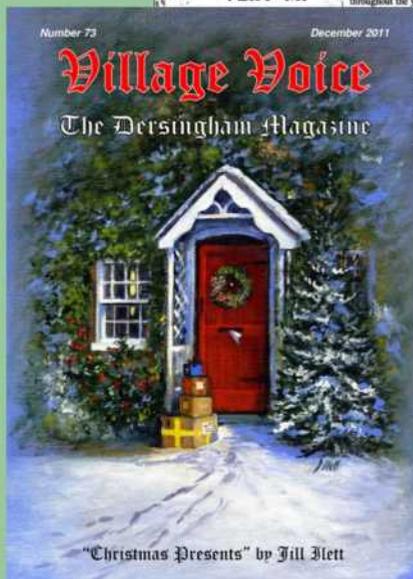
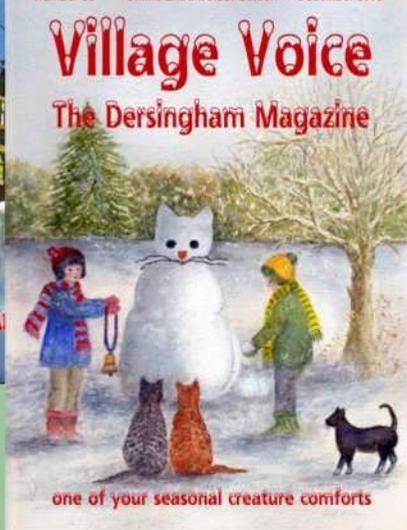
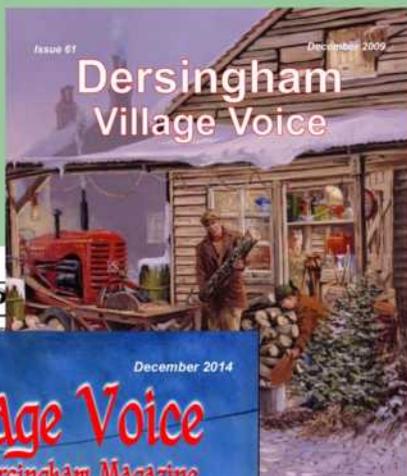
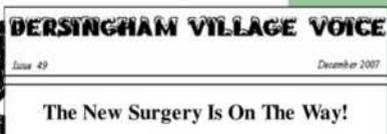
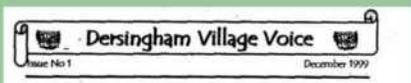


# VILLAGE VOICE

## The Dersingham Magazine



Happy  
20th Birthday  
Village Voice



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## Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones



The first edition of Village Voice was published in December 1999, so we can now celebrate the 20th anniversary of the magazine. On the front cover is a selection of Christmas editions throughout the publication's history. As you can see, the early issues were black and white. Over the years there has been a gradual increase in the use of colour, but it does not seem to be until No. 82 in June 2013 that colour was fully utilised.

We'd like to thank all our advertisers, past and present, without whom we could not continue. They provide us with essential revenue and also let villagers know about valuable local services. We should also like to give grateful thanks to all the contributors who have supplied the basic content. We have been informed, educated, entertained, and been able to recognise faces and places from the past and taking part in activities nowadays.

The editorial baton has been passed down over the years, with each editor making their own mark. If you search online for **Dersingham History** and then click on **Archive**, you will come to complete editions of nearly every copy of Village Voice (they are still looking for Issue No. 2). You can then follow through the changes as the magazine and its editors developed.

As Christmas approaches there's plenty going on in and around the village, and in King's Lynn where there's a Festive Farmers' Market on 7th December and a Festive Fair in Tuesday Market Place until Christmas. Back in Dersingham, this very first weekend after you receive your copy of VV the ninth Dersingham Christmas Art Trail takes place on Saturday 30th November and Sunday 1st December. Studios all over the village open up for you to visit. You can get a map from Dersingham Pottery. Fade to Grey's Christmas Market takes place at the Village Centre on Friday 6th December. It will be packed with stalls of all kinds - it might help with some Christmas shopping ideas! There is a pop-up cafe with refreshments to keep you going. Village Voice Live and Dersingham Village Screen continue to make excellent use of the Village Centre by entertaining us with interesting talks and quality films - see details further into VV. The year finishes with a New Year's Eve Disco and Supper at the Village Centre, with licensed bar. Get your tickets from the Post Office.

All these events are covered in more detail inside, and a full listing of December and January events in and around Dersingham is on the inside back cover. If you have future events coming up, just email us at [villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk](mailto:villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk). Also inside is our annual **Dersingham Data**, listing local groups and organisations, Councillors and other useful numbers.

**AN IMPORTANT REMINDER: The General Election takes place on Thursday 12th December. THE POLLING STATION WILL BE LOCATED AT DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE AND NOT AT ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH.**



It remains to wish you all an extremely happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.





## Dear Village Voice



**Re: Happy Childhood**

In the latest issue "120" of Village Voice Dick Melton writes about "Happy Childhood", Alex Fisher's pantomime, and just about copies the programme. I cannot remember the year it took place but if it was 1944 that would make me six years old and I think I was a little older than that.

I wrote about the pantomime in issues Nos. 43 and 45 a few years ago, including where it was performed – I don't recall it being performed on the pastures. It was certainly performed in the church hall, as it was often called then, also in other places like Snettisham, Heacham, Hunstanton, Sedgeford, Docking and Ringstead – possibly Bircham and certainly the Pilot Cinema/Theatre, King's Lynn.

I remember the times very well – you will note from the photo that although named I do not appear – I was ill at the time and Archie Reid took my place in the shot. Archie (Bobby) played Robin Hood and his sister Joy played Mother Goose. Pat Cains I well remember was an evacuee from London, so it was quite likely during or soon after the war.

