

Number 115

December/January 2019

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



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Editors Notes Tony Bubb



Seasons greetings to all our readers. The festive season is upon us and with it comes fairs, festivals and entertainments and you will find details of the ones round here contained within these pages.



On a recent outing with the Walking Group at Thornham we passed this jetty on a lagoon on the coast. It seemed rather large for a small patch of water and its construction, which featured some substantial metal supports, was to say the least industrial. Was it a remnant of past workings or just an enthusiastic bit of building? If you have any information do share it with us.

The new centre features largely in this issue as you might expect. But with lots of different takes on the subject it was difficult to exclude one over another.

Indeed, when I commissioned our cover picture from local artist Mike Smith, the original of which is for sale he tells me, I was delighted to have him submit a piece about the process of creating it.

The Parish Council Office has moved. It is now to be found in the Village Centre. Deadline day coincided with moving day - you couldn't have planned it any other way! Hopefully some semblance of order will be restored by the time you read this from the chaos, there is no other word, that is shown here. The telephone number remains unchanged, but the new address is 83 Manor Road. It should offer our hard-working staff a much more pleasant environment.



Elizabeth Fiddick has written about the chandelier, or should that now be electrolier, and the interesting story that goes with it. As you will read, it is one of four that originally hung in the church, but the other three are missing, unless you know differently. It would be good to find them.

Other articles cover Christmas Trees, social media, butterflies and some of the usual stuff from our regulars, including the Art Trail which happens twice a year, so I think that makes it regular.

I hope I might see some of you on Boxing Day morning for a walk to the beach working off the worst excesses of the previous day and making room for round two. Meet at 10.30 at the old station.

Now then, lots of organisations plan their events well in advance but still fail to get to grips with the timetable of Village Voice publishing dates. It has been every 2 months for at least the last 80 issues. Please send in your publicity in good time if you want a good crowd!

Have a good Christmas and New Year and do enjoy this edition of Village Voice. □



Dear Village Voice



In the October issue of Village Voice I wrote a page about the Hunstanton to King's Lynn railway line. I said that from 1920 it was run by the London and North Eastern Railway Company. A good friend of mine, John Tansley, rang to say that he did not think this was right.

Let me explain, when the railway first opened in 1862 it was run by the Hunstanton and King's Lynn Railway Company, it was in 1890 taken over by the Great Eastern Railway Company (GER) then in 1923 it was grouped into the London and North Eastern Railway Company (LNER)

Dick Melton

Dersingham Water Courses and Ditches

We have lived in the village since October 2005 and in our current house since April 2006. Not long after we moved in we had an interesting visit from an Environmental Officer who happened to be in the area at a neighbouring property. He was on an official visit concerning blockages to the ditch which runs along the back of our property and may have been causing flooding. It covers a considerable distance from the Playing Fields next to the Bowls Green, along the back of L & H Homes (formerly the Guinness Trust) and Edinburgh Way to exit where Manor Road joins Lynn Road it then disappears under the road and continues towards The Drift and the sea...It is very important that this and other ditches in the village are kept clear.

What does this mean to you ?

It is your responsibility, if your property has a water course, to maintain and keep it clear to the midway point. Your neighbours opposite and either side must do the same. It is called **Riparian Rights**. You can obtain information from - www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse

They have a very helpful and informative leaflet entitled 'Living on the Edge' from Environment Agency Tel: 03708 506506 Email: enquiries at environment-agency.gov.uk

Unfortunately, most people are unaware of their Rights and Responsibilities and have for safety reasons, to prevent animals and children from falling in, fenced off their property, thereby not being able to gain easy access for maintenance. Please see the above website for advice on how to maintain your water boundary. Also talk to your neighbours.

With today's Global Warming and Flash Flooding it is best to keep **your** water course clear at all times, during a rainstorm is not the best time to realise that you have a problem.

Pat Foster and John Murray



The people of Winch West
and East

Were planning a big Christmas
feast

With turkey and sprouts

Nobody doubts

The wind will blow in from the East

At Christmas the people of Sporle

Have a seasonal "do" in the hall

Wearing musical ties

And eating mince pies

Round a Christmas tree 20 feet
tall



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



Councillor Vacancy

I am pleased to report that three new councillors were co-opted at the last meeting. The Council is again at full strength which should see us through to the May Elections.

Office Move

We moved in to the new office at the Village Centre on Nov 6th. Apologies for any inconvenience caused during the move operation and while Sarah & Geri settled in. The new address is 83 Manor Road, Dersingham, PE31 6LN. The Office will close on Dec 19th and re-open on Monday 7th January.



Village Centre

There is a famous line from the film Field of Dreams: "If you build it, they will come". Well, we did, and you came, in droves, to the Official Opening and the activities in the following week. Thank-you for your support. I also wish to thank everyone who helped make the Opening Event and Activities Week so successful.

Events

The Christmas Lights Switch-On takes place on Sunday Dec 2nd. Thank you, Keith Blackwell, for

setting this up. All proceeds this year are going to Scotty's Little Soldiers.

Flooding

Several parishioners have contacted the Office and Borough Councillors about the risk of flooding caused by drainage ditches being blocked. The Parish Council has no power to intervene or carry out any works.

Under Riparian Rights, most ditches are the responsibility of the landowner whose property abuts the ditch, up to halfway. The landowner is therefore expected to keep clear the length of ditch outside their property to ensure the water can flow.

Precept 2019/20

As you receive Village Voice, the Council is starting to look at budgets for the next financial year. Committees will be developing their plans and the Precept will be set at an extra meeting in January.

Parish Council Meetings

The Council has reinstated Committees:

- Communications,
- Environment (which will encompass the work of the former Recreation Committee)
- Finance & Administration,
- Planning
- Staffing.

Some sub-committees (eg Events) may be formed which will report to a Committee.

All Full Council & Committee meetings now take place in the Village Centre.

We look forward to seeing members of the public at Full Council and Committee meetings.

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 Council website: www.dersingham.org.uk □



Dates & Deadlines! Have you filed your 2018 Tax Return yet?

Supplied by Kathryn Gigg FCA, Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

31 JANUARY 2019

INCOME TAX: SELF ASSESSMENT FILING AND PAYMENT DEADLINE:

Filing deadline for 2017/18 personal, partnership and trust returns filed online, or for paper returns which cannot be filed online (e.g. if you work for the Royal Estate).

Those who did not file their paper return by 31 October 2018 will incur £10 daily penalties if they do not file electronically by today.

Please telephone us if you require any assistance with filing your 2018 Tax Return. At this late stage, we cannot guarantee that it will be filed ahead of the submission deadline but our advice may be invaluable in ensuring that you make constructive progress in bringing your tax affairs up to date. Please contact us on 01485 534800 or email - kate@kathryngigg.co.uk.

Balancing payment for 2017/18 and first payment on account for 2018/19 due today.

Deadline to amend a 2016/17 tax return, if relevant.

Deadline to file an outstanding 2016/17 tax return to avoid a tax geared penalty.

Deadline to file an outstanding 2014/15 return to displace a determination.

NIC: Deadline to notify liability to Class 2 NICs where your self employment began in 2017/18 tax year, to avoid a penalty.

Last day for claiming a repayment of Class 2 NIC for 2017/18 on grounds that earnings were below the exemption limit.

CLAIMS & ELECTIONS: 31 January 2019 is the deadline for numerous self assessment claims and elections for 2012/13 to 2017/18. Please contact us to discuss if you require advice in this regard e.g. Loss Relief Claim.

COMPANY ACCOUNTS: private companies with 30 April 2018 year-ends should file their accounts at Companies House.

CORPORATION TAX: returns for accounting periods ended 31 January 2018 should be filed with HMRC by today.

GIFT AID: Individuals should make a claim to backdate gift aid donations, by today, in certain circumstances to benefit from a higher rate of tax relief.

TAX CREDITS: last day to renew tax credits for 2018/19 (if the 31 July 2018 deadline was missed and the claimant can show good cause) or to provide final income figures for 2017/18 (if renewal was done by 31 July 2018 using an estimate).

AND DON'T FORGET MAKING TAX DIGITAL What steps have you taken to prepare for **Making Tax Digital (MTD) for VAT?** Many businesses currently type the figures for their quarterly VAT Return directly into a free form provided on the Government website. Are you one of them? The MTD regulations will make digital record-keeping for VAT **compulsory from 1 April 2019**, as well as introducing a new requirement to file VAT Returns directly from software. Paper based records will not be permissible for MTD for VAT.

If you need any help in this regard, please contact us urgently on 01485 534800 or email kate@kathryngigg.co.uk, as time is now running out!

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



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Kathryn Gigg

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Need help with your 2018 TAX RETURN?

The Revenue deadline for submission of 2018 Tax Returns is 31 January 2019

If your 2017/18 accounts and Tax Return are still outstanding, we can help

To avoid the late filing & payment penalties, and for an appointment please contact:

Mrs K H Gigg FCA on 01485 534800

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DERSINGHAM DAY CENTRE

from Jan Holt

We have now enjoyed our last meeting at Ingoldisthorpe and our grateful thanks must go again to Ingoldisthorpe Sports and Social Club for allowing us to use their premises over the last year.



It is so good to be “back home” in Dersingham, particularly to be meeting in the spectacular light, airy new Village Centre and especially as Dersingham Day Centre will be 37 years old at the end of this month.

Over the last two months we have celebrated the Birthdays of Doreen Bingham and Joe Earl. The Village Fryer parked at the side of the Ingoldisthorpe Sports and Social Club and produced the tasty fish and chip lunch that

Doreen had chosen. Joe opted for roast beef with all the trimmings, and afterwards he told us all how much he enjoyed our meetings and thanked our cook, Carol, for her exceptional prowess in the kitchen. Carol, ably assisted by Avril (one of our volunteers) provides a delicious two-course lunch for us every week.

As well as our usual weekly activities of cards, dominoes, scrabble, knitting, crochet and chatting, we had a keep fit afternoon led by Shelley Ross – exercises to music that we can do sitting down and have fun as well. Another afternoon Alice Worth set one of her very popular brain teasing quizzes and for the first time one of the teams got all thirty of the questions right. The rest of us will be doing our best to match them next time!

Dersingham Day Centre volunteers took Alice out for afternoon tea at Heacham Manor to thank her for all the work she did before she retired from the Committee after 18 years. A very pleasant afternoon was enjoyed by all.



We're now busy preparing for our Fayre at the Methodist Hall on the 10th November and for the Christmas Tree Festival in December. We are looking forward to our Christmas Party on the 19th December and our Meetings will start again after the Christmas break on the 9th January 2019.

If you would like to know more about joining Dersingham Day Centre then please contact Ann Saunders on 01485 542885 or Hilary Judd on 01485 543204 or 07887 486739□



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Dersingham Library Events

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

To be added to the mailing list please contact Kerry Lingwood by emailing Kerry.lingwood@norfolk.gov.uk

Dersingham has 'Open Library' meaning you can access the library between **8am and 7pm Monday to Friday and 10-4 Saturday and Sunday**. To use this service, you need to sign up to open access at any library during staffed times.

Weekly events:

Scrabble club - Mondays 1.30-3pm, **Just a cuppa** – Wednesdays 6-6.45pm, **Knit and natter** - Thursdays 10.30-12

Bounce and Rhyme – Thursdays 10-10.30 am

Volunteers needed!

Could you make hot drinks and talk to people at our **just a cuppa group**?

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 4th December 1pm-3pm & Tuesday 1st January 1pm-3pm

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

Colour yourself calm – Wednesday 5th December 10.30-12 & Wednesday 2nd January 10.30-12

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

Crime Book Club - Monday 10th December 5.45-6.45pm & Monday 14th January 5.45-6.45pm

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

Gardening Club- Wednesday 12th December 2pm-4pm & Wednesday 9th January 2pm-4pm

Can you spare some time to help keep the library garden blooming? Help always welcome, no experience required.

Bell ringing with the Dersingham Descanters- Wednesday 12th December 3.30pm

Join the Dersingham descanters and the Library Friends for an afternoon of bell ringing and festivities.

Book Club - Monday 17th December 5.45-6-45pm & Monday 21st January 5.45-6-45pm

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

Walk and talk group – Thursday 20th December 2.30pm & Thursday 17th January 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, phone or tablet?

Why not book a one-to-one session with our computer buddy? Please ask staff for details.

Family History volunteer

If you are interested in finding out more about your family history, you can book an hour one-to-one session with our family history volunteer. All ranges welcome from complete beginners or people just looking for a little help or advice.

Dersingham writer's group- Tuesday 29th January 1.30pm-3.30pm

Did you enjoy writing at school? Do you enjoy writing now? If so come along and join our friendly writing group and take part in some fun activities. This event happens in open library time so please see staff for details how to sign up or call 01485 540181

 <p>In Norwich old Santa was seen In an outfit of yellow and green Bringing puddings and beer And much Christmas cheer To help celebrate with our team</p> 	 <p>Twas Christmas at Wells Next the Sea The townfolk were decking a tree With sweeties and chocs And novelty socks And a fairy they found on the quay</p> 
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Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Edmund Hunstanton with St Cecilia's, Dersingham



We held our, previously cancelled, sponsored walk on Sunday 4th November. There were 13 walkers, including 3 children and a dog. The weather was kind to us, just a bit cloudy. Sandwiches were kindly supplied beforehand and tea/coffee, cake and ice cream afterwards. Fr Henry walked despite being quite unwell during the previous week.

