect in the Enigma machine and two defects in the German operational rules. The Enigma defect was that it could not encode a letter as itself so a guessed plaintext solution to known ciphertext could not be right if any pairs of letters matched. The operational defects were, first, that the operators were forbidden to use a wheel in the same slot for consecutive days. This halved the possible number of keys for the second day. Secondly the operators were forbidden the swap plugboard settings by only one position each way - so, on the second day **S** could not be swapped for **R** or **T**. These defects significantly shortened the search for keys.



Alan Turing

It should be mentioned here that there were a number of Enigma networks. Bletchley Park found that some networks were easier to break than others. The hardest of all was the German Naval Enigma used by the U-boats in the north Atlantic (code-named Shark). This used non-standard message layout, a choice of eight scrambler wheels and eventually a fourth scrambler wheel position in the machine. In a number of daring operations, the most famous of which was the capture of code books from the U-boat U559, Britain had a partial route into the key. The rest of the problem was solved by the realisation that sometimes the U-boats would have to transmit to stations that had only the three wheel Enigma and would have to disable the fourth wheel, making the problem very much easier to crack using Bletchley's *bombes*.



Behind the code breakers stood the collators. They would assemble apparently innocuous bits of deciphered information into a coherent and useful body of knowledge. One example was of a German officer being transferred from Italy to northern France. The collators found his name in the index and found he was a specialist in airfield construction. The probability was that the *Luftwaffe* was enhancing its air operations in France.

After Shark, the biggest challenge for Ultra was D-Day. The Y service could intercept only those messages sent by radio. So prior to D-Day the

French Resistance was ordered to destroy as many telegraph lines as it could, forcing all Enigma messages onto radio transmission. By D-Day the Allies knew the dispositions of nearly all German units in Normandy and also their battle plans. Never before had one protagonist in conflict had such detailed knowledge of the other side, including a certainty that the deception plans had been believed by the enemy.

Alan Turing came to a sad end. His homosexuality became known to the security authorities after the war and after a period of vilification and persecution, he committed suicide. One Bletchley veteran later remarked that it was fortunate that the authorities did not know of Turing's homosexuality earlier "otherwise we might have lost the war".

□

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Dersingham Evening WI

By Maggie Guest

Meetings have been interesting and the small group activities continue to thrive. Peg,



our President has come up with interesting ideas for meetings in particular, the Resolutions where WI members vote to campaign nationally on a particular issue of national concern. In the past we have just put hands up for the issue we thought most important but this time we got into small groups

and discussed the subjects before deciding. A much better idea. The WI can influence some matters as it is a vast organisation.

The MAD group members have joined forces and made some big and colourful blankets. Must have taken them ages but stunning result. Well done!

A new activity at one of the meetings was a most enjoyable Jigsaw Competition. Small groups were given identical sized jigsaws and the fastest group to complete a puzzle were the winners. In this case it was Cynthia and Lyn.



Well done to them. The members were very absorbed in the jigsaws and the room was almost silent as 'cogs whirred in brains' while members searched for just the right piece. Hope we do that again!

Wendy's group have had great fun visiting interesting places accompanied by lunch out. We went to the 'Stories of Lynn' exhibition at the Town Hall where we had a talk by a guide then wandered round this most interesting exhibition. We contemplated the Ducking Stool, saw the old Cells and so many other interesting items but getting Wendy in the Stocks was fun!!!

Another visit by the group was to True's Yard and, once again, we had a guide and learned so much about the way the old fishing families lived in days gone by.

Some of the WI went to Fakenham Races on Ladies Day and one member managed to go home better off! A jolly day out and a chance to wear a hat although not compulsory. Babs was away when one of her craft groups should have taken place so a session at Paint me Ceramics in Hunstanton was booked and we all had really great, creative fun.





Our items were left to be fired and Peg picked collected them for us the following week. More fun craft is done each month. It is a nice group where people concentrate as well as chat!

The Fit 'n Dancing groups continue to be well supported and members are helped to keep fit accompanied by music and Peg instructing. This is another way of offering members diverse activities.

Maggie and Gill have had successful coffee mornings and Anne had a coffee morning with a Plant Sale. This is always popular and helps with our funds and members enjoy meeting up for a chat over coffee. Babs and Maggie took the walking group to see the cowslips at Ringstead but after about a mile we found ourselves in a hailstorm so retired to the Gin Trap for lunch! The next walk took members to Well-next-Sea and a walk in the inland country before going to the beach for a picnic.

At our last evening meeting, we had a couple from Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. Very interesting to hear how the dogs are chosen and trained. The dogs and owners develop an amazing bond and the dog never stops being a hearing dog no matter what the distraction. Simply lovely to be given some understanding of what deaf people need to make everyday jobs possible for them. We managed to buy some wooden items they had for sale to help the charity. As a WI, we decided to start collecting used stamps to help raise money so if anyone reading this can help please contact one of us.



As always we have lots lined up besides the evening meetings which take place on the third Wednesday of each month at St Cecilia's Church at 7.15 pm

There is no meeting in August and our next meeting is on September 20th when the speaker will be the very talented entertainer Rachel Duffield on Queen Victoria. If anyone reading this wants to come and join us do come along and you will be looked after. Contact numbers are Peg 541162, Katrina 544773, Maggie 542424 □

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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, Just a cuppa - every Wednesday 2.30-3.30pm

Friends of Dersingham Library

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- 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?

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Peer support group for Carers led by the Alzheimer's Society – Tuesday 1st August 1-3pm

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

Colour yourself calm - Wednesday 2nd August 10.30-12

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

The Detective Dog – stories and colouring - Thursday 3rd August 2.30-4pm

Peter's dog Nell has an amazing sense of smell. So who better to have on hand when they arrive one morning to discover that the school's books have all disappeared! Can you help detective dog Nell sniff out the culprit? Suitable for children under 8 years old. This is a free event but must be booked in advance.

Animal Agents - Detective Academy - Thursday 10th August 2.30-4pm

Discover more about fingerprint detection, taking a cast, chromatography, handwriting indentations, visual detection and working with witness statements! This event is for children aged 8+ and tickets are £3 per child payable in advance

Crime Book Club - Monday 14th August 6-7pm

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

Fishy tales - Wednesday 16th August 10.30-12

Enjoy some wonderfully fishy tales from 'The fish who could wish' to 'Rainbow fish' and fishy crafts. This event is suitable for children under 8 years and tickets are £3 per child payable in advance.

Gruffalo Party - Thursday 17th August 2.30-4pm

There's no such thing as the Gruffalo! Or is there? A mouse took a stroll in the deep, dark wood...To scare off his enemies he invents tales of a fantastical creature called the Gruffalo. So, imagine his surprise when he meets the REAL Gruffalo! Come along and make a Gruffalo mask, a snake and a mouse! This event is suitable for children under 8 and tickets are £3 per child payable in advance.

