

Number 109

December/January 2017/8

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



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Editors Notes by Tony Bubb



Sorry folks, you have got me again. Sadly, though Patrick did a very good job, my predecessor found himself unable to carry on. I must say that I have never considered this to be a worrisome and difficult task, indeed it is a pleasure, but then each to his own. There must be someone out there equal to the editorship challenge and waiting to be discovered - just form an orderly queue.

From time to time we get information that readers would like published - meetings, functions, letters and pictures. Sometimes we need to know more than you send so please make sure that there are contact details with the offering that will, of course, not be published.

This year's prize competition is to find all the little red baubles, none of which have type on them, hung around the magazine. Sandringham Sawmill are kindly donating this year's prize which is a £20 voucher to spend in their shop. Just count up and send your answer to the Parish Office by January 8th 2018 and don't forget to put your contact details.

A few months ago a reader contacted me about my piece on OS maps but I cannot find his contact details now so perhaps he might contact me again as I would like to chew the fat with him.

I recently got the chance to tour the Lynn Museum store at a secret location in town. If the museum is the tip of the iceberg then the store is the berg. There are thousands of items there - weapons, preserved animal life, pictures etc., you name it it's probably on the racks. Most of the items have not yet been displayed or are not totally relevant to the area so are not seen but believe me this is a wonderful hoard. The hope is to get more display space and also to rotate exhibits to get these goodies seen plus there might be the chance for small parties to get a look like I did.

Our cover picture robin was captured on the Isle of Arran by my chum Tony Richards who daily posts fine pictures of his travels on - lakelandcam.co.uk - well worth a look.

I am just back (Wednesday Nov 1st) from a circular walk along the Drift and back along the Beach Road and was surprised to see quite a lot of discarded wool on the verges. Now this I expect in sheep country but I don't recollect any sheep being this way since about 1980. It wasn't all white, there being some dark grey and fawn elements to it - like Herdwick wool then. Anybody able to shed light on this?

Talking of walks, I am leading the walking group Boxing Morning one this year - start at the Snettisham Beach Fish & Chip Shop at 10.30am. How about it?

So here is the last Voice of the year with many of our usual elements and as usual some surprises. I would like to thank our contributors and advertisers for their continued support and our band of distributors for getting them out around the area, not forgetting the office staff, proof readers (yes we really do proof read it) and printers without whom Village Voice would just be a pile of blank paper in a warehouse. Do keep the articles coming in and if you have not written anything to be published before why not give it a go? If something interests you others may well enjoy reading about it.

May I wish all of them and all our readers a very good Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Dear Village Voice



I would like to start a new group for creative people called THE WORKSHOP in Dersingham. It will aim to provide an opportunity to come together and create a friendly and relaxing environment and let's not forget the necessary cup of tea.

All craft techniques, different types of hobbies and painters (artists) in any medium are welcome. This workshop is being designed for everything creative. There will be demonstrations to learn new skills in the future and exhibitions three times a year. Membership fees to be discussed at a later date, and concessions will be applied. The workshop will be for people over 18 and Dersingham residents & friends. For more information ring 01485 542240 or email: quancejulia@live.co.uk
Julia Quance.

There are a few things appearing in DVV which need correcting and clarification mainly on Dickie Melton's pages. One of which is Dun Cow Farm was run by Bob and Fred BALDING, where he got his spelling from I do not know. Another fact I would dispute was that "The Drift" was the only track down to the seashore. The concrete road down from the station always existed as a track before half of it was concreted. The Drift was always in need of repair as it was always rutting and many hours were spent by the Balding brothers and their workers filling in the ruts.

Regarding Andrew Hyners letter I can add a little bit of information: - Eric R Hyner kept Heath Garage, Lynn Road with petrol pumps on the roadside and a garage set well back and operated two possibly three coaches. If I remember correctly one Canadian Ford and two Bedford Utility coaches and one with slatted wooden seats. Eric drove and Bernie Macroe drove for him, also another who I cannot remember. Eric was a great help to Alex Fisher, who was the local fish and chip merchant, when he produced his pantomime "Happy Childhood". Besides performing in the village hall the pantomime went to many of the surrounding villages and even the Pilot Theatre at King's Lynn. Eric Hyner provided the transport and also did the lighting – often with batteries and car/coach lamps being used as spot lamps from the back of the hall. One of the many performers in the pantomime was Eric's daughter, Rita – she did both tap and ballet dancing and was a beautiful looking girl. I remember she was just moving up to secondary school when I started at primary school.

Unfortunately, I do not remember what happened to the family – I think they moved away from Dersingham. I know not where.

I do have a photostat copy of the pantomime programme which gives credits to both Eric and Rita Hyner together with about forty others.

Of Bob and Fred Balding of Dun Cow Farm, their father was my Grandfather's brother (1938). I was born and bred in Dersingham moving to work in Luton in 1955 and leaving the village for Lincoln in 1966 when I married. I still have a connection.

Ivan D Green.

We would like to say thank you to all who came to our MacMillan Coffee Morning and also to those who donated money or raffle prizes as well as those who helped. The weather was not very kind but people were generous and we made £328.

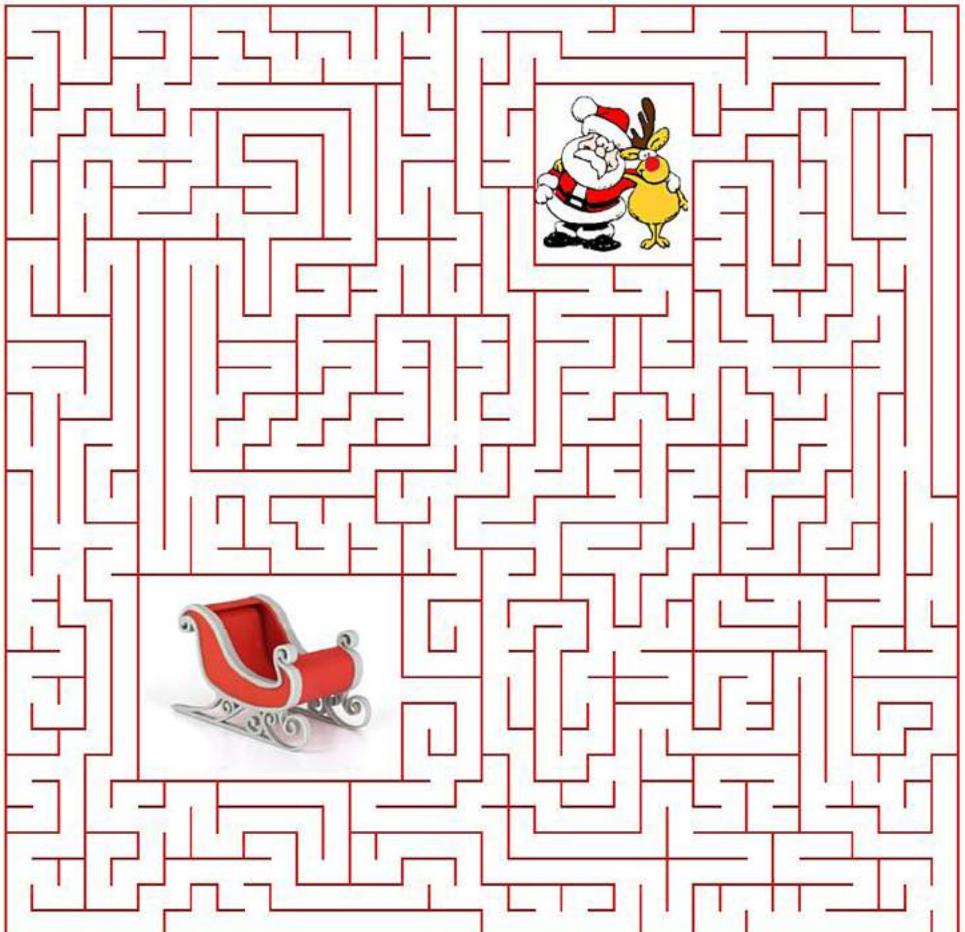
Brenda and Shelly Wagg.

New Bridge at The Warren

If you use The Warren or The Drift you probably will have noticed that there is a new bridge linking the two. The parish council had become increasingly concerned about the safety of residents who crossed the ditch, either by sliding down the bank to walk over a narrow grid or by scrambling around beside the bypass. After discussions between the parish council and the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) who are responsible for the ditch between The Warren and The Drift the IDB agreed to provide a safe crossing. It is a simple construction using old concrete railway sleepers (an interesting upcycling project) and gives a level safe path between the two areas, giving those who were less intrepid more areas around the village to explore. At the time of writing we are waiting the final touch of handrails and some top dressing of the walkway. □



Christmas Maze By Steve Davis



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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

By Sue Payne - chairman

Council We have two vacancies at the time of writing, which we look to fill by co-option.

Village Centre Construction has finally begun!

In a year's time we will have a wonderful new facility providing much needed services and lots of activities for Dersingham residents and those in neighbouring villages. For more information visit the Parish Council website (details below), and also the Dersingham Village Centre Association website:
www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk

Village Events The Christmas Lights Switch-On will have taken place on Sunday November 19th, on the Recreation Ground. The date was changed to avoid clashing with King's Lynn. A full report will be in the next issue.

Planning is underway for a Fun Day to take place in June or July 2018. If you would like to help, do some fundraising for charity, run an activity, please contact the Clerk.

Recreation Ground It appears that I may have talked things up in the last issue! Over recent weeks the Play Area has been subject to mindless vandalism by people, some young some not so, who have been congregating on the Recreation Ground and in the Play Area and occasionally spending the night there. The damage includes ripping Christmas lights out of the trees, starting a fire under the climbing frame and melting the safety matting, smashing glass with fragments left all over the play area including on the climbing frame itself; we are aware that one child suffered a cut. Also, the Zip Wire seat was damaged and the Bank Road gate was wrenched off its hinges and these had to be sent away for repair.

There will be a cost to the Parish Council although this will mostly be covered by our insurance.

We have a super, well-used, facility and don't want to see young children injured or their enjoyment spoiled by this group of thoughtless individuals. I find it hard to believe that anyone would think it is okay to behave like this, especially if it is people from the village.

Other parts of the village have also been targeted.

The Parish Council is working with the Police and is grateful for their support. If you see anything suspicious, please call them on 101(if you see any damage being committed, call 999).

Overhanging hedges & trees We regularly receive complaints from parishioners about trees, boundary hedges and verges. The Parish Council has no powers in this respect (except for the verges we maintain) and we pass them on to Norfolk County Council Highways who have responsibility for ensuring that public highways, including pavements, are kept clear. However, I would advise any householder who has trees or shrubs planted on/near their boundary to ensure that they do not encroach on to the pavement or impede anyone walking by. Wheelchair users and parents/carers with pushchairs or prams cannot easily step in to the road, nor should they be expected to.

Precept 2018/19 All committees will be setting their budgets in November and these will be agreed at the additional Precept meeting in January.

Parish Council Meetings At the time of writing, the Council is considering changes to its committee structure, which may lead to meetings being re-scheduled for a trial period from January 2018.

Please contact the Clerk for information and advice about Parish matters.

Tel: 01485 541465; email: clerk@dersingham.org.uk

Visit the Parish website: www.dersingham.org.uk

We wish all parishioners a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, New Year.□



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



There will be a winter shared ladies lunch at St. Cecilia's on Saturday 18th November, starting at 12 noon. All ladies are welcome from local parishes, Catholic and non-Catholic. There is no charge but ladies are asked to bring a plate of food to share. This year's speaker will be Jenny Sparks, who will talk about rescuing donkeys. St Cecilia's have again been invited to enter a tree into the Christmas Tree Festival at St Nicholas church, Dersingham. The theme for this year is birds.

On 22nd November we have a lunch to celebrate St Cecilia's feast day. See the weekly bulletins or website for details of all upcoming events.

The sponsored walk total now stands at £736.20 and the Harvest lunch raised £225.78.

Dowry House Retreat Centre, 47-49, High Street, Walsingham NR22 6BZ is now open and operated by the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Hospitality is provided by the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham. Individuals or groups may go on a private retreat, or join one of the programmed retreats. If you are interested please contact them on 01328 821293 or go to www.dowryhouse.org.uk for more information.

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. Please support this very worthwhile cause by buying fairly traded goods to support families abroad trying to earn a living. For more information please contact Caroline Brooks on 01553 673069.

We do not, at the time of writing, have the Christmas Mass times, but they will be advertised on the church notice boards, the weekly bulletins and on the website.

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. Everyone will be most welcome.