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 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. in the convent at Hunstanton during the winter months then back in the church in spring, 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 the Parish Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Edmunds, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.

If you require a Priest urgently please telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220

or email; parishpriest763@gmail.com **Website:** www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org

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He also has a desire to add newer, more modern material to our repertoire. He is very keen that we enjoy what we sing.

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Gardening with Disabilities

May Davey

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On 14th September, 34 Members and guests went by coach to Elgoods Brewery in Wisbech for a tour of their extensive gardens and a cream tea. It was a happy outing and we had a lovely tea. Those who chose the brewery tour found it most interesting. Most of us had several different beers in our shopping bags on the way home.

Our 19 October meeting was held at St Cecilia's Church and was an illustrated talk on "Cornish Gardens" by Walter Blaney. Walter gave us an interesting introduction on the geography of Cornwall, which explained why the plants are so varied there. The restoration of Lost Gardens of Heligan and the Eden Project make Cornwall a tempting holiday destination for next year.



We had a stand at the Opening Day on Saturday 20 October of the new Dersingham Village Centre. Visitors asked us about our programme of talks and outings in 2019.



We are hoping many of them will come on 16 November to the Dersingham Village Centre for a demonstration of wrapping up Christmas gifts using plant materials by Joanne Randall.

Our Christmas gathering will be on Tuesday 18 December at Knight's Hill Hotel for a festive lunch.

We will be at the Dersingham Village Centre again on Friday 18 January, when Martin Harvey from Glebe Barn at Ringstead will show us how to win a RHS gold medal for

growing vegetables. On Friday 15 February Johnny Walker from Taylors Bulbs will be tempting us to buy his latest bulbs and telling us how to look after them.

We always welcome new Members and guests. Tea and a raffle ticket at the door cost only £2.00 and a year's subscription is £12.00. Please contact May Davey 01485-544953 for more details.□

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Christmas Trees

Brian Anderson

I was asked by the editor to do an article on Christmas trees, in my capacity as tree warden. I'm not at all sure that it's in the job description but let's see how it goes...



The use of evergreen plants and foliage to represent eternal life or as a marker for significant events is millennia old and was used by the ancient Egyptians, Chinese and Hebrews. The tradition of bringing a tree into the house at New Year has been common in Georgia in Central Asia for centuries. The Romans brought evergreens indoors at the festival of Saturnalia, a celebration that has provided a number of customs that we now associate with Christmas - Christianity has always been adept at incorporating pagan rituals into its own traditions.

The origins of our modern Christmas tree customs are not clear. One strand of thought is that that it is development of the Germanic and Scandinavian traditions of Yule and that early Christian evangelists used the triangular shape of most conifers to demonstrate the truth of the Trinity and with the apex pointing to heaven. The other strand is the tree of paradise often shown in medieval mystery plays performed on 24th December. Here the tree represents the Tree of Knowledge and the forbidden fruit were represented by apples hanging from the tree and wafers representing the Eucharist.

Whatever the true line of descent, it is fairly certain that the modern Christmas tree tradition begins with (of all people) Martin Luther, the 16th Century Protestant reformer, who was the first to decorate an evergreen tree with candles. The tradition grew in Germany in largely among Protestants until about 1815, when it began to gain acceptance in Catholic areas.

The idea of a decorated tree was introduced to Britain around 1800 by George III's wife Queen Charlotte (who was German). Princess (later Queen) Victoria recorded in her diary the appearance of a tree on Christmas Eve 1832. It did not spread much beyond the Royal family until Victoria married Prince Albert - from there it took a very few years before advertisements were appearing in the press offering trees for sale. Throughout the 19th Century they remained the preserve of the better-off and it was not until the 20th that they came ubiquitous.



Today, Christmas trees sales are huge - in 2013 8 million were sold in Britain and they now form one of the mainstays of the Christmas festivities (and advertising!).



The commonest tree used as a Christmas tree is the Norway Spruce, notorious for dropping its needles. Other trees often used (at greater cost) are Firs - Silver, Nordmann, Noble. I read that Scots Pine is sometimes used but this could scarcely have a traditional shape.

I hope that, given amount of publicity given to the ecological damage being done by plastics, that the demise of the plastic Christmas tree will be not long delayed. □

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Geri



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she had a quick beer
And came back feeling quite
merry



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Miles

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Christmas trials

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Annual Gallipoli Memorial Service at St Nicholas Church, Dersingham

Organised by Gallipoli & Dardanelles International



This service on September 15th was once again very well attended with one hundred and fifty people led by the Mayor of King's Lynn and West Norfolk Councillor Nick Daubney. Of this total there were 35 children. It is so important that the memory is passed down the generations.

Twenty-one standards were presented to the altar. During the service sixteen

wreaths were laid including one for G&DI laid by Lt Cmdr Arthur Coxon RN (Ret). Arthur is 91 years of age and his father served and survived at Gallipoli.

Officers and their families attended representing Turkey, Australia, Canada and France. New Zealand sent a wreath which was laid by Mrs Ngaire Hall a committee member from New Zealand. We were fortunate to once again have excellent



weather for this highly successful event.

Sadly, this is the final year the service will be held in Dersingham. The church has decided to combine all remembrance services together on the official Remembrance Day. For the last seven years the service has been held at Dersingham thanks to an initial invitation from the Rev Michael Brock who has since relocated to Nottingham. G&DI is very grateful to the Rev Michael Brock.



Next year the Service will be held on Saturday 10th August 2019 at All Saints Church, King's Lynn. This church has a window dedicated to men from King's Lynn who died at Gallipoli. Following the service

everyone is invited to the British Legion Club, King's Lynn for tea/coffee and ANZAC biscuits.

G&DI is grateful for the past support of 'Village Voice' readers and hope that this will continue in King's Lynn in the coming years.

For any enquiries with regard to G&DI or the service please contact
johncrowe@uwclub.net or on Mobile: 07956 188826. Facebook: www.facebook.com/gallipolianddardanellesinternational
www.gdinternational.org.uk



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2nd Dersingham Brownies "Journey into Africa"

The October half-term saw the 2nd Dersingham Brownies "Journey into Africa" (Hunstanton Methodist Hall) for their autumn sleepover. The theme followed on from the Brownies' recent "Coffee & Cake Evening" when they raised money for their Young Leader's African volunteering in 2019. During the evening the girls created posters about the Big 5, made exotic fruit "mocktails", painted an elephant money box, played games and enjoyed an indoor campfire.



The girls slept very well and after packing their beds away they enjoyed breakfast before playing games until their parents arrived. Everyone had a lovely time.



Brownies bake and sell for Young Leader's African adventure

Next summer, Xena, who is a Young Leader with the 2nd Dersingham Brownies, will head to Kenya as part of an African Adventures project to volunteer in a school and to aid impoverished families. Xena has to raise £2000 and has already completed a tandem sky jump. The Brownies wanted to do something to support her so they decided to hold a "Coffee and Cake Evening" during one of their meetings and invite all of their families to join them. Each girl decorated a selection of cakes in the colours of African Adventures and completed their stall with a game. The girls all ran their respective stalls themselves and had the opportunity to buy a cake and have a go on the games first before the guests arrived. The evening was a great success and a grand total of £100



was raised. If anyone would like to donate towards Xena's adventures, they can visit - <http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/xena-govett>



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The Dersingham Walking Group Stephen Martyn

By the time you read this it will be only a month until Christmas, and then it's New Year! Why not take your mind off the turkey and tinsel and New Year resolutions with a good couple of hours of country walking! We've got some excellent routes planned over the next couple of months, which, funnily enough, is often the time when walking group numbers are at their highest. Perhaps it's not so surprising, there's nothing much to do in the garden, you've probably been cooped up indoors, so it's time to get out in the fresh air.

There is no cost involved with Dersingham Walking Group walks, just turn up, but make sure you have suitable clothing and footwear as paths can be muddy. However, we do try and avoid the worst bits, so don't worry too much. 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!"

Once more I'll just mention that we do need to recruit some more walks leaders. It's a good thing to do and you'll be helping the community and ensuring that our regular programme of country walks can continue. We have a selection of different walks that you could undertake, or you can devise your own, which is part of the fun. Do please get in touch if you can help, my contact details are below.

Please note that all our walks start at 1.30pm until February

Our next few walks

Wednesday 28th November 1.30pm

A circuit of country lanes and footpaths starting at Great Massingham village green. 4.5 miles. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638. Start point grid ref: TF 798 230.

Wednesday 12th December 1.30pm

A tour of Castle Rising fields and footpaths. Starting at the Unique Tea Rooms car park 4.5 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333. Start point grid ref: TF 667 347.

Wednesday 26th December 10.30am

A Boxing Day morning walk starting from the old Dersingham railway station, Station Rd. From there the walk will go down the 'concrete road' to a circuit of the RSPB Reserve before returning by the same route. 5 miles. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638. Start point grid ref: TF 680 308.

Wednesday 9th January 1.30pm

Starting from the recently restored Dersingham Village Sign we will take a circular walk around the local area. 4.5 miles. Leader: Elizabeth Fiddick 01485 540940. Start point grid ref: TF 685 296.

Sunday 27th January 1.30pm

There are many paths which can be found when starting from Sandringham Visitor Centre. On this Sunday afternoon amble we will explore just some of them, finishing back at the Centre café where there is the option of tea and cake!. 4 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333. Start point grid ref: TF 690 288.

Wednesday 13th February 2.00pm

Starting at Ringstead Green Bank, just off the Ringstead to Holme road, we shall explore part of the Peddars Way and other local paths on this circular walk. 5.0 miles. Leader: To be confirmed. Start point grid ref: TF 706 420.



One of the views to be had on the November 28th walk though we cannot guarantee the rainbow

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 □



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THE CHALLENGE OF CREATING THE FRONT COVER

Michael Smith

It's 9.30 on a Friday morning and Tony (the editor) is standing on my doorstep, this has become a bi annual event and the request has a familiar ring. " Can you do the cover for the Christmas Village Voice please ?"

Anyone who knows my work will know my subjects are usually the wide-open empty spaces and big skies along the North Norfolk coast. That presented a problem before Tony even told me the subject, he would like me to paint. THE NEW VILLAGE CENTRE!

I have watched with interest the growth of the building with some concern. Does the new modern extension work with the old? I have yet to speak to one person who approves of the final appearance of the building. I am told this has all come about by the intransigence of ' English Heritage 'who said " the old frontage had to be maintained.". That being so, we have a final structure, one third of which no way fits in with the local architecture, or the building it is attached to. But does it work?



Step inside and it is BRILLIANT. A huge spacious airy and bright main hall. A coffee bar, garden room and smaller function rooms all adding up to a most welcoming environment to serve the local community. In fact, exactly what it is intended for. A special thank you to all the hard-working trustees and friends who have steered the whole project through some very difficult times to create what will be a vibrant village centre.

My problem was, how do I depict all this? Tony's brief was "can you include a dark sky with stars, snow or frost, a Christmas tree and, did he mention a robin?"

Obviously, he wanted to include the new extension, so the aspect had to be from the roadway, which meant the older building would be largely hidden. After several trips with my sketch book and camera a glimmer of an idea began to form.

For some strange reason, there is a rift between the world of illustration and fine art. I can never understand this as illustration not only requires a high degree of accurate observation and drawing, but also imagination to get a story across in simple visual terms, whereas an artist will often simply interpret what is in front of them. Either way, that was just one of the dilemmas facing me with this project.

Obviously, when including buildings in a painting it is necessary to depict them accurately. Once I had drawn the basic structure, the creativity could begin.

I decided to attempt an early evening to comply with Tony's brief for stars and also to create a welcoming feeling emanating from the building via the warm light from within, falling across the snowy foreground. There are two light sources in the picture. The natural setting sun behind the building and the interior artificial lights in the garden room. Getting the right balance between the two took a lot of trial and error before I was remotely happy with the effect.

My villagers are a cross section of the community. Including figures in any painting always concerns me as many artists use their figures as mere props in their composition. Personally, I like to give mine character. The picture would not work without the shadows cast on the snow. With the two light sources coming from roughly the same area, I used them to lead the eye into the centre of the composition. The soft moon was an afterthought. The more observant among you will notice that the moon rises in the east, not the west, but I have allowed myself a little artistic licence. After all, Turner did exactly the same in his masterpiece 'The Fighting Temeraire'

For the artists among you I used acrylics throughout which enabled me to make rapid alterations and many changes of direction. I was sorely tempted to paint the grey roof in my painting red to match the old, but that would be pushing artistic licence too far? □

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A lady from Sandringham House

Thought she saw a very large mouse
So she said to her corgis
"you good little dorgis
If it comes out at Christmas, just pounce"

A Fakenham lass name of Lizzie

Likes to keep herself active and busy
Now as Christmas draws near
She'll step up a gear
To avoid ending up in a tizzy



Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

The pupils, staff and governors are delighted to celebrate the growth of our school building, developing beautiful classroom and nurturing spaces.

