

Number 112

June/July 2018

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



Focus on the Red Admiral
page 20



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Editors Notes Tony Bubb



I was pleased to attend a celebration of the founding of the North Norfolk Coast AONB 50 years ago. Held at the Cley Visitor Centre, it marked the day – April 8th, 1968 – that it joined the national parks as one of our most treasured places.

There are now 46 AONB's in the UK protecting, enhancing and conserving the natural beauty of such areas. So, I turned up for a 10.30 start in thin but persistent drizzle, slogged my way through the car park to find the doors locked and a warden directing us round the back as there was a power cut. Into the education hall then for coffee and registration except there was no coffee as this requires electricity in its production. Lucky really as the loo's were also electric and thus were out of bounds. Visibility had closed in so the attractive views over the marshes were down to about five feet. Eventually power was restored, coffee was brewed, and we got under way to hear about all that had happened in the half century of its existence. A good day, with an excellent buffet lunch, was enjoyed by all the attendees, numbering about a hundred.

The Limerick challenge has proved popular and you will find the best of the bunch scattered around the magazine. So, for next time please finish the following - "A pompous old colonel from Heacham " . Have fun.

We have a lot more birds in our garden this spring it seems, all the usual suspects plus, for once, a pair of Song Thrushes. They seem quite low down the pecking order as Blackbirds and Robins are given space at the feeders by them. We are looking forward to seeing the young. No doubt so is our cat!

My thanks to Steve Davis for our cover picture this time and also to Mrs Ed for the Thrush. If you have an interesting picture to delight our readers do send it in, it might just get printed.



Lots of content from you this time with a broad range of subjects covered. I suppose that a village of this size should contain folk with a broad range of interests, well we are one of the largest in the borough.

Many diversions are advertised this time so do get out and enjoy them and if you tour the open gardens and visit us do tell me what you like or hate about Village Voice. It is, after all, only what you make it. □



Dear Village Voice



In February's Village Voice, Pat Linford asked about Houchen's coach holiday to Dunoon. This would have been in the early nineteen fifties. I was still at school and was on that trip with my parents. One of the first holidays Houchen's did was in 1952 to Lynton and Lynmouth. That was the year Lynmouth was devastated by floods. The holiday was based at Lynton which was at the top of the hill and escaped the worst of the damage. Other holidays were at Llandudno, Morecambe and the Lake District and Ilfracombe. In 1960 they took two coaches to Northern Ireland. The buses went to Stranraer, then boat to Larne. As English buses were not allowed into Ireland, the buses were left in Stranraer and Irish buses used on leaving the boat and for the holiday. For a lot of the holidays Houchen's provided the transport and the holiday was organised by George Harrison. George was a teacher at Gaywood Park School in King's Lynn. He eventually left teaching and started the well-known King's Lynn holiday firm Harrison's holidays. Another of Reg and Dora's trips was the yearly weekend to Blackpool for the lights. The bus left Dersingham on the Friday morning getting to Blackpool late afternoon, a meal then a show. Saturday the ladies went sightseeing and shopping and the men went to a football match. This was when Blackpool had a good team and were in the old first division. In the evening another show then on to the bus for a ride round the illuminations and Sunday home. All these trips were in the days before motorways. Some of the journeys were long and slow. I passed my test to drive buses with Reg's help in the early nineteen sixties and worked for him on a part time basis for a number of years with many happy memories and a few tales to tell.

Bernie Twite

Afternoon Tea

Raising funds for



Hunstanton RNLI 
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Thursday 14th June 2018

2-4pm

In the rear garden of

14 Station Rd Dersingham

(Barn House Holiday Lets)

**Join us for Tea/Coffee, Cakes,
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Undercover if raining.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

from Sue Payne - Chairman



Village Centre

Construction has got back on track following the recent bad weather; please read Chris Davey's report for more detailed information.

New Traffic Lights and Pedestrian Crossing on Hunstanton/Chapel/Station Roads

We have had several complaints about there not being sufficient time for people to cross the road under the new system. If any button is pressed, all the traffic is stopped while you can hear the bleeps and also several seconds after they stop.

The County Council says there is enough time cross any of the roads and also to get to a crossing point where there is no push button.

If you have any problems, please inform Norfolk County Council and also let the Clerk know so we can follow them up.

Events

The Village Community Day, including Fun Dog Show, will take place on Sunday June 10th at the Sports Ground, Manor Road between 12noon and 5pm.

This is an ideal opportunity for village organisations to promote what they do, perhaps recruit more members and/or volunteers and do some fundraising. If you would like to help, do some fundraising for charity, or run an activity, contact the Clerk.

Dog Fouling

We receive occasional reports about dog fouling in the office, but most of them are dealt with the Borough Council. I was talking to a former member of staff in the Borough's Public Open Spaces Team and they pointed out that the grass cutting crew have to strim before they cut and often get covered in dog poo. I am sure that it is the same for the people who cut the grass on the Sports Ground, The Warren, and Recreation Ground.

This is totally unacceptable and I hope those people who do not pick up take heed and start doing so. I am sure they would not like to be covered in shredded dog poo.

Dog faeces are toxic and contain many bacteria, which could cause serious harm to people, especially children.

If you have a dog, picking up after it comes with the territory. We have many dog bins throughout the village, and dog poo bags can also be put in any litter bin, or in your black bin if double-bagged. There really is no excuse for not picking up and disposing of your dog's poo responsibly.

Please help us make Dersingham a clean and safe place for all residents and for those who help to keep it looking good.

Grab it, Bag it, Bin it; Any Bin Will Do

David Lee

Many of you will know that David sadly died suddenly last month. That he was well-liked was demonstrated at his funeral service.

David served Dersingham well – litter picking, cleaning bus stops, cutting grass and doing odd jobs for the Parish Council, always with good humour.

We are tendering for someone to take on his work, but this will take a few weeks.

Parish Council Meetings

The frequency of Full Council meetings will have been reviewed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on May 14th along with committees. Any changes will be advertised in the Parish Office window and on the website. Members of the public are very welcome and there is time allotted for parishioners to ask questions on agenda items.

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

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

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

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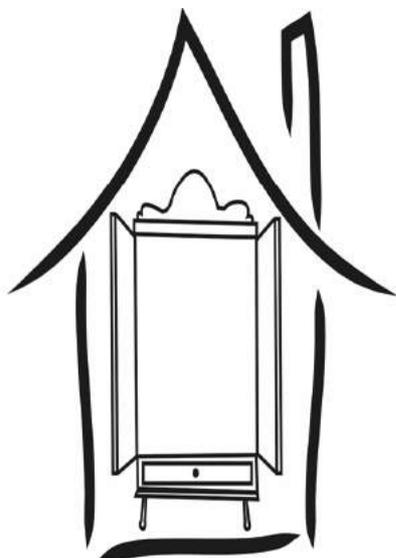


THE CHILDREN WON'T WANT IT

(but someone else probably will!)

As Jane Austen might have said "It is a universal truth that what goes round comes round" and this may be so whether vinyl records, fashion, furniture, jewellery and art – the list goes on. The question is "How long do we have to wait and, in the meantime, where do we store it?"

It is very likely that our children will want one or two of our treasured possessions. A Victorian bureau, a painting, a monogrammed powder compact can all provide us with a link to our family history and memories of lives lived and loved. Times change however and cut-glass decanters, silver dishes and china figurines, displayed in glass-fronted cabinets, suited an age when even the most modest family strived to employ a "maid of all work", who would keep everything polished and sparkling. Today, in a faster moving environment, people are looking to own glassware, which is dishwasher proof and easily replaceable, clothing which can be machine washed and tumble-dried and furniture, where comfort is key.



Spring is a great time to think about de-cluttering (whether an anticipated downsize to a smaller property, moving to a nursing home or sheltered accommodation or just providing more space (both physically and mentally). There is a collector, out there, for almost everything, from costume jewellery to signed first editions. A signed first edition Elizabeth David cookbook recently fetched £500, at auction. The key is, knowing how to find buyers and what price to ask.

William Morris's guideline "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful," is a good starting point for decluttering. Impartial, professional advice and support is essential.

Alexandra Ware of spaciallyaware
www.spaciallyaware.co.uk
Alexandra is a member of APDO (the Association of Professional Declutterers & Organisers)□

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The Royal Chauffeur Revisited from Patrick Linford

Elizabeth Fiddick mentioned royal chauffeur, Mr Humfrey, in her Feb 2018 DVV article. This reminded me that I submitted an article about him in DVV Aug 2009. Since then I have obtained a little more information from a relative. It may therefore be of interest to update our knowledge of this distinguished Dersingham resident.



As an old Dersinghamite I remember Mr Oscar Humfrey well. In the mid 1940s I often saw him on his bike towing a trailer, and sometimes met him out walking. He would pass the time of day, and maybe talk about Scotland in a broad Scottish accent. The trailer was used to collect pebbles from Snettisham beach which Oscar used for his hobby of constructing bird baths, sun dials and garden paths. Some could be seen from the road, and a niece, Mrs Morag Matheson, has sent me two photos in which some of his work can be seen.

I also remember very well his niece Mary Fraser. She was a very friendly lady who entered into village activities. I never met Mrs Humfrey. I understand that this was because she was not at all well and was confined to the house. In fact, she died in 1950 aged 72.

His house in Heath Road was named "Cromarty". Dick Melton (DVV Oct 2009) has however reminded us that his first house in Dersingham, after he retired in 1939, was for a time 18 Lynn Road. Everyone who knew Oscar believed he was Scottish. He was in fact the son of a farmer, Mr Heber Humfrey, of Kingstone farm in Ashbury, Berkshire.

Oscar was born in 1878 and, after school days, it seems that he was eventually attracted to a career in the growing motor car trade and he got a job with a firm in London. He was obviously well thought of by his employer because when an order for a car was received from a Captain Matheson of Brahan Castle near Maryburgh in Ross-shire, Scotland, Mrs Matheson has told me that Oscar was given the job of driving the car to Brahan Castle, and that he probably stayed in the castle for several days in order to demonstrate the car. During his stay Oscar met a Miss Margaret Mackay who was employed in the castle, and on 25th October 1906 in the Parish Church of St Giles in the Fields, London she became Mrs Humfrey. I think this explains Oscar's Scottish accent.



In 1908 the Prince and Princess of Wales (later to become George V and Queen Mary), advertised for a "motor driver" and Oscar got the job.

After Oscar's retirement The Humfreys' main residence in Dersingham was "Cromarty", Heath Road, as stated above. Queen Mary used to visit him there when she was at Sandringham. I remember seeing the

Queen's Daimler parked outside "Cromarty". Presumably, as Dick has reminded us, the driver was Mr Freddy Southgate who became chauffeur after Oscar.

My sister Anne also remembers the Queen's visits because Mary Fraser used to ask her and friend Mary Spaxman to call before the Queen was due to visit, to take the dog for a walk on the common and not return until the Daimler had gone. Mary Fraser explained that she believed that the Queen did not like dogs and the dog could be a bit snappy. Best out of the way! Mary also told Anne that there were some quite attractive ornaments on display in the sitting room, which she always hid before the Queen arrived. Oscar died in 1972 aged 93. His and Margaret's grave may be seen in Sandringham Church yard.□

Dersingham Carpet Bowls



On the 13th March the Dersingham 1 team travelled to Tower Hall for the rescheduled away leg of the Borough Cup. The group had mixed fortunes but won overall thanks to the shot system.

Three days later Dersingham 2 hosted Tower Hall 2 at home. Dersingham finished down nine shots to carry to the away leg. Delicious home-made cakes were supplied, and a successful raffle held.

On the 19th March a team travelled to Littleport for the usual monthly competition but a traffic accident at Setchey and the resulting tailbacks meant that we arrived with literally 30 seconds to spare. Unfortunately, although four good, close games were played, the results went the wrong way.