I hope this is of some help to you all. It's a great magazine, I look forward to it dropping through the letter box.

**Ivan Green  
Oulton Broad**



The West Norfolk Members' Group invites you to an illustrated talk by

**Allan Hale**

**Birding the High Andes  
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on

**Thursday 23rd January - 7.30pm**

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

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Places are limited on each session. To book your place, or for more information, contact Sue Payne on 07790 349896.

Dersingham Village Centre Association,  
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tel: 07707 832295



## Parish Council Report Coral Shepherd



At the time of writing I have just had the honour of laying wreaths on behalf of the Parish Council at the war memorial in St Nicholas Church and at the village war memorial in memory of those from the village who gave their lives in the service of our country. The Parish Council has begun a programme to replace the sleepers around the flower beds as they are badly decayed. We will then restore the planting and deal with the weeds and grass in the paving to ensure that the memorial garden looks its best for forthcoming anniversaries.

This brings me onto next year's big national event, the commemoration and celebration of VE day over the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May. Part of the national events planned is a toast to all those who served in the second world war, either as service men and women or those who worked to keep the country going on the land, in factories, mines, shipyards, ARP wardens, police officers, health workers, police, firefighters, local defence volunteers, and others who put their lives on hold in defence of the country. To help us make the toast in Dersingham we would like to make contact with all of you who are veterans of the war and war effort. So if this is you, one of your relatives, friends or neighbours, please let either myself or Reverend Mark Capron know. I can be contacted either by email or by letter at the Parish Council Office at the Village Centre in Manor Road. We would love to hear from you and learn of your memories so that we can celebrate you all.

Turning to Parish Council business, we have now published our review into the funding and management of the project to build the Village Centre. This review is available to read on the Parish Council website. We have now started to make improvements to the way we do things and this will continue over the coming months.

We continue to have our regular monthly full Council and committee meetings and are currently setting our budgets for the forthcoming financial year. The budgets should be finalised before Christmas and once this is done we can then decide in January on how much is needed for the precept.

We have recently decided that all of the Parish Council meetings in the future will be on Monday evenings – the first Monday of the month will be the environment committee, the second Monday the planning committee and the finance and administration committee and the fourth Monday of the month will be the full Council meeting. All meetings start at 7pm, apart from planning which is at 6pm. As always you are welcome to attend any full Council or committee meeting.

Finally, I have just been told that an elderly resident of the village has had a nasty fall in Post Office Road; it seems that the resident slipped avoiding dog poo. Could I remind all dog owners to pick up the poo – we have provided thirty-one bins around the village specially for dog poo or if you are near the end of your walk, please take it home with you. □





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## Dersingham Carpet Bowls



On 22nd September a party of twenty-two members returned to The Silk Road for a lunchtime meal. A good time was once again enjoyed by all.



On 1st October members arrived at the normal Tuesday afternoon roll up to be greeted by the surprise and unwelcome news that our hard-working Secretary David Hart and his wife Judith are on the move away from the area to be closer to family. They will be greatly missed and the hunt is on for a replacement. So on 8th October an EGM was called to find a replacement secretary. Eddie was the only volunteer and was elected unanimously.

The 17th and 15th saw the team take part in the first home and away matches in the Fen Regis League. We were unfortunately well beaten on both occasions with only good refreshments to soften the blow.

On 21st October a team of Fred, Ray, Ulla and Jenny O travelled to Littleport to play in their monthly charity tournament, this month in aid of the M.S. Society. The team played well and reached the semi finals where they were beaten by one shot by the eventual winners, Littleport.



Sunday 27th October saw the running of the Club's major charity tournament of the year, when twenty-one teams assembled to play for our Rosebowl trophy. Luckily the clocks went back the night before as teams travelled from as far as Bury and Colne in the southeast, and

Tacolneston and Reepham to the east. This year we were fortunate to receive sponsorship from Central England Co-operative Society to cover the individual winners' and runners' up trophies, as well as some for the refreshments such as the very popular sausage rolls, sandwich fillings, bread rolls and salads. All our cakes are always home baked by members!



**Looking to see who's won**

When the first round matches had been played the winners of our coveted "booby duck" keyrings were Colne. This was followed by a large raffle with prizes supplied by members and visitors alike. The semi finals saw Bury, West Acre, Littleport and Reepham Robins 2 pitted against each other, producing a final between West Acre and Reepham Robins 2, from which West Acre emerged triumphant. Jenny Hurst from the Co-Op travelled all the way from Leicester to attend the semi finals and finals and see the trophies presented. The day raised a magnificent £607 for Pancreatic Cancer.

The beginning of November saw our second team start their Mayor's Trophy campaign against Runcton Holme, but unfortunately not with the hoped for result. However, this does mean they will progress to the Boro Cup tournament.

Friday 8th November saw thirty-nine members, friends and other halves meeting up at The Anvil, Congham, for lunch. This event sadly doubled up as a farewell to David Hart and his wife Judith. As we knew they were downsizing we struggled to think of what to present them with as a token of our appreciation. Heads were put together and eventually we came up with the inspired idea of commissioning talented member Janet Martin to produce a personalised fused glass sun catcher, with



representations of the local coastal area with land, sea and sky, fish, boats and beach huts, and a hand painted representation of our flying geese logo. We hope this will be a reminder to them of their happy times in this area and with the club.

By the time this report is read, we shall be well on the way to Christmas. We shall be looking forward to an evening meal at The King William at Sedgeford and our annual Christmas party

with a bring & share buffet, quizzes, games and raffle.