The expansion of learning spaces has been developed over a period of months under the guidance of the diocese. The building work gave school staff the opportunity to reflect on our learning environment and give older pupils some degree of control and choice; developing higher order thinking skills and ownership. Staff have taken a holistic approach to education and how we can create a positive learning environment to secure supportive



relationships. The environment is characterised by a clear sense of belonging and connectedness, enhancing children's readiness to learn and well-being. The opportunity to create multifunctional learning spaces with areas for concentration and contemplation was central. We wanted to provide both peaceful and reflective areas for pupils and inspirational classroom spaces for our growing pupil numbers. Classrooms feel welcoming and approachable, without compromising on performance. There is flexibility and choice embracing the value of community and collaboration.

The new academic year has burst upon us with some beautiful sunny days and the children have returned fully charged and ready to learn. Year 1 children have been learning new routines and settling in, having made the giant step from the Early Year's site. Squawkers have had a vibrant time learning all about Rio and enjoyed an end of topic party with parents. Foresters have been exploring the woods, doing bark rubbings and collecting information about trees, as part of their Enchanted Woodland topic. Both classes have embraced the Power of Reading challenges, using illustrations, drama and role play to stimulate reading and writing.



Year 2 Sky Writers have been on two exciting trips this half term. The children have been exploring different habitats at a very windy Holme Dunes and listening to some superb performances at the Music For Youth proms in Norwich. In the classroom they have been reading a book about treasure hunting and have produced some super drama work, imagining diving into the ocean and deciding what to do with the treasure found.



Both Year 3 classes, Bone Crunchers and Borrowers, had an exciting start to their Rainforest topic by visiting Bewilderwood. It really gave them a flavour of the outdoor environment, where they enjoyed playing amongst growing things! As well as being physically challenging, tackling high rope bridges and zipwires, the children used the beautiful setting as a springboard to



to examine how plants grow. Back in the classroom the children looked at how plants transport water up the stem and into the flower by adding food colouring to the water. Through fiction, the children have been learning about the reasons and consequences for deforestation around the world, debating then writing a balanced argument on the topic. Next half term will begin by finding out more about WW2 and

Remembrance, before heading back in time to the Stone Age.

Year 4 Revellers class have had a very productive and fun start to the school year, transporting back to ancient times of the Egyptian civilization. The children took part in a mummification process and made their own canopic jars, building their own Egyptian house and piecing together an Egyptian mystery. They have become reading detectives, expanding vocabulary and looking at figurative language. The half term concluded with a fantastic trip to Norwich castle, taking part in an interactive day of workshops where they demonstrated all their newly acquired knowledge.



The children have been busy voting for their class representatives to stand on the Student Council, Eco Council and Sports Council. The first council meetings have been held and the children are already planning ways to maintain and improve the school. The passion and commitment shown by these young ambassadors is a credit to the school, the year ahead looks exciting and we look forward to sharing our journey in the next edition!□



Sandringham Parish Council news **from Ben Colson**

The Parish Council met on 7th November with one member of the public in attendance. The Chairman reported progress on a number of items.

The most important issue concerned whether we should raise a Precept, which means that householders would pay increased Community Charge bills from next April. We are being required to provide ever more services – many to save the Borough or central

Government providing them - and this costs money, and the question for us has been how to pay, because we are one of a very small number of Parish Councils that doesn't charge at all. A decision for the next financial year, which starts in April, would have to be taken by a formal vote at our next meeting in January. We are close to reaching an agreement that would enable us to meet this need for funds without charge households, so I am hopeful that in January we can avoid having to raise a Precept.

We have had no further news regards a mobile post office service for West Newton. The Parish Council has been told that a later bus from King's Lynn to West Newton and then going on to Hunstanton will be introduced at the next timetable change sometime about Easter next year. This will make it much better for students attending the College in King's Lynn as well as workers and visitors to the town. In addition it will mean that those working at Sandringham, coming from Dersingham and points North of there, can return home at the end of the day.

Each County Councillor has a County Council fund which can be spent on small items in his or her own Division. We are part of the Dersingham Division, and therefore share a County Councillor with them. We have decided to support their Parish Council's request for some of this fund to be put towards making a proper bus stop close to the Health Centre, and new Village Centre, on Chapel Road, as that would make it easier for our residents from West Newton and Sandringham reach the doctor's surgery and other facilities.

There is concern at the number of blocked roadside drains in the parish, and we were advised that a scheme to alleviate the regular flooding at the entrance to Sandringham Visitor Centre car park will start in November. However a list of other blocked drains was put together to be forwarded to the County Council Highways Rangers service. This visits each parish in rotation dealing with small-scale matters that have already been advised to them, and it is hoped that some of these drains will be cleared before Winter weather really sets in.

Members of the Parish Council, and local residents of Wolferton who lived in the village thirty five years ago, were invited to, and attended a re-dedication of the memorial to Squadron Leader Michael Stephens, the Tornado pilot who was killed when his aircraft lost power and navigation and came down over the marshes on the edge of the village. A memorial was erected soon after and has now been refurbished by RAF personnel, and was re-dedicated at a special service there on 27th September. The story of this, the first of two air crashes on Wolferton Marshes, is told elsewhere in this edition of Village Voice. Please note that the memorial cannot be visited as it is on private, restricted land.

News from Wolferton

St Peter's Church

St Peter's Church services are held at 9.30am on the second Sunday of each month, followed by coffee and biscuits, making it quite a social occasion which draws from

adjacent parishes. Holy Communion is held at 8am on the last Sunday of the month. The normal date for the December service would have been on 9th. This will not now take place but instead be replaced with a performance by the Wolferton Singers at 2.30pm, with donations welcome to the Church Roof Fund. The following Sunday, 16th, at 4.30pm there will be the traditional Carol Service in the Church, to which all are welcome. Also a Wolferton tradition is the annual carol singing around the village which this year is on Friday 21st at 6.30pm, anybody interested meet outside the Social Club. Then on Christmas Day, for the third year in succession, a family service will be held at 9.30am – an ideal time for residents from nearby parishes who want to go to church yet need to be away to meet family and friends for the festive day.

The Church Roof fund

Fund-raising is now well under way, and nearly half the amount needed for absolutely essential repairs to the roof has been raised. The Social Club was packed – as usual – for the excellent evening of good food and brain teasing questions at the annual Harvest Quiz, the proceeds going to Church Roof fund. Thank you to all who helped at and supported the event.

The Social Club

The Social Club remains a centre for village activities and especially the popular folk club and prize bingo held there. The club is open Wednesday to Saturday evenings and Sunday lunchtimes and all are welcome.

Eyes down for Prize Bingo is at 7.30pm one Tuesday a month, on the following date:

December: 18th

The Wolf Folk Club meets at 8pm alternate Thursdays at the Club and advertises its “music on the wild side” and ‘singarounds’. Dates for the rest of the year are:

December 6th & 20th

Please drive slowly.....

There has been a considerable increase in the amount of traffic in the village in recent months, partly because the rebuilding of the Wash defences and the pumping station has brought in many more heavy vehicles. Residents report that traffic speeds are increasing and plea that locals and visitors, such as parents taking their children to Child’s Play Nursery in particular do not drive at excessive speeds.□

A Californian actor named Gable 
Sat down with friends at his grand Christmas table
But Vivien Leigh just grinned
When he was gone with the wind
After Brussels Sprouts made him unbearable




A Dersingham Ed named Tony
Thought he played soccer like Rooney
On a cold Christmas night
They said “oh what a sight
He plays more like Rosemary Clooney”

A Sheringham lady named Russell
Thought she could dance like Darcy Bussell
But her Christmas Chasse
Was all rather passé
And she finished up pulling a muscle 

The Pier Tony Bubb

Whatever you choose to call it, be it Dersingham Pier or Snettisham Pier, it is an iconic structure on our stretch of coast. Every year a little bit more of it drops off. Its history is a little vague. It certainly was used during the first World War for loading shingle on to barges to help with the war effort as it was during the second war as well. But is also thought to predate this use and was used in the unloading of coal from the nineteenth century. Coaly Lane in Ingoldisthorpe is so named because this is where the coal was brought along.

The workings were inundated in the 1953 floods which seems to have put an end to the enterprise and one version of events that I have heard says that the assets were made over to Snettisham Parish Council. But that view is complicated by the RSPB having taken over from the gravel company in 1972
And so if they no longer existed how did they enact the lease?

The remains sit between the high and low water marks so it is not attached to the land as such. When I moved to the area 40 years ago it sat with its feet in the water at every high tide. Now it is only the highest of tides that gets there. The Wash has silted up. There is less water coming down the rivers as quite a lot is sent south to Essex. The greater proportion of the silt does, in fact, come from the sea but used to be flushed out by the river output. The authorities do try to help a bit by letting water go in times of plenty in the winter when they open the sluices for a greater flow.
Now to the point. I would like to get the pier listed but to do this I need to know who owns it. I have done a lot of digging and know for certain who does not – Crown Estates, Le Strange Estate, RSPB, Snettisham PC (although a lot of their records no longer exist).

Do you own it or know who does? It would be good to save this structure which is frequently photographed, appears on television and is enjoyed by birdwatchers, not to mention the birds that perch on it, so if you can shed any light on this please do. □





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Sandringham News

By kind permission of Sandringham Estate
Compiled by Garry Marsden



I write this as I end my first months' work at Sandringham taking over from Helen Walch who has done an amazing job as the Public Enterprises Manager for the last 14 years. We all wish Helen an enjoyable retirement and are delighted that she will continue to live in West Newton.

It has been an incredibly dry year, even in Scotland where I have come from, the rain fall has been well below average. On the farm the Wolferton soils are desperate for rain allowing us to make sensible seed beds for the autumn. A start has been made at sowing conversion winter wheat and all the sugar beet has been lifted and delivered to the factory, sugar yields were better than expected. We are now supplying Howard butchers in West Newton with our lamb, so why not visit if you are looking for something for your Sunday roast! We are also in full Sandringham lamb mode at the moment in the Visitor Centre restaurant with lots of lovely local lamb dishes on the menu, so come and try one.

In the gardens the dry weather has caused other challenges. We have had problems with persistent perennial weeds on the finer lawns directly in front of Sandringham House combined with damage caused by the hot dry summer. These areas have now been re-seeded with a mix of grasses which will hopefully be better able to resist the dry summers.



The Forestry department have commenced on the annual thinning programme in the woods. This is where selected trees are removed to make room for better trees to grow and let light into the woodland floor, to enable natural regeneration to take place. This is using the seeds from surrounding trees that have fallen on the ground and producing the next crop.

A hedge laying gang has arrived on the Estate and has started the winter programme.

This is done to help restore hedges and provide a better habitat for wildlife. In the Country Park with the extended season of mild weather the grass has continued to grow for a longer period than normal and the cutting season continues.

The gift shop is sparkling with everything for Christmas... Christmas! Yes it is only just around the corner and Christmas deliveries galore are winging their way to the gift shop; beautiful festive decorations, tempting Christmas food and a wonderful variety of gifts and hampers to suit all your buying needs. Come and see for yourself what our shop and staff can do to help you find that perfect Christmas purchase for all those special people in your life.



Tis the season to be jolly and at the Visitor Centre we are having a free Christmas Brass Band Concert by Fakenham Town Band on Saturday 22nd December from 4pm -6pm in the Main Restaurant. Our Christmas lunch menu starts on Saturday 24th November and meals are served 12-3 pm daily. □

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Social Media – How Social?



Social Media is 'enjoyed' by so many, but what impact is it having, good, bad or mixed. Social media in its different forms has an effect in many different ways, communicating messages (births, happy events, what people are having for tea to providing spheres for discussion).

The use of social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram has become the cornerstone of modern communication and connection as it allows users to create a sense of belonging and redefine their way of being. I have been thinking about this since noticing in another county a family out for a meal all sitting quietly looking at their own phones and not communicating/ interacting with those whom they were sat. Because social media is most frequently accessed via smartphones, their usage is intimately intertwined and their mobile nature contributes to excessive checking habits, which often comes from what is known as the 'fear of missing out' (FOMO).

Social media notifications and instant message alerts are an ingrained part of life – it's almost impossible to look away. The colours that are used are deliberately designed to increase usage and response - the longer the time on line the increase in possible exposure to commercially profitable gains for companies. Some people find that turning the colour filters of your phone to greyscale makes those red notification badges less alluring. The good news is that apparently very few people are genuinely addicted to social media but what it is used for and the motives behind such communication can on some occasion be less than perfect.