On a lovely early spring evening at the end of March Dersingham 1 team travelled to Mundford for their away leg of the Borough Cup. Six good, close games resulted in one score of 29-25 to Mundford. Refreshments, including Mundford's signature home-made cheese biscuits, were served and each member of the Dersingham team won a raffle prize. A fortnight later Mundford joined us for our home leg, but we were well beaten with a score of Dersingham 23 Mundford 34. Consolation refreshments were enjoyed by all.

The final match of the Littleport winter season was held on 16th April. Although the Dersingham team didn't get past the first round, a mixed team of Fred Hart and Ray Hollywood Dersingham and Eileen and Ray Dry of Clenchwarton made it through to the quarter finals.

Finally, the winter league matches at Lynnsport have come to an end. The club had a total of three individuals and seven teams represented in the various categories. Our best results were: In the singles David Hart came 3rd. In the pairs Maureen Baker and Suzanne Eastmuir (with Rosemary Rose as reserve) came 5th. In the Fours Eddie Marsh, Jenny Oliver, Ulla Aldridge and Rita Picton came 1st. Trophies will be presented at the WNCBA AGM.

Through the summer months our regular Friday evening roll ups continue plus various one off interclub matches. Although we always hope to do well, equally important is the friendly, happy and pleasant atmosphere that they are played in. Always a "good day out".□

Dersingham Community Day

Hosted by
Dersingham Parish Council and Dersingham Sports Ground Management Committee

Sunday, June 10th, 2018

Dersingham Sports Ground, Manor Road

12noon to 5pm

- Car Boot
- Bouncy Castles
- Stalls
- BBQ & Refreshments
- Information on the Skate Park Project

PLUS -

Fun Dog Show at 1pm – Kindly Sponsored by Pooch's

Entry Fee £1 per class, on the day.

Categories:

Cutest under 12 months; Prettiest Bitch;

Most Handsome Male; Best Rescue;

Best Veteran; Loveliest Eyes; Best Trick;

Waggiest Tail; Best 6 Legs; Best in Show

Enquiries to Rex Makemson - 01485 543017

Charity, voluntary groups, fundraising, stalls - FREE.

All other stalls and car boots - £5.

For more information, or to book a car boot or stall, contact-

Dersingham Parish Council - 01485 541465, clerk@dersingham.org.uk

Dersingham Open Gardens and Art Trail

Jo Halpin Jones

The gardeners and artists of Dersingham join forces once more by opening up to the public on the Bank Holiday weekend of Sunday May 27th and Monday May 28th, from 11am to 5pm. About 20 gardens will be open, ranging from large rambling properties to tiny bijoux gems.

The passion for gardening takes many forms: for some there must not be a weed in sight and we can wonder at the immaculate lawns and perfectly arranged beds filled with a rich assortment of shape and colour; in others we can enjoy rambling roses scrambling up trees intertwined with a freshly blooming clematis, and beds and pots full to bursting with a profusion of plant life all fighting to get your attention.

It has been a difficult year for gardeners: the frost has taken its toll on those plants that have proved not to be so hardy; leaving the greenhouse door open by mistake has proved very costly (personal experience!); and the muntjac deer continue to cause havoc by munching many early shoots and blooms. But nature has a miraculous way of recovering to hide the damage and there are always new plants to experiment with.

The Dersingham Art Trail is now well-established, with a pre-Christmas event and also joining with Dersingham Open Gardens. Over a dozen artists in nine studios open both their gardens and studios and invite you to see examples of painting, photography, pottery, fused glass, handmade cards and candles. It is an opportunity to meet the artists, and appreciate the range of artistic talent in the village.

Dersingham Open Gardens and Art Trail is a major fundraising event for the village, supporting not only the Church but also the new Village Centre, which we have all seen emerging from the building site opposite the Church. We hope that you can give the days your support and enjoy exploring the nooks and crannies hidden behind hedge, wall and fence. This year, with the Church Hall now out of action, get your tickets from St Nicholas Church: £5 on the day or £4 in advance from Dersingham Post Office, covering both days. Under 16's free. Catering also switches to the Church, albeit with fewer cooking facilities but the amazing ladies of the Church catering team will be providing light lunches and their usual delicious cream teas. Plants for sale in some of the gardens.

Full details on
www.DersinghamOpenGardens.co.uk



LOVE YOUR LIBRARY BECOME A FRIEND

The Friends of Dersingham Library continue to meet and are putting together a programme of events for the next year. The first event is on the 18th May '**An Introduction to Linocut Printmaking with Rebecca Hearle**'.

Did you know Dersingham Library has a **Walk & Talk Group**? Why not join the Healthy Walk's volunteers for a short walk around the village followed by refreshments at the library. This walk is perfect for those wanting to gently build up their walking stamina. The Walks are every 3rd Thursday of the month, meeting at the library at 2.30pm.

Those of you who visit our library will have seen the **Mobile Library** in the car park. This facility visits many villages in the area that are not as lucky as we are with a library so close. Some of the villages nearby it visits are:

Castle Rising – Thursday 2 weekly - next visit 14th June

Sherborne/Fring/Bircham/Flitcham/Ingoldisthorpe – Friday 4 weekly - next visit 29th June

Snettisham/Sedgeford – Wednesday 2 weekly - next visit 13th June

Wolferton/West Newton/Hillington/Congham/Roydon/Bawsey – Friday 4 weekly - next visit 15th June

There are other stops and maybe you have relatives or friends living nearby.

Information and times can be found on: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/your-local-library/routes-and-timetables>

Or contact Dersingham Library on 01485 540181

We have had to change our **Gardening Group Time** due to the need to have a First Aider present! We now meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. New helpers & plants are always welcome.

Tax, Care and Toy Boys – Thursday 14th June 12.30-2pm

Protecting your family's nest egg - For many people, one of the biggest worries as they grow old is being able to give their family a helping hand and make sure that when they die, what they have worked all their life for goes to the people they love the most. Sadly, as you grow old, you have to pay for many things that you have once done yourself. And these things, such as help at home, getting around and care fees, can soon make a big difference to that nest egg. We can give practical help and advice on how to protect as much of your wealth as possible for future generations.

Inheritance tax - There may be ways of putting a protective arm around your wealth which help to reduce the burden of Inheritance Tax for future generations. We can help to make sure that you make the most of tax allowances and tax planning opportunities.

Stopping 'sideways disinheritance' - Re-marriage of a surviving spouse after the first death of a couple can result in the new husband/wife inheriting everything, whilst the children from the first marriage get nothing. Our advice can help protect the family home and savings for future generations and go to the children and grandchildren.

Lasting Powers of Attorney - As we continue to live longer, a large number of us will suffer from dementia and lose the capacity to look after ourselves. No one wants to think about what will happen if they become unable to make decisions themselves through illness, an accident or old age. However doing so now and having LPAs in place will remove the burden from your family and help reduce the stress and cost to your family at a very difficult time.

Next Dersingham Library Friends Meeting is on Thursday 7th June at 4.30 pm □

King's Lynn Corn Exchange



Grumpy Old Women - To The Rescue
Sunday 17 June

Cinderella - Ballet Cymru

Sun 27 May

Peppa Pig

Sat 2 & Sun 3 June

Son Of A Preacher Man

Tue 5 - Sat 9 June

Money For Nothing

Fri 15 June

The Roy Orbison Story

Sat 16 June

Les Musicals

Tue 19 June

Magic Of Motown

Fri 22 June

Whitney - Queen Of The Night - Sat 23 June

Rhythm Of The Dance - Mon 25 June

Mary Duff - Wed 27 June



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Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

The sudden heat wave has meant the children have been able to make the most of the wonderful outside areas at both sites. Year 1s have also ventured further afield taking hikes in the woods to explore the flora and fauna as well as being adventurous den builders!

The Yr R children chose to create a Rock Band Show for their parents, which was performed before the Easter holiday. The children certainly rocked! They planned everything from the price of the ticket (originally priced at £48 - we lowered this a little to a more realistic £2!), to the time of the event, the groups they wanted to perform in and the songs they sang! The result was an amazing evening enjoyed by all. One parent even commenting that it was the best rock concert they had ever attended!

Nursery children loved learning about their favourite Nursery rhymes, they sheared 'sheep' when learning about Baa Baa Black sheep, counted Incy Wincy's legs and baked cakes when learning Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake.

The preschool were amazed when a giant beanstalk grew in their classroom over night. They were lucky enough to be visited by the giant from Jack and the Beanstalk who left the seeds to plant. The children have been super excited watching them grow.

Detectives are embarking on a 'Secret Garden' experience and have already sampled the delights at Thaxter's Garden Centre, where wonderful Wendy answered lots of eager questions! The children are hoping to make the school a vibrant, colourful place, teeming with insects, flowers and scrumptious vegetables to enjoy.



Pioneers are also on a plant mission this half term and were excited to invite Claire into school to share some of her gardening tips, as well as demonstrating some of the tools of the trade. The children enjoyed using their senses to explore the beautiful scented plants she brought in. In addition, the children will be learning about France, in particular Paris.

Year 3 enjoyed the run up to Easter by using the Easter story to create a range of ICT work, and used the book Croc and Bird as a stimulus for writing and some effective art work on the themes of eggs hatching and habitats. They have now begun their new topic 'Tremors', learning about volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis, and things will soon get

messy as they create their own erupting volcanoes! Year 3 also hope to tie the volcanoes topic with a final animal topic and a trip to Sedgwick Museum in Cambridge.

Leverets Year 4 class are learning about survival and bushcraft, including shelter building, fire lighting, campfire cooking, field games, art and craft with nature and bow and arrows. We are learning all about safe practice outside, whilst respecting and looking after our environment. These fantastic learning opportunities offered by the wonderful surroundings in Dersingham make our topic the natural link with our text 'I was a Rat!' A Dickensian quality text which explores the developing strength of character and self-belief of a boy. A text the children are busy discussing the moral principles as





well as creating very intuitive pieces of writing. What a great way to start the summer term!

Last term, Witan Class Year 5 continued studying Shackleton's journey to the South Pole. In order to do this, children used a fantastic book by William Grill, entitled 'Shackleton's Journey', as a source of inspiration for work in Literacy, Drama, Science and Geography. The class particularly enjoyed the opportunity to research members of Shackleton's crew, and write in character as them in order to apply for a job on board the Endurance.

Codebreakers Year 5 class have come back after Easter to learn forensic science skills of fingerprint tracing, mysterious substance analysis, PH testing and chromatography. With their newly acquired expertise, combined with problem-solving and enquiry skills, they have solved four crime case files. Their enthusiasm and excitement will lead on to their topic of spies and espionage.

Year 6 continue to work hard preparing for their SATs. They have also had the opportunity to visit the Crucial Crew at the fire station, where they learned about all sorts of health and safety issues.

Sports events have been coming thick and fast with football on top of the agenda! Both boys and girls enjoyed a tournament at Glebe school and Year 2, 3 and 4 competed well at the Smithdon Cluster competition held at Hunstanton Primary School. The Year 4 Championship competitors came away with a bronze medal and Year 2 went on to represent the school at Lynnsport. In contrast to the heat wave the week before, it was rather a soggy affair! Year 5 and 6 entered the Community Cup tournament at Lynnsport, where they put on an admirable show!



Year 2, 3 and 4 entered a friendly First Steps festival at Smithdon, where they showed great aptitude and team spirit, mixing with children from other schools. Tri-Golf was a roaring success, with both KS1 and KS2 teams performing well when they visited Heacham Junior School and coming away with bronze medals!



A real feather in the school's sporting cap is the success of our Sports Council ambassadors, who have joined forces with our other cluster schools to organise a KS1 fun, healthy, active afternoon, to be held at Heacham Junior School. They have already obtained sponsorship from local businesses, sent letters away to several supermarkets asking for their representation at the event and planned the sporting activities. They will continue to meet up regularly to finalise the details.