Daily Masses will be 10am in the parish church at Hunstanton on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday mass is 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

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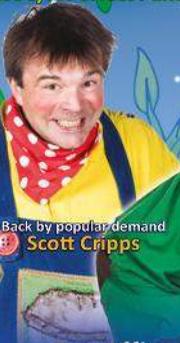
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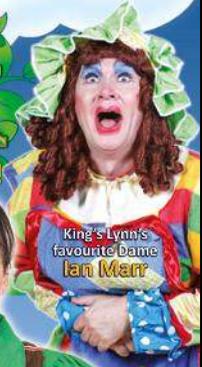
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GIRLS FROM FREEBRIDGE LYNN DISTRICT CELEBRATE THE RAINBOWS' THIRTIETH BIRTHDAY

by Lynne Wheeler

Girls from Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe, Snettisham & Gayton celebrated the Rainbows' 30th birthday by visiting the Hunstanton Sealife Centre on 23rd September



The Freebridge Lynn District trip to the Hunstanton Sealife Centre was one of a number of under the sea themed events taking place across the Anglia region over the weekend of 23rd – 24th September to mark 30 years since the start of Rainbows, the youngest age group in Girlguiding.

The 40 girls from the 1st Dersingham, 1st Ingoldisthorpe & Snettisham and 1st Gayton Rainbows enjoyed exploring the centre and seeing lots of different sea creatures, including seals, penguins, otters, fish and a

giant turtle called Ernie. They also got the chance to stroke a starfish and see lots of rainforest creatures and they had a quiz trail to follow through the centre with a badge for everybody. They could also enjoy the opportunity to play in the giant pirate ship adventure area, visit the shop and have an ice cream. There was also a special birthday cake made by one of the leaders

We ended the afternoon by singing Happy Birthday to two Rainbows who were 6 on that day, as well as Happy 30th Birthday to all the Rainbows and renewing our Promise.□





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Dersingham Art Trail

The Art Trail has now grown to fourteen members in nine locations and we are coming together for the seventh time to open up our studios for a pre-Christmas display.

Liz Stockley is joined by Carole Brookfield, Neil Adams and Patrick Preston at her studio at 30 Dodds Hill Road with their great variety of paintings and other artwork.

Stephen Martyn at 2 Alexandra Close (down the end of Station Road) opens up his delightful garden studio to display his latest paintings and drawings and give details of his painting courses.

Marty Griffin's wife Trudi joins him at Hollydrive, The Drift, Ingoldisthorpe with her handmade cards, to accompany Marty's atmospheric and detailed paintings.

Jill Ilett opens up her studio at 15 Heath Road to exhibit her very popular paintings.

June and Ben Mullarkey of Dersingham Pottery, 46 Chapel Road display their wonderful range of pottery and very striking paintings.

Val Anckhorn at 2 Manorside shows her quirky paintings and a variety of unusual candles.

Jo Halpin Jones of 14 Post Office Road offers photography, digital restoration of damaged photos (bring them along on the day), second hand books and plants.

Janet Martin of 12 Burma Close (off Mountbatten Road), exhibits her fascinating artistic creations of colourful fused glass.

The Art Trail is joined by Julia Quance of 11 Iveagh Close (off Hollyrood Drive, which is off Manor Road). She lets us share her acrylic paintings.



The studios will be open on Saturday and Sunday, **November 25th and 26th**, from 10am to 4pm. Admission is free. If you haven't been before, then this year put it in your diary. If you are revisiting studios, you can enjoy new work, perhaps alongside old favourites. You will receive a warm welcome just to come and browse, and also to talk to the artists. It is also an opportunity to buy delightful greetings cards, original work, and prints.

A map of all the studio locations is on a printed flier, copies of which are in Dersingham Pottery, the Library, and in other shops around the village. Copies are also at each of the studios, which will have a sign outside to guide you in. Details of all the artists and studios are on the website : www.DersinghamArtTrail.org. □



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Dersingham Task Force - The Future?

By Cliff Jordan

As many of you will be aware, the Dersingham Task Force has been helping to look after some of the public gardens, footpaths and open spaces in the village since 2004. The most conspicuous of these locations is the Rose Bed on the corner of Post Office Road and Chapel Road, where we often receive expressions of thanks from villagers who pass by while we are working. But 2017 has been a difficult year for us with dwindling membership and we have struggled to complete all the tasks which we set ourselves, particularly in trying to keep the footpaths free of excessive undergrowth, invasive trees and bushes. As things stand at the moment, we anticipate that membership will drop further in 2018 and are therefore concerned that we will not be able to attempt all of the work we have done in the past. It also raises the bigger question of whether we will even be able to carry on at all. So can you help?

We need new members who are prepared to join us for an hour or so of gardening, trimming and tidying, once or twice a month during the Spring, Summer and Autumn, with an occasional bit of litter picking as well. The work is not too arduous and while we have normally met on Wednesday mornings we hope to introduce a bit more flexibility in the coming year to fit in with other activities that our members undertake. We are a friendly bunch of men and women, mainly retired, and our presence in a locality can more often be detected by the sound of talking rather than clipping shears!

If you are interested in joining in please contact us by emailing taskforce@whiffersworld.co.uk and further information will be provided, including an outline programme of our tasks for 2018, commencing in February or March. We will make copies of this information and programme leaflet available in the Parish Council Office by the beginning of the year. □



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Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

Wonderful news! Two defibrillators have now been installed at Dersingham Primary School. One at the Early Years Site and one at the Main Site. A huge thank you to children, staff, parents and the wider community for their fundraising efforts. Mrs Hopkins and her team have already begun more fundraising for the school with an immensely successful Race Night.

The half term has galloped by with the Early Years children settling into their new routines and the Year 1 children getting to grips with their messy potions topic. Year 2 Pioneer class have been learning about the weather. The children collected and analysed weather data and discovered the effects of the sun, including tracking shadows and making sunprint pictures. They kept an eye on the global news and tracked the hurricanes and storms around the world.

Year 2 Detectives completed their Street Detective topic by exploring forces during science week. They discovered how gravity, gradients and weight affect how far a car will travel and had fun with magnets. They are looking forward to journeying back in time as they travel towards Christmas...



Year 3 Scavengers have settled into their new-look classroom now, and have really loved finding out about the Stone Age through digging up flints, bones, pottery and charred wood from the archaeology trench...and they're still not finished with it yet! The children practised making

arrowheads from carving bars of soap, with some fabulous results. The highlight however was definitely spending the day with 3 time-travellers from the Stone Age in their tent on the field. The children discovered more about tool production, watched them start a fire and even tasted the fire-roasted fish!



This term, Year 5 Witan class have really been focusing upon core calculations in Maths. The children used a range of strategies, including concrete, pictorial and abstract



methods, as well as working collaboratively, with students conducting investigations where the focus is not upon finding a single 'correct' answer, but developing strategies and perseverance in order to allow them to begin to solve problems. Along with the new flexible seating, the children have been flexing their minds and getting those neurones firing!

Year 5 Codebreakers have had an incredibly exciting time as archaeologists. The class have been investigating Anglo-Saxon life and enthusiastically



dug up an area of the school field, uncovering many interesting finds including pottery, bones, a king's hoard and other household objects. The work has been supported by a visit to West Stow, an Anglo-Saxon village in Suffolk. As a result, children have been inspired to write magnificent recounts and diary entries, complete detailed drawings and artefact report cards. The children have even made their own bow and arrows to

complete a science investigation! The completion of the Anglo-Saxon topic will be on **Thursday 7th December**, when there will be an exhibition of all the finds, some video footage of the dig and Anglo-Saxon replica goods will be on sale as part of a trade

fair. **All members of the local community are welcome to join us for this wonderful occasion, refreshments will be available.**

Year 6 Berserkers have had a fabulous first half-term, starting with a very exciting and well-planned archaeological dig and ending in some beautifully written non-chronological reports. The artwork and attention to detail has been inspiring!



The academic year started well on the sporting front with the hockey teams winning their respective tournaments and progressing to the county finals. The school hosted the cluster rugby event, with

Dersingham coming out overall winners and progressing to the West Norfolk finals, which will be held in November.

The Croydon Cup football tournament proved to be a closely contested event, where both Dersingham teams showed fantastic team

spirit and determination.

When the children return after half term, they will be launched into a multi-cultural week as well as beginning preparations for Christmas performances, embarking on new topics and enjoying the celebrations that the festive season bring. □



DERSINGHAM

Carpet Bowls Club



The morning of the 9th August dawned wet and miserable and the day continued in that vein until 5pm. This was fortunate as, at 6pm, members, friends and family assembled in the Co-Op car park to take part in a car treasure hunt organised by David and Judith Hart.

Each team, having given themselves suitable names, set off at staggered intervals with sheets of mileage details, observational clues and, in case we had nothing else to do, anagrams of 60's, 70's and 80's rock groups to solve.

A winding route of about 11 miles, avoiding major roads wherever possible, saw the teams end up at The Anvil at Congham for a superb buffet and prize giving. The winners were "The Pony Club", Runners up "Charles Angels" and the booby prize went to "the 3 Stooges"

September heralds a transition time for carpet bowls. Summer leagues end and winter leagues begin. Members who play outdoors in the summer return to the fold as the evenings become darker.

Summer league, which consists of a home and away leg between participating clubs, was a good one for Dersingham with the team of David, Suzanna Ulla and Jenny ably assisted by Judith as reserve, retaining the trophy for a second year.



Winter league matches begin at Lynnsport with the club represented in the singles, pairs and four matches. The Club is also often represented in the monthly charity tournaments held at Littleport. The first match of the season saw the opening of the superb new leisure facilities at Littleport Leisure. The team did well, winning all four knockout matches and the Quarter Finals before being knocked out by Colne in the Semi Final.

On the 21st September long, standing club and committee member Suzanne held her ever popular McMillan Coffee Morning at Orchard Close, aided by a small army of friends and club members. As well as coffee, tea and lots of homemade cakes there were stalls selling bric-a-brac, cakes, books and jigsaws as well as raffle and tombola. The magnificent sum of £846 was raised for the charity.

As I write preparations are underway for our own interclub tournament. Clubs from as close as Heacham to as far away as Mundford will compete for the Chrystal Rose Bowl. Watch this space for the results. □



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Gardening with Disabilities - Gardening made Easier

The end of the year is fast approaching. Next year's programme for Gardening with Disabilities is almost complete. We hope that many new members will join us – we have over 50 now – and that they will enjoy a very varied programme of talks and outings. We will be going to Peckover House in April and Elgoods Brewery in September.

In October we had a very comprehensive talk about Dahlias from Rob and Marianne Charles. Ben Mullarkey sent some of his prize-winning blooms from Dersingham Pottery.



In November we will have a demonstration by **Yvonne the Florist** with a Christmassy theme at Park House.



Our 15 December meeting is our Christmas Lunch at Knight's Hill Hotel.
2018

19 January: A talk with slides by **The Norfolk Hospice** on "Gardening as Therapy" at St Cecilia's Church in Dersingham.

16 February: Tea and a talk at **Dobbies Garden Centre**. Use your own transport.

16 March: Gardening with Disabilities AGM and a description of their recent train journey in Japan by May and Chris Davey.

Park House Conservatory.

Meetings begin at 2.00 pm and finish before 4.00pm. Annual Membership fee is £12.00. There is a charge of £2.00 for tea and a raffle ticket at each meeting. Outings are subsidised for Members.

We look forward to seeing many of you there.

May Davey, Programme Secretary 01485 - 544953□

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Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny

Autumn

By the time you read this it will be nearly Christmas, and it will be wintertime.

Autumn has gone by. When I was a lad in Dersingham in the forties and fifties the best time of the year for me was autumn with all the autumn fruit around and about.

There were quite a few walnut trees around about; three big walnut trees stood on the meadow at the top of Sugar Lane. There was also two up the Shernborne Road at

the back of Snoring Lodge, though the best place for walnuts was in the park at the back of Appleton House. There were plenty of blackberries about, but one of the best places was Gogg's Winn ('the little wood') just over the railway line on the left. You had to be careful as the wood was crawling with rats - they would crawl up the brambles and peer at you. There was plenty of other places where blackberries grew apart from down The Drift, like up Sugar Lane and up Ling House Road. If you went up Ling House Road and turned to your right towards Sandringham Barns you could find some sloes (small plums). As for cranberries, there was acres of them on the fen between the second hill and the railway line. It was hard work picking these as they grow so close to the ground and it was very back breaking work, but they do make nice jam. Now as for horse chestnuts, there is a long belt of them in the woods stretching from Sandpit Cottages (George Pratt roundabout) as far as Folly Hill (Wolferton crossroads); there are many trees along this ridge. We would gather bags of conkers, put them in an earthen ware jar with a tight lid, then dig a hole in the garden, bury them and dig them up at Christmas time.

Local pubs

I was rung up by a person who wanted to know if there had ever been any public houses on the Sandringham estate. Well, yes there has. The first one I will mention is the Bull at Shernborne that was built in 1790. The *Lynn News and Advertiser* on the 15 November 1907 reported that the King had given the Bull to the village to be used as a club. Mrs Hooks, who had been landlady of the Bull, was appointed caretaker of the club, which was for the use of the villagers and the workers on the estate.

Next we go to West Newton where in 1789 there was a public house called the Three Tuns. On the 4 June 1791 this pub was advertised for sale with a small farm going with it. The Three Tuns was closed down by 1900. Whether the club was built on this site I have been unable to find out.