Walk and talk group – Thursday 17th August 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 - Monday 21st August 6-7pm

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

Love Food Hate Waste! - Thursday 24th August 10.30-11.30am

How much food and drink is thrown away by UK households each year? Find out the fascinating facts about food waste and learn how your family could save up to £60 per month by taking the 'Plan, Eat, Save challenge.' This is a FREE event but booking is essential

Celebrate finishing Animal Agents

Thursday 14th September 5.30pm

Medal Ceremony for those having completed the Summer Reading Challenge. Booking essential.

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.

Family History and Computer volunteers

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

A word from Ward Councillor Judy Collingham

It has been very hot recently but today is windy with a few showers and intermittent sunshine. Weather much more to the taste of most Dersingham residents I suspect. If the weather has been turbulent so too has the political landscape; as I write it is the anniversary of the Brexit vote, the election is a few weeks old and nothing seems settled. Just as well that we live in a part of the country where we are not in the forefront of this upheaval.

Your Borough Council continues to battle with the restrictions of limited funding whilst seeking to maintain essential services and social care. The tragedy of the Grenfell Tower fire led the Council to review its building stock to ensure that we have no public buildings which use potentially combustible cladding and councillors have received such an assurance from the relevant portfolio-holder.

Open Gardens 2017 was a resounding success with some 650 visitors to the gardens and Art Trail. Publicity directed at the whole county through the EDP and Radio Norfolk (we were the final destination for the Sunday morning programme "Treasure Quest") drew people from all over Norfolk and beyond. With new gardens and some old favourites on offer there was plenty for folk to enjoy, and with 20 sites to visit the requirement for teas, coffees, cakes and lunches seemed endless. My thanks again to all those who provided catering in their gardens but especially to the Church catering team who worked tirelessly over the two days. Next year we will have the possible challenge of the lack of the Church Hall, but I am confident we can overcome that challenge to deliver the usual standard of catering for all.

I am aware that there is concern over the minimal verge cutting service provided by the Borough through the Parish Council. This is an effect of the squeeze on resources. I would urge those who can to keep their verges cut and help those neighbours who are less able to wield a lawnmower. □

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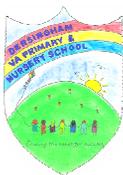
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Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School by Sue Picton

With only a few weeks to go until the summer holidays, the children have been busy finishing off topics and getting ready for transition week to their new classes. Reception has been buzzing with excitement at the prospect of joining the older children at the main site!

To celebrate the wonderful parent partnerships within the Early Years, parents were invited to take part in den building activities in the superb Forest Schools area. A fabulous day was had by all in the beautiful Norfolk sunshine, with two amazing dens being built for the children to enjoy. There have also been a number of visitors this term supporting the children's learning. A huge thank you to Stagecoach who donated five beautiful trees and the fire service who taught the children about fire safety. Partnerships with parents and the wider community are key to the success of the children and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported us throughout the year.



The Year 1 classes launched their topic with an adventure to the Dinosaur Park. A Dino-hunt in the woodland gave the children opportunities to follow maps and find examples of hidden 'dinosaur treasures.' They discovered dinosaur footprints, giant claws, teeth and even dinosaur nests with eggs. It made the children realise how huge the ancient dinosaurs were. After learning about Mary Anning, a famous fossil hunter, the children became archaeologists, using excavating tools to make their own discoveries around school. In addition to all this

hands on exploratory learning, the children have made dinosaur sock puppets, written dinosaur riddles and performed dinosaur poems.

Year 2 voyaged into Story Land to join Pirate Pete on his adventures. They had to follow some tricky pirate clues and talk like a pirate, in order to be the fiercest, smelliest, bravest pirate crew! The children created their own pirate dictionaries, learnt about pirate ships and famous pirates of old and even made their own floating vessels with a personalised flag! They are busy planning their very own pirate party, hopefully without the scurvy and rats! The children were lucky enough to be invited to open the Flower Festival at the Methodist Church, where they sang songs, retold the story of Noah and his ark and created prayers to share. The juice and biscuits with friends and family afterwards were very much appreciated!

Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the different periods throughout the

Stone Age. Everyone had a great time when some real live cavemen appeared on the school field. The children have created a wonderful classroom diorama depicting the prehistoric landscape. They have investigated Stonehenge, including making their own models out of biscuits and crisps and taken part in their own archaeological dig. What a bustling, brilliant topic!



Year 4/5 have been busy with their minibeast topic.



They have created a fantastic environment for caterpillars to munch through leaves, wriggle to the top of their enclosure and transform into chrysalides. When they emerge as beautiful butterflies they will be released into the flowery gardens of Dodd's Hill, so if you see a Painted Lady flutter past, it might be one of ours! The children also created fantastic 3D models of food chains and some innovative Top Trump cards. They are now planning exciting stories, imagining they have shrunk to the size of an insect...how will that dilemma be solved...?

Having finished SATs, Year 6 have been combining exciting trips to local attractions such as High Altitude and Go Ape with a topic that centres around Bear Grylls-style survival. So far they have been den building in Sandringham woods, learnt how to tie a range of knots to help with building shelters and setting traps and even designed their own multi-tools that could be extremely helpful if they were stranded on a desert island.



The school hosted a fantastic bike race, where many children from local schools joined in. Year 2 have participated in a fun



football festival, tennis festival and swim gala, with Year 3. The older children competed in a hard fought community cup football tournament and our County Tri-Golf finalists, competing at Bawburgh Golf Centre, came a commendable 4th place. The cricketers went through to compete at North Runcton, where they were narrowly pipped at the post! With area sports and sports day on the horizon, let's hope it remains dry!

The Student Council had the opportunity to visit Heacham Infant School where they had the job of discussing how children stay safe at school. They were able to talk about how, as a community, we can make even more improvements, giving pupils a voice in the planning process. They enjoyed making posters and badges as well as watching a presentation from Childline.

Hero's afternoon was a great success, with Dads, Grandads, uncles and other family members coming to have a go at a series of sporting challenges. The Friends and Mr Crump did a fabulous job of keeping everyone fed and watered in the heat! With the Summer Fairs around the corner, let's hope we stay lucky with the sunny weather!□

DersinghamSenior's Club

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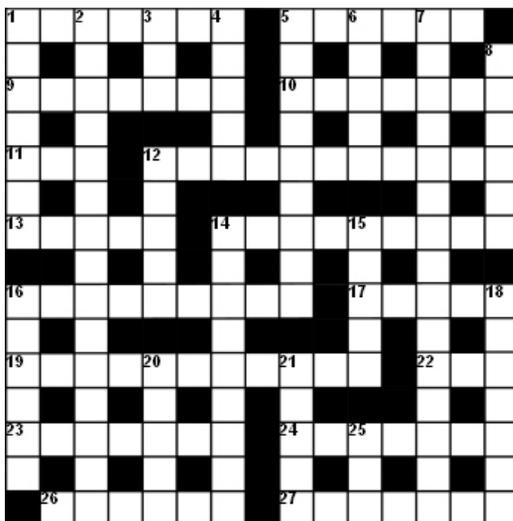
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PUZZLE CORNER