What would Jesus Do? I wonder what Jesus' response would be to Social Media. In the Bible Jesus is a communicator who shares the Good News of the Kingdom of God in different ways, to different people, in different places and at different times. Social media when used for 'wholesome and encouraging reasons can have wonderful benefits. Jesus communicated with people from all walks of life - social media can bring a unity in communication. Seeing Real (not Fake) Good news shared is great and we like to show support and feel part of it.

As Christmas is fast approaching it is a time when we remember God communicated in extra-ordinary ways the Good News of his Rescue Plan for humankind through his Son Jesus Christ. We remember he communicated to the perceived lowly shepherds and with the beauty of the Angels (Luke 2) and used a star as a 1st century equivalent of a Satnav. God used a breadth of communication methods.

At Christmas this year there is a great breadth of ways for us to offer our thanks and worship to God including this year's Annual Christmas Big Sing back by popular demand, this year the Hallelujah Chorus with practices on 2nd December (2-4pm) and Sunday 16th (5-6pm) in church with the performance again during the 9 Lessons and Carol Service on Sunday 16th at 6:30pm. Other highlight is the Tea and Carols on Saturday 15th at 3:30 a relaxed and informal time to choose and sing Carols with hot drinks and cake, if you are feeling adventurous there will be Christmas Karaoke beforehand at 2pm! Many People have been asking for a few weeks about this year's Bilton Brass Concert which is on Saturday 8th December at 7:30 (tickets 544561) – which is a super night much looked forward to by so many.

However, you communicate your Christmas Blessings and Wishes to people this year – May the Peace of the Christ Child be Yours.

Rev Mark Capron Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne
www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk
Christmas Services at St Nicholas

- 9th - 4pm Christingle Service
- 12th - 2pm – Village Carol Service by the Mothers' Union
- 15th – 2pm-5pm - Tea & Carols
- 16th – 6.30pm- Lessons & Carols Service with Big Sing & Handbells beforehand
- 24th – 4pm Crib Service; 11.30pm Midnight Communion
- 25th – 8am Communion; 10.30am Family Service

Don't forget it's our Christmas Tree Festival – 7th to 9th December – with Father Christmas in his Grotto on Saturday and the Bilton Silver Band Concert in the Evening at 7.30pm □

The Arts Society N W Norfolk

The Society meets in Sedgeford Village Hall. Our next lecture is on Monday the 12th November commencing at 2.00pm and we are inviting visitors to come along free of charge and it is:-

In the Kingdom of The Sweets by Nigel Bates on Monday 10 December 2018

Come and hear Nigel Bates, musical administrator of the Royal Opera House, talk about how the Nutcracker evolved from being a disaster at its first performance to being the great story-telling, design and dance success that has delighted audiences at Christmas for many many years now. □

DERSINGHAM VILLAGE SCREEN
on
15th December
2.00pm
at
THE NEW DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE



Shaun the Sheep

Entrance Fee: Adults- £5 Under 16 -£2
To include free Tea or Coffee
Other drinks and snacks available at reasonable prices

Doors Open at 6.45pm

Dersingham Village Screen is managed for the
Dersingham Village Centre Association
(Charity Number 1178462)
in collaboration with
Creative Arts East



The Last Train Before Christmas



The Sheringham train drew away
On its last trip before Christmas Day
But before it reached Holt
It was stopped with a jolt
By an old man, some deer and a sleigh

The driver leapt from the footplate
The fireman was clearly irate
But the old man just smiles
Hands out presents in piles
And whispers remember the date

So whether in Anmer & Fring
Just lift up your glasses and Sing
Of Holly and Berry
And god rest ye merry
And joy that the new year
will bring





Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny

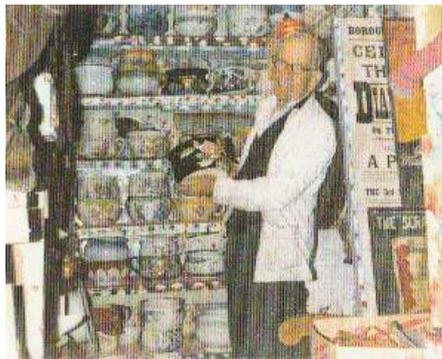
Well now on Thursday the 23rd of August I was sent to one of my granddaughters for the day, as it was the day we moved from Willow Road to Butterfield Rise on the Hopkins estate, which is just in Hunstanton at the Heacham end. When all the moving and unpacking was done they came and fetched me. It felt a bit strange at first living in a bungalow after living in a house for 79 years. The first night I bumped my head looking for the stairs, but we are getting used to it now and it is not too far from the town.

Joe Painter's gosunders and bonfires

I am now going to repeat a short story that I wrote for the Village Voice on the 4th of May 2004. Phillip (Joe) Painter was a bricklayer on the Sandringham estate. Just after the Second World War, around 1946/47, he lived in No 81 Lynn Road Dersingham in a house that was the end one of a terrace of four, called Pleasant, with his wife and two children, a boy and a girl. Joe was a real handyman, bricklayer, plumber, carpenter and most of all chimney sweep. Every day in the early mornings, before he went to work, and in the evenings and all weekend Joe would be seen going round the village with his trade bike. He always pushed it as it was so laden down with tools and his brushes and rods that he was unable to ride it.

Joe had a very long garden that went up beside the open common next to Hoddys Hole; he had a long path that went right up the right hand side of his garden and each side of this path he grew the largest pansies you had ever seen. If you asked him how he got them like that he would just say 'plenty of soot'. Half-way up his garden he had a shed and in it he kept his collection of over 300 'gosunders', in other words chamber pots. But the thing that Joe Painter was best known for was his huge bonfires on the 5th of November; they would light up the sky and people would come from all round the village to it bringing some fireworks with them.

Joe would start to build his bonfire at the end of summer at the top end of his garden after he had cleared it of vegetables. His recipe for success was old rubber tyres and inner tubes. Opposite Joe's house was Heath Garage where Eric Hyner lived. Eric would save Joe all his old tyres and tubes; Joe would make a large circle with six foot steel poles, put tyres over the poles and then fill the middle in to make the bonfire about 12 feet high.



Now us lads knew what would eventually happen - a spark from the fire would set light to the gorse bushes on the common. At first the men that were there would try to put the fire out with buckets of water but this never did work, so they would then have to call the Fire Brigade. The engine was kept in Miss Mann's barn at the top of Heath Road. If the wind was in the north, east, or west, and it usually was at that time of year, they knew the fire would spread to the rest of the common, so the firemen were never in a hurry. They would stop at Joe's house and have a cup of tea or something and then get on and put the fire out.

Fires on fen and common

Over the years we had lots of fires on the fen and the common when the bungalows were built on Tucks Field and Scotts Field (Manorside). The residents clubbed together and hired a bulldozer to make a fire break from Hoddys Hole along the north side of the common as far as Heath Road. Fires on the commons and the fen were mostly caused by the sparks from the old

steam trains. I remember one very bad fire that started by the railway line and spread right up to the old A149 road, then the flames leapt across the road and set the open common alight. At one time there was a bad fire that started on the first hill of the fen and, with a south east wind behind, it went right across the fen towards Babingley House and Heath Garage, but with a lot of hard work by the firemen they stopped it at the Red Dyke before it got to Ken Marten's wood. There used to be fires also at Lifelane Wood and on the sloops of Ken Hill Wood, Snettisham, all caused by sparks from the steam trains. Because of all the fires on the fen a track was made by bulldozers from the sandpit right across the fen and Wolferton Warren as far as Wolferton cutting, so the fire engines could get to the fires better rather than having to fight them from the road. This track is still there to this very day.

By-pass, moth and cranberries

I was very interested in Elizabeth Fiddick's article in the Village Voice about the Dersingham by-pass and that moth. An old gentleman of the village once told me that before the Second World War a route was marked out for a by-pass and if this route had been taken it would have joined the old A149 the Dersingham side of Wolferton cross roads in the nineteen sixties. The Heacham by-pass was constructed and the A149 was straightened at Redgate Hill and Tea Pot Corner, Heacham. Then the King's Lynn by-pass was constructed in the late sixties. My mother and father, who lived that time beside the old A149 at number 63 Lynn Road, Dersingham, spent hours on a Sunday sitting in their bay window watching the traffic. Father had some chickens on a bit of land the other side of the road to his house. He would give them double rations on a Saturday because he could not get across the road on a Sunday.

Elizabeth mentions the picnic area, which was an area of grassland between Sandpit Cottages, the sand pit and the village dump with a track heading northwards to the old rifle butts, which were behind the cottages. Sandringham estate built the pair of cottages for the rat catcher and the mole catcher. The lady who sold the cups of tea from her kitchen was a Mrs Borley. She lived there with her three sons and her husband, who drove a tractor for the game department on the estate. In the cottage next door lived a Mr Walker who I think was a retired gamekeeper. When the estate sold the cottages the gentleman that bought them knocked them into one house and at one time there was a swimming pool in the garden, though I don't think it is there now

In her article Elizabeth mentions Cranberry Fen. This area of land was and still is much further over the fen on the low ground between the railway line and the second hill that had a flagpole on it. It would fly a red flag when the rifle range was being used before the First World War. In this area also were the mud flats where the cotton flowers grew. Us boys used to pick bunches of these flowers and take them home to our mothers. When I was a lad many people still went over the fen to pick the cranberries. They grow right next to the ground and, as it is a backbreaking job, a lot of people would take an old hessian sack to kneel on. When us lads used to go over to Cranberry Fen we would go down the footpath just past Heath Garage. This footpath went alongside the Red Dyke till it got to the railway line, and then it would follow the line to Wolferton Cut. Many people would use this footpath to go from Wolferton to Dersingham to do their shopping. Well, as we all know, after a long wait the Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham by-pass was opened in 1990 but, oh! What happened to that moth? Well I did hear that in 1991 six of them were seen thumping a lift along the A149 to get to Roydon Common.

Well that's about all for now, so I will wish you all a very happy Christmas and a good New Year. Just keep a troshin.□

**A young Christmas D.J
from Docking**

**Thought he'd try some serious
jocking**

So he said to mate Dave

"Let's go for a rave"

And soon they had the joint rocking





DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE ASSOCIATION

David Collingham, Chairman DVCA

Since its opening on 20th October the Dersingham Village Centre has gone from strength to strength.

The Open Day and the drop-in week's events attracted hundreds of people from the village and the surrounding area. They were able to explore the building with its massive main hall, two extra meeting rooms and commercial-standard kitchen. In the first week alone, over 1,000 people visited the Centre and their feedback was extraordinarily positive. In addition informative articles and photos were published in the Lynn News and Your Local Paper which helped spread the word around the County.



Attendance has been very high at all the Dersingham Village Centre Association's events such as the Barn Dance, Quiz, Village Cinema and the Tea Dances (which are now taking place every last Friday of the month from 2.30 to 4.30). The Centre is rapidly filling up with bookings for a range of activities such as pilates, yoga and meditation, All Dogs Training School, dance classes with "Take the Lead Dance", Rock your Baby classes, exercise classes for over

50s and less-abled, carpet bowls, Jazzercise (exercise to jazz), Ballet For All, Day Centre for the Elderly, private parties, charity events, craft days, Christmas market, St Nicholas Church Christmas Tree Festival, St Nicholas Youth Group, Village Cinema and other events.

To get more information on when these activities are taking place go to the website

www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk, click on BOOKING at the top of the page, then click on the link "our calendar of bookings" in the first paragraph. You can then see a month by month calendar of events. However the calendar shows when the room is booked for, but the start time may be later if the organisers needs some



preparation time. You can email an enquiry to be put in touch with the organisers through - enquiries@dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk
You can also sign up to the news blog so that you will be sent an email alert of new activities and events at the DVC. Click on NEWS on the home page to take you to the sign up page. If you don't have internet access you can phone 07425 138160.



A hard-working group of volunteers has helped to get the Centre off the ground, but there is an urgent need for more volunteers to get involved with everything from putting out chairs and helping with the bar and kitchen, to helping with publicity and cleaning, as at present there are no paid staff to carry out these tasks. Do get in touch with me or any of the Association Committee who will be pleased to answer your questions, telephone 01485 540271 (email: dcollingham@gmail.com)

And finally a huge vote of thanks to all those who helped to make our vision a reality. See you in the coffee hub soon! □



Dersingham

Christmas Lights Switch-On

Sunday, December 2nd from 3pm
Lights on at 5:30pm
Recreation Ground, Hunstanton Road

Guest of honour—Nikki Scott

Proceeds from the event are going to

Scotty's Little Soldiers





Dersingham Carpet Bowls

For all the previous week the weather forecast said that our chosen day for a bring and share picnic at Sandringham would be twenty-two degrees and wall to wall sunshine. Needless to say, the day dawned grey and misty and the mist steadily turned to rain. But we are nothing if not resourceful lot and between them Maureen, Suzanne and Margaret managed to hire the hall at Orchard Close for a "Plan B" indoor picnic. Fifteen members gathered, and a super spread was laid out. Maureen had quickly concocted a fun quiz with varied questions which tested not only our brain cells but also our guessing abilities. Eventually the joint winning teams were Ray and Brenda and Fred and Margaret. We set upon the lovely spread of quiches, sandwiches, cheeses, sausage rolls, baby tomatoes and crisps followed by Victoria sponge, fruit cake and mini millionaire's shortbread all accompanied by tea or coffee.