We wish all members past and present and the readers and producers of the Village Voice a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. □

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## It's Fruitastic for the 2nd Dersingham Brownies Lynne Wheeler



During the autumn half-term, the 2nd Dersingham Brownies enjoyed having a sleepover in the Hunstanton Methodist Hall. The sleepover had a fruity theme as the girls were completing their Fruitastic Challenge badge. After everyone had arrived and been sorted into fruit-named sixes, they made fruit kebabs for tea from a wide choice of fruit.

Throughout the rest of the evening the girls enjoyed a wide selection of fruit-themed activities, including: blindfold fruit guess - working out



the fruit by touch alone (we included some fruits they would not recognise to make it hard!). They created artwork using fruit stampers (a fruit version of potato prints), but they were able to see all the different patterns within the fruit appear in the paint.



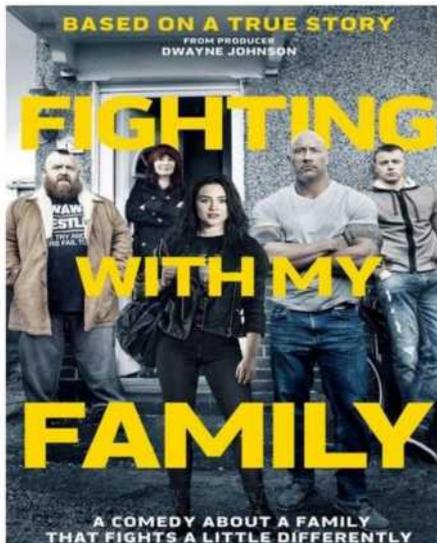
There was also a fruit quiz, games and a chance to see what the more exotic fruits looked like inside.

The evening ended with the Brownies receiving Nights Away badges, the Fruitastic badge for their blankets and an indoor campfire with songs and biscuits.

All the girls slept very well and in the morning they tidied everything away before breakfast and home time. □



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## Dersingham Christmas Market Alexandra Dixon, Fade to Grey

Now in its fourth year, our Christmas Market has grown from its humble beginnings as a late night shopping evening at our old shop in Manor Road into the big village event it is now.

It promises to be a lovely evening, giving you the chance to buy some unusual Christmas presents as well as soak up the festive atmosphere with some Christmas carols and mulled wine. There are thirty plus stalls, all of which are local businesses and crafters, so we are giving you the opportunity to shop local and support small businesses. We have several new stalls attending this year as well as welcoming back some old favourites from last year.

Check out our Facebook page under events to find the full list of stalls attending:  
<https://www.facebook.com/fadetogreynorfolk/events>

The Dersingham Village Centre Association will once again be providing a licensed bar selling mulled wine as well as other alcoholic drinks and also a pop up cafe selling burgers and hot dogs, hot drinks, cakes and snacks, all profits from which will be going towards Village Centre fundraising.



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## Dersingham Methodist Church Elizabeth Batstone

Scaffolding will be in place during November to re-roof the flat roof of the hall. The original roofing was put in place forty-three years ago and supposed to last about ten years, so it is has done very well. Hopefully the work will be finished before the winter weather arrives.



The October coffee morning, held on a very wet day, raised £258.08 which has been divided equally between Parkinson's UK and Church funds. Thank you for your support and generosity.

Our Christmas Fayre was originally scheduled for Saturday 23rd November but because of the hall roof repairs this has been moved to Saturday 30th November 10.00am. to 12 noon. Stalls will be Christmas gifts, cakes, books, Fairtrade products, not forgetting coffee and tea to go with the delicious cakes, scones and the very popular sausage rolls. All funds raised will be for the King's Lynn Night Shelter.

The first coffee morning of 2020 is on Saturday 25th January and funds raised will be for Methodist World Missions and Mission in Britain.

Evening services during December, January and February will be at 4.00pm.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas services:

Sunday 22nd December – 4.00pm. Carols by Candlelight - Revd Steve Oliver  
Christmas Eve Communion – 11.30pm - Revd Steve Oliver  
Christmas Day Service 10.30am – Revd Steve Oliver  
Sunday 29th December 10.30am, but no evening service

Our theme for the Christmas services is 'Peace be with you', thinking particularly about the people of the Middle East, and collections will be to help tackle poverty and injustice in the area.

May God richly bless you all with peace, joy and love this Christmas and in 2020. □

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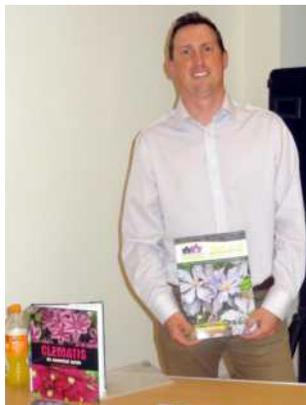
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## Gardening with Disabilities May Davey



On Friday 21st September Peter Gooch from Thorncroft Clematis Nurseries in Norwich gave us a very comprehensive illustrated talk at Dersingham Village Centre. His family have been Gold Medal winners at many exhibitions. He showed us how there are many different clematis plants for different environments. It is possible to have colour almost all year long.

**Peter Gooch**



In October Philip West gave an illustrated talk on “Farming in the Past”, with special reference to North West Norfolk. He had a wealth of pictures of antique farm machinery and the horses that drove them. We hope to see him again next year.

**Philip West**



At our 15th November meeting we will be sharing a Christmas tea after a talk by Marianne Charles on how to look after plants given as Christmas gifts. There is also a quiz and a competition to dress a Christmas gift in natural materials.

Our Christmas Dinner is at Knights Hill Hotel on 13th December.

**Di Chaplin and May Davey**

Our 2020 programme, arranged by our new Speaker Finder, Sue Neil, begins with a talk by Master Composters on 17th January. On 21st February Philip Kew of Kew Lawn Care will give tips on how to keep turf and lawns in excellent condition.