Finally, one of the highlights of the term so far was a visit from Sir Henry Bellingham and Jack from Fitter Future in order for the children to showcase their morning fitness activities. Both gentlemen were amazed at the range on offer, from rowers on the playground, to Zumba and cardio activities in the classrooms. Year 5 showed off their

capture the flag skills across the expansive field and Year 6 put a new spin on power walking!

Let's hope the summer term continues on such an active, outdoorsy theme!□



Dersingham Day Centre

By Alice Worth

As I write this report at the end of April for the June/July issue of Village Voice, I am looking back at the last 8 months that the Day Centre has spent at the Ingoldisthorpe Sports and Social Club. Despite some very cold weather through the Winter, we have been so warm and comfortable and very grateful to Bob for making sure everything has been ready for us on a Wednesday.

On Wednesday, 21st March, unfortunately too late for the last edition's deadline of Village Voice, we celebrated John Tansley's birthday with a fish and chip lunch.

The Village Frier came to the Ingoldisthorpe Sports and Social Club, parked at the side of the hall and produced a lovely lunch for us. On the 11th April we celebrated Verna Cornell's birthday and had a lovely birthday cake with our after-lunch cup of tea. On the 18th April we celebrated Pat Andrews' birthday with another fish and chip lunch. Thanks to them all from the Members and Volunteers.



On the 4th April we held our Easter Party at the United Services Club in Hunstanton. After lunch we had our usual raffle and then the judging of our Easter Bonnet competition. There were some really excellent entries this year and choosing the winning pair was not easy. Colin Carter won first prize for the best decorated gentleman's hat and Doreen Bingham won the first prize for the best decorated lady's hat. Both were presented with a special Easter Egg. Tea and hot cross buns finished off the afternoon and each Member was given an Easter Egg as they left for home.

We are already planning our theme for the Christmas Tree Festival in December, and Members and Volunteers have started making things. It is all top secret at the moment but more will be revealed nearer the time.

The Day Centre will be closing for our Summer break on the 25th July, and will start again for our Autumn session on the 5th September. We wish you all a happy and sunny Summer.□

There was a young lady from Fring
Who decided to do her own thing
She dressed up like Elvis
And swiveled her pelvis
And toured the world as the king

There was a young lady from Fring
Who showered till she was spark-ling.
Then dousing with lotion
Fair set her in motion
As she cried "Oooo! That doesn't half sting!"

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Focus on the Red Admiral - *Vanessa atalanta* by Brian Anderson

This is the third in an occasional series on the commoner British butterflies.

I've always regarded the Red Admiral as rather under-appreciated butterfly. This is probably due to it's being common. But take another look. The spectacular combination of black, red and white in a freshly emerged adult can stand

comparison with many tropical species - and don't forget the blue dots at the edge of the hind wings! The red pigment is an ommochrome, the black melanin-based and the white a flavonoid pigment derived from the diet of the caterpillar. The blue dots are probably structural colours caused by optical interference. The actual wing patterns conform to a model named the "Nymphalid ground plan" which defines the underlying developmental structures of the pattern. The pattern can be quite variable - if the pupa experiences higher than normal temperatures there can be a blurring of the red and white. Occasionally the red can appear buff or yellow.



The name Red Admiral seems to be truncation of Red Admirable, although there are references to The Admiral, The Admirable and the Scarlet Admiral with all five names being used interchangeably between 1634 (Moffet) and Harris (1795). An alternative name (The Alderman) was used until as recently as 1913 and I can only surmise that this name derives from the appearance being similar to the robes worn by civic dignitaries.

It is very widely distributed in the Northern Hemisphere and is a butterfly that has attracted an unusual amount of academic controversy in terms of its life cycle and taxonomy (classification) but we'll come to that a little later.

The first Red Admirals we see are migrants and arrive in the spring. Some will have flown from the Mediterranean coast but probably most will be second or third generation insects as the originals will breed en route. If the weather is mild they can be seen as early as February but generally the big influx will begin in April and May. The males establish territories as soon as they arrive and court virgin females that come close. Only those males that have established a territory are likely to mate as the female seems to judge fitness on the ability to secure and defend a territory. The great variation in numbers season to season has more to do with breeding and caterpillar feeding conditions in the western Mediterranean than conditions in Britain.



The female lays single eggs on Stinging Nettle (on exposed leaves if it's partially shady and sheltered beneath if the location is very sunny). Occasionally eggs will be laid on Small Nettle, Pellitory-of-the-Wall or (more rarely) Hop. When the caterpillar hatches out it uses silk to make a tent to conceal itself and feeds on adjacent leaves. Over the next few weeks it will build a succession of tents, ending with a larger one incorporating the nettle stalk where it pupates. The adult will emerge after two to three weeks. In a good year there will be three generations. The butterfly feeds on a wide variety of flowers over the summer. In the autumn they are attracted to Ivy flowers and the sap

from damaged trees. They are also well known for their addition to fermenting fruit, especially plums and pears (personal observation has led me to conclude that they prefer

William and Comice pears to Conference!). They sometimes imbibe so much fermented juice they become too drunk to fly.

As the temperature drops most adults begin a return migration to Europe. Some will leave it too late and as the temperature drops below that required for flying, these will perish.

Which brings me to the first academic dispute - do Red Admirals hibernate in Britain? I have (as you might suspect) a large range of field guides dating back to 1906. There is absolutely no consensus - some claim hibernation in the adult, others dismiss this but concede survival by the pupa.

Prof. Jeremy Thomas, one of our foremost experts on butterflies, says that the Red Admirals that you might see in winter are late-emerging adults that went into pupation very late and will not survive to the spring. A Red Admiral we saw Christmas Day 2011 when a fresh specimen flew past us at the junction of Chapel and Sherborne Roads may have been one such. Despite much searching, I have found no experimental evidence regarding this. I imagine it would be



possible to equip a large fruit cage or aviary with nettles, late-flowering nectar sources and hibernation sites and breed Red Admirals inside and just see if any survived.

Red Admirals have two physiological quirks.

The first concerns vision. For an insect the colour vision is quite limited - 440 to 590 nm or violet through to yellow. It is unable to distinguish red and orange. It is suspected that the Red Admiral (or its direct ancestors) evolved earlier than some other butterfly species as it does not possess a filtering pigment in the eye that would allow long wavelength colour vision. It is probably reasonable to conclude that whatever the function of the scarlet bands on the wings it has nothing to do with butterfly-to-butterfly communication - they cannot see the colour red. It is more likely that the bands are diversions to misdirect predatory birds away from the vulnerable body; the wings can sustain considerable damage without impeding the butterfly's flight.

The second concerns its flight. Entomologists and aerodynamicists had long wondered how the Red Admiral (which is quite heavy for an insect) was able to fly so fast (I have measured the speed of one in level flight at over 10 metres per second) and be so manoeuvrable. Wind tunnel tests revealed that it uses at least five types of vortex to enhance lift and thrust. The details are somewhat technical - if anyone wants to know

more please email me at brian.anderson@dersingham.org.uk



There is also a behavioural oddity that is not unique to the Red Admiral but most often shown by it. On days that are sunny but only just warm enough for flying, they will land on a sunny wall and sit head down. Warm air rising up the wall by convection is trapped beneath the wings, allowing the butterfly to warm up more quickly.

There are other butterflies very similar to the Red Admiral found in different parts of the

world. The Indian Red Admiral *Vanessa indica* in India and as far west as the Canaries as the subspecies *calliroe*. The Kamehameha butterfly *Vanessa tameamea* is one of the two species of butterfly endemic to Hawaii and is named after a lineage of Hawaiian kings. New Zealand has its own species of Red Admiral *Vanessa gonerilla* which is endemic to New Zealand. The hind wings have quite spectacular eye spots. Its Maori name is *kahukura*, which means "red cloak".



The dispute over classification I mentioned earlier concerns the claim by some lepidopterists that the North American subspecies of *Vanessa atalanta italica* is the same as that found in southern Italy. Others claim that the wing pattern similarity is coincidental and that different subspecies names should be used. Two further things are similar about all these species - their caterpillars all feed on members of the nettle family Urticaceae and they all make tents as described above.

Finally, a word about superstition. Butterflies have attracted superstitions in many cultures but the Red Admiral (and red butterflies in general) seem to have accumulated more than most. A few: Red butterflies denote a powerful soul or spirit. Red butterflies indicate that important news is on the way. A Red Admiral is a witch's familiar. A Red Admiral means good health. Red Admirals are evil and can make you blind. They are a sign of happiness to come ...and so on. Like most superstitions you can choose the one that matches what you already believe. □



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could sing
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And her knicker elastic went ping.

There once was a lady from Fring
Who set out to walk to Dersing-
ham, but was worn-
out by Shernborne,
Vowing next time she'd try cyc-ling.

There was a young lady from Fring
Whose favourite season was spring
She'd spend many hours
Admiring the flowers
And watching the birds on the wing.



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Rescue Wooden Boats Whelker “Bessie” proves to be Dunkirk Little Ship!

Maritime heritage charity Rescue Wooden Boats is absolutely delighted to confirm that their current restoration project, *Bessie*, has been officially recognised as a Dunkirk Little Ship!

Following the successful restoration of their first boat - the much-loved Dunkirk Little Ship and former Wells lifeboat *Lucy Lavers* - Rescue Wooden Boats is now working on *Bessie*. *Bessie*, a former whelker built in 1935 who worked out of Wells harbour, came to the charity in 2011 with rumours of her own Dunkirk history. After months of thorough detective work, Rescue Wooden Boats uncovered several conclusive pieces of evidence which proved that *Bessie* played her own intriguing role in *Operation Dynamo*. In particular, local residents Geraldine Green and Caroline Cox helped provide invaluable family records to support this research - *Bessie* having been originally commissioned by, and built for, their grandfather Billy Cox.



Bessie's Dunkirk story is thrilling. Her skipper, Billy Cox, volunteered to take her as part of a flotilla of four boats on a secret mission to cross the Channel and collect a group of eminent men. The party was rumoured to include the British Ambassador to Belgium, who had been taken prisoner by the Germans. *Bessie* waited in a vulnerable position off the French coast as instructed, for a signal which never came. With her flotilla – all of which were skippered and crewed by the fishermen who owned the boats – she then negotiated the risky return voyage, avoiding capture and attack.

Early in 2018, *Bessie*'s official status as a Dunkirk Little Ship was confirmed by the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships and *Bessie* can now take her place among this illustrious company of historic craft. *Bessie*'s restoration will use skills and materials identical to those in her building and preserve as much of her original fabric as possible – a major undertaking in time and money! Rescue Wooden Boats is seeking 'Bessie Benefactors' to support this work – click here to join the crew www.rescuewoodenboats.com/get-involved/become-a-bessie-benefactor!

Visit our website for more fascinating information about *Bessie* and our project to restore her back to a life on the water: www.rescuewoodenboats.com/our-fishing-boats/whelkers And for more details, contact Liz Rogers info@rescuewoodenboats.com Tel - 07920 760238.□

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1st Dersingham Guides by Jane Wood

Hello, my name is Jane and I am now at the 1st Dersingham Guides with Elizabeth, Steph and Victoria.

The Guides meet on a Friday night from 6:30-8pm, at the scout and guide headquarters in Dersingham.

Guides is for girls aged 10-16years.

This last term we have had a lot of fun. We always like a bit of cooking and this term we have made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, soda bread



for St. Patrick's Day and crispy cakes for part of our end of term fun.

We and a lot of other guides, Brownies and Rainbows went to Lynnsport to enjoy a Thinking Day activity event. We played parachute games, did crafts to do with football around the world and we were put through our paces by the West Norfolk

Football Association. A really good day if a bit cold.