On 20th September member Suzanne held her now traditional McMillan Coffee morning, aided by friends and several carpet bowls club members who baked and manned the urn, raffle and tombola. Howard Moore, Chairman of the King's Lynn branch committee attended and gave a brief outline of the charity's work. An extremely busy and successful day resulted in a total of £860.00 being raised.



Behind the scenes and with much tooting and froing (the information downside of having to do things by committee) David has managed to arrange a day and time for the club to move premises to the new village centre. On the strength of the much better storage facilities a new roller has been ordered and we hope to source a

further carpet and more bowls in the future. Due to the last-minute arrangement for our move we only had a very short time to put together a table display for the official opening on the 20th October. This was a very well attended event (especially in the morning) and a lot of people took interest in our display, which will hopefully result in some new members when we move. Our new club day will be on Tuesday afternoons from 3pm-5pm, for more details contact David on 07980 846087

On Sunday 28th October we hosted our 12th Annual Charity Bowl competition. 18 teams were due to attend but sadly Weeting 2 had to pull out at the last minute due to a medical emergency. An 8.30am start proved to be a challenge for those of us who "don't do mornings" but at least the clocks had gone back the night before. The large raffle and home-made cakes and fresh sandwiches proved very popular. As usual games were played in a competitive but friendly manner culminating in semi finals between Reepham and Fakenham and Dersingham 2 and Littleport. In tight matches Reepham eventually beat Fakenham and Littleport beat Dersingham 2. The final resulted in a win for Reepham with Littleport runners up. A successful though tiring day due to David organisational, Alan doing the scoring, Maureen and Rosemary manning the catering and all those club members who lent their time in any way needed. □



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Dersingham
01485 544850



News from Baby Basics West Norfolk

Since Baby Basics West Norfolk was set up in December 2015 by Davina Barrett, it has gone from strength to strength. It took several months to get completely organised, finding a suitable place for storage was our biggest challenge but with huge thanks to St Nicholas church and Rev Mark we have been given some space within the Tithe Barn.

Once our storage area was organised, with things boxed and labelled we had much easier access to all of the items we need to make up the Moses baskets that are donated to new mums and their babies during times of crisis.

In the autumn of 2017 Davina stepped down as leader to pursue a role within the church, three of us now co lead Baby Basics West Norfolk, myself Emma Eyre, Joanne Eldridge and Maggie Anderson. Between us we manage the storage area, the computer system and our Facebook page as well as the referrals that we receive from Health professionals such as Health Visitors, Social Workers or Midwives. We also have another 6 ladies that help with sorting/washing/ironing/packing.

Each Tuesday morning we all join together in St Nicholas church between 10&12 to sort through any donations we have received, making sure they are suitable. They are then taken home by volunteers to be washed and ironed, the following week they are bagged and labelled and put away in the correct boxes. The kettle is always on and there is usually cake, lots of people pop in with donations or just to help occasionally, everyone is very welcome to come and see what we do.

We also make up the Moses baskets and packs for the health professionals to collect during the morning. A prayer is said around each basket before it is handed to the professional.



Each Brand new Moses basket and bags contain:
2 packs of newborn sized nappies, 2 packs of baby wipes, 2 packs of maternity towels, Breast pads, 2 cellular blankets, 2 Moses basket sheets, 12 babygros, 12 vests, Outfits in sizes newborn & 0-3 months, Socks/scratch mitts/hats, Knitted items, Hand knitted blankets, Toys, Baby toiletries, Mum toiletries, Small gift for mum

We have been very lucky to receive so many donations of both items and money, without these we simply wouldn't be able to carry on.

As I am writing this article at the beginning of September, we have been able to donate 140 filled Moses baskets to new mums that are in crisis since we began in December 2015, that's approximately 4 a week and we expect many more referrals before the end of the year.

We have collection points in several different locations, the local children's centres will happily take them and let us know when they have something to collect.

If you would like more details please contact us via our Facebook page, Baby Basics West Norfolk or email us at babybasicswestnorfolk@gmail.com □

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SPECIALIST**

Dersingham Christmas Art Trail

with sixteen artists at eleven locations

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd December

10am–4pm both days. Admission to studios free



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CAROLE
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ILETT

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JO
HALPIN JONES

Photography

14 Post Office Rd



JANET
MARTIN

Fused Glass

12 Burma Close



STEPHEN
MARTYN

Paintings

2 Alexandra Close



BEN
MULLARKEY

Paintings

48 Chapel Road



JUNE
MULLARKEY

Pottery

48 Chapel Road



JULIA QUANCE
Paintings, Soapstone Carving

11 Iveagh Close
Holyrood Drive



MIKE SMITH

Paintings

17 Old Hall Drive



ALAN POLAINE

Photography

14 Lynn Road

Paintings, prints,
pottery, glass,
photography,
greetings cards,
candles and more.
Welcome to the
Dersingham Art
Trail!



JAN WILSON

Paintings

14 Lynn Road



VALERIE
ANCKORN
*Art, Candles,
Ladies' Clothing*

2 Manorside

DersinghamArtTrail.org

Dersingham Christmas Art Trail

The eighth Dersingham Christmas Art Trail is taking place over the first weekend of December. Villagers and visitors will be made very welcome to meet the artists, see what they have been up to since Open Gardens and Studios in the summer, and perhaps find that elusive Christmas present from the wide range of artwork on offer. But the artists are happy for you to just come and browse and perhaps partake of a mince pie at some studios!!

For details of participants and addresses see our poster. Maps are available at Dersingham Pottery at 48 Chapel road or on the website www.DersinghamArtTrail.org. □



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Focus on the Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus* Brian Anderson

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

The Gatekeeper is first mentioned in the literature by Merrett in 1666. It has had a plethora of common names over the years: the Lesser Double-eyed Butterfly, the Orange Field Butterfly, the Hedge Eye, the Small Meadow Brown, the Clouded Argus, the Large Heath (confusingly, this name today applies a quite a different butterfly) and the Hedge Brown. This last name is still used today by a minority of entomologists, although it describes the habitat more exactly than the commoner name (but I think it's a more charming one). Until about forty years ago it had the Latin name *Maniola tithonus* because it was regarded as being very closely related to the Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*.

It is a common butterfly of high summer, being on the wing between late June and the end of August. It is found, as the both modern names suggest, near sunny well-sheltered shrubs and hedges, generally with long grasses and wild flowers adjacent.

The males and females are distinct - that is, there is *sexual dimorphism*. The females have orange forewings with a brown border. The males (who emerge earlier) are somewhat brighter and with a brown band across the forewings. This is known as the sex brand and is the source of pheromones that the male uses to induce the female to mate. The wing colours of the Gatekeeper are derived from ommochromes, flavonoids and melanin.



Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns are often confused, especially when at rest when the wings are closed or when female Meadow Browns are on the wing. However, they are fairly easy to distinguish. Gatekeepers always have a double-pupilled eyespot on the forewing - this very rarely occurs in the Meadow Brown and then only in northern areas where the Gatekeeper is absent. When the wings are closed, the Gatekeeper shows tiny white dots on the hindwing - in the Meadow Brown these are black. But see later or even more confusion amongst foreign species!



Variation in wing pattern occurs, usually in the form of extra unpupilled dots on the forewing. The other variations all involve a modification of the wing colour. I once (1977) saw a very pale specimen near Ken Hill Wood which was tentatively identified by the Natural History Museum's curator of insects as a variety *ab. subalbidata*. This variety is fairly common in the south and west but was previously unrecorded in Norfolk.

The Gatekeeper emerges in late June in the warmest areas and is still on the wing (in reduced numbers) at the end of August. The males emerge first and are followed by the females about a week later. The males adopt a "perch and patrol" strategy and will fly to investigate any passing butterfly. The females lay eggs singly in long grasses at the base of shrubs, either directly onto grass blades or simply scattered in the air. A range of fine or medium blade grasses are selected, including couch and a variety of bents, fescues and meadow grasses. The caterpillar eats the egg shell after hatching and then spends eight months feeding on the fine tips of grasses (hibernating over the winter months at the base

of a thick clump of grass) and pupates in early June. The distribution of the gatekeeper is very sharply delineated. It is widespread at lowland sites across England and Wales up to a line from Merseyside to halfway across Lincolnshire. There is increasing evidence of a northward movement of this boundary as the climate warms.

Gatekeepers often form large colonies, sometimes numbering in the thousands, sometimes limited to a dozen or so individuals. There is little migration between colonies and it is rarely found at urban locations.

The Gatekeeper was the first butterfly I studied intensively. There are two reasons for this: firstly, I was involved in the establishment of the Hill Rise Local Nature Reserve near where we lived in Bedford and on this site the Gatekeeper was by far the commonest butterfly in high summer. Secondly, all the butterfly field guides stated that Bramble flowers were among the favourite nectar sources of the Gatekeeper but on Hill Rise most of the Brambles had set fruit before butterflies emerged. I charted this for a few years and came to the tentative conclusion that the guides were wrong. The problem with such flashes of inspiration is that they often fail to survive confrontation with the evidence. The first inkling that all was not as I had surmised came when I failed to find phenological (seasonal) variation on Brambles. There seemed to be no data on flowering times. Then I noticed that the scientific name of the Bramble was given as *Rubus fruticosus* agg. Which means that rather than being one distinct species, Bramble is an aggregate of many (nearly 2000 in Britain alone) similar *microspecies* and these vary in general form, number and size of spines, flower colour, form of fruit and flowering times. So I was right, but *only* on the one site I studied. I could *not* claim a generally



applicable conclusion. Brambles apart, Gatekeepers take nectar from Ragwort, Common Fleabane, Knapweeds and Thistles. In woodland they are known to ascend to the canopy and drink aphid honeydew. One plant it does not take nectar from is the Teasel - Gatekeepers have a remarkably short (8mm) proboscis (tongue) for a medium-sized butterfly and prefer flat open flowers. The nectaries of Teasel are beyond reach. Another feature of the Hill Rise work was an estimation of the total Gatekeeper population over one season. There are statistical techniques based on "mark-release-recapture" of a group of butterflies. This indicated a total population of around 2000

Gatekeepers over a six week flight period, this for a site of less than 0.6 hectares!

The genus *Pyronia* is one of essentially Mediterranean butterflies. The Gatekeeper is the only one in Europe that comes so far north. The other species are the Spanish Gatekeeper *Pyronia bathseba*, the Southern Gatekeeper *Pyronia cecilia* and the False Meadow Brown *Pyronia janiroides*. This last makes the identification problem outlined in the fourth paragraph even worse - just as well it's confined to Algeria and Tunisia! There are some subspecies of the Spanish Gatekeeper. One oddity is the species *Pyronia coenonympha* which is found in the Himalayas, well away from the Mediterranean climate of its relatives. I couldn't find a photograph or a vernacular name - shall we call it the Himalayan Gatekeeper? □



DERSINGHAM INSTITUTE BOWLS CLUB

by Jan Rawstron

The outdoor bowls season is well and truly over for this year, but work still goes on to prepare and keep the green in good condition for next season. Because of the efforts of our dedicated green team, led by Dickie Murrell, our green was still in great condition at the end of the season, despite all the usage and the hot weather. Our closing day was very well attended on the 15th September, and was followed by a delicious finger buffet provided by our lady members.



The previous Sunday was our Open Day, which was well supported by both our members and visitors, some trying bowls for the first time. Several of them expressed interest in joining our club next year and will be pleased to know that we will be holding another Open Day at the beginning of April.

Our League teams had mixed success this season, one which we knew would be a challenge as three of our teams gained promotion to higher divisions last year in the Albert Victor and North-

West Norfolk Leagues. All our teams escaped relegation, and will take this year's experience forward to what we hope will prove to be a more successful campaign. Our Countryside team came a very commendable 3rd place. The award for the most improved player this season went to Mary Hearne.

Internally, we compete for several trophies in our Knockout Competitions, all of which were hard-fought. The standard of play this year was very good, resulting in several thrilling finals. Our Internal League, played for the Derek Newell Trophy, was won this year by the Starlings.



All those who won trophies were presented with them at our Annual Presentation Lunch, held at Briarfields Restaurant on October 12th.

After a delicious lunch, and the presentation, a raffle, organised by Sheila, was held, which raised £100 for club funds. Thanks to the staff at Briarfields for all their hard work in making the afternoon a success.

Each year the club supports a local charity, this year being the R.N.L.I. at Hunstanton. We raised £400 for this very worthy cause, and will present a cheque for this on Sunday November 18th.

It is a great relief that the building work has been completed on the new Village Centre. Last season was somewhat of a challenge because of the parking situation, but we hopefully can look forward to next season, our centenary, with optimism. We would however like to give a heartfelt thanks to the businesses in St. Nicholas Court who allowed us to use their parking spaces during this trying time.