We always welcome new members and guests. Our new permanent venue is Dersingham Village Centre. Tea and a raffle ticket cost only £2.00 at the door. The annual subscription is £12.00. Come and see how you like us. We meet at 2.00pm and end by 4.00 pm. Please contact May Davey on 01485-544953 or our Secretary Gloria Pantling on 01553- 671912 for more details.□





## Dersingham Institute Bowls Club Jan Rawstron

Over fifty members were present for the green closing on 21st September, enjoying a great afternoon of bowls, followed by a finger buffet. It was a lovely day, and it was hard to believe that another season had come to an end. However, we all met up again for the Annual Presentation Lunch at Briarfields restaurant on 18th October, where, after a most enjoyable meal, we presented the trophies to the cup-winners and runners-up this year. The presentation was followed by a raffle which raised £104 for club funds. Thanks to our Social Secretary Lilian for doing such a splendid job arranging the day, and to Jane and Richard for organising all the trophies.



It seems strange to have all this time on our hands after another hectic season in the Leagues. As reported last time, our Countryside team were runners-up. The Northwest Norfolk side will not know if they have escaped relegation until the League AGM in February, as it depends on how many teams will be taking part next season. Whatever happens, we know it will be another enjoyable season.

As for the Albert Victor League, Team A finished 4th after a somewhat disappointing last few games, but team B did escape relegation, so both teams will be remaining in Division 3. Thanks to all the team Captains and their players for their commitment throughout the season.

Although winter is almost upon us, work continues on the green, to keep it in good shape. Jobs also need to be done around the clubhouse and garden. Fortunately we have a great team in Dickie our head greenkeeper, and Albert and Keith, his assistants, plus a small group of volunteers who are always on call to help where needed. Sometimes we take it for granted when we see the green in tip top condition during the bowling season, without realising how much work goes into this, so a big thanks to all our ground staff.

Our Centenary year is almost over, but the club continues to thrive, as shown by the number of new members we attracted this year, including husband and wife, Ian and Dawn Brown, who shared the trophy for the most improved player. We will be holding an Open Day in the Spring, so if you are interested, watch this space for details.

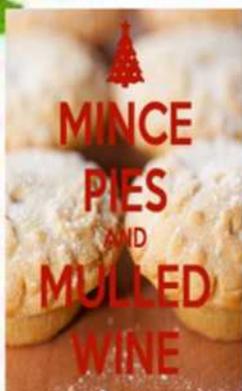
Finally, we held our AGM on Tuesday 12th November, which I will report on next time.



*Ian and Dawn Brown—most improved player trophy*

All that remains is to wish all our members, and the Village Voice readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. □





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## Labyrinths of my Mind

Steve Davis



Some of you may remember the Christmas mazes I produced for past December issues of Village Voice. If so, did you persevere with them, leave them for the children or simply dismiss them as timewasters? Well, mazes and indeed any form of spatial-routing puzzles have always held a deep fascination for me, both in their solution but more so in their production, especially where my now declining skills as a computer programmer are involved, and I would gladly share any of the mechanisms I have adopted for doing this. Then of course there

are many walk-through mazes to entertain or frustrate, such as the famous one at Hampton Court or, more locally in season, Maize Mazes cut out through cornfields.

Recently, I have become very absorbed in the study of labyrinths. Now I guess that for many, as it was for me, the term *labyrinth* is nothing more than a posh word for *maze* but with a perhaps more sinister twist. The scary mythological tale of *Theseus* entering the Labyrinth Cave to seek out and slay the bull-headed, human flesh-eating *Minotaur* that dwelt there, or the 1986 film *Labyrinth*, starring David Bowie with monster puppetry by Jim Henson, do little to dispel this. However, whereas a *maze* will have branches and dead ends as you try to find your way through to its goal, it is generally accepted that though a *labyrinth* consists of a pathway through a contained area, with many twists and turns, doubling back on itself, it will have NO branches or dead-ends so you will eventually always reach the centre before re-tracing your way back out along the same route. Labyrinths can be contained within any shape but the most notable are circular ones with a pathway that zigzags its way, to and fro, clockwise and anticlockwise around sectors of concentric circuits navigating the entire enclosed space until reaching the circle at the centre. Down through the ages, far from being something sinister or frustrating, people of various races and faiths, practitioners of mindfulness and even modern-day psychotherapists will cite the calming, prayerful, meditative or mesmerising effect of following such labyrinthine pathways.

Many cathedrals have labyrinths tiled into available expanses of floorspace for pilgrims to prayerfully walk, invariably taking their lead from arguably the most famous one at Chartres Cathedral in France. It is usual for such Christian based labyrinths to be divided into four sectors or quadrants creating the effect of a cross where they meet. This tends to require an odd number of at least five concentric circuits, the Chartres Labyrinth at nearly thirteen metres in diameter having eleven. There are also many outdoor labyrinths set down in paving slabs or cut into lawns, as any simple Google (images) search will reveal, and you can even get plans or kits to lay them out in your own back garden. A project for next year's *Open Gardens* perhaps?



It was on a recent visit to one of our favourite holiday haunts, the fishing village of El Cotillo to the north-west of the Canary Island of Fuerteventura, that Lindsey and I were talking over coffee with a lady from the UK who had recently moved out to live there.