As a group we have also been doing some work on road safety.



We made posters and helmets for eggs out of recycled materials. Four of our girls went forward to come 3rd in our division round of the county road safety quiz. Very well done to them.

We ended the term by inviting some of the older Brownies to join us. The Guides had made a treasure hunt, that they all enjoyed. They all went home with crispy cakes they had made and an Easter egg from us.

On June 16th we will be having our annual summer feté. It starts at 12:30 and is always fun. All money raised goes to the maintenance of the headquarters.

If anyone would like to join us, then contact Elizabeth on 544753 or me Jane on 01485 779009. □





DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE

David Collingham, Chairman, Dersingham Village Centre Association

The Village Centre is really taking shape now and over the spring and summer we will be able to appreciate what it will be able to offer our community with its wonderful large main hall, central meeting hub and two spacious meeting rooms.

EVENTS

Meanwhile, Dersingham Village Centre Association continues to hold events in order to raise further funds for fixtures and fittings, such as tables, chairs, blinds and kitchenware. Your support would be greatly appreciated.



Our last event was a Fashion Evening held on March 14th at St Cecilia's Church. Over 70 of us enjoyed an evening of fashion modeled by local ladies; the evening was complemented by canapés and bubbly. Our thanks to all who volunteered and especially to Allez Chic who provided the "chic" clothes and models.

Next up will be Open Gardens on May 27th and 28th in association with St Nicholas Church, featuring many of our village gardens and the Art Trail which showcases the artistic talents of Dersingham residents. Following that, we hope you will visit our stall at the Community Day on June 10th.

LOTTERY

Winning numbers for April were: 73, 2, 69. We encourage new Lottery applications for the monthly cash prizes. To apply, please download the form from our website: www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk or call in at the Parish Office in Post Office Road.

BOOKINGS FOR THE NEW CENTRE

We are taking bookings for the new Centre (main hall and meeting rooms) from October onwards. Hire charges and booking applications are shown on the website, www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk



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There was a young lady from Fring
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2nd Dersingham Brownies head Down Under



The Easter holidays saw 18 girls from the 2nd Dersingham Brownies and their leaders headed to Swaffham for their annual four day Brownie Holiday. This year they were heading "Down Under" as their holiday had an Australian theme to link in with the

Commonwealth Games. The four sixes were named after State Capitals - Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney, whilst the leaders were all Australian animals.



Throughout the holiday the girls achieved lots of badges depending on how many Pack holidays they had been on: all the girls achieved their Crafts badge, but for those on their first holiday they also gained Pack Holiday and Cooks; Second timers gained Pack Holiday Advanced and third timers gained Brownies Go For It (a series of Guide themed activities to prepare the girls for what lies ahead in Guides).



The girls completed these badges by helping with the washing up!, preparing the meals, keeping their six bedrooms tidy and taking part in all the activities. In the Craft room the girls created sheep coasters (there are lots of sheep in Australia), a snake mobile, an animal mask, painted their own Aboriginal dot painting (using cotton buds), made and decorated a medal for the Commonwealth games and created a jigsaw of a Commonwealth flag.



During the holiday the weather was very changeable, but we were very lucky that on our day out to Thetford forest it did not rain. Whilst in the forest the girls created a Journey Stick - when you attach interesting objects that you find to a stick as you walk to remind you of your journey and stems from an aboriginal custom. We also "hugged a tree" - a game where the girls hugged a tree blindfolded, they were then lead away from the tree and the blindfold was removed and they

had to try to find "their" tree. It was very funny to watch. The girls also enjoyed all the swings and climbing frames in the Wild Play area, made lots of noise with the instruments they found on the Sound Trail before den building and eating an ice cream - there was also a picnic lunch squeezed in between everything else.



On Sunday morning we held a Brownies Own service with songs, prayers and a group performing the story of the Good Samaritan - a story chosen to remind us that as Brownies we should always try to help other people.

Bedtime is always an exciting time when away from home and the girls enjoyed a Pyjama Parade, silly games, marshmallow toasting and an indoor campfire singsong.

Throughout the holiday the girls earned lots of points and this year the Melbourne Six were victorious by one point. The holiday ended with Gracie and Jasmina jumping over the toadstall to Guides. Plans are already in place in next year.□

The Sandringham Newsletter

By kind permission of the Sandringham estate
Compiled by Helen Walch



Gardens staff spent most of March completing winter pruning and undertaking the annual task of pruning and tying in the red-twigged limes which surround the North Garden. Heavy snow was rather a shock to the system, but with milder weather returning the Gardens looked beautiful as Sandringham opened to the public at Easter, with daffodils in full bloom and magnolias and camellias beginning to come out.

On the Farm, all the sugar beet has finally been lifted and the final yield looks likely to be close to a record. Horse manure from the Sandringham Stud was spread ready to be ploughed in prior to spring barley being sown. Severe cold and snow in March, and near-constant rain in early April made any land work impossible, which will put pressure on Farm staff to get their spring work load completed in a shorter period of time. In particular, lambing over the Easter weekend, with its almost constant rain, was very difficult.



Work to upgrade some disused buildings at the Sawmill was completed last year and two local businesses are now based there. Cooper & Co Kitchens are a bespoke carpentry and joinery service and Bespoke Cutters offer specialist joinery and wood cutting.



This year's exhibition in the Museum looks at flowers and gardens, pulling together from the collections in Sandringham House English porcelain, Japanese lacquer and painted views of the Sandringham gardens, most of which have never been on display before.

Sandringham House opened to the public on Easter Saturday; the Bank Holiday weekend was cold and wet

but busy both in the House and Gardens and at the Visitor Centre. Visitor Centre staff are now looking ahead and finalising plans for Saturday 19th May, to celebrate the wedding of HRH Prince Harry and Ms Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle on that day. □

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World War 1 Battlefields Tour, April 2018

Ron and Grace Cossou

We have recently returned from a visit to the WW1 Battlefields and having seen the last issue of village voice with the “Old Map Corner” showing the various positions of the



British Front we decided to take it with us (sorry we don't have a picture of this).

We started our first day in Ypres, where we visited the impressive “In Flanders Fields Museum” and learnt how and why World War 1 started. There were a number of Hi Tech visual displays, including a table top display showing the flooding of the valley in order to deny the ground to the enemy. In the afternoon we visited three different cemeteries; Essex Farm Cemetery and Advanced Dressing Station, built into the canal bank; a German cemetery where the square grave stones were flat on the

ground, as opposed to upright ones; and last but not least, “Tyne Cot” which is the largest commonwealth cemetery in the world. We ended the day, attending the ceremony of “The last post” at the Menin Gate, led by the Australians (it was ANZAC day on the 23 April). The Menin Gate is a memorial to 54,896 Commonwealth soldiers, fallen before 15th August 1917 on the Ypres front, without a known grave. Their names are inscribed into the walls. The gate is built on the site where British troops left for the front. At the start of the First World War there were two Lions on plinths on either side of the road leading through the ramparts walls of Ypres. Thousands of troops marched along this road to the front, including the Australians in 1917 (In 1936 the city of Ypres presented these lions as a gift to the Australian War Memorial).



The second day saw us in the town of Peronne, where we visited the “Grande Guerre



Museum.” The town suffered heavy shelling during the Battle of the Somme in 1916, almost being razed to the ground. It was liberated by the Australians in September 1918. That afternoon we did a Somme Battlefields Tour, which was very interesting. We saw the Front Line, where we walked in trenches, (now dry) which were 6ft deep, and wide enough for 2 men to pass, these were not in straight lines but were zig zag shaped; No Man's Land, beyond which there was a ravine which was



known as "Y Ravine" due to its shape, this was held by the Germans, on the other side. There is still an old tree (white of course due to the blasting) on the edge of the British Lines, which the men were told not to go beyond, where they would then be within range. We also visited the Lochnagar crater, this huge mine crater, of 91 metres in diameter and 21 metres in depth, was created after a series of mines were blown at 07.28 on 1st July 1916 marking the beginning of the Battle of The Somme. However, it didn't quite go to plan, as two of them went off early, alerting the Germans who retreated to cover. Nearby was The Thiepval Memorial, an imposing 45-metre-high monument, to over 72,000 British and South African men who died in the Somme between July 1915

and March 1918 who have no known grave. Their names are inscribed on the 16 pillars making up the base of the monument. We thought this visit was well worth the effort, if a little tiring, and would recommend it to anyone interested in WW1. □





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St Nicholas Church News Prison



Most people have a Bible somewhere; if we lived in North Korea we would all have been arrested and be in prison. We would be incarcerated into a Labour Camp along with between 50,000 -70,000 other Christians. Allow me to give you another insight and another reality check.

Being found with a Bible in North Korea results in being 'disappeared'. Teachers at schools ask the children: Do your parents have a secret book at home that they don't want you to tell people about? If a child inadvertently told a teacher that they had a Bible, by the time the child got home the parents would no longer be there. Adults have to keep the faith from children until they are old enough to understand the threats and realities from the oppressive regime.

Christians live in an atmosphere of fear, fear of being found. A Christian's fear is that there is a Judas in their underground church or group of believers. The people of North Korea have to bow before both the leader and his ancestors statues; seen as deities. Each home, school and public building has to have a photo of the three great leaders, failure to maintain and clean them results in arrest.

When you look at a satellite image of North Korea, it is clear to see most of the country is without electric light and in darkness, there is also little food for people. Within North Korea there is a form of slavery which echoes the state of God's people enslaved by Pharaoh in Egypt. Moses and the Israelites sang the song to the Lord (Exodus 15) in rejoicing that the Lord had saved them from the dark valley that they were in. God set them free from Pharaoh who sent his chariots charging ahead to catch the Israelites but when they got to the Red Sea they were washed over by the water.

The people of North Korea need freedom from the false god of the leader Kim Jung un. GOD can change hearts and minds. As the words from the Psalmist encourages:

"In my anguish I cried to the LORD, and he answered by setting me free. The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? The LORD is with me; he is my helper". (Psalm 118:5-7). We pray that God will set all people of North Korea free. Even with so much persecution the church continues to grow in North Korea as people come to a living faith, the Bible is so precious to them. In recent days in world news, there have been encouraging signs for the future for the Korean Peninsula, but it is certainly early days, we continue to pray. Having a Bible today in North Korea is both valuable for faith but costly for freedom. What value do we place upon the Bible?

Rev Mark Capron Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne
www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

Future Events at St Nicholas Church – Don't forget our Coffee Mornings 1st Friday of the month in Church!

Saturday 2nd June at 7.00pm – Chanters Jigge – songs, ayres, jigs and jollies from around Europe performed on ancient, traditional and modern instruments – Tickets £6 – Family Tickets available £16 from 01485 544561

Saturday 7th July at 7.00pm – Matthew Bason – Back by popular demand a Musical Variety Show Tickets £6

Children's Holiday Club – 31st July – 3rd August 10am to 2pm
For children aged 5 to 11 with Bible stories, Crafts & Games and lots of fun.
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Dersingham Evening WI By Maggie Guest

The April meeting is our Birthday, so we always have to have a bit of a party! The party food and drink was shopped for and prepared by committee members and enjoyed by the 53 people who came. Our thanks to all the committee who helped with serving and clearing up. After the refreshments, members played board games like Ludo and Snakes and Ladders. No one needed instructions! Everyone seemed to enjoy doing this and the evening was deemed a success.

Each meeting, members who have a birthday that month are given a posy made by voluntary members who take turns to make the Birthday Posies. Jackie did January birthdays, Margaret did February, Jackie did March and Diann did April. Others lined up for the rest of the year.

Besides the monthly meeting with speakers or activities we have many sub-groups which are varied and smaller so a good way to meet and chat to new people.