Finally, we held our AGM on November 6th, and will subsequently start making plans for next season. We would like to send seasons greetings to all our members and their families, and wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. □



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A Chance to Shop Local at the Fade To Grey Christmas Shopping Evening

Although Fade to Grey has relocated to Snettisham, we still like to play an active part in Dersingham so, after the success of last year's Christmas Shopping Evening at St Cecilia's, we are really pleased to say we will be repeating it again this year but on a larger scale.

The new Dersingham Village Centre makes a perfect venue, with wheelchair access, plenty of space in the hall and lots of parking . It won't be quite so cramped as last year, with lots of room to walk round and see what the amazing stalls have on offer. The new sound system means we can play Christmas carols to add to the atmosphere and the separate hub area makes an ideal place for a pop up cafe where teas, coffees, cakes , sausage rolls etc will be served throughout the evening. We also hope to get a licence to serve mulled wine and Prosecco.

So far there are over thirty local businesses and crafters booked to attend, including The Barn, Fudge n Stuff, It makes Scents, J & J Creative and Crafty Corner. They will be selling a wide variety of gifts and decorations such as ceramics, stained glass, Christmas wreaths, wood turning, clothing, beauty products, candles, paper craft, local artists, photography and some gorgeous Christmas decorations. Ideal if you are looking for unique presents.

So, if you like to 'shop local' and support small businesses, this will be the ideal opportunity as there will be so many under one roof! Come and join us, get in to the Christmas spirit,, have an enjoyable evening out, find some unique presents and at the same time support a worthy charity. Profits from the evening are going to the RNLI and there will be a raffle on the evening too with some lovely prizes donated by stall holders.

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The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle



Barnaby Conker Brown, my little brown cat, has got another woman. I can't bear the thought, but he comes home reeking of perfume. Clearly he has been getting cuddles and giving his love to another and there is nothing I can do about it. I hope she treats him well, but doesn't feed him. I don't want to lose my cat to yet another kindly person who thinks my boy needs sustenance and a warm home. He already has that! (I suppose the love-rat might be a bloke with strong aftershave? Barnaby has had his operation after all.)

He must have felt a bit bad that I had found out about his affair for, like any man who strays on the odd occasion, he felt the need to bring me a gift of atonement. A bunch of flowers would have been more appropriate but, as I sat propped up in my morning bed with a nice cup of coffee prior to leaping out and beginning my day, (did I say 'leap'? Figure of speech. It takes me an age to haul myself up and out of anywhere, let alone my bed) I saw my little brown man bringing me home a gift, his head held high as he carried his prize without dragging it, clearly chuffed to be bringing his Mum a pressie. What was it? I hear you enquire. It was a soggy nappy, that's what! I quickly snatched it away, thanking him profusely, shoved it in a plastic bag and put it in the bin, realising that it truly was a gift for me, because there was no 'that's mine' and trying to retrieve it. He stood back, looking like a bold hero, a smile of satisfaction at bringing back the booty, pleased to see me accept his gift. And off out again he went, while I struggled back to bed to finish my very important first coffee of the day, without which things will never go right.

I have the luxury of a TV at the end of my bed and I like Piers Morgan's wicked sense of humour so was laughing at something he was saying when in my peripheral vision I saw something trotting my way once more. It was Barnaby Conker Brown with yet another loose, soggy nappy! Surely not. I thanked him again, of course, because to him this was an important thing he was doing, and then I whipped it away for another disposal. On my return to my bower, he had gone. I did wonder where he was finding these nappies. Had he ripped open a plastic sack by someone's back door, or had he even managed to get into a bin, but I wondered why the mum had left the nappies loose, not rolled up and put in a bag. When I looked after my grandson, it was easy to roll the nappies up and keep them small by re-using the sticky tabs that keep them in place on the baby. I judged from the size of the nappies, that they had been used by a 2 to 3 year old.

Wide awake now, I rose majestically from my crumpled bedding and began the difficult task of dressing for the day when there he was again, head held high, with a third soggy nappy grasped firmly between his teeth and dangling awkwardly between his legs as he trotted with an air of importance and happiness, to lie his prize triumphantly between my diabetic feet.

It is so difficult, isn't it, when you receive an unwanted gift from someone who thinks you are going to love it? Oh thank you, you say with a smile as false as fudge and a quaver in your voice. I begged him to bring me no more, as three was more than plenty and I dreaded when he found a cache of used nappies with serious content. Thankfully, that has not yet happened and I hope he does not become a serial cat-nappy-burglar.

Ah - just remembered one of the things I was going to tell you. As I have been growing

a moustache and goatee beard for some time now, as well as quite a few recalcitrant tusk-like whiskers, when I saw a neat little hair dispenser thingy advertised, I sent off for it, but it didn't turn up for an age and I thought, have they just taken my money and run off with it? So I sent them an e mail - a French firm so their English replies were not 100%.

Me: Just worried about my order. Have you forgotten me? I have a full beard now.

Them: Don't worry your order is on the way, so you could get rid of your beard very soon!

Me: I have now received it. However, while the little light comes on, it doesn't work. Very disappointed. Off to join the circus now as the bearded lady!

Them: We sincerely apologize for this and that you have to join a circus for your beard. Do not hesitate to contact us if necessary.

Me: All is well, it worked in the end and I have shaved off my moustache. I am leaving the beard as my husband likes it. Thank you.

Them: We thank you for your message and for bringing some joy in our customer service.

As it happened, the device was really a shaver disguised as something pretty and as I realised this I didn't try it out on much of my face, fearing a five o'clock shadow. The experimental patch has now just become that - a bristly dark patch, but my trusty tweezers are soon sorting that out, so no harm done - but the reason I have added this to my piece is that, instead of ranting and raving at people when we are annoyed about something, sometimes a bit of humour does the trick and clearly that particular customer service department had something to chuckle about instead of abuse and rudeness - after all, it is never the fault of the poor girls (or boys) on the receiving end of complaints.

My granddaughter works at a call centre dealing with complaints, and is constantly distressed at the horrible things people shout at her - death wishes and so on - and as she told me, more often than not, the problems they have are of their own making - not reading their policy properly and so on. At the end of the day it is not easy to brush away insults and people swearing angrily at you. She has to remain bright and breezy and still continue to help the rude people. Mind you, humour does not help if rude people have no sense of humour themselves, does it!

Next year I am going to Oz to see kangaroos, camels and Aborigines, the latter being a quest for me. Let me tell you why. I will try and be brief, though the story is actually quite long and quite amazing.

I've mentioned before I'm one of those odd people who know things in advance. I have precognitive dreams that come true, visions and all sorts of amazing psychic experiences.

One of these experiences was when I had lain on my bed after a hard day's work for a little rest and as soon as my head hit the pillow I heard digeridoo music. I then found myself dancing in some kind of ceremony with an Aboriginal who actually looked more European - which confused me, and (keeping the story brief) I wondered if while I thought him Aboriginal, he might be Maori.

The next day, into my candle shop comes a beautiful woman with flowers woven into her black hair. When I spoke to her, she said she was a psychic, half Maori, half Native American. I told her about my lengthy vision and asked her what she thought it meant.



She said she didn't know, but delving into her bag, found a card and handed it to me. It was the card of a Maori Elder. She told me to contact the lady and ask what she thought. Now, how often does this kind of thing happen for goodness sake? It's more than mere coincidence, isn't it?

I received a reply, and the Elder explained to me that at that time I had my vision, both Maori and Aboriginal delegates were in Edinburgh, collecting the bones of their elders that had been dug up by explorers and taken to Edinburgh museum many years ago. They were going to take the remains back to their rightful resting grounds. There were many celebrations going on because of this, and the Elder said that as I was such a 'Sensitive' I had picked up on them.

So, my plan is to contact various tribes before I visit Oz in order to see if I can find the cheeky little Aboriginal that I was dancing with in my vision - and I don't feel it is an impossible task. (Research is so easy these days with Google) but, wait! There is more to add to this story and what I so love about the Cosmos, and how it works.

As mentioned, I had intended to write to various Elders of Indigenous tribes in Australia and maybe some newspapers too to tell of my story and my quest in order that they might help in the search, but haven't done so yet, but fate intervened last week.

I received an e mail from a lady asking to buy three of my books, but her name didn't ring a bell, though she clearly knew me. I decided to Google her name in the hopes of jogging my memory. Well, her name popped up, but an entirely different person - a University Don in Australia who majored in Aboriginal 'stuff' very near to the location I am going to visit!

What a coincidence - I just couldn't believe it! I immediately e mailed her with my story, and she is either going to put my e mail straight in the trash bin believing me to be a nutter, or be intrigued and contact me with an aim to help. From her web site it appears that she knows many Aboriginal tribes, and I'm hoping that she will advise me on them and the best approach. Time will tell. Isn't it amazing, though, when this kind of thing happens? Even if the lady doesn't contact me - and she hasn't yet - it has spurred me on anyway with my needle in a haystack search.

Christmas next. My studio will be open with the rest of the village artists on the Art Trail. 1st and 2nd December. I have all sorts of things suitable for Christmas gifts, including wheat and lavender heat bags, candles, scarves, tops as well as my paintings, all making lovely unique gifts. Hope to see you then! If not, have a great Christmas and a happy New Year.□

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from Cley**



**Woke up on a cold Christmas day
So he had said to his dog
"let's go for a jog
And I'll buy you a pint on the way"**



**A lady named Katie from
Dereham**



**Got French undies for Christmas
from Graham
But she got them in a twist
While she tried to play whist
Cause she didn't know the
way to Wereham!**





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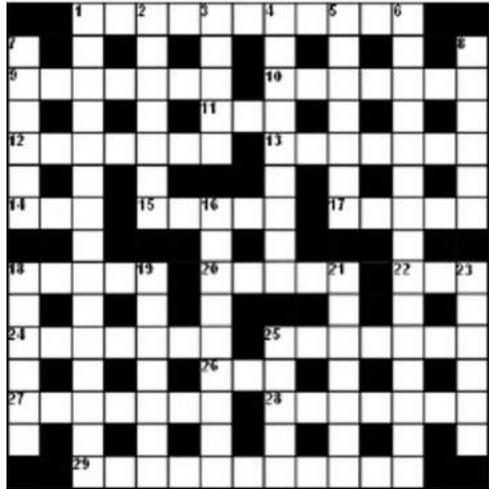
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PUZZLE CORNER

Christmas
Crossword by
Philip Neal

Across

- 1 Do the SNP for example have whisky to help them get in the mood for seasonal celebration? (5,6)
 9 Drunk attacker exchanged direction for ring interceptor (7)
 10 I heard she examined label to ensure this wine was suitable for Xmas dinner (4,3)
 11 Used by Morse at party time (3)
 12 Plenty joined in afternoon meal (7)
 13 Worn at minaret broadcast? (7)
 14 & 29 Does this flight only take a couple of days? (3,6,5)
 15 Detected listener in high definition (5)
 17 Took on her I.D. (mobile) (5)
 18 Threatening danger exposed by super illusion (5)
 20 Supergroup found on Xmas pudding (5)
 22 Underground movement (1,1,1)
 24 Harry Alan and I joined work on early instrument (7)
 25 Teacher kept record on first part of player mooring buoy (7)
 26 Nova Scotian Institute computes net statutory income (1,1,1)
 27 Invading papers found in drops on 3rd August (7)
 28 Driving aid working yet case is crystal clear (4,3)
 29 See 14a (6,5)



Down

- 1 Busy John put air tools where pictures speak louder than words (15)
 2 Drunken sleigh hauler? (7)
 3 Small cart reverses over the distance (5)
 4 Branch bank holds the name of the game – or is it in their comic repartee? (9)
 5 Waste hidden in shrub Bishop threw away (7)
 6 Trois Poules Français – so no shortage of eggs for Xmas breakfast (5,6,4)
 7 Letter from Athens found in Disney's possession disclosed wood (6)
 8 Journalists had it adapted (6)
 16 Celestial Russian timber supplier – port not vodka (9)
 18 Is prep. school ready for music? There were ten of them (6)
 19 More crazy than a Canadian diver? (7)
 21 Commissar – but cocktail not recommended for Xmas (7)
 23 Reg returned to Ilse to find stable box (6)
 25 Is this the way Lewis prefers his vegetables? (5)

Sudoku

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

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WORD WALL BY Philip Neal

Sort the following into 4 groups of connected words

POLITICAL	ANGEL	RESTRICTED	MAKO
CLOCK	SOLDIER	NEEDLE	FUNCTION
SHINDIG	SECRET	PERSONAL	HOME
PATCH	HAMMERHEAD	ALLIANCE	PORBEAGLE

The Penny Corona

By Elizabeth Fiddick with additional research from Mike Strange

On Saturday October 20th I joined many other villagers to watch the official opening of our newly refurbished and extended village hall. The sun shone brightly as we watched the West Norfolk Mayor and Mayoress Nick and Cheryl



Daubney with Phoebe Ward, 16, the daughter of one of the centre's Trustees, pull on the bow of bright red ribbon which slowly unravelled to signify the new hall was finally open for business.