The New Inn at Flitcham was opened in 1844; the first landlord was a Mr Rippingale, who was also a cattle dealer. By February 1950 Cyril (Tiny) Bix was the landlord. In 1960 the amount of Morgans beer sold in the pub was 101 barrels (36 gallons in a barrel). The New Inn closed down in 1984.

The Bell Inn at Flitcham opened in 1789; it was run by members of the Bridges family till 1892 (103 years). It closed down in 1996, but after a lottery grant it was reopened again in 1999 as a community centre and social club.

The King's Head at Bircham was once owned by Sandringham estate.

There has never been a public house in Anmer but there has been a clubhouse there since 1909, when it was opened by King Edward the VII. Also, there has never been a public house in Wolferton. The Wolferton Reading Room and Club was opened in 1893 for the use of servants and workers on the estate.

As for the Babingly club, I cannot find out anything about it. If anyone has any information please let me know.

Staying on the subject of public houses, a gentleman asked me when the public houses in Dersingham were built. The Albert Victor that was in Manor Road was opened in 1868 and closed down in 1981; the old Dun Cow was built in 1789, it was demolished in 1938 and the new Dun Cow was demolished in 1971 to make way for a supermarket; the Station Hotel or the Alexandra was



opened just after the railway was built in 1869 and closed down in 1937; the White Horse stood where the precinct is today in Hunstanton Road, it opened in 1858 and closed in 1973; the Lamb was built in 1789, its name was changed to the Cock, it was demolished in 1883 and then the Feathers Hotel was built on the same site; the Coach and Horses was opened in 1845 and, like the Feathers, it is still going strong. The stretch of road from the Dun Cow to the common was for many years called Dun Cow Lane until it was called Lynn Road.

The Dobbs family

It was good to see an article from New Zealand. I can't say that I remember Jack Dobbs, but I remember his mum, his older sister and his dad. The Christmas exhibition that Jack talks about was a toy and trade fair in Manor Road at the Foresters Hall. Mr Dobbs used to take me with him when we delivered accumulators and batteries round the village and down Snettisham beach, where a lot of people had televisions that ran off car batteries.

The Dobbs family, as Jack says, lived in a house called Excelsior (No 8) Brooke Road, which had a building at the back that had been a laundry. This is why the road is called Laundry Lane by a lot of local people. Unfortunately, Jack, your old school is just an empty building, the horse chestnut (conker) tree was cut down many years ago and the pond you skated on is all bunged up with weeds.

Garages and buses

Now a bit about the Hyner family. I don't know if Eric built Sandringham Garage. It was not there in 1909, but it was there in 1921 and Eric was named as the owner at the time. Eric was there when the garage was called Sandringham Garage, then when Charles Whisker took it on in the nineteen-fifties the name was changed to Heath garage. There was in the village in later years a garage called Sandringham Autos that was on the corner of Post Office Road and Lynn Road. In *Kelly's Directory* for 1925 Eric has an advert that states the following: "Hyner (Eric) and Co Ltd, motor and cycle engineers, motor repairs, agents and dealers, cars for hire, the Sandringham Garage, Dersingham, telephone number Dersingham 10."

After the war, when I lived at 63 Lynn Road right near the garage, Eric had two charabancs (motor coaches). Joe Pindder and Brickly Simmons helped in the garage and drove the coaches. My aunt, Nelly Hunter, used to baby sit for Eric and his wife, before and during the war. When Eric sold the garage I was told he went to live in Downham Market. The old garage is still there. The garage itself was an old corrugated iron building with a corrugated iron roof. Charles Whisker had the roof sprayed with tar, but the wind was in the wrong direction and it blew the tar onto a crop of barley that Ken Martins was growing on his field out the back. The tar killed it all.

Going back to the subject of charabancs, coaches and buses, whatever you like to call them, there were many private coach owners and companies about them days. We had three coach proprietors in the village of Dersingham. As I said before, Eric Hyner had two buses and when Charles Whisker took the garage over he took on the buses as well. Then just up the road a bit Fred Wagg had a cycle shop and he also had two buses. I remember well he had a contract with the American Air Force to pick up American children who lived off camp and take them to their school on the base at Sculthorpe. Then there was the Houchen brothers who had a garage up Bank Road where they operated five or six buses. They would also pick up school children from around the villages and take them to St George's and Smithdon. They also done excursions to places like Skegness and Great Yarmouth and take out the football and darts teams.

Other bus and coach proprietors in the area were Easters from Great Bircham, Stainsbys from Heacham, and Birds of Hunstanton. All these bus companies closed down over the years as more and more people bought their own cars.

Well there is not much more for me to say except to wish all the readers of my fact, fiction and squat in the Dersingham Village Voice, far and near, a very happy Christmas, and do you keep a troshin.

P. S. A happy Christmas and a lot of thanks to all the people who keep the magazine going and make it the best one in the country.□



St Nicholas Church Music in our life



Listening to music for many is an enjoyable part of our daily life; it can be relaxing, peaceful, joyous as well a way to praise God. Psalm 150 is a short psalm which speaks of praising God for his greatness with a huge array of

instruments and our voice.

Speaking of voices we have recently introduced Angela Brun as the new Choir Director for the St Nicholas Church Choir. Angela and husband Julian are both professional musicians and bring their extensive musical experience to the choral worship at St Nicholas Church.

Angela and Julian are organising over the Christmas period an exciting opportunity for you to sing as part of a **Mass Choir Sing of the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah** which will be accompanied by Julian on the Trumpet and Organist Clive Browne. This is an open invitation for people of all ages including children, no experience needed just come and have fun!

The rehearsal will be on Saturday 9th December 2pm-4pm in St Nicholas Church Dersingham, with the performance after the 9 Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday 17th December at 6:30pm.

Christmas Harmonies – There is also another opportunity to sing, come and spruce up your carol singing, with singing harmonies. This is a different opportunity to learn a new skill and try something different within a supportive choir. No experience and no previous music reading needed. Come and try on Thursday 7th and Thursday 14th December between 7 and 8pm in Church.

As Christmas draws closer, may you enjoy the opportunity to use your voice to sing, whether that's God's Praise in Christmas Carols, the Handel's Hallelujah Chorus or even singing in the shower!

May you have a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Rev Mark Capron, Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne

St Nicholas Christmas Tree Festival – 1st to 3rd December

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Below is a list of our Christmas Services which will be held amongst the wonderfully decorated Christmas Trees

Sunday 3 rd December	6.30pm – Advent Carol Service
Sunday 10 th December	4pm – Village Christingle Service
Saturday 16 th December	3pm – Tea & Carols , a light informal time for all the family
Wednesday 13 th December	2pm – Village Carol Service with the Mothers' Union
Sunday 17 th December	6.30pm – Traditional Lessons & Carols
Saturday 23 rd December	4pm – Crib Service 11.30pm – Midnight Communion
Sunday 24 th December	8am – Holy Communion 10.30am – Family Service
Sunday 31 st December	10.00am Benefice Holy Communion



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Bog News



Since the last article the summer has long since disappeared, and the crisp autumn days are upon us although the weather has been particularly warm recently giving a false sense of season. It is hard to believe it is nearly November and I am still seeing good numbers of dragonflies and butterflies across the sites.

As most of you have probably heard and seen already, the Pink Footed Geese have arrived back in the county, and this year they seemed earlier than 2016 although not as early as they have been. I saw my first "Pinks" towards the end of the first week of September on the North Norfolk coast and since then the numbers have steadily grown. It's quite nice to hear the call of the geese as they fly over the office windows! I have just started my annual Pink Footed Goose roost counts on one of our North Norfolk Coast sites. This a coordinated count across many key sites in Norfolk and provides an accurate count of birds roosting in Norfolk over the course of the winter.

This is the time of year where site staff and volunteers are busy beavering away with the winter scrub control programme. As many of you will have heard me talk about before, the heathland and mire are reliant on management works to keep the scrub under control and stop the import plant communities from being taken over by scrub. This can take a number of forms from using cattle to using tools and machinery to manage the sites. This combination of techniques is vital in ensuring that the scrub is managed and that the important flora and fauna that is so special to Dersingham Bog NNR are allowed to flourish. Over the coming weeks and months some of the areas of small trees that have grown up on parts of the heath will begin to be removed and the underlying heather revealed once again. Most of the time we tend to have to revisit parts of the site every three to four winters to remove the scrub again but each time we do it the volume and density of the scrub reduces making the amount that we can clear in a winter increase each season. We have volunteers that help us with this work and they also get involved in



a wide variety of tasks from survey and monitoring to public engagement. If this is something that interests you then please get in contact we are always looking for new members of the team.

Whilst the bird breeding season is over, many people might assume that any bird surveys have also finished until the beginning of the spring next year, but those of us in conservation with an interest in birds do have other outlets for our bird watching obsessions! One survey that occurs all year round that staff get involved with is the Wetland Bird Survey or WeBS. This is a coordinated count in which much of the coast and important wetland areas are split up into sectors and then sub sectors and the wetland birds are counted regularly each month. Norfolk is pretty lucky in that it has two really important areas for wetland birds, these being the Wash and The North Norfolk Coast. Between them they hold a large proportion of the UK's important wetland birds. What are wetland birds, well that can be anything from waders to ducks and geese as well as herons, cormorants and gulls and terns. These are counted monthly normally in combination with the month's high tide event. These counts are very important and are combined nationally to give an overall picture of how water birds are doing in the UK. The data can also be used to assess conditions of sites as well as being used as evidence in planning applications as well as many other uses! Site staff complete WeBS counts around parts of the Wash NNR as well as sites on the North Norfolk Coast.

I'm sure many of you will visit the site over the autumn and winter months to see the fantastic colours that sweep across the reserve at this time of year. As ever, please ensure that Dogs are kept on leads as we have the free roaming Black Galloway cattle on site. If you do see us on site and have any questions please feel free to stop and ask us and we will try and answer as best we can.

Tom Bolderstone Thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk □



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Wed 22nd Nov

18:30-21:00

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The Sandringham Newsletter

By kind permission of the Sandringham estate

Compiled by Helen Walch

The cereal harvest was held up by cool and damp weather and was only completed in September. Having completed the harvest, the farm team went straight into autumn cultivations to prepare the fields for sowing autumn cereals. The organic fields need extra effort at this time to try to remove as many perennial weeds as possible. When this has been completed, different varieties of clover will be sown in these fields to act as a green manure – a fast-growing, nitrogen-fixing crop which will prevent annual weeds from having light and space to thrive, and which will be ploughed straight back into the ground to help improve soil structure and fertility. Other fields have been ploughed ready for next year's crops of sugar beet, peas and beans.

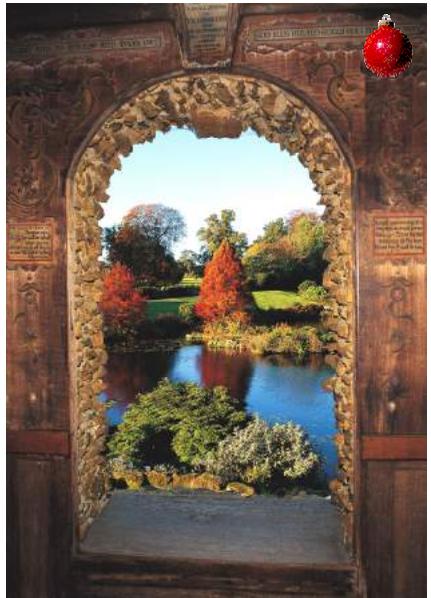
At the Sawmill, staff have been building up stocks of firewood in preparation for the winter, as they will be kept busy over the next few months keeping up with demand from people stocking up with logs for fireplaces and wood-burning stoves.

The weather in September and October made it slightly challenging for Gardens staff to keep up with grass cutting, particularly in areas where grass is allowed to grow longer during the summer. In October, Gardens staff also completed the annual autumn task of trimming and shaping hedges and topiaries both in the Gardens and at the Visitor Centre, as well as in the Walled Garden.

The apple orchards had a good crop this year of good-sized apples of all varieties. The Pick Your Own season is now over for another year, but in mid-September the orchards were full of people stocking up with Bramleys and Cox's Orange Pippin, and enjoying a couple of hours in one of the most beautiful parts of the Estate.

The Visitor Centre Gift Shop has now extended its ranges to include Christmas gifts and decorations, and their range of hampers, either ready-made or assembled to order, is again proving popular. The Plant Centre has hand-made wreaths and arrangements as well as a wide selection of gifts for gardeners, and the Visitor Centre Restaurant will be serving Christmas lunches daily from 25th November. The Country Park and Visitor Centre continue to open every day during the winter, and parking is free.