The theatre group, headed by Diann, went to see The Secret Garden staged by King's Lynn Players. This was a most amazing production with faultless words and perfect scenery changes. Well worth going to. How does the group work? Well, Diann finds a show that she feels people might enjoy then she finds out how many people



want to go before buying the tickets. She then finds people willing to drive and organises who will go in which car. The other trip she arranged was to see 'Blake' a pop-opera group at the Corn Exchange. Very talented young men who sing in perfect harmony with many of their own arrangements. Another great evening, thank you Diann.

Babs has been in over-drive running two craft groups then two excellent walks. First was a local walk starting in Heath Road, going through Sandringham woods before coming down Dodds Hill and into 'Petals', our lovely new tea room for sustenance. Lovely! (Interestingly, my scarf dropped off along the route and it was six days before I had time to retrace my steps and, I am delighted to report, someone had hung it securely on a post. (Restored my faith in human nature or maybe it just wasn't worth taking!) The second walk started at Leziat Village Hall and went on paths by fields before crossing the road to the Bawsey pits. It was a lovely sunny day and the sand and water looked wonderful. The pits were full of the recent precipitation and in one place there was evidence of one of them overflowing onto the paths. Wet feet! Such a tempting place to relax but we are all aware of the perils there. Sadly, we saw evidence of BBQs and

parties that had been enjoyed but the participants had not bothered to take any of the detritus away from the site. Sad at such a beautiful spot!

We, however, went to the Farmers Arms for our refreshments.

The Fit 'n' Dancing continues to flourish and the members who go are really enjoying the sessions under Peg's expert eye. The MAD group, run by Stephanie, is still well supported and the members continue to knit for charity in a group situation while they



'natter'. I will report more on these groups next issue. The MAD group are always pleased to have any spare wool you may have. Contacts below if you have. Our new committee members Cyn and Lyn are continuing to impress us with their dining group. The last meal was at The Victoria in Snettisham. The outing attracted twenty members and we were looked after very well. Our thanks to them.

There are several day outings coming up including Springfields , Ely Cathedral Flower Festival and the Royal Norfolk Show. We have a coffee morning in members' homes once a month except August when this year, as last, we are having tea in Diane's pretty garden. Details are on the monthly newsletter of all events.

*There was a young lady from Fring
Who always wore plenty of bling.
In each jewellery store,
She would try on some more
As the jeweller rubbed hands, Kerching!!*

The next **meeting** of the WI is **June 20th** when Maureen Rispin entertains us with the title 'Mrs Watts visits Queen Mary'. That sounds interesting!
The one on **July 18th** sees a speaker from the RNL, which is appropriate for a coastal region like ours.

All meetings are at St Cecilia's Church (next to the Co-op) and start at 7.15pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month –except August.□

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CPRE Norfolk Alliance

CPRE Norfolk is our county branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England. With so much countryside in Norfolk there is always plenty to do in trying to ensure development is appropriate to its proposed location, as well as other aspects such as protecting our dark skies and tranquillity. Having said this, CPRE Norfolk is not against development *per se*, as we appreciate the need for more housing in particular, especially when it's meeting real need, such as that for affordable homes in villages, enabling local people to live near their families and employment, or for example for retired residents wanting to downsize.

Across Norfolk our Local Authorities have Local Plans in place which have already allocated sites for sufficient new housing, given current and historic build rates, to last for over 20 more years of construction, and yet many more sites are being added into new and emerging plans. CPRE Norfolk's calling for a common sense approach to be used for these new sites, which is for these only to be built-out once the vast majority of sites in existing plans are completed. This will mean that the most appropriate sites will be built first, providing homes where they are more needed, rather than allowing more of our precious countryside's greenfield sites to be lost to unnecessary development. This is more likely to happen as developers understandably prefer to build on sites which will give them the highest returns, which often means attractive rural sites. Instead, we urge Councils to adopt policies which ensure that existing sites are built out first, thus denying the opportunity to cherry-pick the most profitable sites, which are not likely to provide the homes which are most needed in the most suitable locations.

This approach has already gained the support of 142 Parish and Town Councils across Norfolk, as they have signed a pledge to this effect. With threats of unplanned development increasing, particularly when Councils are unable to demonstrate a 5 year supply of land for housing, as well as those new sites coming on stream in the emerging Local Plans, we hope that more Parish and Town Councils will sign our pledge. A full list of the signatories to date is available on our website at: <http://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Alliance-Pledge-Signatures.pdf> along with further details of our organisation, which is a registered charity, and our other work and campaigns at: <http://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/> If your village or town has not signed yet, please consider asking your Council to do so. I can be contacted at the email address below and can also provide advice on other planning issues.

Michael Rayner, CPRE Norfolk Planning Campaigns Consultant,
michaelr@cprenorfolk.org.uk □

Dersingham Methodist Church Flower Festival

Funds raised from the flower festival will be for church funds and the Fund for the Rifton Dynamic Walker for Alfie Rump. Alfie is 8 years old, lives with his family in Norfolk and has spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy. Alfie is unable to stand unaided and has used various standing frames and walkers since he was about eighteen months old. However over the years he has grown out of these, his present walker is very uncomfortable which means he is unable to stand up, move about and play football.

The Rifton Walker is a more up-to-date model of the one he has used in the past. It is very sturdy, adjustable with a maximum height which would last Alfie a long time. He has already tested the walker out and he loved it. The walkers are expensive and costs will be well over £3,000, we will be donating £500 to Alfie's fund. □



There was a young lady from Fring
Who wore bracelets and chains and a ring
They weighed more than a pound
And dragged on the ground
But she said "I'm addicted to bling"

There was a young woman from Fring
Whose bicycle bell wouldn't ring
So with a big yawn
She fitted a horn
So to Sedgeford a honk she could bring

There was a young lady from Fring
Who bought a bikini of string
But when she went for a swim
The outcome was grim
It shrunk and revealed EVERYTHING



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Bog News

From Tom Bolderstone



In the last article we were looking forward to the arrival of spring but as I am writing now the weather seems more winter like with 50mph gusts and strong winds. The weather has been a bit summer like though with warm temperatures a few weeks ago leading to the sightings of lots of butterflies and singing birds.

Spring is a very important time at Dersingham Bog NNR with the arrival of migrant birds to breed and the setting up of territories by our resident birds. Birds such as Blackbirds and Robins will have already set up territories and have nests and one of Dersingham Bog NNR's key birds, the Woodlark, is also likely to be set up on its territory and nesting.

The Woodlark is a ground nesting bird and whilst the recent spell of warm weather will have been good for them the recent cold spells and heavy rain and winds could have had an effect. One of the major problems is ensuring that in this weather that the parents can feed themselves and any young they might have and with prolonged rain and wind, insects can be particularly hard to come by. They are also vulnerable to disturbance as they nest on the ground and this risk of disturbance coupled with bad weather can make it very tricky for them. It's at this time of year that we remind people about the importance of keeping dogs on leads on the site.

Another bird which is a resident and nests on site is the Stonechat and last year the site held record numbers of nesting pairs. This year however the picture is a little different and this is most likely due to the wintery weather earlier in the year. Stonechats are particularly vulnerable to cold weather and the recent "Beast from the East" seems to have had an impact with numbers of pairs about half of what they were in 2017. The Stonechat nests very close to the ground and is reliant on insects to feed themselves and any young. This season we as in previous years there is a dedicated team of volunteers monitoring the Stonechat population on site and monitoring the outcome of the nests. It will be interesting to see how the rain and wind in late April/early May have affected the first nesting attempts. All Stonechats born on the site are ringed under a British Trust for Ornithology colour ringing licence and sport a combination of colour rings. These rings mean that we can identify a bird individually. Sightings of these birds can be reported to - www.northwestnorfolkstonechats.wordpress.com Sightings of colour ringed Stonechats are valuable as they give us lots of information on the bird's movements and by being able to individually identify a bird means that things like family trees and nesting histories can be created in the future. Stonechats colour ringed at Dersingham have been seen in Snettisham Coastal Park, Roydon Common, East Norfolk, the Suffolk Coast and Cambridgeshire which are all really good movements for the site.

As May continues the distinctive churr (song) of the Nightjar will be able to be heard on the heath. As the season progresses staff and volunteers will be out surveying these nocturnal avian creatures to see whether the numbers have changed since last season. As the warmer evenings begin to appear it's worth taking a walk at dusk to listen for Nightjar on the site. If you are going to do this always remember to take a torch, sensible footwear and plenty of insect repellent for those mozzies!

Thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk □

There was a young lady from Fring
Who like Kylie she wanted to sing
But after much karaoke
In bars that were smokey
She ended up sounding like Bing

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Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny



Dodds Hill

Well here we go again, another page or two of fact, fiction and squit from my pen for the 112 issue of Dersingham Village Voice. It was nice to see a letter from John Melton (no relation). John and I went to school together (bottom school and top school). In those days (1940s and 50s) John lived with his parents and his sister in one of the keepers' cottages right by the cross roads at the top of Dodds Hill. Those days as you turned into Doddshill Road from Manor Road there was the drill hall on your left and then the allotments - they went half way up Dodds Hill. Then you came to six estate cottages, then a grass meadow, till you got to the two keepers' cottages. Just over the cross roads there is four more cottages on the left but they are in Lyng House Road. About a mile further on, at the end of Lyng House Road, were three cottages and one house. Even though they are well out of the village they are still in the parish of Dersingham as the parish is like a finger three miles long from the bottom of the marshes to the top of Lyng House Road and a mile and a half wide from Dersingham Wood to High Farm. If we go back to the bottom of Dodds Hill going back up on the right there was the drill hall garages, then a grass meadow which was them days part of the emblements. You then came to an assortment of estate cottages all round a small green, then further up Doddshill Road there was two bungalows and then a field as far as Admiral's Drive. Sandringham estate used to let this field out; for some years it had lavender grown on it; then Ken Martins rented it off the estate and he grew sugar beet, potatoes and barley on it. Them days there was about 30 houses up Dodds Hill, now it is just over 50 and when the houses are built on the allotment site there will be about 80. For many years this area was called Dodd Hill, at one time it was called High Crofts. A long while back when Dersingham was a fishing village it was split in three: the fishermen lived in Chapel Road; the farm workers lived up Dodds Hill; and Manor Road was for shops and other trades like the blacksmith and wheelwright. Dodds Hill has always been a small community of its own. In an Eastern Daily Press book of 700 Norfolk villages it is named as a village 8 miles north east of King's Lynn. When you think about it this makes sense, as there is more people live in Dodds Hill than there is Anmer and Babingley and they have always been villages.

The Wash

I am always getting asked many questions about this area of Norfolk and I had a man ring me up and ask why The Wash is called so. Well, before all the land around The Wash was reclaimed the five large rivers that run into The Wash - the Steeping, the Witham, the Welland, the Nene and the Great Ouse - would flow through the surrounding countryside and wash over the land. There is still an area at Welney called Welney Wash.

The area of The Wash is 4,157 hectares; the salt marsh around The Wash is 6,000 years old. Between 2,500 and 3,000 common seals make their home in The Wash. The numbers of birds that winter in The Wash are: knot 75,000, oystercatcher 24,000, Brent goose 17,000 and dunlin 29,000. This count is from 2004 so these figures could have gone up or down a lot since then. As most of us know the waters of The Wash run out into the North Sea. This sea before the First World War was called the German Ocean.

A large-scale reclamation of The Wash got under way in 1632 when a Dutch man called Vermuyden embanked 1,120 acres of wash in the area of the Nene estuary. By 1660 a massive 17,374 acres of The Wash around Gedney, Whaplode, Holbeach and Moulton had been reclaimed. The four main rivers that empty into The Wash are the Witham, Welland, Nene, and the Great Ouse. Before their alteration, the river estuaries on the Lincolnshire side of The Wash were sandy and a mecca for the cult of sea bathing in the late 18th and 19th centuries, notably at Fosdyke Wash, Skirbeck, and Gedney Drove End, but most particularly at Freiston shore, where hotels were developed and an annual summer sand fair was held with horse races. All of this came to an abrupt halt with the opening of the Witham Cut in 1885, which stimulated new salt marsh to develop along the shores to the north.