Having mentioned some of the walks we had enjoyed there across the vast expanses of sands and ex-volcanic debris, she told us of the relatively little known *Labyrinth* laid out with loose rocks along tracks and pathways across the open plain area to the south of the village. So it was, on our last day, that we walked the 4km from our hotel to find it there, just as she had said, before trekking





its lengthy meandering path to the centre with a great sense of elation! If you've access to the Internet or have a friend that has, do lookup *El Cotillo Fuerteventura* on Google Maps. Then zoom out a little and to the south you should see the "Labyrinth" marked, switch to satellite view (or Google Earth) and then zoom in on the Labyrinth and there it is, in the middle of nowhere! Now go into YouTube and search for *El Cotillo Labyrinth Wolf Patton* (or simply visit the link [tinyurl.com/elcotillolab](http://tinyurl.com/elcotillolab) that I have set up for you), and you

should be presented with a series of interesting videos about it, including one with an aerial view of a couple of guys walking around the Labyrinth to the haunting song *Windmills of Your Mind*. You will also find one by its German artist originator *Wolf Patton* who explains the significance of why he constructed it back in 1999, his gift to the world of what he claims as its largest labyrinth at 45 metres in diameter with a path of some 1.3 km weaving in and out around 13 circuits to the



centre that is representative of the Sun with its radiating rays. He says that whereas kids need no explanation of what to do with a labyrinth, running around into the centre and back simply enjoying the experience, adults take a little more coaxing, but once letting go, in a childlike way, begin to appreciate its calming effect.



Since then, I have spent many a happy moment looking up details and pictures of this and other labyrinths, amusing myself designing and cutting them out from plywood with a fretsaw to make up into ball-bearing puzzles for the more sympathetic members of

my family and friends to attempt. By the time you read this I hope to have constructed a puzzle based on the El Cotillo labyrinth design itself. I'll leave you with a compressed version of the fretsaw plan I have drawn up for you to trace your way through if you dare, in the vain hope that you too might find some measure of peace and tranquillity at its centre. With so much aggro in our country, and indeed around the world at right now, that's surely something we all need more of, especially in this season of "Peace and Goodwill to All". As the 1955 song by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson says "*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me*" and with that I'll wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year.□



## Greenfinch

### Eco news from our local planet by LM Williams

*Greenfinch* brings you news and features about (mostly) local efforts to live, work and trade in sustainable ways. If you're involved in an eco project and would like a mention, send us a note via the Village Voice editor and we'll do our best to feature you.

**Your empty toothpaste tube doesn't have to go to landfill.** You can take it to Stockley's Pharmacy in Snettisham and drop it off at their collection point (along with your old toothbrushes, electric toothbrush heads and empty floss containers, plus the packaging these items are sold in). Look for the bright red *TerraCycle-Colgate* box inside the shop and deposit your empties and worn-outs here – any brand of oral care product is welcome. It's great to see a local retailer offering this service. Thank you Stockley's!



**Worth a look:** TerraCycle boxes are available to help communities collect and recycle many items that kerbside recycling doesn't pick up – crisp and biscuit packets, for example. Could we have more of these boxes about the place locally, perhaps at the Village Hall or in our pubs and churches?

**Favourite fruit and veg, minus the plastic.** If you're looking to reduce the amount of plastic packaging in your weekly shopping, then Kemp's greengrocers in Hunstanton is well worth a visit. You'll find plenty of fine food there and very little wrapping. Kemp's stocks a wide range of high-quality seasonal produce sourced from local growers and suppliers. You can buy as much or as little as you need, and you can see exactly what you are buying. They also offer a veg box service. This week's local purple sprouting broccoli was more than superlative, convincing our family that food really does taste better when it hasn't travelled far from field to plate.

**Inspiring news from further round the coast.** Twenty-two-year-old University of Sussex graduate Lucy Hughes has invented *MarinaTex*, a home-compostable alternative to single-use plastic film. It's made from sustainable algae and waste from the fish processing industry, which means that it taps into an existing waste stream instead of using new materials. *MarinaTex* is flexible and translucent, making it a potential replacement for oil-based plastic bags and sandwich wrappers. Lucy's invention has won this year's UK James Dyson engineering award and is now in the international final of the competition. For more about *MarinaTex* and other ecologically helpful inventions, go to [www.jamesdysonaward.org/](http://www.jamesdysonaward.org/)



**Not too tidy, please!** The garden in winter is a different creature, but a living one nonetheless. One of Dersingham's nonagenarian gardeners tells me that I shouldn't be too conscientious in tidying up. A bit of winter scruffiness helps our birds, insects and soil. For example, hollow stems are a haven for hibernating insects like ladybirds, which eat aphids in the spring. And leaving parts of the garden undisturbed, with some leaves to rot down in situ, provides habitat for beetles and nourishes the soil. If leafmould is your thing, the RHS website ([www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)) has fascinating facts about leaf types! □

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## The new Wolferton Pumping Station Tony Bubb

So, you are sitting in your easy chair and you are wondering what to spend around five million pounds on. Mmm, that's a tough one. But if you are the

King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board it's simple - let's have a new pumping station at Wolferton; after all, the present one is around seventy years old.

This wonderful new facility, which recently came into service, is a huge advance on the old equipment, and with sea levels rising and the potential for more severe rainfall, we who live around here should be thankful that it is in place.

What does it do, you ask? Well it pumps all the surface water from the catchment area we are in and sends it on its way out to sea. Without this, the low lying areas to the west of the parish, including parts of Wolferton, Ingoldisthorpe, Snettisham and a bit of Heacham, would become too wet to farm or have leisure use. The old installation either removed the land drainage or took water from the River Ingol. The new kit does both and thus reduces any flood risk.



*The Inlet with the Ingol to the right*

As the pictures show, there are three new electric pumps, each of which can shift 1800 litres of water a second (in old money that is 360 gallons). That is a lot of water! The system is automatic and is operated by a sort of giant ball valve, coming on when the water level reaches a certain point. The pumps then send it up and over the sea bank and it goes out to sea.

I said that the pumps are electric, but in the event of a power cut, and we know how rare they are round here, a diesel generator cuts in after ten minutes and can run for four

days on supplies held on site. When the power comes back on it waits another fifteen minutes, just to make sure, before reverting to the mains supply.