Visitors who walk dogs in the Country Park should be aware of Seasonal Canine Illness (SCI) at this time of year, which is a mystery illness affecting dogs during the autumn, which can prove to be fatal. Cases have occurred at Sandringham as well as in woodland in other parts of the country. SCI can affect dogs of any size, shape or sex and it causes dogs to become very ill, very quickly after being walked in woodland. The most common clinical signs are sickness, diarrhoea and lethargy typically experienced within 72 hours of walking in woodland. If dog owners suspect their dog is showing signs of SCI then they should contact their vet immediately. □



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Dersingham Day Centre by Alice Worth



As promised in the last issue of Village Voice I am reporting on our new meeting place, Ingoldisthorpe's Sports and Social Club. Our first meeting there, after our summer break, was on the 6th September and we were all anxious to know how things would go. We needn't have worried. It was lovely to see everyone's reaction when they walked into our new 'home'. Without exception it was smiles all around. We soon settled in, everyone finding their way around the new set-up. A nice warm drink and some biscuits soon settled everyone down and scrabble, dominoes and cards were soon underway as usual.

It was a completely different scene for our dinner ladies. The kitchen is much smaller than the one at the Church Hall, but with no fuss, preparations for lunch were soon underway. Nothing fazes Carol and Avril in the kitchen and lunch that day was certainly up to its usual high standard. Well done ladies.

On the 13th September we celebrated the birthday of Derek Firth with a special lunch, followed by an afternoon of singing and fun with Leigh Murfet – thank you Derek. Then on the 20th September the Dersingham Fish Fryer visited us to provide another lovely lunch to celebrate Doreen Bingham's birthday – thank you Doreen. Finally, on 27th September we saw the month out with yet another special lunch, this time to celebrate Joe Earl's birthday on that actual day – thank you Joe. We have really settled into our new accommodation now and love it. It is warm and cosy and with a pleasant outlook. We have been so lucky to find somewhere so nice and welcoming and we very much appreciate it.

On the 14th October we held our Autumn Fair in the Dersingham Methodist Church. As usual we had lots of things to sell. It was a lovely sunny day and we were well supported by the local community. The volunteers involved worked so hard this year, collecting things to sell and then putting them out on the morning, as well as the catering team in the kitchen, not to mention all the clearing up afterwards. They were four key helpers short this year, all for personal reasons, so it was hard work for the few, but as usual the Day Centre Team rose to the occasion and just got on with the job. They were well rewarded with a total of £382.15 on the day, including donations. A great effort everyone. Our thanks also to all those who supported us on the day. The name of the doll this year was Florence and was won by Maggie Langridge.

We are now looking ahead to our 36th Birthday party in November and our Christmas Lunch/Party, which we are holding in the United Services Club in Hunstanton. Leigh Murfet will be coming along in the afternoon to entertain us with carols and Christmas songs.

Until next year then, the Members and Volunteers of the Day Centre wish to thank all those in the village who have supported and encouraged them in so many ways throughout this last year, and we wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. □



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New traffic lights for Dersingham

The traffic lights at the Hunstanton Road/ Chapel Road/Station Road junction in the centre of the village will be upgraded. They were due to be simply renewed by Norfolk County Council but the Parish Council were concerned about the safety of pedestrians crossing the road here. So the Parish Council decided to take advantage of a county scheme that allows parish councils to pay towards improvements. In this case the Parish Council has contributed towards the inclusion of a pedestrian controlled phase. This means that you will no longer have to take your life into your hands when crossing the road at these lights. The pedestrian controls will be on the Hunstanton Road sections of the lights and when pedestrians want to cross the road traffic on all 4 sections of road will stop. Not only will there be pedestrian lights but also audible beeps making it safer to cross Chapel and Station Roads. The beeps will only operate between 7am and 10pm. Work is due to start at the beginning of February next year. □

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The Dersingham Walking Group

Our group of Walks Leaders is currently doing a great job of offering at least two walks a month which any walker is welcome to join. Not only do we cater for local residents but often visitors to the area join our walks too. However, to keep up this pace we do need to recruit one or two more leaders - could you be one of them? If you've done a reasonable bit of country walking or perhaps walked with the Ramblers you might be an ideal Dersingham Walking Group leader. You won't have to lead more than a few walks a year and we can provide full training, so if you'd like to join us please do get in touch with me. My contact details are at the end of this article.

As we move into the winter season of walking we're keeping our routes fairly near home, so you'll see several different walks starting from points in or near our own village. They will all have their own character though and will explore the very varied terrain that is right on our doorstep. The village itself, the local woodland, open fields, the high ground and the coast. All are awaiting your feet to tread their footpaths. If you haven't walked with the group before why not join us for an amble through our wonderful countryside. Most of our walks are between 4 and 5 miles long and take around two hours, with a rest stop at some point. Do check the start time of each walk as we have a 1.30pm start during November to mid-January. Walks are free, just turn up with your boots on!

Stephen Martyn

Our next few walks

Wednesday 22nd November 1.30pm

Get some sea air as we roam the coast of Hunstanton and Old Hunstanton. Meet at Hunstanton lighthouse. 4 miles. Leader: Pat Reed 01485 540757. Start point grid ref: TF 676 420.

Wednesday 13th December 1.30pm

A Sandringham and Wolferton circular walk, featuring both woodland and cliffs, an unusual combination! Meet at the front of the Sandringham Visitor Centre. 5 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333. Start point grid ref: TF 690 288.

Tuesday 26th December 10.30am

A Boxing Day morning walk along the local coast, starting from the Snettisham Beach fish and chip shop car park. 4 miles. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638. Start point grid ref: TF 651 333

Wednesday 10th January 1.30pm

Meet at the old Dersingham railway station for a walk around the many different landscapes of our own village. 4 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333. Start point grid ref: TF 680 308.

Sunday 28th January 2.00pm

Sandringham Sunday Explorer. Starting at the front of the Visitor Centre we'll explore some of the estate's woodland paths, finishing back at the Centre café where there is the option of tea and cake! Around 3.5 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333. Start point grid ref: TF 690 288.

Wednesday 14th February 2.00pm

Meet at Dersingham war memorial for a circular walk of Dersingham and Ingoldisthorpe, including the fine views from the heights of Chalk Pit Rd. 4 miles. Leaders: Steve & Lindsey Davis 01485 543138. Start point grid ref: TF 686 309.

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□

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TAX IMPLICATIONS OF PROPERTY LETTING: PART II WHAT SORT OF LETTING?

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountant,

Background

Having made a strategic decision to invest in property, one needs to consider what to buy and how to manage it. There are also tax considerations with each of the main categories of property having subtly different rules and quirks. It is always much better, easier, and, in the long run, cheaper to sort out the right structure from the outset, and ideally before embarking on the purchase process. However, tax planning is the subject of another article and before moving on to that, one should look at the fundamentals.

Compliance

Income from property is taxable and HMRC need to be notified of the new source of income by the 5 October following the tax year (to 5 April) in which you first receive income. For each rental property a record needs to be kept of the income received and expenses incurred. Typically these will include insurance, mortgage interest, repairs and agents fees. Different types of property will also have their own type of expenses (see further below).

From 2020 many landlords will need to keep their business records digitally and make quarterly submissions to HMRC. This will also apply for VAT purposes a year earlier for those landlords who are VAT registered and whose turnover exceeds the VAT threshold. Until then landlords can expect to receive a self assessment return or "notice to file" which needs to be submitted on paper by 31 October following the tax year, or by the subsequent 31 January if filed online.

Commercial and Agricultural Property

Some landlords will have bought, or inherited, commercial property or agricultural land which is rented out. This will quite probably be subject to professional management and great care needs to be taken when renewing leases, where there may be both legal and tax consequences. There will also be issues requiring professional input when major repairs are required, since leases often specify how far such repairs are the responsibility of landlord or tenant. Otherwise, the tax implications are fairly straightforward. Rents are often paid quarterly or half yearly and can sometimes be subject to VAT if an election has been made. In the case of agricultural property there may also be wayleaves receivable from utility companies which will not be part of the normal income stream being paid directly to the landowner. Typical deductions will be those repairs which are the landlord's responsibility, insurance, management costs and perhaps occasional legal fees regarding the lease and land management. Unlike residential letting, there is no restriction on claiming mortgage interest relief.

It is worth remembering that qualifying let agricultural property may be eligible for Inheritance Tax relief once it has been owned and occupied for the purposes of agriculture for 7 years. The rate of relief will depend on the nature of the tenancy and professional advice should always be sought when considering this point.

Residential Letting

The residential letting sector is substantial, with over 3 million private rented homes in the UK. These might include the annex to a landlord's own house, new build homes acquired specifically for letting, student flats or the "accidental letting" where a property owner has difficulty in selling a main residence so decides to let it until circumstances change. Each will carry its own particular expense structure and in the case of let property which shares costs with the landlord's residence, care must be taken only to claim the relevant proportion.

Until 2016 it was possible for the landlord of a residential furnished letting to claim an arbitrary 10% "wear and tear" allowance to cover the deterioration of furniture and fittings. This has been replaced by a renewals allowance for which good records must be

maintained when replacing items of furniture, furnishings, white goods and kitchen equipment, etc, to ensure the correct tax deduction is taken. It should be noted that where a property is let at an uncommercial rent (typically to a family member) expenses can only be claimed up to the amount of rent received, and losses can never be carried forward even if the lease converts to a full rent in a later year.

Furnished Holiday Lets (FHLs)

There are special rules to cover property let for short periods. These are generally referred to as "holiday lets" but for tax purposes there is no requirement for the property to be let to holidaymakers.

In order to qualify as a FHL the property must:

- * Be let with a view to making a profit.
- * Be available for let for at least 210 days in the tax year.
- * Actually be let for 105 days in the tax year.
- * Not let for more than 31 days to the same tenant or more than 155 days in the tax year.
- * Special rules exist to average out occupation days where more than one FHL is owned or where there is an unexpected fluctuation in one year.

Putting it simply it must be available for short term let for seven months and actually let for half the time. Periods of occupation by the owner or rent free occupation by family and friends should not be included within the 105 days, and where such occupation exists, the claimable expenses should be reduced proportionately.

Where a property qualifies as an FHL there are various tax consequences:

- * Income is treated as "earned" for tax purposes - so may be taken into account when computing the maximum pension contributions payable.
- * Interest allowability is not reduced for higher rate taxpayers.
- * Losses may be set against other FHL income or carried forward for future relief in this way, but not set against income from other rental sources.
- * Capital Allowances can be claimed on equipment used in the FHL business. This will include e.g. white goods, electrical equipment, furniture and fittings. It is also possible in certain circumstances to claim for certain fixtures and integral features acquired with the property. This is a complicated area and attention must specifically be paid to the matter of Capital Allowances at the time of purchase as otherwise valuable relief may be lost in perpetuity.
- * For Capital Gains Tax (CGT) purposes (but not generally for Inheritance Tax) a FHL is treated as a business asset and is eligible for rollover relief, holdover relief and entrepreneur's relief. This may mean that profits from the sale of another business can be "rolled over" into a FHL (or vice versa) and on a sale, the capital gain on a FHL might only be charged at 10% rather than at rates of up to 28% for a normal residential property. Where qualifying FHL property is gifted away, capital gains can be held over so no tax is payable until the recipient eventually sells.
- * Income from short term lets is NOT exempt from VAT, so if there is a substantial FHL business it may need to register for VAT. Quite frequently a FHL may be set up with the same ownership as another VAT registered business and thus will be caught within the existing registration, notwithstanding that it is a different trade. This problem can normally be avoided by forward planning, but it is an easy trap to fall into.

It should be appreciated that where there is interaction of normal letting, FHL letting and owner occupation, normally where a property has been used in different ways over the period of ownership, the CGT calculations will be complex and professional advice is essential.

"Rent A Room"

Rent a room relief was introduced in 1997. It was designed to enable those who had surplus accommodation within their main residence to take in "lodgers" without incurring a tax cost or indeed in many cases, without even needing to make a tax return.

Rent a room relief applies if the gross annual rent received is less than £7500 (£3750 up to 2017) and the lodger occupies furnished accommodation within your home. This is

generally taken to exclude occupation of a detached property within the grounds or an annex with no internal connection. Where the conditions are met the rent will be completely exempt for tax. If the rent is over £7500 (or there is a loss) there are different options to optimise the tax position, but great care must be taken to ensure that the relief is being claimed correctly as many trip up and find themselves in an assessable position and sometimes with substantial arrears being pursued.

VAT and Stamp Duty Land Tax

It is of paramount importance whenever dealing with property (whether buying, selling or running the property) to also consider the impact of VAT and Stamp Duty Land Tax. Both of these taxes are complicated and hence this is an area that will always require professional advice.

Sensible planning and professional advice are key to running a successful and rewarding rental portfolio.□



Kathryn Gigg

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Dersingham Methodist Church News

by Elizabeth Batstone



A big thank you to everyone who supported our Harvest Festival weekend. We had several boxes of goods for the King's Lynn Food Bank and also raised £532 for the Farming Community Network from the coffee morning and Harvest service collections.