Crossword No 5
by Philip Neal

Across

- 1 Disagreeable Kirk somewhat unwelcome inside (7)
 5 Creature found roaming in Manilla (6)
 9 Pine perhaps for iron ground and symbolic after 2nd October (7)
 10 Almost elevate Elvis chatting (7)
 11 Clip lost from special broadcast leaving main (3)
 12 Investigate and run ring fence after burial (11)
 13 Extra diode needed in search for frequency controller (5)
 14 Blood mess transformed and flourished (9)
 16 Sweet satellite holiday (9)
 17 U.S. soldier reversed into party to disinter (3,2)
 19 Doctor Owen sharpen got the message (11)
 22 Sir Robert lost power - Electric? (3)
 23 Seventeen party now entertains skaters - Cheers! (5,2)
 24 Hercules, say, mixed good spirit while Steptoe was scolding (7)
 26 Dancing brides left litter (6)
 27 Drunken mice end up widespread (7)



Down

- 1 Criminal Ron is Chief Inspector Gnasher (7)
 2 Relatives take wheels to feed County Grampian district (15)
 3 Bid missed Queen out ... (3)
 4 ... and sorry to miss Royal wader (5)
 5 Follow midday following - It's often good (9)
 6 There's snow place like home (5)
 7 Mode of behaviour draws field for sexual attraction (6,9)
 8 Mesh geared as arranged (6)
 12 Press unknown for ambiguity (5)
 14 Small enclosed British and Scots instruments used as long narrow weapons (9)
 15 Small border plant (5)
 16 Antiques Roadshow welcomes builders implements and treasures (6)
 18 Alec joined pig at sea (7)
 20 Ridge over troubled reeks (5)
 21 Is it the lightest cat trained on cue? (5)
 25 Reg left reversed weapon range (3)





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WORD WALL

BY Philip Neal

| | | | |
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| ARM | HAVANA | MARRIAGE | EQUILATERAL |
| SCALENE | AGE | N.U.T | ST.JOHN'S |
| COALITION | BERMUDA | HAMILTON | CARRIAGE |

Mrs. Dolittle



I decided to go to the library and timed it just right. Firstly, as I got out of my car, there was complete and utter silence. It was wonderful. Not a sound of a car or aeroplane, no voices, just sweet bird song. It was blissful and I realised what a rare moment that was. When I stepped inside the building it was also deliciously silent. Phew, I thought, just what I need. Peace and quiet as I wasn't feeling too good. Then Z O O M! passing by me at a speed of knots went a small child – luckily silent, but it's surprising what a large noise small feet can make when running. Then Z O O M! another small child raced by too. Round and round, round and round. I tried not to get annoyed because they weren't being naughty, but I was feeling old and hurty and just wanted no distraction in order to choose my books. Then the boy ran by me again and stuck his tongue out. Hmmm. Then the little girl followed and they both disappeared around the corner. Then a thump and screams and wails. I think the boy had tripped up the girl but wasn't going to admit it. He looked like the cat who had got the cream and pretended to hug his sister, but it looked a false comfort to me. Mum gave hugs, the child continued screaming, while Mum said sweetly with child psychology, 'Perhaps you shouldn't have been running in the Library?' The kid screamed "NO" and continued even more loudly her wails. The noise was too much for my poor head and I left without any books at all, remembering how, in my day, we mothers warned that a bottom slap would be imminent if good behaviour wasn't adhered to. Most children did as they were told, in those old fashioned days....

Two weeks later and I still haven't renewed my books. I was so busy getting my studio and garden ready for the open day. As I write this, it is the day after and I am completely washed out! I worked so hard and ache all over. I was in bed by 6.30 p.m. for the past 4 days. Not head tired, but dead-body tired, limbs and back so painful...but it was worth it. My garden looked a dream and nobody mentioned the weeds either!

I've always thought that grasses looked lovely dotted amongst the flowers and even buttercups scattered throughout the cottage garden blooms – and when watching The Chelsea Flower Show on TV was heartened when various 'experts' said that was all part of cottage gardens - grasses and wild flowers – and you'd be disqualified if there was a hint of earth showing. So I had it right, after all!

I never weed my beds until the forget-me-nots have seeded themselves. In their last innings they do look rather ugly with the leaves black and messy...but that is the time I set to and wade in, pulling them all out, getting covered in seed pods, yanking out the pretty buttercups, as they will take over if not removed and generally pulling out all that should not really be there. Then, there are gaps of course, but it leaves space for the next lot of flowers to spread and bloom and have their elbow room...

What was so nice on the two open days was the fact that several people told me how much they like reading my Mrs. Dolittle pages, as I always make them laugh. Well, that is what I set out to do. I know I am not side-splittingly funny, but as I never take myself seriously, I can make fun of the things I do, and the odd things that happen to me. I've always preferred to laugh rather than cry, and if I can raise a smile from those who read my scribing, then that makes me happy. Mind you, I suspect I am a bit like Marmite, you either hate what I write, or like it.... I also write for a couple of other magazines in similar vein, and sometimes old blokes write in a complain about 'the inane ramblings of that woman'... Well, if we all liked the same thing, the world would be a funny old place, wouldn't it!

Anyway, I look white-faced and spiteful added to which Remote Control Man is in bed with his trigeminal neuralgia – a horrible ‘nerve ending thing’ which brings constant and terrible pain which even strong pain killers cannot reach. Poor bloke, and nothing I can do to help...

I’m itching and scratching – too much sun on my arms has brought me up in a red and painful rash. I have something called ‘vitiligo’ which is an immune system crossed-wired complaint which basically is the immune system munching up the pigment cells believing them to be ‘invaders’, leaving white patches all over instead of tanning when the sun shines, which protects the skin. Vitiligo is what Michael Jackson proclaimed to have, and my white patches have just about joined up leaving my skin unprotected so I just burn horribly...normally I am sensible and cover up and tend to look a bit like the un-dead, all pale and ghostly – but so busy out in the garden, I forgot to cover up, ignored common sense and am suffering for it now.

During the last bout of R.C. M’s week in bed with the trigeminal neuralgia, I got pretty low myself. Frightful Florence (the puppy) prefers an indoor toilet, despite the door being left open for her and my constantly carrying her out every two minutes to do ‘tickles and poos’ is no longer viable as she is now too heavy to carry. Therefore, I am a slave to mopping up her ‘business’ over the stone floors. Normally I take in in my stride, knowing that eventually she will behave as we wish her to, but I got very down (unusual for me) and declared that Florence would ‘have to go’. I hoped that by the next day that decision would be retracted, and luckily it was, my head reverting to its normal positive manner. My down days don’t last long, and after a good sleep, felt a lot better and renewed my mop duties with alacrity.

Florence is not unusual for a Saluki who apparently tend to listen only to their own advice, so she therefore ignores my pleas, yells, shouts and even my occasional quiet, controlled authority, so I ordered a dozen coloured whistles (I keep losing things so reasoned I couldn’t lose twelve). So I am tooting either a pink whistle or a red one until I am blue in the face, trying to get the message over to her. Sometimes it works.