In 1839 a plan was put forward to turn The Wash into a new county and call it Victoria, after the

Queen; in 1928 it was proposed to harness the tidal power of The Wash and turn it into electricity; in 1930 a Wash speedway was proposed between the mouth of the Witham and Gibraltar Point with a 12 mile TT track, a 6 mile motorboat speedway, aerodrome, hotels, amusement park and a grandstand 4 miles long; in 1960 some businessmen came up with the idea to build a barrage with locks and sluices to cut off about half the area of The Wash to build a city for 750,000 people, with an airport, and road and rail links to the rest of the United Kingdom.

In the mid 1970s two large fresh water reservoirs were built at the southern end of The Wash just off Terrington as an experiment to turn the whole of The Wash into a fresh water lake. Over the years a lot of people have come up with all sorts of ideas to change the format of The Wash, such as a ferry or hovercraft service from Hunstanton to Skegness, a new pier and inner harbour for Hunstanton, a bridge from Gore Point near Holme to Gibraltar Point near Wainfleet, a sea life park with performing dolphins and whales, but up to this day none of these projects have come about. So for the present time The Wash will just stay, as it is, a haven for wildlife and people alike.

97 years ago

I have many books (over 300), as I like reading. The books I read most are reference books. I came across one the other day that gave me the acreage and population of many local villages in the year 1921. At that time Dersingham covered 3,573 acres of land with 8 acres of water and the population was 1,412, and I reckon now there is about 5,000 people living in the village. I was very surprised by the population of Babingley. It covers 861 acres and the population in 1921 was 83. There was only about 16 houses in Babingley so there is probably not so many people as that living there now.

In 1921 the population of Shernborne was 137, Anmer 155. People had large families them days and also many people were wanted to work on the land. Sandringham covers 1,172 acres with 96 people living there. At the same time 260 people lived in West Newton, most of these would work on the Sandringham estate. Wolferton covers 2,947 acres of land and water with a population in 1921 of 199, most of these people would no doubt work on the estate too. Fritcham was the largest in acreage of the estate villages, covering 4,223 acres, which included Appleton, and the population was 355. It makes you wonder where they all lived; there must have been some very big families. There was 256 people living in Hillington and it covered 2,530 acres of land and 9 acres of water. Castle Rising has 2,530 acres of land, 9 acres of water and a population of 236; I reckon most of these must have lived in the old castle.

There are three Birchams - Great, Newton and Tofts - and all three cover a total of 6,456 acres with a joint population of 749. The largest village in area near to Dersingham is Snettisham with 5,592 acres of land, 37 acres of tidal water, another 16 acres of still water and 1,342 acres of foreshore, with a population of 1,443. Heacham covers 3,514 acres with a population of 2,248 in 1921. 225 acres of Heacham Common were enclosed from the sea. Now we come to (new) Hunstanton, which only has acreage of 559 with a population in 1921 of 3,100, but the way the new houses are being built there will soon be over 5,000 people living in (new) Hunstanton.

Well that's the lot for now, keep on a troshin.□

There was a young lady from Fring
Who said "hey I know just the thing"
Let's go down to Hunny
Where it's always sunny
And stand on the clifftop and sing

There was a young lady from Fring
Who loved all the music by Sting
Always singing along
Though the sound is so wrong
But what pleasure music can bring



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Dersingham Library Events in July

Dersingham now has Open Library meaning you can access the library **between 8am and 7pm Monday to Friday and 10-4 Saturday and Sunday**, 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 - Mondays 1.30-3pm

Jigsaw club – Wednesdays 2-3pm

Knit and natter - Thursdays 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 Kerry at the library on 01485 540181 if you'd like to find out more.

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

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

Colour yourself calm - Wednesday 4th July 10.30-12

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

Crime Book Club - Monday 9th July 5.45-6.45pm (please note new start time)

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

Book Club - Monday 16th July 5.45-6.45pm (please note new start time)

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

Summer reading challenge launch – Wednesday 18th July 3-7pm

Come along and sign up for this year's summer reading challenge "Mischief makers"

Read six books over the summer holidays and get a certificate and a medal.

Walk and talk group – Thursday 19th July 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.

Need help with your computer or tablet?

Why not book a one-to-one session with library staff? Charges apply. Please ask staff for details.

Family History and Computer volunteer

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

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

There was a young lady from Fring
Who had wishes to buy everything
But she said with a sigh
Sadly money can't buy
Love and a gold wedding ring.

There was a young lady from Fring
Who thought rock climbing was her thing
But after slipping and falling
She ended up bawling
With black eyes and her arm in a sling

**Words Music
and Afternoon Tea
with strawberries
at**

**St Mary's Church Snettisham
Sunday June 24th at 3pm**

**Tickets from The Grapes Gallery Snettisham
£5.00 each**

**Heather Wells (soprano) Grace Ng (piano)
David Young (clarinet)
Marian Abramovich (piano)**





The Dersingham Walking Group

In the last issue of Village Voice I wrote about rain, snow and other wild weather and this certainly proved to be true for a couple of our spring walks. At the end of March our planned tour of Fring was completely rained off, whilst on April 11th part of our intended route starting from Ken Hill, Snettisham had to be abandoned due to flooding of the fields that we were proposing to walk across! Ah well that's the glory of Britain's weather, you never know what it will have in store from one day to the next. Hopefully, by the time you read this edition of Village Voice things will be a bit more summery. As I sit here at the computer, in late April, it's a balmy 23 degrees and the garden is bathed in sunshine. But that, of course, is today and it will be nearly a month before you read this!

Coming up over the next couple of months are some of my favourite walks. The fields and woods that cover the area between Hillington and Grimston have many walking routes and our leader Pat Reed knows them all! She will show some of them to us on the afternoon of 13th June. Elizabeth Fiddick also knows the area well, having led many walks there, but on the evening of the 27th June she will guide us up the Norfolk Coast Path from Brancaster, before bringing us down to Brancaster beach and back past the Golf Club to complete the circuit. There are some lovely views on this walk, over the coast and to Titchwell village.

In July, Tony Bubb will show us the fields and footpaths that are just on the edge of King's Lynn, near the bank of the Ouse. You wouldn't think that the bustle of the town was so near. Our final walk in July will be the exhilarating circuit from Ringstead down to Holme and back. This is a slightly longer walk than some of the others, but it's well worth it. We've tried to run it twice before and been rained off both times, so surely it will be 'third time lucky'?

Full details of all these walks are below, including the National Grid reference if you're not sure about the exact start point. There's also information on the Dersingham Walking Group web page, which you can find on the Parish Council website at www.dersingham.org.uk/walkinggroup/. Or you can phone the leader of the particular walk to get more information. Note that we haven't yet sorted out a leader for our walk on the 25th July, but one of us will do it!

There is no cost involved with Dersingham Walking Group walks, just turn up with your boots on. Dogs are welcome on most walks, provided they are well behaved and tolerant of other dogs. The leader of the walk will do his or her best to look after you, of course, but it is a condition of coming on a walk that you take responsibility for your own safety. As that great hiker Alfred Wainwright said "watch where you put your feet!"
Stephen Martyn

Our next few walks

Wednesday 13th June 2.00pm

A circular walk from Hillington to Grimston and return. Meet in the big lay-by on the A148 opposite the road from Sandringham. 4.5 miles. Leader: Pat Reed 01485 540757. Start point grid ref: TF 712 253.

Wednesday 27th June 6.30pm

Another evening walk, with some great views over the coast and the village of Titchwell. Meet at Brancaster church. 4.5 miles. Leader: Elizabeth Fiddick 01485 540940. Start point grid ref: TF 772 438.

Wednesday 11th July 2.00pm

A walk along the bank of the River Ouse and the surrounding fields. The start point is in Crossbank Rd, near King's Lynn Docks, where there is plenty of parking along the road. 4

miles. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638. Start point grid ref: TF 612 215.

Wednesday 25th July 2.00pm

We will meet at Greenbank Rd, Ringstead for a lovely walk down to Holme and back. This will be the third time we've attempted this route the first two being rained off! But it's a great walk. About 5.5 miles. Leader: To Be Confirmed. Start point grid ref: TF 706 420.

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.

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

The Skills Service working with

Dersingham Parish Council and Dersingham Village Centre Association

The next **FREE** Business Breakfast will be held on Tuesday June 5th at St Cecilia's Church, Mountbatten Road.

A light breakfast is served from 7:30am, presentations at 8:00, informal networking from 8:45.

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

Key Speakers are - Petals Tea Room, Nikki Williamson (Cloud Cabin) and Jacqui Farrell.

Dersingham Works brings together representatives from local businesses, self-employed people, and would-be entrepreneurs with training providers and advice agencies, to discuss common issues including recruitment, apprenticeships, business development, and marketing.

We also wish to develop our links with local schools to help better prepare young people for employment and work with adults to improve their employability.

The next event will be on Tuesday October 2nd, at the new Village Centre.

Jacqui Farrell

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

e: jacqui.farrell@theskillsservice.co.uk

w: www.theskillsservice.co.uk

There was a young lady from Fring
Who made models from paper and
string

With the help of some foil
She built the Ark Royal
'Twas a truly remarkable thing

There was a young lady from Fring
The church bells she wanted to ring
Pulling with all her might
Because she's so slight
The sound came out as a ding

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Gardening with Disabilities - *Making Gardening Easier*

From May Davey

Gardening with Disabilities Members will be going on a coach trip to Peckover House in Wisbech for their meeting on Friday 21 May.

The Speaker due for June, Genista Davidson, is regrettably unable to come. Instead the theme will be "Wood". Graham Moore will explain how he makes his "thumb" walking sticks from many different types of woods. Our second speaker will be Peter Bourner from the Royal Sandringham Sawmill describing the company's history and the wide range of products they keep in stock. The meeting will take place at 2.00 pm on Friday 15th June in the Conservatory at Park House.



Last month we had a colourful demonstration of flower arranging from David Benefer, who for many years arranged the flowers at Sandringham House for the Queen. Christmas Day was always very hectic, he said, as he was asked to arrange hastily the many bouquets presented to the Queen after the church service.

In March, May and Chris Davey described, with illustrations, their holiday in Japan, mostly by train, from Osaka in the south to Sapporo in the north through wintry snowscapes. Highlights were the Snow

Monkeys bathing in hot springs in Nagano and the amazing snow and ice sculptures at the Snow Festival in Sapporo.

We welcome guests at all of our meetings. Entrance is £2.00 for a raffle ticket and tea.

The Membership fee is £12.00 per annum. Outings are subsidized for Members. Please contact May Davey (01485-544953) for further details. □



RINGSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

Ringstead Village Club meet once a month (except August) on the first Thursday of the month, at 2pm, in the Village Hall, High Street (next to the Gin Trap inn). You don't have to live in the village to come along to our meetings, everyone is welcome. We invite a variety of speakers throughout the year to come and give talks on a wide variety of subjects, there will be something to interest everyone.

The speaker for our 7th June meeting is Elaine Calvert, who will give a talk on her time as a prison officer.

The 5th July meeting will be a strawberry tea □



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Choir up the Creake! by Steve Davis

Despite the relentless wet weather, a good crowd turned out on the evening of Saturday 28th April to The Church of Our Lady St Mary, South Creake to hear Hunstanton Community Choir give their first big concert of the year.