*The pump and the weed grabber*

Can it get blocked by weed? Yes, which is why there is a device to clear weed away that operates several times an hour when the system is pumping. It hangs from the gallows-like arrangement in the picture. When it has been lowered and grabs the weed from the inlet it trundles along to the end of the gantry and drops its load into a waiting trailer; it is a bit like your printer sliding left and right.



What is in the buildings? The diesel generator occupies the southern block and all the switchgear and controls are in the other. To ensure that the engine starts without trouble it is kept permanently warm with a hot water jacket, and there are ventilators to remove the waste heat when it is running. The other hut gets pretty warm from all the electric activity within and also is vented to keep it all running well.

***Up and over the bank***

which means the fish don't bash their heads as they go through. I don't think I would like to try it if I were a fish, but the system is being overseen by the Hull International Fisheries Institute, so fish and silver eels can sleep easy. Funding for this has come from the Environment Agency.

At the same time as this was being constructed, the old arrangement was demolished and by the time you read this all vestiges of it will have gone and the bank restored.

Sadly, at the moment the public cannot get to see this wonder as Steer Road is closed, which is the road access, but when the new coastal path is opened it will pass beside the installation affording you a good view. □

The new pumps are "fish friendly": the pump rotors are specially shaped to cause no harm and all the bends in the pipework are at forty-five degrees



***The sea bank looking out to the Wash***



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## Dersingham Day Centre

As I write this it's cold and wet and winter's definitely arrived. Most thankfully Dersingham Day Centre's meetings are held in the very warm and cosy Village Centre.

In September we celebrated the birthdays of Doreen Bingham, Joe Earl and Ann Bouchen. And we're looking forward to celebrating Dersingham Day Centre's 38<sup>th</sup> birthday at the end of November.

The last couple of months saw us occupied with our usual activities of cards, dominoes, Rummikub, Scrabble and knitting. We are also busily preparing for decorating our Christmas tree for the Christmas Tree Festival in St Nicholas Church.

We've had another of our brain teasing quizzes, ably set as usual by our Honorary President, Alice Worth. These are always very much enjoyed by everyone and they certainly got us thinking, particularly when Alice pre-empted one of the questions, "Now a lot of you will remember this" – there was much laughter when nobody did! However a great number of us correctly guessed the answer!

Another week Nick Mansell came and gave us a very entertaining music quiz and singalong. Great fun. We also had a bingo afternoon. There was a slight hiccup when the machine refused to choose any numbers over seventy-nine, but once Kathy had shown it who was boss all went well.

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.□



### Dersingham Seniors Club Bob Cooter

It is with great regret that the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019 will be the last meeting of the Dersingham Seniors Club. This is due to the decline in membership. The club is now financially unable to carry on. I thank all the sixteen members that have been loyal to the club.□

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## Sandringham Parish News

### Ben Colson

#### Sandringham Parish Council

I would usually report on the meeting of the Parish Council, which is held on the second Wednesday of alternate months and which fits nicely with the copy deadline for Village Voice, meaning that you get the news in a timely way. On this occasion that is not possible, as I shall be away on annual leave and will not be attending the meeting – not only that but I

am having to write this a good ten days before the meeting takes place, so I cannot prejudge what will be said or agreed!

It has in any case been a quiet couple of months since we last met and I reported on that meeting in the October/November edition of Village Voice. We are being consulted on planned changes to the boundaries of County Council Divisions – they are the equivalent of Wards at the Borough Council – and for us there is basically no change.

There have been no updates on the A149 road safety improvement measures – the average speed cameras have been in place for a while now, but the necessary legal Orders to enable the 50mph speed limit through Sandringham Parish, and various junction changes, have not been made by the County Council, and until that happens there will be no progress.

We are still searching for a seventh Parish Councillor – anyone interested please contact a Councillor or the Clerk at [sandringhamclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:sandringhamclerk@btinternet.com).

#### **So, what do we do, and what have we achieved, as a Parish Council?**

I'm sometimes asked why we need a Parish Council and perhaps more importantly what we've achieved for local residents. Here are some examples of our work:

- We were successful some years ago in getting the Borough Council to put a large waste bin at the Cliff Top car park in Wolferton and to empty it regularly.
- We defused criticism of Natural England's plan some years ago to put cattle on Dersingham Bog by bringing residents and their representatives together in a public meeting at Wolferton.
- We held a similar public meeting there as part of our campaign to bring faster broadband to that village, which led to its introduction in April 2018 instead of BT's planned July 2020.
- We secured Post Office services being restored in West Newton - a mobile Post Office now visits Monday and Wednesday afternoons.
- We secured County Council funding for the footpaths from Caernarvon Cottages to the nearest bus stop in West Newton and from the A149 bus stop to the Wolferton road.
- We regularly bring the issue of blocked drains to the attention of the County's highways office.
- We have improved communications by almost 100% door to door delivery of Village Voice and website.
- We have been involved in negotiations to improve safety on the A149 through the Parish (yet to be implemented).
- We are notified about all applications for planning approval in the Parish, and have a right to, and do provide an opinion on behalf of the Parish.
- We are consulted on any changes to democratic representation affecting the Parish. We successfully fought against the plan to link us with South Wootton for Borough Council representation, and instead, from May this year, are linked with neighbouring Dersingham.
- We have negotiated with Dersingham Parish Council and the County Council for a bus stop much closer to the Carole Brown Surgery, which will benefit residents of West

Newton who don't have car access.

- We've taken part in the consultations about turning the old railway line from Lynn to Hunstanton into a cycle and footpath, and are ready to do so again should the current research into whether it is viable to reopen it as a railway line be positive.