When we first had her she was white, with cream ears and back. She is now morphing into a Dalmatian, with sooty dots all over her chest and other indiscriminate places. It is not attractive. Her inner legs have also gone sooty. When I am not calling her Frightful Florence, I am calling her Coal-hole Flo, as she looks as if she has been sleeping in one! I got so annoyed at her unlovely designs and decided to ‘colour her in,’ painting pink dots on her. Unfortunately, instead of looking like she was a Flower Power Puppy, she looked like she had some dreadful plague-like disease... Maybe she is just going through the ‘ugly duckling’ stage. I will keep you posted.

I have lost two stone. That’s good, isn’t it? However, I still weigh in at fourteen stone, (mostly my stomach) which is not very dainty. Last year I tried keep fit with a personal trainer coming to the house at great expense. I was determined to get into better health. And it did work. And I did enjoy the exercise, because I felt so much better. Until I got cocky and fell down the stairs, doing my back in for the next six months. Also, I couldn’t keep paying out so much money before being imprisoned for debt. So, instead of running on the spot, or trying to bash the trainer in the face with boxing gloves, I have become a ballerina. Yes, you did read it right. A ballerina. I am attending



one-to-one ballet classes in an endeavour to get my muscles working and getting fit. I am no dancer. Never was, never will be – but imagine me, fourteen stone, huge stomach and bum, in tights and dance shoes, sweating like a pig with a vermilion hued face, holding onto the bar for dear life, doing a 'demi-plie' or two (pronounced plee-yay and meaning to bend the knees) a wobbly port de bras (Movement of upper body and arms) and passe (foot pointed to one side).

Unfortunately, tending these days to short term memory loss, I immediately forget any instruction and have to be shown over and over again. The dancing teacher, Peggy, has the patience of a saint.

Anyway, I find it quite exhausting but at the same time exhilarating - I am sure it is doing me good. It's a great way of trying to get fit, and maybe once I am not so gauche, I will join the main class with other ladies – but no way will I, at my present stage of dreadful incompetence and obesity. If Florence is now named Frightful Florence, then I shall be Vermilion Visage Val.

Of one thing I am sure. I will not be invited to dance in the Christmas Spectacular Show!!!

That's enough for now. I need to go off and scratch my rash. Not only that, I have a lot of mosquito bites as well so I am swearing quite a bit, which pleases the parrots who are ever keen to learn new expletives.

Until next time then, (the inane and itching) Mrs. Doolittle.□



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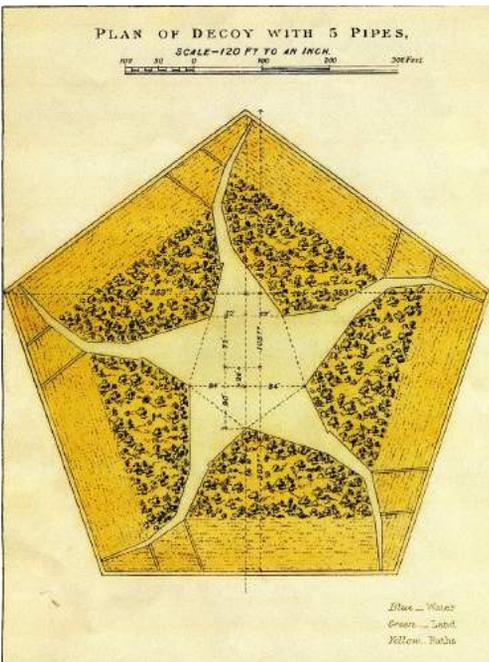
George Skelton and the Dersingham Decoy



Elizabeth Fiddick
Additional research by Mike Strange

One of the great advantages of living here is that you have not to walk far to reach the shores of the Wash and enjoy the richness of the wildlife that lives on and around it. It is always a delight to watch the flocks of Knot as they dance by the waves or soar up to swoop and swirl in dizzying patterns. As summer comes to an end like most people here I wait to hear the first calls that announce the arrival of the Pink-foot geese. Just a few fly over at first but as the months pass so the battalions grow until, as the light fades, hundreds and hundreds fly over our village to and from the coast. They are friends indeed. Redshank, Greenshank, Teal, Widgeon, mallard our coast is home to them all. When I first started looking back at our history I noticed on many maps the word decoy way down on our marshes. I soon found *George Skelton, Decoy man*, recorded in the census

returns with his wife Mary and six children. On the tithe map of 1839 he is shown living far out on our marshes with a cottage and yard close to the decoy. I discovered from one source that a decoy was a trap to catch wild ducks. Tame ducks were used as decoys and were given food which would attract in the wild ones. At a given signal the tame ducks would swim up dykes covered in netting and the wild ducks would follow. Once in the dykes with no escape their fate was sealed. This was all I could discover and thought no more about it. However since working with Mike Strange on the new website things have changed. Mike is far more expert than I am with computers and the internet and he has uncovered a real gold nugget of information. So, with this new insight, walk with me now back 200 years into Dersingham's past and meet a real character, Old George Skelton and the fascinating world of the decoy man.



As the eastern counties have always been rich in wildfowl along their fens and marshes it is not surprising that the peasantry in the past sought to find the means to catch the birds for food and for sale. The original method was using many boats to drive the ducks into a cage of net closed at one end. As the ducks became more wary that changed into a method of enticing them into the nets. Decoys for catching ducks were first used in Lincolnshire and Essex when more experienced men from Holland came over to offer advice. This gives us the origin of the word decoy. It comes from the dutch "ende-kooy" the Duck Cage.

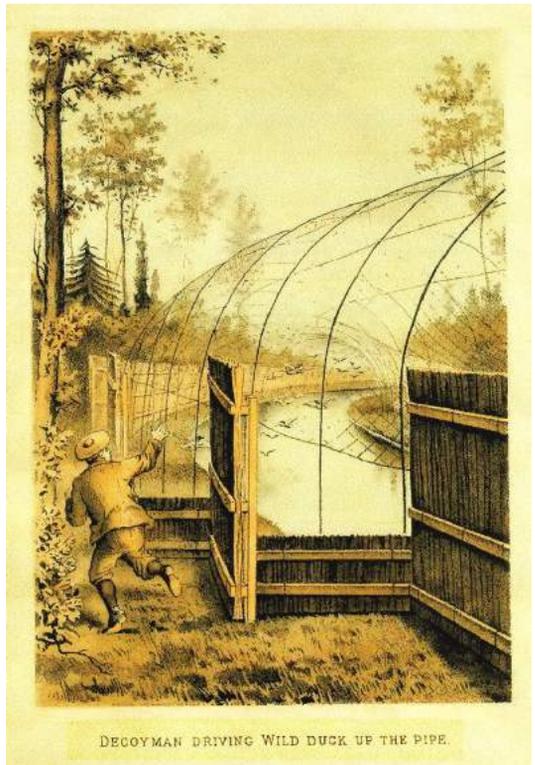
The art of decoying then spread into Northampton, Cambridge, Suffolk and Norfolk. In Norfolk the decoys consisted of very large lakes indeed with

several net enclosed pipes. Huge numbers of boats and men were needed to drive the ducks into the nets so that the profit each man could achieve was small. This however was about to change.