Like most people here I had watched over the last few months as the builders got to work on the old hall. I watched as the roof was demolished then retilled, as new foundations were dug and fresh walls erected. The car park was bulldozed, the old tree stumps excavated and removed so that at

times it looked more like a moonscape and you wondered if it would ever be completed. But gradually the new hall began to take shape and order was slowly returned until on that sunny October day we could all enter and see the results of all that labour and hard work.

I was glad that on approach we were still welcomed by the same familiar face, even if somewhat changed, that had welcomed generations of villagers since 1912 when the original was opened. Inside, however, it has been transformed and the whole is now airy, bright and welcoming. Coming into the entrance, or Hub, if you looked up you would have seen that it was lit by a handsome brass chandelier or corona. The most observant would have noted that the brass ring had been engraved with the words, "To the memory of Thomas Carisbrooke Penny 1882".

This handsome piece had been found in a very dilapidated state amongst other discarded items in our Tithe Barn by Tom Wheeler. It was through his efforts that the church agreed to donate the piece to the Village Hall committee for use in the new hall. It was thus thoroughly restored, wired for electric light and now adorns the entrance hall. But what is the story it tells?

To begin at the beginning as one of my favourite poets once said.

Our church of St. Nicholas was built on the site of a Norman Church and there may have been an Anglo Saxon church on the site before that. The fabric contains a variety of building materials but the local carrstone predominates. The present chancel was built in the early 14th century and the aisles were added at the same time. There is evidence in many wills that the medieval guilds that



were here in the village built them as places where their meetings could be held. The tower was built onto the nave and chancel about 1370 and the aisles were raised to their present height. The upper row of windows, the clerestory, was added to give greater height to the roof. It was and still is a magnificent building. This was of course a rich part of the country with its wealth derived from sheep and corn. In times of economic prosperity the upkeep of such a fine building as the church could be maintained but even so as is the case in modern times it was always a struggle to keep it in good repair.

During the 17th century the church was described as in a ruinous condition and had lost much of its value during the Commonwealth period after the Civil War. In 1655 Geoffrey Dorr who resided at Dersingham Hall reported that he, "*did repaire the second seat in the Parish Church at my owne cost for my wife to sett in and my family and nobody is to sett there but that they shall live in my estate.*"

He recorded that he did not think there was anything belonging to the church worth removing to another church.

A small studded clay vicarage house once stood in the churchyard about where the memorial cross is now. Over time it was so neglected that it was described in 1709 as “*Ruins of one vicarage house long since dilapidated with some old walls remaining with barn containing two golfsteads with a yard containing 30 perches of land.*”

John Pell, a wealthy wool merchant, was so annoyed at having such a ruin outside the front gate of the fine Tudor house that his family had built in the area of our present surgery in 1553 that he ordered it to be demolished. Thus Dersingham had no vicarage for many years. When the last member of the Pell family died in 1690 he left his estate to his cousin Robert Walpole of Houghton Hall who allowed the Pell house to be used by the clergy of the village. Eventually even that once fine Tudor mansion also fell into great disrepair. In 1726 however the Bishop decided that as the cost of building a decent substantial house fit for a minister and his family would exceed £200 he exonerated the then vicar, Thomas Gill, from the cost of such a rebuild. Much to his relief I am sure. Samuel Kerrich, who became our next vicar in 1729 finally moved his family over to Dersingham Hall in 1753 when the conditions in Pell's once imposing house became too much to cope with and that house was eventually demolished.

Originally on top of the tower of the church was a lantern with a lead spire rising from it in which hung a small bell. This would have been a clear marker for the fishing boats returning to Dersingham Haven in the days when the waters of The Wash came right up to the village. In 1751 the Tower, steeple and porch were whitewashed at a cost of £4.4.0d by one Richard Dye but the spire was eventually removed in 1798.

Problems with maintenance abounded in the next century. In 1823 Richard Stanton wrote to Thomas Kerrich the vicar of the time that the preservation of the East Window was a problem.

“ I am sorry to inform you the glass of the East Window was destroyed and the arched stone work entirely blown to pieces.”

(This sounds to me like storm damage and is particularly interesting because at some time between 1797 and the publication of Bryant's map of the village in 1826 the windmill that was recorded on the 1797 map as standing on the high ground behind the old railway station ceased to be recorded. Perhaps it too suffered in the same storm.)

In 1829 the lead was stripped off the church and porch and replaced by slates at a cost of £445 but the sale of the lead recovered £175.

In 1830 the Churchwardens were complaining that the West Windows had been broken by stones being thrown from the road. They offered a 5shilling reward to anyone who could provide information to catch the culprits as this was a continuing nuisance.

So it is no surprise to read in White's Directory of 1864 after a description of the church that, *“the whole is in a somewhat dilapidated state and needs judicious restoration”* and in 1874 that, *“the church which is much dilapidated is about to be restored.”*

It is now time to meet Edward William Penny who in 1875 was about to take over from William Tylden M.A. to become our vicar. Edward William was born in 1843 in Ash, Kent. He was the son of the Rev. Edward Penny and Emma Charlotte (nee Sprakeling) Penny and had two brothers, Thomas Carisbrooke, the elder and Fraser Hislop, younger and a sister Elizabeth Edwards Lavington. Both Edward and Fraser followed in their father's footsteps and entered the church. Edward attended St. John's College Oxford and was appointed the vicar here in 1875.

Now when the Rev. Penny arrived plans to restore the church and build a suitable Vicarage were well under way. The Rev. Penny was very much involved with the contractors William and John Bardell of Middleton in the planning and design for the new vicarage so that by 1877 it had been built largely to his specifications up on the hill by the church where it still stands today and the Reverend Penny could become its first inhabitant. The 1881 census records Edward living there with William Waters, a visiting Theological Student, Herbert Neal, a civil engineer, a gardener, cook and housemaid.

During the years 1877 -79 Edward William oversaw the renovation and restoration of the church at a cost of £5 -6000. The cost of restoring the nave was defrayed by Dr. Bellamy, a principal landowner, the Chancel by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners supplemented by £300 raised by subscription. The building was entirely re-seated with open pews of wainscot, with a pulpit of the same and a handsome brass lectern was erected. It must have been quite a transformation and the changes had not finished. In 1884 a new organ made by Foster and Andrew of Hull for a cost of £221. 5s was installed in the North Aisle along the north wall at the east end. Now the congregation could really lift up their voices alongside the playing of a delighted organist.

In fact we learn from the churchwardens report after Edward had retired that during his Incumbancy (25 years) £10,000 had been spent on the Church, Vicarage and Church Schools of the Parish. According to a list I have seen that would amount to something like £550,000 today.

Gifts made to the church at this time included the Rood Screen tracery and restoration, hangings to the East End, 78 Service books, altar kneeling cushions for rails, candlesticks and vases, Litany desk, porch wire doors, font ewer, Glastonbury Chair, and Churchyard shed. But of particular interest to us in 1887 the church had been relighted by four handsome brass coronas at a cost of £90. It is one of these that now hangs in our village hall which brings us back to Edward's older brother Thomas Carisbrooke.

Unlike his two brothers Thomas did not enter the church. He enlisted in the Royal Regiment of Artillery based in Woolwich. He was promoted from Cadet to Lieutenant on August 10th 1864. However his military career was not a long one for it was announced by the War Office, Pall Mall, that Lieutenant Thomas Carisbrooke Penny was to be permitted to resign his Commission with the Royal Regiment on August 14th 1867.

In both the 1871 and 1881 census returns Thomas was recorded as "Late Lieutenant Royal Artillery" married, but boarding with one John Browse Oldreive, farmer of 280 acres, Little Dartmouth Devon at The Grange. His wife is not shown as living with him but nor is he listed as widowed. At the time of writing Mike has been unable to locate his marriage so there is still much to find out about Thomas. However we do know that he died on the 10th September 1882 in Little Dartmouth aged just 40. In his will he left his money in trust to the daughter of his friend John Oldreive.

So when the brass coronas were made The Rev. Edward Penny had one engraved in memory of his older brother who had died just five years earlier and it now provides a link between the hall and its previous connection to our church.

Ill health forced the Rev. Penny to retire in 1901 and it is clear from the letters at the time that he was very highly regarded by the whole village. He had seen the church rescued from the dilapidated condition he found it in when he arrived and he had been primarily responsible for the layout of the fine new vicarage. He died in 1909 so he did not live to see the building of the original Church Institute Hall but I am sure he would have been closely involved with it if his health had allowed. But the brass corona in our new hall is a handsome reminder now of both Thomas Penny and Edward our vicar.

Perhaps one day the other three coronas will be located and we can investigate any commemorative engravings that maybe on them.□



LOVE YOUR LIBRARY BECOME A FRIEND

On 4th October Chris Holt from Hunstanton & District Camera Club gave a talk and showed his photographs of a walk along the coastal path from King's Lynn to Gt. Yarmouth. At the same time there was an exhibition of some of the camera club's prints in the library.



On the evening of October 16th the library was once again host to a talk by Carl Smith, Critical Care Paramedic. Some very informative step by step basic training on what to do if you are with someone who has a cardiac arrest was enlightening and hopefully allayed nervousness around the subjects of giving CPR and using a defibrillator. This has become a yearly event due to requests from the public. Please let us know if you want a repeat next year; we would like to encourage the younger generation to come along. Some of the many poppies that were knitted, crocheted or made from felt are now back at the library and are on display. If anyone saw them at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich it was a real spectacle showing the 15,500 poppies made to remember the Norfolk lives lost as a result of WW1.

You might have noticed that our garden has some wonderfully colourful additions as well at present.

Pupils from Dersingham VA Primary School have placed some bright red plastic poppies along the path following a visit to the library to learn more about WW1.

The Library Garden Club continues to meet on the Second Wednesday of each Month 2.00pm to 4.00pm (bring your own gardening tools). This will continue throughout the winter even if the weather is foul in which case we will sit in the warm, have a cuppa and talk gardening hints and tips. We were thrilled to be given a donation for plants along with four large bags of daffodil bulbs recently by a library user. All the bulbs have been planted so we hope for some lovely colour in the spring.

On the subject of gardening we are looking for a speaker who has the expertise to cover this topic, hints, tips and answers to questions. You don't have to be a professional but if you are interested please let staff members have your details and we will be in touch.

Future Events:
Wednesday 12th December
3.30 pm.



Join us and the Dersingham Descanters for an afternoon of Festive Hand Bell Ringing and Refreshments.
Thursday 7th February 2.30pm – 4.30pm
 Valentines Book Folding with Kathy.
 Booking is Essential as there are limited spaces. Call 01485 540181 £3.00 per person.

If you wish to find out more about Dersingham Library Friends please pop into the Library and speak to any of the staff. □



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Christmas and Beyond with Hunstanton Community Choir

by Steve Davis

Since the beginning of September our Choir has worked its way through quite a few updates to its current repertoire under the expert guidance of musical director Simon Bower, ably assisted by our dextrous pianist Matthew Preston. By

the time you read this, it is anticipated that some of the fruits of our labours will have been aired at our first concert of the season in St Edmunds Church, Hunstanton on Saturday 24th November before we press on with our Christmas items.

Meeting as we do for rehearsal from 7pm to 9pm on a Tuesday evening in Hunstanton Town Hall, our final night of term on Tuesday 18th December will be our annual *Christmas Singalong* to which you are all invited at a cost of £6, including tea, coffee or juice and mince pies. Here, in festive mood, we will endeavour to woo and serenade you but do be prepared as always for some audience participation. We are also delighted to welcome back the *Dersingham Descanters* handbell ringers to join us to bring their own seasonal melodies – a fun evening to invite family and friends to.

Starting again in the New Year on Tuesday 8th January, we continue to fine hone our repertoire and no doubt take on some new songs to present at the various events we will be involved with throughout the year. This is a good time to come and join us. We always allow your first Tuesday evening free of charge and thereafter we pay a subscription on each night we attend.

Although, at time of writing, our nightly subscription rate for the new year has still to be fixed at either £3.50 or £4.00 (including refreshments), given the fun, friendship and expert tuition we share in, I think you would be hard pressed to find better value for a such a very fulfilling evening out. There is also an optional raffle held at each rehearsal.

The benefits of singing for health and a sense of wellbeing are undeniable, not to mention the social and mutually caring aspects of belonging to a choir and, I would say, ours in particular. To me, one of the greatest joys is that moment when one feels their voice blending in harmony with others. Our membership does include quite a large contingent from Dersingham now, so do come and give us a try or at least come and hear us at one of our concerts. □

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Christmas Singalong

with Hunstanton Community Choir

and guests

The Dersingham Descanters
Handbell Ringers

in the Town Hall, Hunstanton

Tuesday 18th December 2018

at 7pm Entrance: £6

including mince pies and hot drinks





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Crossword Answers

Across

1.PARTY, SPIRIT 9.AVOIDER 10.RUBY, RED 11.DOT 12.NOODLES 13.RAIMENT 14.TWO
15.HEARD 17.HIRED 18.PERIL 20.CREAM 22.N,U,M 24.PIANOLA 25.DOLPHIN 26.N,S,I
27.RAIDING 28.CATS,EYE 29.TURTLE,DOVES

Down

1.PHOTOJOURNALIST 2.RUDOLPH
3.YARDS 4.PARTRIDGE 5.RUBBISH
6.THREE,FRENCH,HENS 7.WALNUT
8.EDITED 16.ARCHANGEL 18.PIPERS
19.LOONIER 21.MOLOTOV 23.MANGER
25.DICED

Sudoku Answers

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

Word Wall Answers

“**Work:** Clock”, Needle”, home”, Patch”

Parties: Political, Function, Shindig,
Alliance.