We are not always successful in getting what we ask for. A particular example is the failure to persuade the County Council and Lynx bus operator to provide a later bus home from King's Lynn after the 4pm departure. However, we have had a lot more successes than failures.

### **Christmas is coming!**

Christmas is not far away now and, as usual, there is much going on in the villages which make up the Parish. In the villages of West Newton and Wolferton there are gatherings in the social clubs and churches, and in Babingley the social club is the focal point.

### **Babingley**

**Social Club events:** there's plenty going on here, with two women's darts teams which play on Wednesdays, a men's darts and dominoes team which meets on Thursdays and a crib team which also meets on Thursdays. There's a monthly quiz night which raises funds for Tapping House Hospice, and the club will be open every day over the Christmas and New Year period, with music and a Christmas draw.

### **West Newton**

**Sandringham Social Club events:** a special Christmas bingo will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> December, eyes down at 7.30pm. There will be other seasonal traditional events over the Christmas and New Year periods.

**Church services** on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, Christingle will be celebrated at 3.30pm, and on 12<sup>th</sup> January, also at 3.30pm, there will be Evensong,

### **Wolferton**

**Wolferton Social Club events:** as ever a full calendar of events, including cash bingo on 1<sup>st</sup> December, the Wolf Folk Club on 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December, and prize bingo on 17<sup>th</sup> December. There will be other seasonal traditional events over the Christmas and New Year periods.

**Church services:** on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December the annual carol by candlelight service will start at 4pm; on 22<sup>nd</sup> December there will be Holy Communion at 8am; on Christmas Day a family service will start at 9.30am; on 12<sup>th</sup> January Mattins at 9.30am; and on 26<sup>th</sup> January Holy Communion at 8am. *On Christmas Day, if you want to go to Church early, perhaps because you're away to visit family later, then do join us at Wolferton for the 9.30am service.*

### **St Peter's Church, Wolferton – fundraising and refurbishment progress**

Following a magnificent fundraising effort, the first stage of Phase 1 (we're calling it 1A) has been finished, as the scaffolding was removed in the second week of November. Phase 1B should start next March which will see the North side completely re-roofed. It is possible that Phase 2 (the South roof) will start immediately after 1B has finished, but this is dependent upon success in raising the further funds we'll need for it. Phase 3 comes later, that is the more general refurbishment of the historic building, but it is essential to secure the roofs first.

There have been a number of fundraising events, and more are planned. Next to come is a rather special one, called *Cinderella at Christmas: Walk through the story* on Saturday and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December from 11am to 4pm. Refreshments will be provided and on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> it will be followed immediately by the Carols by Candlelight service. □

# Dersingham Christmas Art Trail

Sat 30th Nov & Sun 1st Dec

10am to 4pm. Admission free



JANET  
MARTIN  
*Fused glass*  
12 Burma  
Close



JILL  
ILETT  
*Paintings*  
15 Heath  
Road



MIKE  
SMITH  
*Paintings*  
17 Old Hall  
Drive



BEN  
MULLARKEY  
*Paintings*  
48 Chapel  
Road



LIZ  
STOCKLEY  
*Paintings*  
30 Dodds Hill  
Road



JUNE  
MULLARKEY  
*Pottery*  
48 Chapel  
Road



MARTY  
GRIFFIN  
*Paintings*  
The Drift  
Ingoldisthorpe



JULIA  
QUANCE  
*Soapstone carvings  
& paintings*  
11 Iveagh Close,  
Hollyrood Drive



TRUDI  
GRIFFIN  
*Handmade cards*  
The Drift  
Ingoldisthorpe



STEPHEN  
MARTYN  
*Paintings*  
2 Alexandra  
Close



NEIL  
ADAMS  
*Paintings*  
30 Dodds Hill  
Road



JO HALPIN  
JONES  
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14 Post Office  
Road



CAROLE  
BROOKFIELD  
*Paintings*  
30 Dodds Hill  
Road

You are invited by thirteen artists in nine locations to come and visit their studios for the ninth Dersingham Christmas Art Trail

[DersinghamArtTrail.org](http://DersinghamArtTrail.org)

## Dersingham Christmas Art Trail



Opposite are details of the artists taking part in the ninth Dersingham Christmas Art Trail. You will receive a warm welcome to visit their studios, chat to the artists or just browse amongst the work of these talented villagers. If you are unsure of the location of the studios, maps are available from Dersingham Pottery in Chapel Road, on the back of fliers in shops around the village, or on the website [DersinghamArtTrail.org](http://DersinghamArtTrail.org).□

### Ceilidh at Dersingham Village Centre

October 26th and the Ceilidh was back in town. With the band Whirligig providing the music, the dance floor was soon full of folk stepping out in time to the lively tunes. A full hot buffet kept the dancers going between sets.

An early start meant that we wrapped up by 10.15 pm, but such was the enthusiasm that there were calls for a longer set next year. We shall endeavour to oblige.



Thanks to all who came and made the evening such fun.□



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## Origins Allan Coleby

Because Christmas is approaching, here is a seasonal slant on the word game of 'Origins'. It is not the etymological origins of each word or phrase that are asked for this time, but which group of myths and legends have given truly significant explanations of the Christmas symbols. Please identify which group of beliefs about holly and mistletoe is true in each case. The answers are at the bottom of Page 65.

### Holly - version 1

The sharp spines on the holly's lower leaves grow only to a height of ten feet in order to deter animals from eating them; above that level, the foliage is soft. Each plant bears only male or female flowers, so that berries are produced by a tree only if it has been cross-pollinated. The wood is very hard and white, and for this reason it is often associated with or used as a substitute for box-wood. It was brought into homes, according to old Teutonic, Saxon, and then Anglo-Saxon customs, to symbolise the continuity of life because it is an evergreen. It was used by the Romans and other ancient peoples to celebrate the pagan feast of Saturnalia at the winter solstice. The name derives from the Anglo-Saxon word 'Holen', meaning 'Holy', and so holly has been associated with holiness by Christian church fathers throughout the centuries.