A Mr. Huntingdon of Somerton had decided to form a decoy on the many acres of low overgrown Marshes he owned at Winterton so he needed to employ an experienced decoyman. Enter Old George Skelton Senior, the father of our George! He had recently moved, with his four sons George, William, Richard and Henry, from his home in Friskney, Lincolnshire to Norfolk. Now the Skeltons were very highly regarded in their home county but unknowns here in Norfolk. George Senior was duly employed and the local decoymen could not believe their ears when they heard he had said he only needed two and a half acres of marsh to construct his decoy. As work commenced the mockery grew louder and louder as the locals derided his "petty puddle". What could he hope to catch with such a paltry lake? It was ludicrous. Mr. Huntingdon had made a serious mistake in hiring this idiot. But Old George and all his sons were skilful decoy men and all the laughter turned to amazement. Humble pie had to eaten when it became known that George had taken 1,100 teal in 7 days. It is unsurprising that Old George's methods were soon adopted throughout the county and the Skelton's reputation was established. They were unrivalled in their knowledge and skill of the art of decoying. Old George Senior worked the Winterton Decoy until he died aged 80 in 1840. He is buried in Winterton churchyard. On his death his oldest son was then always alluded to as Old George. This is our man.

In 1806 with his brothers William and Richard our Old George erected the Methwold decoy but in 1818 he was invited to build and run a decoy here in Dersingham down on our marshes. One of the largest landowners here at the time was the Bellamy family. Dr. James Bellamy, who would become President of St. John's College Oxford, inherited Ingoldisthorpe Manor and a great deal of land here in our village. Although he never lived here until he retired to Ingoldisthorpe shortly before his death in 1909 he was an excellent landlord. So it was on the marshes owned by the Bellamys that Old George came to build his decoy. A small cottage was provided for him and his family way down on the marshes. So now let us meet Old George. He was described as a "very peculiar man", short of stature, web-footed like a duck, very strongly built but kindly in disposition. He seemed indifferent to cold or hardship but unequalled in skill with regard to the art of decoying. The picture depicts him with the fruit of his labours from the South Acre Decoy in 1854.

He arrived here with his family. Mary, his second wife, was 42. He had two sons George 17 and William 12 .

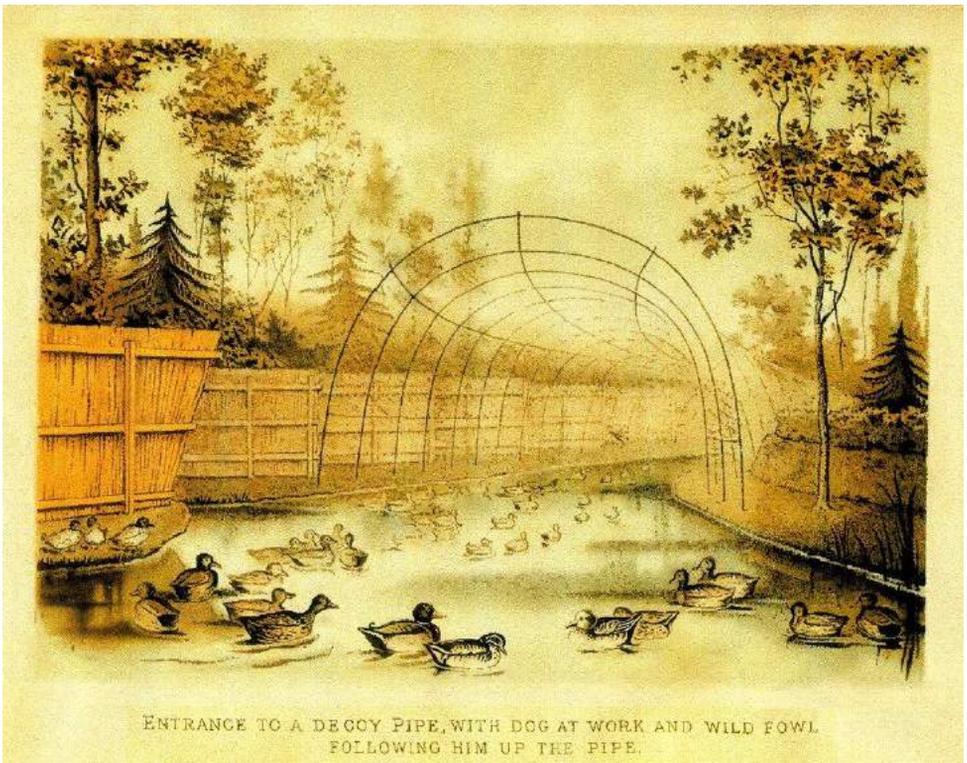


DECOYMAN DRIVING WILD DUCK UP THE PIPE.

His daughters were Mary Ann 7, Lucy 5, Susannah 3, and Sophia 1. His oldest son George became his assistant but I cannot help but think it must have been a lonely life for the young children and his wife so far from the village, way out on the marsh. Mary herself was born in Ingoldisthorpe as were the two youngest children. No doubt Mary preferred to give birth in her old family home rather than in a small cottage isolated on the marsh.

The decoy Old George constructed was a moderate size pond, about an acre and a quarter, with 5 channels known as pipes leading away from it which can still be seen clearly on modern maps. The pipes were covered in net and screens were erected along one side. These screens would have peepholes at regular intervals so that the decoyman could observe the progress of the ducks without being seen. A decoy with 5 pipes was considered the most efficient as no matter from which direction the wind was blowing there were always pipes that could be worked. If the wind was blowing directly down the pipe to the pond the ducks would not fly up against it.

The actual decoying was brought about by either feeding or dogging or a combination of both. Tame ducks, were set onto the pond and food would be scattered there attracting in the wild variety. After a time the decoy man would give a signal that the tame ducks had learnt meant more food would found at the far end of the pipes so there they duly swam. The dog, known as the piper, on a signal would also go ahead up the pipe barking and appearing excited. Apparently wild ducks are very curious creatures and they would immediately follow the dog and tame ducks to see what all the fuss was about. The decoy man would watch and if necessary join in to encourage the ducks on to their fate.



ENTRANCE TO A DECOY PIPE, WITH DOG AT WORK AND WILD FOWL FOLLOWING HIM UP THE PIPE.



I don't know if Old George had a dog but I like to imagine that he had couple of the small lively fox like creatures. I can see him trudging up from the marsh into our village with the dogs at his heels bringing his harvest of wildfowl to the locals. He would have spent his summer cleaning out the decoy, mending the banks and screens, and putting the nets and pipes in order. He would probably have had a pigtle to grow vegetables for his family and may even have grazed a few sheep or cattle of his own on the marshes. Harvest of the birds began in October and ended in March with Old George constantly on the watch. The average number of fowl he captured every winter was from 130 to 200 dozen.