We look forward to welcoming you to our **Christmas Fayre on Saturday 25th November from 10.00 a.m. to 12noon**, you will be able to buy Christmas gifts, cards, cakes, Fair Trade products, books etc., and also to enjoy coffee, sausage rolls, mince pies and cakes. Funds raised will be for the British Heart Foundation and Church Funds.

Christmas services -

Sunday 17th December 4.00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight, followed by tea and mince pies, with the Revd Steve Oliver. *(Please note the time)*

Christmas Eve 11.30 p.m. Christmas communion, with the Revd Steve Oliver.

Christmas Day 10.30 a.m. Christmas Day Service with the Revd Steve Oliver.

We look forward to welcoming you to our services and celebrating this wonderful time of the year.

Our Christmas giving this year is for The Leprosy Mission and we hope to transform a life with our gifts of a donkey with a cart which enables a leprosy-affected family to farm and transport their produce to market. We would also like to raise funds for a latrine block to give dignity and privacy to communities and families affected by leprosy.

By doing so we hope to make a lasting difference to someone battling with the effects of leprosy and poverty. Gifts for life are an amazing way of giving a gift with life changing results, giving hope and joy to so many. May you find hope, joy and peace as you celebrate this Christmas.

Elizabeth Batstone.
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Doreen's War by Brian Anderson

When I wrote, a couple of issues ago, a short essay on the way the German enciphering machine Enigma was broken I was wholly unprepared for the response. People approached me in the street and in shops to pass comment - favourable, I'm gratified to say. But the most intriguing

response came from Doreen Linford, a Dersingham resident, who phoned me and said that, during the war, she had used the British Typex machines to decipher Enigma traffic using key settings provided by Bletchley Park. (The Typex machine was a rotor enciphering and deciphering machine based on the first German commercial Enigma. It was, however, considerably modified and had five rotors to the Enigma's three as well as two plugboards rather than one. It was designed and used to encipher and decipher our own messages but was used later to decipher German messages once Bletchley Park had broken the keys. German forces captured some Typex machines at Dunkirk and later at Tobruk but were never able to crack it as Bletchley Park had done with the Enigma).



Doreen joined the WAAF in 1942 when she was 17½. She admits she chose the WAAF because she liked the uniform! When her call up papers arrived she travelled to Wilmslow and, after kitting out, was sent for basic training at Morecambe, eventually becoming a clerk G/D (general duties). After about six weeks she was posted to Biggin Hill (of Battle of Britain fame), the No. 1 Fighter Station in 11 Group. She worked for the Signals Officer in an office adjoining the Ops. Room, located some miles from the airfield at Keston then later at Bromley after the bomb damage there had been repaired. After 18 months Doreen was posted to the headquarters of 11 Group in Uxbridge in West London.

At Uxbridge she worked on the arrangements to retrain fighter pilots to fly the light bomber and night fighter Mosquito. And here Doreen takes over the story in her own words, taken from her written account.

"The office was huge and it was only much later that I discovered we were probably working over the Operations Room, deep down below. CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES was a slogan and for most of us we knew only what information it was necessary for us to do our jobs; what anybody else did was secret. Therefore, I had no idea that very important and strategic plans were being made there. It was SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force). General Eisenhower, Mr Churchill and other dignitaries were often in Uxbridge making plans for the invasion of Europe. We were billeted in the married quarters - very cramped and basic. The camp was very large and we noticed that gradually all the roads and anywhere else that could be used to park vehicles was becoming jammed with road transport of all kinds. Once in June 1944 an "all ranks" dance was organised and we were all strongly urged to attend. There was really no need for this as the prospect of being able to dance with officers was too good to miss! It was held in, what I think, was the gym and a very large and noisy American-style band played. I would like to verify that it was Glenn Miller; it could well have been. At midnight the dance ended and we returned to our billets only to find the camp completely empty of all vehicles. It was like a ghost town and quite eerie. We learnt later that it was the night before D-Day. Looking back one can only admire the planning involved making it impossible for any of us to let out what was happening. The

invasion of Normandy was beginning; Hitler had expected us to invade via Calais. This episode is imprinted very strongly on my memory. In the autumn there was an opportunity for me to retrain as a Code and Cipher clerk. This involved a 6-week course at Headington near Oxford, after which we were all promoted to the rank of sergeant. At our passing out parade and, standing to attention, strains of "Moonlight and Roses" were heard over the Tannoy. How we kept our demeanour I shall never know! Apparently it was the CO's favourite tune. My posting was to Leighton Buzzard, the RAF Central Signals Centre and only a short distance from Bletchley Park. We were in constant communication with them, but I had no idea of its significance, only recently learning of the important part it played in the war. I was billeted in an almost dilapidated inn "The Albion" which was infested with cockroaches and other vermin. We took our main meals there and it was no wonder that some of us caught dysentery. M & B tablets made us feel very nauseous and the regime in the sick bay was very strict.

Code and Cipher clerks were allocated to "watches" of about 8 or 9. We worked different hours all around the clock and these irregular hours played havoc with sleep, eating and social life. We used Type X machines which were similar to the Enigma machines though more advanced. The Enigmas used 3 drums but ours used 5. These were adjusted daily and it was quite a complicated process.

When I came on duty on 2nd February 1945 there was a memo for me from the WAAF Wing Officer which said that, because of a shortage of officers it was decided that a sergeant could be in charge of the watch for the time being (we were all sergeants) and that I was to take over the watch. I believe I was the youngest (20) and apart from one other woman the others were all men. Why I was chosen remains a mystery, but orders were never questioned! I was given a small hammer the purpose of which was to smash up all the drums in the event of an invasion. This threat was less since D-Day but still possible. I wondered how I could manage to do this as there were so many drums (no chance to practise) and this gave me some anxiety. All messages were secret but when top secret messages were received we had to refer to an officer from a nearby office. This memo told me to keep a look-out for emergencies and special mention was made of messages to and from Transport Command. Although I had to take full responsibility for all that happened on my



watch I received two-thirds of the men's pay - this was the case for all members of the WAAF."

In April 1945 Doreen was posted to Belgium. We take up her account again.

"My next home was in Ghent until the autumn. We were housed in what had been the Belgian Army Cavalry Barracks near to the centre of the city. I shared a large room with other WAAF sergeants and we slept in 3-tier bunks occupying only two of the tiers. One day after I had been on night duty I

awoke to find a male civilian sweeping the floor.

The Belgians received us with warmth and enthusiasm. The black market was more prevalent there than in England but they were still short of most things. I was able to give my cigarettes and some of my soap ration to some eager recipients. One day our CO was approached by a Belgian couple who were anxious for their daughter Denise aged 15 to have some conversational English and I gladly offered. The family lived in a neat terraced little house directly onto the pavement and I was welcomed warmly and shared a few meals with them (probably mostly via the black market). They were Flemish-speaking and only Denise had any knowledge of English but she was eager to learn and we struck up a friendship that lasted until recent years. I visited her a few times and stayed in her home, but she had a sad life with many problems and was never able to come to England. She did very well in her school examinations and I felt privileged to have been able to help her.

One of my duties in Ghent was to supervise the destruction of secret waste of which there was a huge quantity. The teleprinters churned out paper and carbon paper in triplicate along with lots of other stuff. Usually I watched as it was all put into the furnace, but on one occasion the furnace was out of action and this necessitated travelling in an open truck with a Flemish-speaking driver to burn the waste in a field. Tethered goats and a gusty wind made this quite difficult and I was unable conscientiously to sign that it had all been consumed.

Army signals personnel were also stationed at the camp and I was very fortunate to meet a couple of signals officers who had at their disposal an open Jeep which they used to tour most of Belgium. I do not know what their business was but I suspect it was probably to check on dispatch riders etc. However, they very kindly allowed me accompany them when their duties permitted and it was an exciting experience to be bumped on the cobbled roads and to explore quite a lot of the country. Once they took me to Bruges and arranged for me climb the very tall tower in the centre; I had thought I was on my own but there were a couple of mechanics at the top who were doing something to the clock. They were Flemish-speaking but we had a grand old time with gestures and smiles! I took every opportunity to explore Ghent - then without tourists - and have been back since mainly to visit Denise and to see the wonderful van Eyck altarpiece which, during the war, had been secreted away somewhere. I was also given the opportunity to "play" the bells in the cathedral for a few seconds. In August 1945 it was my 21st birthday and our CO had been offered the use of a small launch to use on one of the rivers and he very generously let me have it for the afternoon where I "entertained" a few colleagues. Champagne was plentiful. On VE day (8th May) we celebrated as well as we could but missed all the fun back home. During our time in Ghent our food was limited mostly to tinned stuff - no fresh salads or vegetables in view of the practice they used to fertilise the crops - I'll leave that to your imagination. It was quite a relief to later on to be fed more healthy food. We were still coding and ciphering until after VJ day (15th August) but gradually there was less need for it and many of us were redeployed to other work. Back in England, and how thrilling it was to see London all lit up again after all those years in the blackout! We docked at Tilbury."

Doreen goes on to describe jobs in different stations after her return to England, including a period at Gatwick where she registered incoming passengers and took over domestic arrangements in the officers' mess. After descriptions of ENSA shows ("every night something awful") and the canteen arrangements of both the NAFFI and the Salvation Army (the "Sally-Anns"), Doreen continues:

"To occupy us until we were demobilised we were offered EVT (Educational and Vocational Training). I chose to take up horse riding and squash, [at] both of which I was completely useless but it was fun to have a go.

I've really touched on only a few of my personal experiences but I remember that we all lived life "in the fast lane" enjoying what we could and sharing things, somehow knowing that IN THE END GOOD WOULD PREVAIL! Life wasn't always comfortable and we were frightened a lot of the time, but I'm proud to have played a very small part in it and am eternally grateful that I survived. I was demobbed in January 1946 to take up a nursing career."

Until Doreen contacted me I did not know that RAF Leighton Buzzard existed, let alone what it did. I was fortunate enough to discover a book (*The Secrets of Q Central - How Leighton Buzzard Shortened the Second World War* - Paul Brown and Edwin Herbert eds) that lays out the history of the base, which was opened in 1939. The list of activities is impressive. Q Central was divided into seven sections covering wireless communication, telephone exchanges (dubbed "The largest telephone exchange in the world"), teleprinter communications for the Central Defence Network Exchange, communications for MI5, MI6, MI8, a teleprinter section for multiple addresses in home and overseas commands and links to Station X at Bletchley, regulation of radio traffic and a code and cipher section. In addition there was effectively a commissariat that ensured everything ran smoothly. Q Central also handled the communications for 60 Group that controlled and coordinated all the radar stations in Britain. I am quite strongly of the opinion that the idea of a communications hub of this nature had its genesis in 1935. In his book *Fighter*, Len Deighton describes how that austere but visionary figure, Air Chief Marshall Sir Hugh Dowding (Head of Fighter Command), concluded that the experiments on radar would prove successful and began to plan a communications system that would utilise it to best effect.

RAF Leighton Buzzard was renamed RAF Stanbridge after the War and remained in use until 2012.

I hope I have been able to do some justice to Doreen's account and am pleased to be able to include a picture of the Albion where Doreen was billeted at Leighton Buzzard (it's the building the right). I must say it has been a pleasure and a privilege to be able to share her experiences. There are details



RAF Stanbridge

in her account not found elsewhere in the accounts of the period - the last page of history is never written! □

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Dersingham Evening WI by Maggie Guest

Here is a final submission for 2017. September saw the last of the 2017 walks for the Walking Group. We enjoyed a walk round the Massinghams arranged by Babs and that was followed by lunch at the Dabbling Duck. No walks take place over the winter months, so we look forward to Spring when they resume. *(Still fancy a walk? The Dersingham Walking Group runs all year. Ed)*

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Our September meeting saw the arrival of Rachel Duffield once again to inform and entertain us. This time Rachel's subject was Queen Victoria and she went into detail about the way Queen Victoria would have dressed. We loved the way Rachel presented the type of extraordinary underwear Queen Victoria would have worn. 'Drawers' are always amusing to us. Imagine wearing two 'legs' on a drawstring with fresh air in between!! 'Bloomers' must have seemed a much more acceptable proposition when they arrived on the scene! Rachel is always very enthusiastic and knowledgeable about her subjects and this was no exception as she presented genuine Victorian

clothing for us to inspect as it was handed round. Finally after the chemise, petticoats and various top layers, we saw how Queen Victoria would have looked. Wonderful!

Wendy never fails to impress with her interesting outings which include having lunch out too. Her attention to detail and care with transport for everyone is impressive and a lot of work for her but it is very much appreciated by all participants. September's outing was to Castle Rising with tour of the castle followed by lunch at The Unique Tea Rooms. After lunch a visit to the historic church then a guided tour of the 1609 Trinity Hospital almshouses by a lady who is a resident there. The original Jacobean residents wore conical hats with red cloaks and still do but only for very special occasions. An interesting outing and how wonderful the sun was shining all day for us!