As always, our programme, under the musical directorship of Simon Bower, was light and varied ranging from the reflective strains of *Lacrymosa* from Mozart's Requiem and Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine* to the much beloved *Rhythm of Life* (Coleman and Fields) and *The Warthog Song* by Flanders and Swann, culminating (after many weeks of intense practice) in our premier choral performance of Freddie Mercury's *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

The concert was further punctuated by guest performances from Ursula Frances on oboe, whose performance included a rendition of *Gabriel's Oboe* by Ennio Morricone, ably accompanied by Simon on piano. Then our talented choir pianist Matthew Preston was joined by his pianistic sparring partner Benjamin Howell, who together operate under the name of *The Missing Coda*, for a dazzling display of their piano duet, or rather piano *duel* dexterity!

Check them out at - www.facebook.com/The-Missing-Coda-346190232440928

The good news is that our Summer Concert will be held in **St Edmund's Church, Hunstanton** on **Saturday 30th June** starting at **7:30pm** – tickets **£6** (including refreshments).

Membership of the choir includes an ever-increasing cohort from Dersingham and full details, including joining and future events can be found on the website at - www.hunstantonchoir.co.uk □



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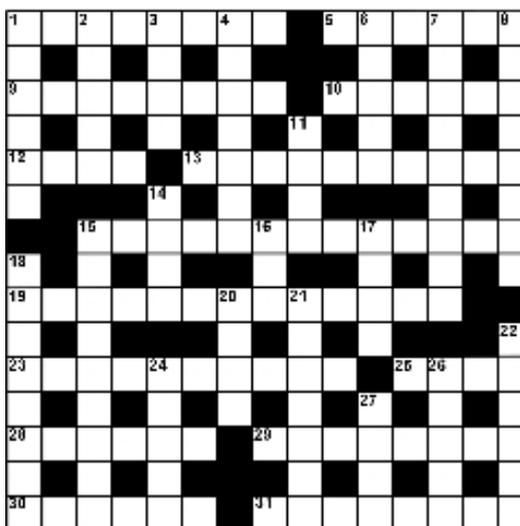
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PUZZLE CORNER

Crossword 10 by Philip Neal

Across

- 1 Princess went to Taj Mahal to see manuscript figures (8)
- 5 Stick commercial on this spot (6)
- 9 Employee who got the sack on 1st Sep. assembled containers (8)
- 10 Dress circle to accommodate minister (6)
- 12 Lies about man for example (4)
- 13 Personal assistant made ace dip – but not in the Boy Scouts (4-2-4)
- 15 Could Kevin (seasick) put part of legal document into use (6,7)
- 19 First Lady returned after small change for minor striker (6,7)
- 23 Doctor Rio ate male to feel better (10)
- 25 Lazy Eric (4)
- 28 Surprise! Fruit found within boundaries of Bury (6)
- 29 Reconditioned cleat hit in Forfar (8)
- 30 Join up on silent ground (6)
- 31 Shows consideration for ladies but not for his date (6,2)



Down

- 1 After training Ali made a bloomer (6)
- 2 Almanac missed a recall (5)
- 3 Republican honoured in dressing gown (4)
- 4 Same pig played for Nottingham flyers (7)
- 6 Research into strudel very tasty (5)
- 7 Set aside organ with evangelist and journalist (9)
- 8 Leak out around notice adventure (8)
- 11 Is there still one in Tibet? (4)
- 14 P.M. left fashionable district to find blonde (4)
- 15 Friendly conga line dances (9)
- 16 One pound off toy fosters self-confidence (3)
- 17 I entered Doonicans little bottle (4)
- 18 W.W.2 Pilot Officer Harry Chambers aboard following this alarm (8)
- 20 Rory warning when woods abandoned saint (4)
- 21 Sailor joins reserves in retreat – or is that the door? (3,1,3)
- 22 Leaves trophy ace put off and feel such a mug (3,3)
- 24 Designs set aside assembly inclusively (5)
- 26 Dined in distinguished service meetings (5)
- 27 I'm covering city scheme (4)

Sudoku

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

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WORD WALL BY Philip Neal

Sort the following into 4 groups of connected words

CHIPMUNK	GRYPHON	MAGIC	SABRE
EPEE	DODO	CAPYBARA	LEMMING
VOLE	BURN	BOX	FLAMINGO
MAIL	DORMOUSE	SHEFFIELD UTD.	KUKRI

**The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle.
By Valerie Anckorn**

Little things annoy me. Like the un-made-up hands of TV personalities, while their faces are orange or brown. They wave their white hands in front of their faces and it looks ludicrous. Why don't the makeup artists plonk a bit of goo and powder on them and save me from apoplexy?



And where have all the 'soused' herrings, or roll-mop herrings gone? I'm pretty sure I'm not pregnant, but I have been having cravings for roll mops, and no-where local does them. I used to make them myself in days of yore. I felt very grown up slitting open the herrings, then laying them face down on the table, pressing down the back ridge, which separated the bones, then rolling them up with chopped onions inside and dunking them in a vinegar mix. I suppose if I can't find a nearer supply than King's Lynn, then I shall have to do that again - but then, where will I find herrings? That nice fish man outside the Co-op said he can't get them anymore. What is the world coming to? It's been devoured by plastic, that's what.

If only plastic containers could be demolished. I just can't undo the things and, eventually, when I have, the bin is filled up with all this rubbish every day, and now we learn the ocean is filled with the stuff, fish are dying - so that's what has happened to herrings, they have all swallowed plastic - and we are inhaling tiny particles so in the end we will be done for. Well, you and I will be long gone, but what if my belief is that we return, reincarnated? What kind of planet will we be returning to, I ask?

I've had to cease my dance classes for a while. Doing 'skippidy-skips' when I knew I shouldn't, I mucked up my leg again, and it keeps buckling under. Old age is such a nuisance. I can still remember the wonderful feeling of running like the wind and winning all the flat races at school and yet these days I am lucky if I make it from my car and into the woods and back - at a slow stagger. I take Rosie and Florence, their leads all tangled around my legs as they disregard my commands to 'heel', and I totter along with the aid of my stick, beautifully decoupage by my very self, and am always grateful when I make it back to the car. Sometimes I notice another grey-haired lady battling along with her dog, aided by her stick too - her, not the dog - and I smile to myself. At least we are giving it a go. I take copious photos as I totter, in order to replicate a scene in watercolour, but to date have not accomplished one.

I nearly sent both dogs and the cat to the RSPCA recently as I just wasn't coping with them at all, but now Florence has been spayed and the cat neutered, things seem to have evened out at last. Or maybe it was the cracks in the ozone layer where electrical charges were doing all sorts of strange things and affecting us and our electrical items. (Did you read the very interesting piece about it in the last Village Voice?)

Trouble is, winter is such a depressing time. It's a jolly good idea, if you can afford it, to disappear to sunny climes to overwinter but we've spent any savings we had forking out on dogs, the cats, their bedding and vet bills, copious fencing to keep them in, while we could have gone on a lovely calming cruise to the Bahamas...but then, I wouldn't find myself laughing out loud at the antics our pets get up to, or smiling benignly at Conker-Brown when he nestles down on my chest and purrs and purrs and purrs and I can't help kissing his soft brown fur...it would be lovely to have a cruise, but that is only for a week or so, and I have my lovely furry friends (even if they do send me a bit potty at times) to make me smile most of the time.

I'm on a vicious circle of sleep deprivation at the moment. I tend to go to bed early and therefore wake early, but maybe because Remote Control Man works on shifts, I wake at 3 or 4 a.m. and after that it is impossible to return to sleep. So I watch the TV from my bed, starting by sitting up to do so, then sinking down further and further, getting sleepier and sleepier and then in a dozy state I grope out to find the controls and the damn thing is nowhere to be found. I bash around with my hand and I'm still not finding it and in the end, I have to sit up and thoroughly search by which time, of course, I am wide awake again. I get so mad with myself and also with the noise of the adverts which I haven't been able to mute. So, I lie there thinking, "I could take the dogs out early, then" and lie there a bit longer. "I'll get up any time now and walk the dogs." But ... maybe another cup of coffee.... then I let the cat into my room and he chases a feather around and brings it to me to throw (just like a dog) so we have a little game of throw and retrieve that lasts a while. "Right," I say to myself, "Let's get up now and walk the dogs" then Bonkers Conkers settles down on my chest, purring like there's no tomorrow - and I can't resist enjoying that - so what with one thing and another the dogs don't get walked and I get fatter and fatter with legs that don't work properly any more while the dogs snarl and snap at each other, amongstst the hay that I have stuffed their room full of. That's bad grammar, I think, but never mind. Seems that bad grammar and spelling doesn't matter anymore these days....

Yes, I have a room full of straw with hay on top in my house. A bit unconventional, I realise, but it does the trick and the dogs look very happy in it. I can keep the door open to their compound while they burrow down to keep warm and, when the sun does shine, they lie flat out, sunbathing on top of the hay. Lovely. Takes me back to my childhood. There is nothing quite like the gorgeous smell of hay. When I had a horse, I used to sit in her straw-filled stable (a small old fashioned washhouse with boiler in the corner). The old goat would be lying in one corner, with a derelict door placed lengthways to form a barrier, a scattering of hens and their cockerel would be perched on that, and a few cats and the dogs would stroll in and we would all be there, settled on the sweet smelling straw communicating silently and life couldn't have been sweeter.

The dogs love Bonkers Conkers, by the way. Bonkers Conkers loves them too, and waits to ambush them, leaping out at them with all four legs stretched out like a flying squirrel, then he tries to cling around their necks with a death-bite. Only practicing, of course, but it is very funny to see. They chase him around the room, but he has lots of hidey holes and while they are staring at where he has disappeared, under a velvet throw, say, he has fooled them and is now at the other end of the room, where he waits to ambush them once again. He certainly has the heart of a warrior, if not the looks, as he is skinny and long with huge ears, but a very noble nose - his saving grace. I've just spent half an hour throwing a screwed-up bit of silver paper. He chases, picks up and brings it back to me to place down by my hand. Never had a retrieving cat before!

Yesterday we travelled 'darn sarf' to Hurstpierpoint (near Brighton) to attend the celebration service for the life of Fergus Gordon Anckorn, who was my uncle, the brother of my father Gordon, whom you might remember from days gone by.

If you watched the finals of 2017 Britain's Got Talent, you will have seen Fergus, the old but handsome distinguished veteran, revealed by a huge Union Jack, who was for three years a Japanese Prisoner of War, and who since his retirement has given talks around the country of his experiences during those harrowing years. A charismatic, amusing, loquacious and entertaining man, and a magician to boot, he touched the lives of many thousands of people during his talks and has been given a lot of TV space as well. The winner of the Talent show was Richard Jones of the Household Cavalry, and he used my uncle's story for his winning magic trick - telling Fergus's story in a clever card trick....

I imagined that the Celebration service would be a 'bit different and magical' and of course, it was. For starters, there was a pianist and a songstress with the most beautiful voice that soared high up into the church beams, singing all those popular and beautiful songs, then when the tributes began from family and friends, there was humour and poignancy woven together. Amusing anecdotes from Fergus's life and the funniest for me was when his daughter explained that her Dad had told her, during a walk through the woods, that he was able to do magic because he was a fairy. Fergus was a member of the Magic Circle and, when he began doing shows, he disguised himself as a clown (he had dark days due to his imprisonment and found it easier to cope when 'disguised'). He painted his face like a clown with a big smile - whether he felt like smiling or not. Anyway, when my cousin Deborah was asked as a little girl to talk about her parents at school, she stood up and said in a lovely loud voice. "My Daddy is a fairy and wears makeup."

Ferg's son is a musician and in his early years formed a piano duo with a man named Michael Dolovich (they even entertained royalty) so Michael, at the ceremony, played a piece that Simon had written and put all his soul and passion into it. It was truly beautiful, and I was wracked with (silent 'British') sobs and wished (a) I had brought in a whole toilet roll for my tears and (b) that I hadn't applied base make up, for runnels would be sure to show plus black smudges of smeared mascara!