It was a lonely but very successful life here. If the children ever attended the day school in the village it was a long walk for them in all weathers to attend and it could not have been easy for Mary. However Old George could have died in comfort and quite affluent but it seems that in later life he gave way to a passion for drink, perhaps as a result of the cold and hardships he undoubtedly had to endure. I wonder if he trugged up to the Albert Victor in Manor Road, or was he a well known figure in The Dun Cow or the old Cock Inn, propping up a corner by the fire? This habit caused financial hardship for the family. Then in late 1856 he was employed in constructing a decoy at Wretham for a Mr. Birch where he caught a severe chill. He returned to Dersingham but never recovered and died in 1857 at the age of 67 from a thickening of the membrane of the throat brought on by the damp and cold and aggravated by his intemperance. A friend who visited at this time described the visit so.

"The house stood quite alone in the marshes, no great distance from the seashore and

was at that time at least two miles from any other dwelling. It consisted of a long low and gloomy room. On asking for him his wife pointed to a corner of the room. On looking there I could see nothing but ducks and wildfowl hanging on strings. On repeating the question where Skelton was, some of the strings of wildfowl were taken down and I found him lying on a four poster bed. These strings of wild fowl were stretched from one post to another all round the bed, so as to form regular curtains that shut him entirely from view." So Old George passed away.

Old George was succeeded by a man named Sharp from Hilgay. A new cottage was built for him so I assume Mary Skelton stayed on in the cottage at least for a while. Sharp was not a Skelton and could not achieve the same success so that coupled with alterations to the drainage which led to the drying up of the creek meant the decoy was dismantled in 1870.

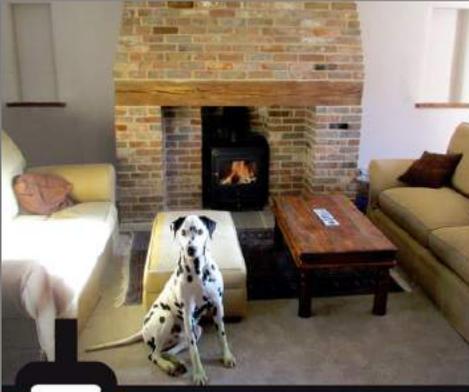
However the decoy can still be seen marked on the maps and in these modern times satellite imagery can show us George's handiwork. We have one road here named for it but Old George himself could have remained just one name among many in the census returns quite unremarked. However Mike's great find of the old book on decoying written in 1886 means that Old George can come to life again in these pages. One of our village's remarkable characters. Good to know you George. □

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Just a Thought From Steve Oliver

Over the past few months the country has gone through some torrid times with the terrorist attacks and the Grenfell Tower fire. It has been wonderful to see people pulling together in these times of adversity. They may not know it but they are living out the gospel of loving one's neighbour, caring for the outcast and healing the sick. It has been a lesson to us all on how we should live together.

Unfortunately it has not been the same for our Political Parties of all persuasions. I have been truly dismayed and saddened by the point scoring and calls for unrest. Instead of pulling together they have acted on behalf of themselves.

I know many people think Church and politics don't mix, but if no one else can or will, we should call for unity (though the Church could do with unifying itself at times) and a coming together of all peoples both Government and Community to move in the same direction. With Brexit looming large on the horizon, the continuing threat from extremists and the health and safety of housing, hospitals and schools it really is time to put differences aside for a time to ensure these matters are in their different ways resolved.

The Pharisees and Sadducees loved to take Jesus to task on most things, and yet He more than any figure in history, tried to unify differing views on the law and governing bodies to bring about a better place for all peoples.

Surely, now is the time for us all to come together to make this country a better and safer place, where each person is valued and cared for. The teachings of the Gospels, though often vilified show the way on how to do this and give us a blueprint on how love for each other can move us to a place where unity can be achieved.

The Church itself has not totally learnt the lessons but at least there are serious discussions which just may bring about the unity and change we desire; I pray our politicians will be just as eager to do the same.□

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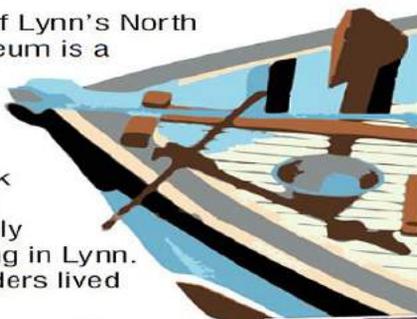
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Crossword Answers

Across

1.IRKSOME 5.ANIMAL 9.CONIFER 10.TALKING 11.SEA 12.INTERROGATE
 13.RADIO 14.BLOSSOMED 16.HONEYMOON 17.DIG UP 19.ANSWERPHONE 22.EEL
 23.DRINK UP 24.NAGGING 26.DEBRIS
 27.ENDEMIC.

Down

1.INCISOR 2.KINCARDINESHIRE 3.OFF
 4.EGRET 5.AFTERNOON 6.GLLOO
 7.ANIMAL MAGNETISM 8.AGREED
 12.IRONY 14.BLOWPIPES 15.SEDGE
 16.HOARDS 18.PELAGIC 20.ESKER
 21.OUNCE 25.GAD.

Word Wall Answers

Unions: Trade, Coalition. N.U.T, Marriage.
Under: arm, Carriage, Estimate, Age
Triangles: Equilateral, Bermuda, Isosceles. Scalene
W Indian Capitals: Kingston, Hamilton, St.Johns, Havana.

Sudoku No 55 solution

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

Adventures in Yellowstone Park

by Stephen Martyn

Far away, in the land of Trump, there is a strange place of towering mountains, plunging waterfalls, and steaming, spouting geysers and hot springs. This is Yellowstone National Park, in the state of Wyoming, USA. It's also a haven for wildlife, where you might see bison, moose, elk, ospreys and even Yogi bear. Yes, Yellowstone was the model for Jellystone Park which featured in that old and still much loved cartoon series.

Margaret and I decided that the time had come to see this wonderful place for ourselves and a few weeks ago, in early June, we set off. By plane to Salt Lake City and then driving north for about 300 miles, into the back of the beautiful beyond. Yes there might be bears, but there is much, much more to Yellowstone National Park. Here you can see a few of our photographs and read a little bit about our experiences there. Enjoy the journey!

Old Faithful

If you've heard of Yellowstone you've probably heard of Old Faithful. This huge geyser has been erupting pretty regularly for maybe thousands of years, but it wasn't until the mid 19th century that early explorers discovered it. The story soon spread and by the 1900's intrepid tourists were making the pilgrimage to see this and Yellowstone's other innumerable geo-thermal delights. By the way, Old Faithful

is by no means the largest or the most regularly erupting geyser in the park, but it may well provide the most reliable show. It also happens to be right next to the Visitor Centre and accommodation lodges. How strange, fancy it sprouting up right there!