Babs keeps the monthly craft group interested by coming up with new ideas to try. One month, Parchment craft was tried and everyone made a card. Another month, Christmas Tree decorations were made using wire and beads. The group is



so popular that Babs is going to run another group on a different day. How generous of her is that?

I gather the Fit'n'Dancing group members are being challenged into physical perfection on a weekly basis by Peg and her 'magic' playlist that makes mind and body co-ordinate!

The MAD group continue knitting for charity organised by Stephanie. The items they make are impressive and, of course, everyone knows that it is most important to natter while knitting to make the knitting even more perfect!



Chris Taylor held her first coffee morning and there was a lovely surprise of savoury pastries to reward members who had attended! A lovely day and some people sat in the garden or conservatory with the doors open. Peg hosted the next coffee morning which was once again, well supported. The lovely surprise there was some spare birthday cake! Thanks to Chris and Peg, the members who came and those who contributed raffle prizes.

What a lucky group we are to have talented members sharing their skills with us and others sharing their homes. Our thanks to them.

At the October meeting we had an excellent speaker from The National Coast Watch Association which is a group of volunteers who constantly monitor our coastline. Mundesley is our nearest station with about 60 volunteers. They cover an area of 180 square miles constantly monitoring shipping or anyone in/on the water. They are not so much looking for smugglers these days but signals that anyone needs help from the Coastguard. The tools of their trade are radar, radio, log book and telescope. Interesting to know these wonderful people are watching over our seas.

We are always happy to see new faces at our meetings. Any interested people can come to two meetings before deciding if they want to become a member. There are always people on the door to greet and look after new people. We meet on the **third Wednesday of each month** apart from August **at St Cecilia's Church** (next to the Co-op in Mountbatten Rd) **at 7.15 p.m.**
Peg 541162, Katrina 544773, Maggie 542424



The West Norfolk Members Group invites you to:-

A Christmas Miscellany

Short presentations by members followed by a 'just for fun' wildlife quiz and seasonal refreshments.

Thursday 14th December - 7.30pm

and

Birding a Dream by Sue Bryan

Sue and her partner spent a year on a birding marathon, travelling all over the world. We will hear about this adventure and see some of the birds they saw.

Thursday 25th January - 7.30pm

Venue: Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall, Austin Street
Cost: £2.50 members / £3.00 visitors

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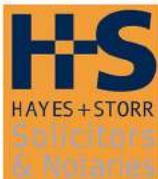
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Dersingham Library Events in December/January

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



Dersingham now has Open Library meaning you can access the library outside of the usual staffed times, as long as you are registered. This gives customers self-service access to library materials, public computers and quiet, creative spaces even while the building is unstaffed. Please contact the library for more information and to find out how to register for Open Libraries.

Weekly events:

Scrabble club - Monday 1.30-3pm

Knit and natter - Thursday 10.30-12

Baby bounce and rhyme – Thursday term time 10-10.30am

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.

Could you spare some time to help tidy up the **library garden**?

Could you help develop ideas for events held at the library as a **Library Friend** and promote the library and its services within the local community?

Please contact Alison at the library on 01485 540181 if you'd like to find out more.

'Christmas Book-folding with Kathy – Monday 4th December 4-6pm

Tickets are £3 payable in advance. Places are limited so please book by contacting the library on 01485 540181

Peer support group for Carers led by the Alzheimer's Society – Tuesday 5th December 1-3pm

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

Colour yourself calm - Wednesday 6th December 10.30-12

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

Big Weed – Friday 8th December 10-12

Could you spare some time to help tidy up the library garden? Bring along your trowel and garden gloves and we'll supply the refreshments. For more information please contact Alison on 01485 540181

Crime Book Club - Monday 11th December 6-7pm

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

Book Club - Monday 18th December 6-7pm

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

Walk and talk group – Thursday 21st December 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.

Library Friends group – Thursday 18th January from 5.30-6.30pm

Come along and find out how you can help promote what the library does to your community.

Family History and Computer volunteer

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

Singing and Ringing this Christmas

by Steve Davis



By the time you get to read this, Hunstanton Community Choir will have had their first major concert of the season at St Nicholas Church, Dersingham on Saturday 11th November, which I trust will have been well received, and perhaps even inspired others to come and join our happy musical throng. We do seem to have quite a significant Dersingham representation amongst our membership now! However, should you have missed it, there will be another opportunity to catch them in concert at St Mary's Church, Snettisham on Saturday 2nd December starting at 7pm (Tickets £5).

Our annual Christmas Singalong in Hunstanton Town Hall, that so many of you have enjoyed in the past, takes place on Tuesday 12th December, starting at 7pm, and this year we have a guest appearance from our very own Dersingham Descanters Handbell Ringers. Come and enjoy a seasonal performance and singalong to well known Christmas carols and songs followed by hot drinks and a mince pies for just £5. And if you enjoy all of that, then why not come back in the new year to join up with us when the new term starts on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at 7pm – first night free, thereafter £3 per Tuesday night attended, no auditions! □

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In the Garden by John and Anna Greyson



It seems like Christmas is upon us before Halloween and Bonfire night have been and gone. The shops were already full of sparkling Christmas delights as early as August this year. Is it a sign of getting older when you become somewhat aggrieved about being dragged kicking and screaming into Christmas months ahead? Here on the nursery we are trying to focus on the work of this current season but it feels as if the fast forward button is stuck and we cannot help but get flushed into the tidal wave of Christmas that modern commercialism forces upon us.

This rush to get to Christmas means we miss so many wonderful things about autumn. We have become conditioned to forget the garden and head out to the shops to start planning an event which is months away and in doing so miss so many wonderful things going on in the natural world around us and the time to do the important maintenance in the garden.

As we write this, we are a cat's whisker away from November and the weather has finally turned which is great news for the bare root season but not so good if you dislike the cold! Roses, Hedging, Soft Fruit and trees are now ready to be lifted and we can send them to our gardeners eagerly awaiting their arrival. Why not put your feet up and have a look at what you can add to your garden now to provide wonderful colour and scent...not forgetting the edible delights. As mentioned in our last column, bare root is a much cheaper way of buying these plants as they are field grown and less labour intensive. This makes them a popular choice between now and early Spring. Just avoid planting when the ground is frozen.

If you haven't already cleared the garden, now can be a good time to do so. Herbaceous perennials (plants that come back every year but drop their leaves in winter) should traditionally be trimmed back in late autumn/early winter though this is a subject of much debate. Some prefer to leave pruning back until Spring as the dying foliage can provide some protection against the frosts. This can equally encourage disease and plants to rot though. We generally cut everything back on the nursery, though may leave some of the less hardy plants such as phlox and penstemon until Spring. It very much depends on your garden and how sheltered from hard frosts it is or what carriers of infection and disease you may have – leaves and rotting foliage can harbour fungal disease. The choice to postpone the tidy up till early Spring or get out there now is a personal one and often a case of trial and error!



We always hope that at this time of year weeds will not be problematic but leaving them in borders can be disastrous. If they produce or already have seed heads they will self-sow bringing you a nightmare in late Spring. The roots may also continue growing if the weather is mild. It is much better to extract them now. Some soft fruit bushes and canes (berries and currants) can now be pruned back though you will need to know if you have summer or autumn fruiting plants. Also called floricanes (summer fruiting the plants will flower and fruit on the previous seasons growth) or primocane (autumn fruiting the plants will flower and fruit on the new seasons growth). If you prune a floricanes hard now you will not have any fruit next year so only prune these

as soon as they have finished cropping in the summer. Autumn fruiting bushes can be pruned back from now until February/March. Some people are worried to prune thinking it will harm to their plants. It will actually do a great deal of good. It keeps them healthy and ensures high crop yields. Pruning can be a bit of a minefield so if you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to email us – customerservices@joanna-cottage-plants.com and we will provide you with any assistance we can.

December for us is a blur as we continue concentrating on bare root plants with the added Christmas wreath making. Our wreaths are totally handmade using traditional techniques and sent throughout the UK. Making one for yourself can not only save pennies but also be very enjoyable and satisfying. Our gardens are often full of foliage, seed heads, berries and hips which can be used.

Spraying dried plant material or even twigs in gold and silver brings a bit of sparkle to your design and also helps recycle what would be classed as garden waste! If you don't want the hassle of making a wreath why not tie up some foliage with a Christmassy ribbon and add a few cones? This can be simply hung on the door.

For more information please see the extended version of this column available on our facebook page, My Garden Paradise, www.facebook.com/MyGardenParadise

Until next time, happy gardening and wishing you all a Wonderful Christmas and prosperous New Year! □



DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE UPDATE

David Collingham, Chairman, Dersingham Village Centre Association

As most of you will have seen, construction work on the new Village Centre started at the beginning of October and the Lynn News of October 17th gave front-page coverage to the new build.

Thanks to the hard work and skill of a group of volunteers and professional specialists, we have now achieved the goal of raising over £850,000 in grants and donations, to enable the chosen contractor to break ground.

As previously reported, the DVCA is tasked with managing the completed facility, and fundraising for new furniture and fittings.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In the meantime, I would like to repeat the call for VOLUNTEERS. WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please do look at all the information shown on our website

www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk, and contact 01485 540271 for more information.

USERS AND BOOKINGS

We plan to open for business in October 2018 so if you are contemplating an event such as a wedding, dance or any other big happening, please do get in touch.

EVENTS AND LOTTERY

Village Lottery: New members always welcome. To subscribe (£15 per quarter) visit the website www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk or call in at the Parish Council Office (Post Office Road).

October winners were numbers: 61, 67 and 72.

Film Club: continues monthly at the Social Club.

Fashion Show: An elegant evening is planned on Wednesday March 14th 2018.

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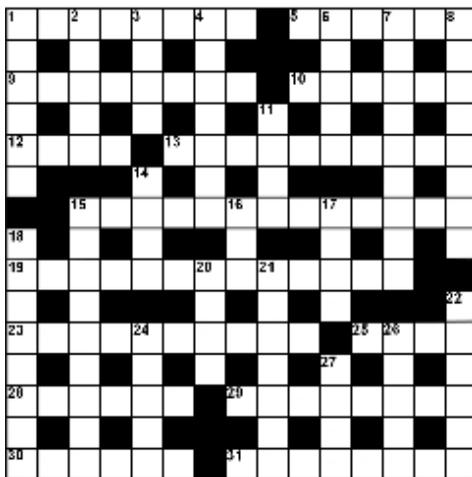
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PUZZLE CORNER

Xmas Crossword
by Philip Neal

Across

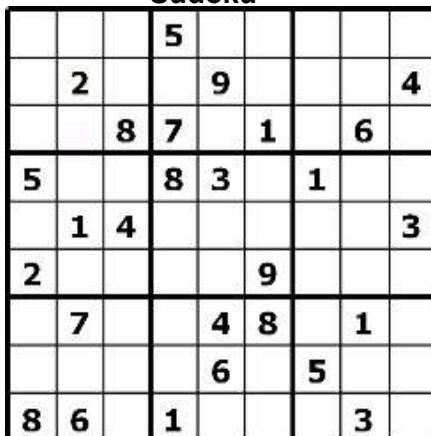
- 1 Nylon beds pulled back by Elvis (8)
 5 Lay out blame at mach 1 (6)
 9 Alien caught inside present discharge (8)
 10 Sees detective within same direction (6)
 12 Antiques Roadshow with surround sound for Christmas delivery (4)
 13 Drunk roams China (and playing harmonicas) to find liqueur (10)
 15 Good Christian men rejoice in bijou lucid Latin abroad (2,5,6)
 19 Joseph's girl grown up? No, just the opposite – a long time ago (5,3,5)
 23 & 26D Festive music for making large cross broadcast – Christmas starts here? (6,4,5)
 25 Passage migrant as U.K. at sea (4)
 28 Cry of derision heard inside black monkey (6)
 29 Mother John played horse game (3-5)
 30 East meets west to consider (6)
 31 Warms forests defoliated on 1st December (8)



Down

- 1 Entice deuces wild (6)
 2 Harry spent a penny in Holt (5)
 3 Born on Bethlehem's plain – he had two companions (4)
 4 Clarinet ballad arrangement for 'The Name of the Game'... (7)
 6 ... and thank you Sweden for making this too (5)
 7 If C.I.A. died out it could become acerbic (9)
 8 Fox caught by stonecutter for old tusker (8)
 11 Christmas travellers curtailed sorcery (4)
 14 First lady avoids snakes and sums up (4)
 15 Where you might find Welsh Cheddar – sounds scarce (2,7)
 16 Announce railway arrival on 3rd December (3)
 17 It was dark before leaver left for section (4)
 18 French friend Vince is polite (8)
 20 Dyke King (4)
 21 Outbreak of cholera from 26 (7)
 22 Funny joke found in his burns menu (6)
 24 Smallest rooms facing east for free (5)
 26 See 23A
 27 Hasn't broadcast left Indian state leaving reverse open (4)

Sudoku





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WORD WALL BY Philip Neal

Sort the following into 4 groups of connected words

INTEND	CLOAK	OYSTER	MAN
HEADLAND	ROSE	BOX	SATIN
SANDAL	CHESTNUT	BUTTON	VISOR
POINT	CHANTERELLE	GLUE	PROMONTORY



Mrs. Dolittle

As all pet owners know, the awfulness when pets die or have to be put down is absolutely frightful. I've had thirteen or so dogs over the years, all of whom were very loved, but the friendliest, waggiest tailed, smilingest and cheerfulest doggie I've ever had was Crow. Why the name of Crow? Well those who read my column know I am a bit touched by the fairies, and see, smell and hear things that aren't there.