A gent from The Magic Circle arose to the pulpit to give his tribute and made the pretence of taking out his pocket book to read out his lines, but Abracadabra, it burst into flames! Just a little magic trick to keep the theme going...



Then Simon played piano while the singer sang A nightingale sang in Berkeley Square - again the most poignant and beautiful rendition. Tears from all were flowing freely throughout the whole congregation. I imagine a mop and bucket would have had to have been applied to the floor after the event. More wonderful tributes to make us laugh, including one from the luscious Richard Jones and then The Household Cavalry's Last Post echoed throughout the lofty church.... My goodness. They certainly knew how to get the tears flowing.

A two-minute silence and then the distant music of a whistled Colonel Bogey March 'came nearer' and louder, with the tramp of the feet of long gone soldiers. Talk about emotional overload.

The weird thing for me was that while my cousin was giving his tribute, he 'turned into' my Dad, Gordon. I was shocked, even though I am quite used to seeing 'them on the other side'. I hadn't expected that! Of course, seeing my Dad there as plain as day was very emotional for me, and I realised that of course, if he were there, so must be his brother Fergus, who would, of course, be very pleased with the celebration ceremony his family had arranged for him.

After the ceremony, naturally enough, I proceeded to make my way towards the handsome magician soldier, Richard Jones, to 'have a little word' much to the disgust of my grandson, who believed me when I told him I had mentioned that 'I liked young men' - no I didn't say that actually, but I was aware I was fawning just a tad - how could I not, my heart was beating ultra-fast, he was so gorgous!

Once returned home we tumbled wearily out of the car while Remote Control Man was spluttering over the state of his shoes. As his feet had touched the ground, the shoes simultaneous disintegrated, the rubber soles and heels just falling off and crumbling to the ground, so he was left with the uppers dangling around his ankles! Now, I have always noticed other strange "Signs" during or after a funeral, and here was another. What are the odds of something like this happening? We were falling about laughing, and all felt it was definitely Fergus with Gordon tagging along - for he was a magician too - just doing that last trick for our entertainment. "Abracadabra - and watch the shoes disappear." A great end to an emotional day.□

DERSINGHAM INSTITUTE BOWLS CLUB by Jan Rawstron

We certainly thought Spring had arrived when our President, Bob Meredith opened the green to lovely sunshine on April 7th. Sadly, the weather has deteriorated since, apart from one lovely warm afternoon, and waterproofs and fleeces have been the clothing of choice due to the cold, wet weather. In spite of this, our two Albert Victor teams both won their 1st round matches in the Knockout Cup, and look forward to round 2 to be played on



May 25th. The first match in the Albert Victor league had to be postponed due to the rain, and the teams in the Countryside and North West Norfolk leagues have their first fixtures on May 2nd and 3rd respectively.

By the time this article goes to print, our first internal Cup, The Edie's Cup, will have been contested, on Bank holiday Monday, May 7th., and on the late spring bank holiday Monday we will play for the Institute Cup. Both events are supported by a buffet and raffle, and hope the weather is kind to us, and we can make full use of our gazebos.

Before the next issue we will also have held friendly matches against Cliff Parade, Cromer Road and West Winch bowls clubs, also our annual Ladies v Men matches which are usually played in a friendly but very competitive spirit. As you can see, we have a very full calendar of events,

Unfortunately, due to infirmity or ill-health, a few of our long-standing members have had to hang up their bowling shoes this season, which leaves us with a couple of spaces for membership. Should anyone be interested, please contact me either by phone on 01485 298419 or email at jan.rawstron49@hotmail.co.uk and we can arrange for you to come and meet us at the Bowls Club.□

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Dersingham Village Centre Takes Shape From Chris Davey

Construction work on the new Centre continues to gather momentum, and the most visible sign can be seen in the roof line. During the last two months good progress has been made towards sealing the Centre from the continuing extended winter wet weather, and starting to dry out the interior. The first steps were taken to cover the back flat roof with the waterproof membrane. The Parish Council intends to install photovoltaic panels on this flat roofed section to generate electricity to



heat the Centre and for other purposes, including perhaps providing some power to charge electric vehicles when there is spare power available. Then the original tiles, which had been carefully stored on site, were loaded back onto the rafters and fitted back into place. The front roof now looks as though it was never disturbed. The turret has been repainted and repaired, and stands ready to be replaced on the roof. So now the original frontage of the Church hall has been reinstated, to some extent, with the tiled roof now replaced. Soon all the scaffolding will be removed.



The work on the interior of the hall has concentrated on placing all the insulation material in the walls and in the roof; this is designed to make certain that the Centre will be warm and inviting throughout the cold winter evenings. More insulation will be put in place before the suspended ceilings are installed to provide the final finish to the interior. A time capsule with mementoes of Dersingham will be buried in the wall. The contractor is now focused on the installation of all the electrical and mechanical works, putting in all the wiring and fuse boxes. Soon we expect to see work start on the underfloor heating component, which will cover the main hall and the meeting room. Carpets and vinyl flooring will cover the remaining parts of the Centre.



The poor weather in March and April has slowed progress on the construction work, particularly any work which had to be done outside. But now with the roof closed, more varied works are going on simultaneously, with electricians, roofers and carpenters all concentrated on finishing their work. So we are all hoping for the Centre to be completed well before the end of 2018.□



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Crossword Answers

Across

1.DIAGRAMS 5.ADHERE 9.HANDBAGS 10.CLERIC 12.ISLE 13.AIDE-DE-CAMP
15.CLAUSE INVOKED 19.CENTRE FORWARD 23.AMELIORATE 25.IDLE 28.BLIMEY
29.ATHLETIC 30.ENLIST 31.STANDS UP

Down

1.DAHLIA 2.ANNUL 3.ROBE 4.MAGPIES
6.DELVE 7.EARMARKED 8.ESCAPADE
11.YETI 14.FAIR 15.CONGENIAL
16.EGO 17.VIAL 18.SCRAMBLE
20.FORE 21.RAT,A,TAT 22.TEA CUP
24.IDEAS 26.DATES 27.PLAN

Word Wall Answers

Alice in Wonderland Characters: Dodo, Dormouse, Flamingo, Gryphon

Rodents: Capybara, Chipmunk, Vole, Lemming

Black: Magic, Mail, Box, Burn

Blades: Epee, Kukri, Sabre, Sheffield United

Sudoku Answers

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



Sandringham Parish Council

Ben Colson

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Sandringham Club, West Newton, on Wednesday 2nd May, with three members of the public in attendance. Parish Councillors Ben Colson and Cecil Smith were elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively for a further year. Gordon Wilkinson has been reappointed Clerk for a further year.

Parish Council meeting dates for the new year are 4th July to be held at the Wolferton Social Club, 5th September at the Sandringham Club, 7th November at Wolferton Social Club, 9th January 2019 at the Sandringham Club, 6th March at Wolferton Social Club and the AGM and ordinary meeting on 8th May at the Sandringham Club. All meetings start at 6.30pm.

In the ordinary meeting which followed, Councillors discussed matters arising from previous meetings and work undertaken between meetings which had yielded some success. We have secured superfast broadband for Wolferton over two years earlier than originally programmed. We have persuaded the Boundary Committee for England and Wales to change its original intention to put the parish in what it called an 'urban ward' comprising primarily of North and South Wootton. We have replied to the Post Office supporting their outline plan for a mobile Post Office to visit West Newton on Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

We noted that the number of visits to the parish council's new website continue to increase, with April logging three times the number of 'hits' on the site as in March. Please visit us at www.sandringhamparishcouncil.org It is yours to use, so let's boost the number of hits that we can by increasing our visits to it. We were delighted to learn from our County Councillor that he is providing the necessary funds for a footpath to be built from the entrance to Caernarvon Cottages and the Park Gates bus stop in West Newton and similarly at Babingley.

Other issues which are ongoing include our exemption from audit under the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities, a review by the County Council of its decision to place average speed cameras on much of the A149 between Knights Hill Roundabout and Heacham and instead look at junction improvements, our contribution to the events in the parish to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World in November this year, and our registration and compliance with the new General Data Protection Register.

We discussed the lack of later afternoon bus service back from King's Lynn to West Newton and Sandringham (4pm is now the last bus) and it was agreed that we would, once again, put pressure on the County Council to make arrangements for a later one to be provided.

We noted that Norfolk County Council has included the parish in a consultation reviewing the provision of Tracks and Rights of Way in the county, which appears to cut across another plan being progressed by Natural England for a UK-wide coast footpath which includes this parish.

A date for your diaries – we understand that the Countryfile programme on BBC1 on Sunday 10th June will feature Sandringham. The next meeting is on Wednesday 4th July at 6.30pm at the Wolferton Social Club and we are always happy for our meetings to be attended by as many residents from the parish as possible.

Wolferton news

St Peter's Church roof – The roof, particularly the North facing side, is in need of urgent essential repair, and the Parochial Church Council has received a quote of nearly £250k to do it. It bid for funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund in the Autumn but was not successful. Normally a further bid would be made but that Fund has now been wound up, so it will be competing with much larger projects of a national and regional scale, and that means more funds will have to be raised by local effort. A number of events will be held to raise funds and you are urged to come and help. A meeting of the Project Group was held on 8th May but was too late for its deliberations to be included in this edition. The coffee morning held at the social club on Saturday 24th March raised in excess of £1,000 for the Happy Memories Club (for people living with dementia and their carers) and St Peter's Church. Congratulations to the organisers for their best ever and for the two charitable donations.

Forthcoming Events at the Wolferton social club –

17th June – cash bingo, eyes down 8pm

4th July – Sandringham Parish Council meets at 6.30pm

15th July – cash bingo, eyes down 8pm

12th August – cash bingo, eyes down 8pm

9th September – cash bingo, eyes down 8pm

7th October – cash bingo, eyes down 8pm

4th November – cash bingo, eyes down 8pm

7th November – Sandringham Parish Council meets at 6.30pm

2nd December – cash bingo, eyes down 8pm □



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Over 70 people including a contingency from Leicester congregated at the ruins of St Edmunds Chapel on the very cold and windy cliff top at Hunstanton on Sunday 29th April at 3pm to recite the Rosary as part of the national prayer initiative 'Rosary on the coast' for Faith, Life and Peace being held at the same time all around the coast of Britain. V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings lead the prayers and Hymns. These powerful prayers were said for a renewal of faith, respect for human life and peace through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary.



There is a coffee morning at 11am on Saturday 9th June at the Garnet Room, Hunstanton.

Our parish patronal feast day is Wednesday 27th June, there will be a Mass starting at 12 noon followed by a shared lunch in the Garnet Room.

Saturday 30th June is the very popular Strawberry Fair at St Cecilia's from 2 till 4 pm. We'll have all the usual stalls and goodies so please come along and have fun.

The recent Ladies Lunch Raffle raised £144.00 for the Alzheimers Society, and the 'Bring & Buy' raised £141.00 towards a new fence to keep out the rabbits at Sr. Myriam's Convent at Cerdon, France. A very entertaining talk by Lorna Hutchinson was enjoyed by all. The support of the Hunstanton ladies is especially appreciated, but thanks are due to all the fifty-four who attended.

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..

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.



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

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Issue	Copy deadline mid-day on	Publication date
No 113 (Aug/Sept 18)	Tuesday 10th July 2018	Monday 30 July 2018
No 114 (Oct/Nov 18)	Tuesday 11th Sept 2018	Monday 1 Oct 2018
No 115 (Dec/Jan 18)	Tuesday 6th Nov 2018	Monday 26 Nov 2018

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Articles and Non-Profit Making Promotions for Village Voice

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

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

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