Morning Glory

Geysers may provide the smoke and thunder of this part of Yellowstone, but the colour and er, yes the pong are the province of numerous hot spring pools like this one, the jewel-like Morning Glory, named due to its similarity to the flower. For years Morning Glory's colour was a vibrant turquoise rimmed with orange. More recently, the turquoise has turned a shade of green, due to people throwing coins and other trash into the pool. There are now stern warning notices in

place. The water in these pools is almost boiling, being heated deep underground, and clouds of sulphurous steam are often emitted with eye-watering consequences.

Grotto Geyser

At Yellowstone there are more geo-thermal sites than anywhere else in the world.

Geysers, hot springs, bubbling mud pools, you name it, they've got it. There are boardwalks and paved walkways round most of the Old Faithful area, which reaches out for a mile or more from the centrepiece of the Old Faithful geyser itself. One particularly impressive site is called the Grotto Geyser, with its mysterious caves and chambers. Grotto erupts most days, at no particular time, and its outpourings of boiling steam and spray can last an hour or a whole day!



Marmot

Not all the creatures in the Park are huge, this yellow-bellied marmot is the size of a small cat.



They're common in Yellowstone but usually shy. This one is part of a family of four who were outside their rocky home, almost selling tickets to photographers and looking to see if any passing hikers might have some titbits for them. We were alerted to their presence by a large lady who told us "just around the corner there's a whole bunch of cute little weasels!".

Bison

Of all the wildlife in the Park this is probably what you're likely to see most. The American Bison was hunted almost to extinction in the 19th century, mainly to try and starve the Native Americans or

Indians into submission. Now, after years of conservation efforts, herds of hundreds of bison roam the park. Often just dots on the horizon, until you round a bend and find one standing in the middle of the road, eying you suspiciously. Bison look placid and cuddly, but they are bad-tempered creatures who don't take kindly to gawking onlookers. They weigh a ton and can run at thirty-five miles an hour, which is twice as fast as you!



Brown Bear

Emailing with our friends back home the most asked question was "have you seen Yogi yet?" There are lots of bears in Yellowstone, both brown bears and grizzlies, but they usually avoid



humans as the Park rangers are very strict about no feeding. At one time the rangers themselves used to feed the bears to encourage them to the roadside, but after one grizzly Yogi ripped the door off a car to get to a picnic basket, this habit had to stop. So how do you find a bear? Simple, just look for a crowd of people peering at what seems to be nothing. When you approach, someone will soon whisper something like "there's a mother and two cubs up there". Get your camera ready and wait, you may be lucky. This Mum had a cub with her but it remained well hidden. She was about a hundred yards away from us and that's quite close enough.

View from Mt Washburn

As members of the Dersingham Walking Group, Margaret and I had to uphold the principles of fresh air and exercise

by doing at least one good hike. Actually we did several, including a walk to the summit of Mount Washburn, the highest in Yellowstone at just over 10,000 feet. It's not quite as daunting as it sounds, because you can drive part of the way up a winding dirt road. You still have to walk the best part of three miles uphill to the summit, but the views from the top are definitely worth it. Those distant mountains in this photo are the Grand Tetons, south of Yellowstone and around fifty miles away. The weather can be hugely variable, so always take everything. Exploring Yellowstone Canyon the previous day the temperature was in the 80's, at 10,000 feet it was in the 40's. Snow is not



unknown even in mid June. Just like Scotland then, only two seasons, July and winter!

Canyon of the Yellowstone River

A few years ago we visited the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, which is the place that everyone refers to as *the* Grand Canyon. But there is another Grand Canyon in the USA, the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River, and it might even be more dramatic than its namesake. A gorge, seven hundred feet deep, almost sheer sided, and in the bottom the foaming, raging torrent that is the Yellowstone River, swollen with the melted snows of spring. The river enters the canyon in the most dramatic way imaginable, plunging over 300 feet in a thundering waterfall, then sweeping on its way down the canyon flanked by towering rocks of pink, ochre and amber. If you're feeling brave, you can descend over 300 iron stairs part way into the canyon to stare into



the face of the monster torrent. Yes we did – not too bad going down but lung bursting coming up. The canyon is at 8,000 feet elevation. Phew!

Getting there

We flew from Heathrow to Dallas and then on to Salt Lake City, with our flights arranged by Trailfinders. We booked a rental car well before we left, using Zest Car Rental which we've used many times when abroad. Accommodation actually in Yellowstone Park is expensive, but the alternative is to stay outside the Park which will involve you in many, many miles of driving. Trailfinders can help with booking the lodges in the Park but you need to think about it soon if you plan to go next year, as they book out very quickly. The best time is probably June, after the snow melts. May can be cold and still very snowy and from July onwards you will be sharing the place with the whole of America! □

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DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE

David Collingham, Chairman, Dersingham Village Centre Association



***** UPDATE *****

By the time you read this, it is likely the current Church Hall will have been decommissioned, prior to building work starting on the new Village Centre in September this year.

We are really excited that this project is becoming a reality and again thank all of you who have contributed to planning, fundraising, events, catering and supporting us in so many ways.

CURRENT HALL USERS

The DVCA team has spoken to all current Hall users to inform them of the future Centre facilities, timing and hire charges. We hope to welcome them back to the new Centre in 2018. If any current or future user would like further information, please do contact us either through the website www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk or by telephoning 01485 540271.

BINGO! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are thinking of holding regular Bingo evenings from September onwards. We need volunteers to help run this; please contact me on 540271 if you could help.

FILM CLUB

As detailed elsewhere in this magazine, our Film Club will continue to show monthly films, using the facilities of the Social Club.

VILLAGE LOTTERY

Thanks to our Lottery Supporters. If you would like to join in (£15 per quarter), please go online to www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk or call in at the Parish Council Office (Post Office Road) for a form.

Winning Numbers:

| | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|
| April 2017 | 50 | 46 | 60 |
| May 2017 | 3 | 76 | 63 |
| June 2017 | 28 | 54 | 75 |
| July 2017 | 71 | 3 | 38 |

VILLAGE CENTRE MEMBERSHIP

Free Membership of the DVCA is open to all residents of the village and nearby communities. The benefits are that it helps you keep in touch with what we are planning and gives you a chance to become involved and have your say. Membership forms are available on the website or at the Parish Council Office.□



COMING SOON TO TRUE'S YARD



28th July at 4pm Margery Kempe Lecture at Lynn Minster. Tickets: £4 from True's Yard.

Throughout August LEGO at True's Yard for Children

4th -13th August Wash Week -Dr Paul Richards Wash Lecture 8th Aug. and Film Showing 9th Aug. EIFCA* Lecture 10th Aug (all at True's Yard)

2nd September Archaeology Finds in Lynn exhibition at True's Yard

Throughout September Paranormal Evenings at True's Yard

10th September Heritage Open Day (10am-4pm) Free entry!

28th September True's Talks on local history start (8 Thursdays 1pm to 2pm)

26th & 27th October Ghost Walks

* Eastern Sea Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

St Nicholas Church News

Rev Mark Capron



Confirmation



On 2nd July we welcomed the Bishop of Norwich to the Dersingham benefice to lead a Confirmation Service including Affirmation of Baptism faith (picture above). It was a service of celebration as members of our community stood up to publicly confirm their faith in God.