When I name my pets, a name usually pops straight in, at other times, I ask 'them upstairs' what this particular pet's name should be. When I asked, before we had even chosen our puppy, I saw a vision of a crow flying towards me, and I thought, oh well, Crow it is, even if it's a bit strange. But the vision hadn't finished. In the background from whence the crow flew were teepees camped in a hollow, surrounded by trees. Oh, I thought vaguely, maybe it is a past life thing. I know I have been Native American three times, so maybe this was my dog from those times....I don't question these things, just accept.

So, we drove up to Birmingham where there is a big Lurcher puppy farm there. Not one of those awful places, but well run, where the stud dogs and mums are part of the family, and where the puppies are housed in large, clean, warm, straw strewn barns, happy as Larry. This was the time when I had my ancient Mum living in the house, so we left our old Lurcher, Tilly, to keep her company when we went to collect. While the puppy was enthusiastic with us, he was even more enthusiastic to find Tilly waiting for him. Probably she wasn't so keen to have a young dog launching himself at her, but she patiently put up with it, even to the extent when she was lying on the sofa, he would jump up and sit on her head.

Well, we had eight lovely years with Crow, who knew all the names of his toys, understood everything we wanted of him (with the exception of **NOT** jumping up in excitement when visitors arrived). He suffered from corns and had a couple of operations to remove them (something long dogs get apparently) but his limp, that we thought due to the corns, got more pronounced. The vet sent us off to see a consultant a couple of days ago, and I thought maybe a tendon needed stretching. I kept all thoughts of cancer at bay. But, it **was** cancer, and apparently the bone in his leg was so eaten away the vet told us it would have completely snapped any day now. We had the option of having Crow's leg chopped off, then chemo which, while it does prolong life, it isn't usually for very much longer in such a case as Crow's. We had to make the decision there and then. Put the poor, lovely doggie through all that, just for us to keep him for another few months? Of course, we would have liked to have done that for **us** to have him longer - but we decided that he would go that day, happy and with all four legs. So, that was that. We had driven there happily, on a lovely sunny day, to drive back without him. Horrible, horrible, horrible. Now, of course, I keep finding clumps of his hair that used to roll like tumbleweed around the house, and only this morning could I go and sort out his bedding and clear out his cubby hole in my sewing room.

So, do we do the sensible thing and keep it to just Frightful Florence, who is more than a handful? No of course not. Nothing sensible with me and Mr. Remote Control Man. He was already online to the Birmingham source to see what puppies were available. Spurred by this, I phoned them up to see if there were any puppies born in October (we are a Libra household.) Yes, there were. Born on 4th October, which is Remote Control Man's birthday. Sorted!

Now, the night before Crow's demise, I had a particularly vivid dream. Talk about

technicolour! Since the age of eighteen I have been The Oracle as far as dreams are concerned, dreaming about things yet to happen and that would occur at a later date. Such dreams were always very vivid and unforgettable. Like this particular dream. So what was the dream about, you ask?

I opened the door to find the most beautiful chocolate/conker coloured young cat sitting waiting, looking up at me with big eyes there were crossed, Oriental style. I appreciated the beauty of this cat but thought - no, we don't want a cat (I worry about road-kill) so shut the door. Later on in another dream, I opened the door again, and this kitten was still sitting there patiently, looking up at me, but it was joined by its 'mother?' who was lying comfortably nearby. It was a strange looking cat, more like a fox, with lovely tawny/conker Autumn colouring. Not shiny, as it's hair was quite long and a bit matted, but very lovely and placid too. What a strange, colourful dream.

I looked online to discover there are cats of that particular colour, called Havana cats, that are of Oriental lineage. But what about that foxy mother I saw?

Well, I received photos of the puppies from the litter I am interested in, and to my surprise there was a lovely one with unusual marking. It has a fawn head, the colouring of which blends down to brown and then dark brown and possibly black, in wide stripes. I pondered that dream. I am wondering if that puppy's coat will end up foxy-looking like the 'mother' in my dream? Well, we will find out eventually, as I have booked that particular one, and Violet seems to be her name. Remote Control Man thought I said **'Violent'** and so is happy with that...though of course by the time to get her, it might change.



Florence has taken up occupational therapy. This involves chewing the arm of a Granny Chair that is set by the front door for canine occupation in order to watch the world go by. She spits out wood and foam little by little. She is very delicate about it and doesn't go at it hammer and tongs. We also have a nice brown leather suite in the sitting room, and she is patiently unpicking the stitches of the sofa, tearing off little strips of leather and extracting small particles of foam. She loves doing this.

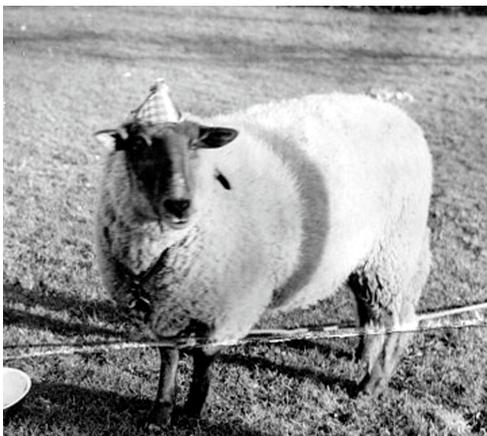
I wondered how I could stop her, so spent around quarter of an hour sticking brown parcel tape over the hall chair's damage. I then covered the chair with a throw, tucking all in tightly. That will do the trick, I thought. Then, I thought - no it won't - she's just going to enjoy ripping off the tape. Busy in my office next door to the hall, I heard the tell-tale

ripping noise. Yes, she was pulling off the tape. She has sped along to the sitting room, tail between her legs (they know what is wrong, don't they!) and probably is having a go at the leather sofa. God only knows what will happen once Violent Violet arrives! I shall either rise above it all, or have a complete breakdown.

As this is a Christmas issue, the editor has asked us to think of Christmassy offerings. I don't think about Christmas until about a week before the event, and as I am writing this half way through October, it's difficult to get excited about it. However, I did recall the

lovely Christmases we used to have as a family when we first moved to Norfolk, in 1975. We had accumulated quite a menagerie of pets, including a pet sheep, goat and horse, plus copious dogs, cats and chickens. Snettisham Salvation Army delighted us by arriving in a large transit van and unloading musical instruments and their owners into the dark of the night outside our house at the top of a cart track behind the carr stone quarry. Once they were all organised they began to play *Away in a Manger* and the magic of the moment was wonderful. Far away from road lights, the night sky was peppered with twinkling stars to be seen in all its glory, and the silvery moon shone down, illuminating this heart-warming scene. Then, one by one, the sheep, the goat and the rest of the animals filed one behind the other from their sleeping places to join us so that indeed, it seemed very much like the Holy manger scene. A real-life nativity, just for us. I will never forget those moments.

The pet sheep was named Lambert Ramshackle. He had his own little home, which was a small, nicely painted, hut designed for a carnival float with homely gingham curtains. We placed it in his paddock under some trees and after viewing it he said he didn't like it. He head-butted it until it had tipped aslant and the curtains hung out of the windows and the door faced the sky. That was better and to his satisfaction. He leapt nimbly through the window and henceforth exited and entered in that fashion, ruminating inside for his noon reflections, and again in the evenings for the night ahead.



On Christmas Day, we sat around our table eating the turkey, wearing silly hats and throwing streamers at each other. Lambert, used to being tethered around the garden, was just outside the window so he could see and hear us, with his own special plate of Christmas goodies. We gave him his own silly hat too with an attractive tassel, that he proudly wore all day while the goat tossed her head in disdain and walked off muttering how stupid Lambert looked. They never did like each other!

This piece seems to be all about animals - my pieces usually are - but it brings to mind that the consultant who saw and diagnosed Crow was our vet thirty years ago when we lived at Walsingham. We trusted him implicitly. We had just rescued a lurcher whom we named Orphan Annie. We were worried that she might kill one or all of our cats, and the RSPCA girl said, "let's see." She went off and came back with a cat that she placed in front of Annie, who just wagged her tail and turned her attention to us, hoping and hoping we would take her with us. I did wonder at the girl's foolhardy plan as the dog could easily have killed and skinned it in a second. I wasn't totally convinced, because had the cat shot off, I am sure the little dog would have chased after her - and lurchers run a million miles to the hour...anyway, that evening after Annie had successfully been installed, we discovered one of our lovely cats dead in the garden, with our Wolfhound and Annie sniffing it looking extremely guilty, as dogs tend to do even if they aren't the guilty party. There were no marks on the cat, but she was clearly dead. We glared at Annie, believing her to be the culprit, but decided to hold judgement until the poor deceased cat had been inspected by the vet to see if he could ascertain the cause of her death.

Weeping, I curled her up prettily on a blanket in a box as if she were just sleeping, popped on the lid and left her in the barn overnight. Remote Control Man took her straight to the vet in the morning, opened the box to find that rigor mortis had set in and the cat was now stiffly rigid in the form of a Frisbee. He took her out and she skimmed onto the counter, where she rotated with a bit of a clatter, "What's wrong with her?" asks Remote Control Man with his usual economy with words. With a straight face, the vet replied as if RCM was an idiot - "She's dead mate!"

Dark humour aside, the vet looked first at her claws and showed RCM that they were unnaturally worn down. "Run over." he proclaimed. Apparently, when cats are hit by a car their instinct is to dig their claws in the tarmac, thus breaking or clipping them down.

So, freed of all crime, Orphan Annie lived on with us for many a year - at the beginning, throwing herself out of plate glass windows with frequency, as she had mad, Houdini tendencies. Once she realised she had a permanent home with us and had formed a loving bond with her new humans, the wolfhound and our cats, she never tried to escape again.

Life is full of ups and downs, unhappiness as well as joy and we learn to deal with the worst times while optimistically awaiting the best. By the time you read this piece, the new puppy will be well ensconced in the Dolittle household, Florence will be delighted to have a new friend to play with and my hair will probably have prematurely whitened in time to play the part of Santa if ever there is an opening.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year. Mrs. D.□

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SANDRINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

From Ben Colson

Broadband for Wolferton

We see activity at the new green cabinet on what we must now call Station Road in the village with increased frequency and most recently by Open Reach staff rather than contractors, which we interpret positively as a very positive sign. There remains a disruptive task to be undertaken, though, which is to connect the cabinet to the low voltage power supply, which necessitates digging a trench across the road, at an angle, and on a bend across a road junction. As a result, traffic will be controlled by three way lights, and as ever with three way lights it will cause inevitable delays. Apparently the work, once it starts, will take up to a week to complete, but it is in a good cause and we should celebrate when the traffic lights arrive!

We are still officially on for the upgrade next April but unofficially it may well come sooner than that.

Boundary Committee review of Ward Boundaries

Later in the day, after this had been written, we received confirmation that the Boundary Committee Review of Ward Boundaries has confirmed its recommendation that Sandringham Parish will be included in a ward to be known as The Woottons. As well as our parish, it includes North Wootton and some of South Wootton. The Parish Council will debate the matter at its meeting on 8th November – it may decide that it is content with that and is of the opinion that we will be well represented as part of this urban ward, or it may decide to exercise its right to make further representations, in which case it must do so by mid January. Our parish council has to consider whether it can ever be properly represented by a Councillor whose day job will essentially be to represent two urban areas, and at that ones destined for major expansion during the period for which these boundaries will remain in force.

It is my personal view that this is a most unsatisfactory outcome, it denies proper representation of the people – the primary role of local authorities – instead substituting a top-down decision by the Borough that it needs only 58 Councillors instead of 64 today.

Street Names in the parish

We are close to agreement on the final list of roads to be named and the location of the name plates. The Borough Council is well aware of the sensitivity of this to us, and we can be hopeful that, when the name plates are erected, they may be more appropriate than the standard urban style used elsewhere. We would expect them to be up before the end of the financial year so that the cost of doing so is not covered over into next year.

Parish Council website

Excellent news came at the end of October with confirmation that the cost of creating our website will be paid from a government fund for the purpose. It means that the project, which has moved forward at a snail's pace up to now, can start to be pursued by the designer with vigour. We have a narrative for the home page, a gallery of photos for the designer to choose from, and whilst there are other items to be brought together, we really are now on the way.