Sharks: Porbeagle, Hammerhead, Angel,
Mako

Private: Soldier, Personal, Restricted,
Secret



Dersingham Evening WI by Maggie Guest

September started with a beading workshop. A group of members made very pretty necklaces. Well done to them and thanks to the tutor.

Babs has continued with running both the craft groups at which she is so generous with her time and materials. Babs also now runs the walking group but due to inclement weather the walk at Roydon was cancelled but a walk around Hunstanton and rural area was well attended and followed by lunch in Hunstanton.



Some of our members were able to join Ingoldisthorpe WI and go to Cambridge Botanical Gardens on a day trip. A lovely day out thanks to our neighbours in Ingoldisthorpe .

Our WI held an Autumn Fair with crafts, teas, cakes etc on sale. The event was well attended, and stalls were provided by other WIs as well as local people. Stephanie runs our MAD group which is a knitting group that knits for charity and they took over one stall. An added attraction was a display of classic cars in the carpark so thanks to them.

Peg continues to keep members fit with her Fit 'n dancing group on a Monday morning. Other members have joined classes run by Peg privately.



At the September monthly meeting we had the pleasure of an excellent speaker in Alison Thorne talking about Libraries in the 21st Century. The talk included giving us all a 'test' with questions to answer about our local library. Our library has a group of 'Library Friends' who are there to help and raise awareness of the library. One of these, Penny, came to the meeting and was happy to answer questions too. Our library opened in 1974 simply as a book borrowing centre but a lot goes on there now. If you are reading this and have never been, pop along and have a look. It

is now possible to go in the library when no staff are there as new library cards open the door. Alison also brought along a string of poppies made by borrowers. They were making 15,500 poppies to represent the casualties from both World Wars. A huge labour of love and an amazing gesture.

At the October meeting Val Anckorn (aka Mrs Dolittle who writes in the VV) who told us about working as a Reiki Practitioner, how she became involved and her own experiences. This Japanese inspired way of healing and relaxing provoked quite a bit of interest from members. Perhaps some will try it out with Val and report their own experiences back to the members.

Wendy (our amazing in-house historian) used our new display boards to create two displays. One side was all about our WI



and the other side had photos and names of all the men who have died in battle from Dersingham. Table displays were made using members' memorabilia of medals etc. The whole display was taken to the official opening of the new Village Hall. Really excellent Wendy!

Also on display was a wreath with 61 home made poppies which had been made by members. 61 poppies for 61 members. This wreath is going to be left at the Dersingham War Memorial from the 11th Nov onwards. We are very aware of the poppies made by the British Legion to raise funds for ex-soldiers and so as not to deprive them of money, we are donating a suitable sum to them.



A good number of members attended the Group Meeting at South Wootton where we were entertained by a small group of women called Three's Company. They gave a vocal dramatic presentation of the experiences various women had in Europe during WW1. The stories of each of the women were true as they were taken from the women's diaries. I think we all found the stories very emotional and poignant with the Centenary Remembrance so close. Such hard times were had by all, we should remember them as well as the many War Casualties.

Coffee mornings have been held by Lyn/Cyn, Stephanie and Jill. Maggie is having a 'Wine and Cheese' lunch in December instead of a coffee morning. These smaller social groups are good for getting to know other members. Usually at least one informal time to meet up and chat.

Diann is still running the Theatre Group. Members have been to a Live Recording of Andre Rieu, the new film Mamma Mia 2 Here We go Again, and The King and I recorded in the West End.



A group have met to start preparation for the Silver Salver competition held with other Norfolk WI's competing in this craft based display that takes place in Norwich next Spring.

Each month we have an easy competition run by Jackie. She chooses a subject and members simply have to bring in a related item to display. Recent topics have been 'Your Favourite book, 'Autumn related'.

Each month we have table flowers and Birthday Posies.

These are done by different members and are a real delight so thanks to all those ladies as we all enjoy having a Birthday posy when it our Birthday month.

We have a raffle each month at £1 a ticket to boost our funds.

Meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month (except August) at St Cecilia's Catholic Church starting at 7.15 pm

Visitors are welcome to try a couple of meetings. Bring a cup or mug! We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. Peg 541162, Katrina 544773, Maggie 542424





DERSINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Elizabeth Batstone

The workmen have been busy in the corridor and vestry managing to reinstate the majority of the corridor floor without causing too much disruption. Further work and decoration is needed to the corridor ceiling and toilet walls. Church users and hall hirers have been, and continue to be, understanding and co-operative while the work is taking place.

The October coffee morning raised £302.90 which has been divided equally between St. Faith's Revving up project and Church funds. Thank you for your support and generosity. Funds from our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 25th November will be divided equally between King's Lynn Night Shelter and Church funds. The first coffee morning of 2019 is on Saturday 26th January and funds raised will be divided equally between The Big C and church funds.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas services:
Sunday 23rd December – 4.00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight - Revd Steve Oliver
Christmas Eve Communion – 11.30 p.m. - Revd Steve Oliver
Christmas Day Service 10.30 a.m. – Elizabeth Batstone
Sunday 30th December 10.30 a.m. Revd Steve Olive, Holy Communion
No evening service.

May God richly bless you all with peace, joy and love this Christmas and in 2019. □



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Wolferton Air Crash Remembered 35 Years On

Ben Colson



This year, the 27th September was a Thursday, and a beautiful sunny day it was too, the perfect weather to commemorate the memory of Squadron Leader Michael Stephens who had been killed thirty five years earlier in the course of duty, when his plane crashed into the marshes North of Wolferton and to re-dedicate the memorial there to his memory.

Much of the information used in this article is taken from the Lynn News and Advertiser of Friday 30th September 1983 and subsequent editions, and from RAF Marham's in-house magazine article published October 2018.



Back in 1983, the 27th was a rather windy Tuesday, and that evening Wolferton village postmaster, Reg Southgate, walked the couple of hundred yards from his home and post office to the village social club. He later told the newspaper that an aircraft flew overhead which seemed to be heading on a north-easterly course and that "all of a sudden, when it got above me, it cut out and seconds after there was an explosion. I heard this terrific bang and a few seconds afterwards it burst into flames and plummeted to the ground. There were definitely flames coming from the plane before it hit the

ground, then a terrible flame when it hit the floor". Reg said that he was the only person outside at the time "I don't expect anyone else even heard it. They were all in the club at the time." He said that when he told his friends in there, they didn't go outside to see, as they were playing whist! Those still living in the village today confirm that, to the contrary, they most certainly did hear it.

Possibly because the whist was so engrossing, it took the navigator, later named as Flight Lieutenant Nigel Nickles, who had ejected and parachuted to safety before the plane crashed, to raise the alarm. He knocked on the door of the nearest house to where he landed, belonging to self-employed plumber Roy Franklin at Beach Road, Snettisham, and asked to phone his base – and was also offered a beer. Others living in that area certainly had heard it, and ran outdoors to see what had happened, one resident there told the newspaper that "it sounded as if it was stuttering, then there was a tremendous whoosh, like a flame-thrower at close quarters".

Actually, the search and rescue operation had been mounted before the navigator phoned in, because the aircraft's disappearance had been picked up by the Eastern Radar defence system, and teams were being dispatched along the coast and for miles around the wreckage and the crater in which it was buried. Local police and Coastguard staff were soon joined by a contingent of servicemen from RAF Marham and its home base Honington near Bury St Edmunds, but it was two fire appliances from Sandringham that were the first to arrive in Wolferton.

The plane had crashed in the wood to the North East of Steer Road about quarter of a mile from the village of Wolferton. The navigator, however, landed in a field about three miles away, close to where Snettisham by pass now runs. He had ejected at 15,000 feet, and the 30 knot wind blowing that night had carried him that distance.



The game of whist in Wolferton social club presumably over, at soon after eleven in the evening, the club was commandeered as Search Headquarters and the first of some 350 personnel were arriving to start the search, including a specialist team from RAF Stafford. The search for missing weapons instructor and pilot, Squadron Leader Mike Stephens, was described then in the newspaper as one of the biggest peacetime operations of its kind ever mounted in West Norfolk. Soon after midnight an RAF Nimrod flew overhead dropping flares as it started a systematic night search. At midnight thirty, Wing Commander Cunningham from RAF Honington, ZA586's base, said at a hurriedly arranged news conference at Wolferton that "we are literally searching in the dark".

"Sleepy Wolferton began to take on the appearance of a frontline military camp. Puzzled villagers gathered in small clusters to see what was happening, and press and television and radio teams scurried back and forth trying to establish the state of the search" said Lynn News' Mike Last in his report.

By three the next morning a field kitchen had been established on the sugar beet pad in Steer Road, and the newspaper reported that by 9.45am no less than 1,500 meals had been served.

That bang, that event, that crash of aircraft code ZA586, led to the RAF's entire fleet of the then new Tornado aircraft – to be temporarily grounded in what the Ministry of Defence described as "purely precautionary because it is a newish aircraft."

One of the search team despatched that night from Marham's Tornado 617 Squadron was then a young man in his twenties, today a successful West Norfolk businessman. He told me at the commemoration this year that the contingent he was part of worked for three days day and night, eight hours on, eight hours off, and the search mission covered an area much wider than just the plane's crater itself. The initial task was to find the missing pilot, and as day broke on 28th the search area was widened to fifty square miles, and included lifeboats as well.

In the morning press conference, Wing Commander Cunningham said "the search is going on over ploughed fields, marsh, in woodland, and thick bracken; some is easy and obvious, some is murderous". Later that morning, Mike Stephens' body was located in the cratered wreckage and the massive search was scaled back. It was speculated that he died because he remained in the aircraft to steer it away from Wolferton, mindful of the inevitable loss of life there that would have otherwise been caused.

Over the weekend of 1st and 2nd October the search for clues continued, including drafting in the Royal Engineers from Waterbeach Barracks near Cambridge as 500 gallons of aviation fuel remained in the wrecked plane. The black box recorder was located and taken to Boscombe Down, Wiltshire, and other pieces of the wreckage, to Farnborough. Thus the search moved to the technical phase.



The subsequent Board of Investigation established that ZA586 was returning to base on a Southerly course as it approached Wolferton. One of the generators failed and as the crew were working through the procedure to shut off non-essential electrical systems, the second one also failed. This double failure led the engines to exceed their governed limit, causing the turbines to fail and the aircraft to lose power, height and navigation and causing it to veer northerly again. The Board of Investigation was unable to ascertain what caused this double failure on what was the first production Tornado, and the first to have been lost.

The Parish Council at the time commemorated the event by planting an oak sapling and building a memorial close to the crash site.

Thirty five years later, the sapling had blossomed into a full tree but the memorial and fencing were tired and staff from RAF Marham mounted a project to restore the site. An open air service of commemoration and re-dedication was held on 27th September 2018; the Parish Council was honoured to have been asked to attend and also to invite people living in the village at the time, as the help and support given by the village to the search teams had been recorded with much appreciation by the RAF.

The service, led by RAF Padre Geoffrey Firth, was attended by some 30 people, including navigator Nigel Nickles and Michael Stephen's sister. A two minute silence was observed, and one of today's Tornados flew overhead. It was a simple but moving service, and for me the most poignant thing to have learned that whilst the crash happened in this quiet village in a corner of England, Michael Stephens died in the protection and security of the nation, equally as a Tornado pilot today may put his life in danger flying sorties in hostile territory.



I am indebted to Betty Woodhouse for lending me her collection of newspaper cuttings from the time and Chief Technician Rob Swanson of 9 Squadron, RAF Marham, for sight and use of his article for their in-house magazine.

Sadly, there is currently no public access to Steer Road and the memorial. Ed. □


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Articles and Non-Profit Making Promotions for Village Voice

These should be preferably emailed directly to the Editor:

villagevoice@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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Printed by Clanpress Ltd, Dundee Ct, Hamburg Way, King's Lynn, Norfolk



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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday December 11th

Secrets of the Town Hall



800 years of History, from the first Mart to the first lady Mayor... and beyond!

With Rachael Williams from The Stories of Lynn

Dersingham Village Centre, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £5.00 including refreshments & raffle

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday January 8th

**BOOKED
FOR 11th JULY 2017**



The Working Horse in Norfolk

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

An illustrated talk by

Stephen Pope

Dersingham Village Centre, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £5.00 including refreshments & raffle