WE'RE MOVING!

FROM **AUGUST**, OUR
MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS
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August
4th



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St. Nicholas Church

Psalm 100 is a short but concise and delightful song offering praise and thanksgiving to God. The Psalm echoes the focus of the Confirmation service for the women who publicly offered their Thanks to God for what he has and is doing in their lives. They were presented with Bibles, gifts and importantly a lighted candle to remind them of the Light of Christ in their lives.

On Thursday 21st September we will run the next 'Alpha', which is an opportunity to explore the Christian faith. 'Alpha' includes a lovely hot meal, a different theme each week and time for discussion, if you are interested please contact church secretary Pauline Martin to book a place (544561).

We are pleased to launch the new church website at: stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

□

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Sandringham Parish Council

By Ben Colson

The Parish Council held its most recent meeting on 5th July. We are dealing with a number of unusual issues at the present time, principal amongst them are:

Broadband in Wolferton: many residents have reported that the internet is worse than ever known in the village, something that I too have experienced. It is frustrating when you are told to "pop on line" knowing that in practice you can't. Good news is that second, or even third, class citizenship is scheduled to end for us next year when the village is upgraded to superfast broadband. The assurance that it is coming is witnessed by the location of the new green cabinet in the village has recently been agreed. Whether it is buying rail tickets, preparing for exams, continuous professional development, or simply accessing goods and public services, it should all become easier - soon.

Road names: the Borough is insisting that roads in the parish are all named and that name plates are erected. Many of us feel it is a waste of public money at a time of austerity, but apparently it is insisted upon by the emergency services. Fine, but there has to be a consensus on the actual name of each road, where one ends and the next one starts. Postcodes don't help, in fact in Wolferton there appears little logic to them. Then we have the interesting conundrum of trying, against all odds, to save the Borough's funds by lowering their expectations of a street name at every corner of every byroad. Anyone know, for example, where Donkey Pond Hill is? You may well soon be able to see the answer.

Website: those of you living in Dersingham will probably shake your heads in disbelief at this one. The government now requires all smaller authorities, such as ours, to have a website and keep it up to date with certain information. You must have one even if local residents have no internet to access it; as I was told at a seminar in Norwich, as someone in London may want to look at it, and it is their right to be able to do so. Nothing, note, nothing about our right to be able to access it ourselves, but of that, enough already said! We are working on procuring a website to meet the requirement, and as we do not have a Precept, we can access government funding for the purpose. So we're also working on our application for funds, but here comes the joke - we have to spend funds (which we haven't got) first, before we can apply for the grant. I'm hopeful that we'll work our way through all this, so that by the Autumn we'll have a compliant website.

Boundary Committee for England, Review of Borough boundaries: this is actually a much more important issue. Every fifteen years or so, the Committee looks at the number of Borough Councillors overall, and the size of each Ward. Sandringham parish is in the oddly named Valley Hill ward, represented by Borough Councillor Tim Tilbrook, whose patch extends from Wolferton in the West to Great Massingham in the East. The Borough has proposed to the Committee that the current 64 Borough Councillors be reduced in number to 58, which means that some Ward boundaries will inevitably change. The Committee then measures the number of electors in each Ward against the average, and on that basis our Ward has 2% more electors than average. Each Parish Council can make its own suggestions for new Ward boundaries (and names) to apply from the next local elections in May 2019. We held a lengthy discussion on the merits and otherwise of changing our Ward boundaries, and will be drafting a submission to the Boundary Committee in the coming weeks. We have until 4th September to make our suggestions and we are working on this

Parish Partnerships: the County Council is making funds available to add to parish money to enable local schemes to be put in place. These are generally local highway schemes such as lights showing motorists' speeds or pathway improvements. The problem is that we need to be able to fund at least 25% of the total cost ourselves and without a Precept we have no funds. Some parishes raise such funds by holding special events and this is where something like the erstwhile Wolferton Scarecrow Festival would come in, but that is no more. As a Parish Council we'll discuss what could have been.

And finally from the Parish Council, you'll note that gone are the days when parish councils primarily looked after the interests of local residents and dealt with their concerns. These days, some may say regrettably, it is much more to do with implementing policies and requirements ordained for us all from on high, without regard to whether it is what the community wants.

Wolferton Church roof restoration fund

The roof of St Peter's Church at Wolferton needs considerable work done to return it to a state of good repair, costing an estimated £200,000 to do. A project group has been set up, under the auspices of the Parochial Church Council, and progress is underway on various fundraising activities, not least of which is an application to the Historic Lottery Fund for help.

In the Church itself, on Saturday 5th August, there will be an informative talk by Dr Ayla Lepine, a renowned sacred art and architectural historian. Tickets will cost £15 each (but under 12s free) and you will be offered wine, cheese and 'nibbles' in the interval. Tickets are available online from churchoffice.sandringham@gmail.com. We are hoping for a bumper turnout, so please book early.

Also, on Friday 13th October, the annual Harvest Quiz will be held in the Wolferton Social Club. This is always a sell-out event, great fun, and funds raise go to the Church fund. Note the date in your diary now, start now to get a team of four together, and look out for details of how to enter.□

FAMILY FUN DAY

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Dog Show and Family Fun Day - to raise valuable funds for Wells Community Hospital Trust

Join us for a fabulous fun filled day for all the family ... two and four-legged ... at Creake Abbey from 10am to 4pm on Sunday 20th August 2017.

Gates open & registration from 10am, with classes from 11am – 4pm.

Lots of fun classes for your dog to enter together with a huge array children's activities as well various craft stalls and trade stands.

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Wells Community Hospital Trust is a local charity that provides a wide range of flexible and integrated health & wellbeing services for the community we serve. We support people locally to keep independent longer by the provision of high quality preventative clinical services and non-clinical therapeutic support within a safe environment. We are a really important community resource which addresses a wide range of social, emotional and practical needs holistically thus enabling people to take greater control of their own health.

We receive no core funding from the NHS, therefore have to rely on fundraising events throughout the year to ensure our sustainability, with one of our larger events now being our annual 'Dog Show & Family Fun Day'.

Do join us for what promises to be a fun day with agility demonstrations, 'Have A Go' sessions, live music in the afternoon, children's entertainer and bouncy castles plus much, much more...

For more information please contact Wells Community Hospital Trust on 01328 711996 or admin@wellshospital.co.uk

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

| Issue | Copy deadline mid-day on | Publication date |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| No 108 (Oct/Nov2017) | Tuesday 5th Sept 2017 | Monday 25 Sept 2017 |
| No109 (Dec17/Jan2018) | Tuesday 31st Oct 2017 | Monday 20 Nov 2017 |
| No 110 (Feb/March18) | Tuesday 16th Jan 2018 | Monday 12 Feb 2018 |

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 and the Parish Council do not necessarily agree with opinions expressed, or accuracy of statements made, by contributors. □

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