We must remember that the impetus for this is a requirement from government that every parish council in the land, almost no matter how small, should have a website and display on it – and archive old copies – agendas, meeting minutes, annual governance statements and annual auditor statements. Our view is that it is an ideal opportunity to also include links to other sites that may be of use to residents and visitors, and details of local events etc. So those of you who run the social clubs, or

groups or societies, please stand by for a "call to arms" for information from the New Year.

Our aim to be online by the time this issue of Village Voice is distributed will prove to be too ambitious but the designer tells me he could have it live by mid December. Some of the pages will be activated during the early part of next year.

Harvest Quiz and Supper

The annual quiz and harvest supper took place again at Wolferton Social Club during October, attended by about sixty people. It was a fun evening - but mildly competitive - with a good food offering, including different strengths of chilli con carne followed by the now traditional apple pie. All monies raised go to the Sandringham Group of Churches.

WOLFERTON VILLAGE NEWS

Halloween Film Night

The Wolferton Events Committee staged a Halloween film night in the social club on Sunday 29th October, with the audience enjoying the classic Vincent Price film "House on Haunted Hill". As they say at the end of Crimewatch, "don't have nightmares"! The Committee's aim was to raise sufficient to add to existing funds to purchase a defibrillator for the village.

Due to other commitments, the current small committee has no other events planned. It is hoped that some new volunteers will come forward to help out so that events can resume. Past events (the Queen's birthday BBQ, Burns Night supper, Summer fete etc) have all been well attended, enjoyed by all, and raised money for use in the village, so it would be a great shame if this was to end.

If you are interested and willing to become involved, please contact Tonia Slack on tntslack@aol.com.

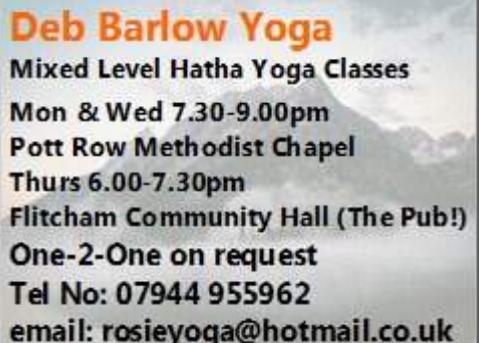
St Peter's Church roof

It has been discovered that there is significant renovation and repair work required on the roof of St Peter's Church, Wolferton. A fundraising group has been established in the village and it has submitted an application for funding from the Historic Lottery Fund. Their initial consideration will be during December. This is a major project - cost estimated at above £200,000 - and a positive outcome of this funding bid will be essential if the work is to be done and the historic building maintained into the future.

A requirement of HLF funding is that the Church becomes more closely associated with village activities and is more accessible to a wider population. With this in mind, the fund raising group has agreed for a booklet to be written and available for sale about the history of the Church and village. Their aim is for this to be achieved during the Winter months ready for next year's visitor season.

Wolferton Christmas Day Church service: on again for 2017!

With that in mind, and following the success of the experiment last year, a Christmas Day service will be held again at 9.30am this year. It is an ideal time for those busy with family on the day and any readers interested who do not attend regularly are very welcome to come along and join in. The more the merrier!□



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LOVE YOUR LIBRARY BECOME A FRIEND

It's been a busy month at the library. Gardening has continued with new helpers and some lovely donated plants: thank you all. We have also been given a string of fairy lights by Thaxters Garden Centre which will make an appearance nearer Christmas. Unfortunately the walnut tree had to come down due to a fungus killing it (a decision taken by the top as it was over a walk way). We intend to smarten up this area as soon as possible. The garden volunteers will continue to meet on the second Friday of the month from 10-12 if anyone would like to come and help out.

At the end of September the MacMillan Coffee Morning was again a huge success with many visitors popping in for a cuppa and cake. We raised £228.51

At the beginning of October a Poppy Fun Palace afternoon when we discovered more about the Poppy Appeal, made pictures with poppies, screen printed poppies, made paper poppies, knitted poppies and learnt about the people who died as a result of WW1. Later in the month we welcomed Sarah Ward crime author of the critically acclaimed *In Bitter Chill* and *A Deadly Thaw*. Sarah also reviews crime fiction and is a judge for The Petrona Award for the best Scandinavian crime novel. Sarah talked about how she finds inspiration in the Derbyshire Peak District for the settings of her novels. This was a very interesting and enjoyable evening attended by nearly thirty people. We are hoping to arrange similar evenings in the future.

Following our successful fund raising to have the library defibrillator fixed to the wall in the car park area making it available 24/7, on the evening of November 1st fifty people filled the library for a talk by Carl Smith, Critical Care Paramedic. Some very informative step by step basic training on what to do if you are with someone who has a cardiac arrest was enlightening and hopefully allayed nervousness around the subjects of giving CPR and using a defibrillator. Two of his surviving patients were in the audience (thank you for attending Tracey & Phil.) proof that it is possible to survive and recover from a cardiac arrest if you get the immediate right treatment quickly. CPR can be used to keep oxygen circulating around the body until a defibrillator can be used and/or until the ambulance arrives.

£95.00 of donations was collected and split between East Anglian Air Ambulance and Norfolk Accident and Rescue Service chosen by Carl as they both have no government funding.



If anyone wishes to find out more about Dersingham Library Friends please pop into the Library and speak to any of the staff. Next meeting Thursday January 18th 5.30 – 6.30

From Your Ward Councillors

Issues of security are paramount at the moment, and we are sorry indeed to have seen the children's playground vandalised in the way that it was recently. Not sure why anyone would want to ruin the fun of under fives, but apparently we do have such people in our village. What a pity.

The move to do away with PCSOs and replace them with fully trained police officers, is causing concern. The Parish Council will take a view and, through our County Councillor, Stuart Dark, represent that view to the Police Commissioner. The most important thing is that our rural areas continue to be policed. By the way, Hunstanton Police Station is not closing – rather there will no longer be a front desk service. Those requiring attention will use an intercom system to gain the officer(s)' attention.

On a merrier note, by the time you read this we will have had our first (hopefully of many) village barn dances, albeit in West Newton Village Hall, for the very good reason of course, that our own hall is under construction.

The building of a new Centre in Dersingham is a milestone in the development of this village as a place to live, and we would like to add our congratulations to those involved in bringing this major project to fruition.

Concerns exist over closure of public toilets, and, while we are happy to report that a stay of execution has been achieved on the toilets by the Hunstanton Lifeboat station, innovative solutions to providing this service to visitors and locals alike in the future must be found. We should be cognisant of what other tourist areas are offering, and certainly not fall below the competition.

Planning is now underway for Open Gardens 2018 and any keen gardener who wishes to showcase his/her plot should contact Judy Collingham on 01485 540271 email: jcairnscol@gmail.com

Meanwhile, it remains only for us to wish all residents of Dersingham a joyful Christmas and happy New Year. □



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Just a thought... by Steve Oliver

I have never made it a secret that my favourite hymn for Christmas time is "O come O come Emmanuel". Ever since I was a child this hymn represented everything that Christmas meant and should mean.

As a child and as I do now, the first time I hear the hymn I know Advent has begun; it is a sort of anthem hailing the moment of rejoicing and expectation. Read those wonderful words in the chorus; "Rejoice!

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel" and let them sink into your very being. The truth is that not only did Emmanuel come to Israel but he came for us, the Son of God appearing on this earth as a baby and to change our world for ever.

It is extraordinary how God speaks to each one of us; whether it is through reading the bible, walking in the countryside or the city, sitting and relaxing, or like me hearing this hymn. He comes to us with that still small voice which can make our hearts leap for joy.

Does your heart leap when you read the Song of Zechariah, or the Song of Mary (The Magnificat)? Does your heart leap when the birth of Jesus is announced or when you read the story of the shepherds and the Magi? I only ask the question because sometimes we can look at these passages and forget what a momentous time in history and in people's lives this truly was. The story of the incarnation is not a story of yesterday, but a story of today, tomorrow and into the future. We must not let it become a story that fades because of growing pressure from those who preach political correctness.

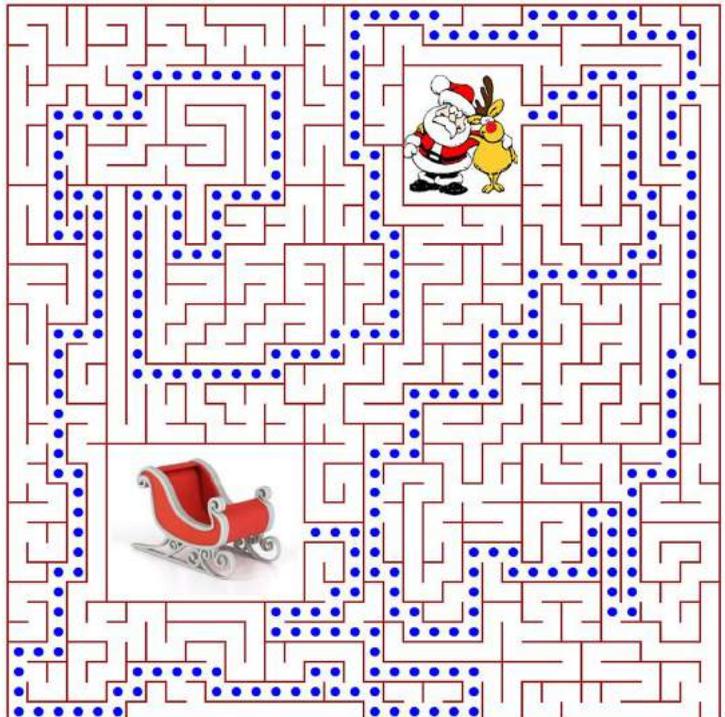
Maze Solution

I never want to lose the child in me when it comes to Christmas; the lights, the presents, the tree, the Christmas number 1s from years gone by (Slade, Wizard etc. etc.), they all make up a wonderful time, but what really makes it is the truth, that *"God so loved the world that he gave His only-begotten Son so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

Let your heart leap for joy this Christmas.

Steve

I wish you all a very merry Christmas ☐



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**CHRISTMAS TREES
 AND LOGS**

Crossword Answers

Across

1. STOCKING 5. EMBALM 9. DETONATE 10. ESPIES 12. CARD 13. MARASCHINO 15. IN
 DULCI JUBILO 19. MARYS BOY CHILD 23. CAROLS FROM 25. SKUA 28. BABOON
 29. MAH-JONGG 30. ESTEEM
 31. DEFROSTS

Sudoku Answers

Down

1. SEDUCE 2. OTTER 3. KING
 4. NETBALL 6. MUSIC 7. ACIDIFIED
 8. MASTODON 11. MAGI 14. ADDS 15. IN
 RAREBIT 16. CRY 17. UNIT
 18. AMICABLE 20. OFFA 21. CHORALE
 22. HAGGIS 24. LOOSE 26. KINGS
 27. AJAR

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

Word Wall Answers

Super: Intend, Man, Glue, Visor
Capes: Cloak, Headland, Promontory,
 Point
Wood: Rose, Sandal, Satin, Box
Mushrooms: Chestnut, Button,
 Chanterelle, Oyster

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DERSINGHAM INSTITUTE BOWLS CLUB by Jan Rawstron

The 2017 season came to a close with our Annual Presentation Lunch at Briarfields Restaurant, Titchwell in October when we also presented a cheque to the East Anglia Air Ambulance.

We have had great success in the Leagues this season, winning the Countryside Knockout Shield, and gaining promotion in the North-West Norfolk League. Our two teams in the Albert Victor League came 1st and 2nd and also gained promotion.

Our internal competitions were all closely fought, with many new names on the trophies. The standard of bowls, especially in the finals was exceptional.

Our thanks go to our greenkeeping team of volunteers led by Dickie Murrell, who have made it a pleasure to bowl on such a lovely surface.

We now look forward to the 2108 season, our centenary, and hope we can rise to the challenge of having the Village Centre building works on our doorstep. These works will impact greatly on the parking facilities, but I'm sure that our dedicated members will not be put off and have another enjoyable season. □



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Issue	Copy deadline mid-day on	Publication date
No 110 (Feb/March 18)	Tuesday 16th Jan 2018	Monday 12 Feb 2018
No 111 (April/May 18)	Tuesday 6th March 2018	Monday 26 March 2018

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

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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.

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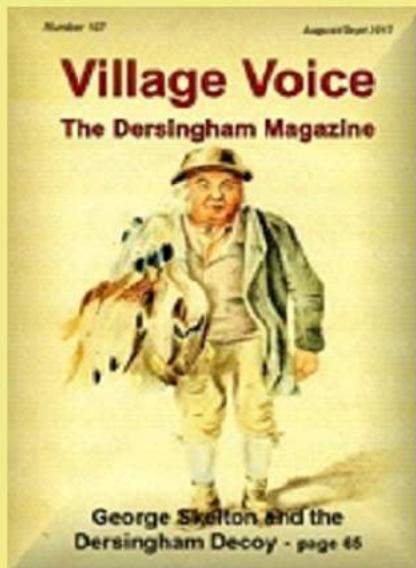
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