### Holly - version 2

The fact that so many holly trees do not bear berries, because they have not been cross-pollinated, makes the holly an appropriate symbol for Christianity at Christmas time because of Christ's virgin birth. Pine trees and spruces were introduced into Britain for seasonal decorations at Christmas soon after Queen Victoria married Prince Albert, who was from the Saxe-Coburg-Gotha dynasty, and it was already a custom in his native land, and so the holly was brought with them. It was used as an evergreen by the Romans and other ancient peoples as they celebrated the feast of Saturnalia at the winter solstice in order to symbolise the beginning of new light and longer days. The Anglo-Saxon year started on 25<sup>th</sup> December until the Gregorian calendar was adopted internationally. It was therefore used in celebrations of Christ's birth which occurred on this date.

### Mistletoe - version 1

Jesus Christ's cross was made from the wood of the mistletoe. This fact, plus the poisonous nature of the berries, connected the tree to the human sacrifices practised by the Druids. It was a cure for epilepsy, apoplexy and palsy if a piece was hung on a string around the neck of the sufferer. 'Mistletoe' derives from the Old English word 'mistiltan'; 'tan' means 'twig' and 'mistil' means 'dung': in olden times people believed that mistletoe shoots sprang from bird droppings. 'Mistil' also means 'bird-lime' and refers to a sticky substance, used to catch birds, that was made by boiling mistletoe twigs.

### Mistletoe - version 2

The botanical name for mistletoe is *Phoradendron*; 'phora' means 'thief' and 'dendron' means tree. This name therefore describes the fact that mistletoe grows on many trees, and mostly apple trees, as a parasite. It was venerated by the ancient Druids when it grew on oak trees. Shakespeare referred to it in *Titus Andronicus* as the 'baleful mistletoe' because there was a widespread belief in those days that an arrow made from its wood killed the Scandinavian warrior, Balder. It has been brought inside houses for the Christmas/New Year party season because of a custom, dating from the seventeenth century, that each time he plucked a berry, a boy could kiss a girl of his choice, though when there were no more berries, there was no more kissing. The berries are poisonous if eaten in any quantity. □



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## Pension contributions: beware unexpected tax implications!

**Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton**

Back in the 1980s the tax rules relating to pensions were (relatively) easy to understand. The self-employed could contribute a percentage of their earnings into a pension plan; the older one became, the more one could contribute; and relief missed in one year could be carried forward to another. Employees would see contributions being made by their employer, and could add in themselves. In both cases a tax free lump sum could be taken on maturity, and either an annuity would be purchased, or a “final salary” pension would be set up.

All this has changed in recent years, led by:

- Tumbling interest levels and falling mortality leading to much lower annuity rates and, hence, a need for significantly higher employer contributions to “final salary” schemes; employers then struggling to meet ongoing costs, leading to closure of many such schemes.
- Recognition by government that the burden of state retirement pension will be unsustainable and that citizens must therefore be encouraged to make their own pension provision.
- Belatedly, realisation that those who make best use of the pension tax reliefs are the better off and that the tax reliefs are expensive for the Treasury.
- Relaxation of the annuity rules and development of “Pension Freedoms drawdown” products.

As a result, Government policy on pensions has oscillated wildly over the last few years, initially being made more generous, but then subsequently being cut back sharply for the better off. We now have a system where pension contributions from all sources are aggregated and although unlimited contributions can be made, tax relief is restricted where:

- Contributions are over £3600 gross, and are greater than earnings.
- Contributions exceed the Annual Allowance of £40,000 a year maximum/£10,000 a year minimum, and if a taxpayer has already started drawing one of his/her pensions, tax relief for the amount he/she can contribute into others is restricted to the £4,000 Money Purchase Annual Allowance (although unused allowances can be carried forward three years).
- The “pension pot” of previous contributions/growth within the fund exceeds the Lifetime Allowance (LTA) (currently £1,055,000) (although protection mechanisms are available for those whose pension pots were in excess of the new LTA limits at the time they were introduced).
- Earned income is greater than £150,000. Here the “normal” £40,000 Annual Allowance is tapered away at 50p in the pound until it reaches the £10,000 mentioned above. This is often where people come unstuck.

**Care must, therefore, be taken where relief limits are breached and Pension Savings Tax Charges become due as a result.**

Among those hardest hit are some higher earners in the NHS, and other public services, who cannot “opt out” of their schemes. The pension cap was initially targeted by Gordon Brown as one of New Labour’s infamous “stealth taxes” before being taken further by George Osborne to raise revenue. The unintended consequence has been that doctors, and some nurses, for example, have suffered **punitive** tax charges if they work more, effectively having to “pay” to do overtime, which has been completely counterproductive. As a result, 75% of consultants and senior GPs have taken early retirement, or cut their hours, and waiting lists have grown by 50%. Rather belatedly, with this crisis deepening, the Treasury announced back in the summer that a review will now be carried out of these controversial tax rules for doctors and the way the tapered Annual Allowance works; to be followed by a whole pensions tax review that could result in the caps being lifted for all workers.

Where a Pension Savings Tax Charge is foreseen, pension providers will normally send out warning letters to contributors, but where multiple pension providers are involved, none will have a view of the overall position, and the onus is on the taxpayer to make the necessary calculations and submit a Self Assessment Return to pay the tax due. Failure to do so will, of course, lead to penalties.

Where an individual has received a warning letter from his/her pension provider and may fall into one or more of the categories mentioned above, or indeed even if no letter has been received but there seems to be a risk that rules have been breached, it is strongly recommended that advice is taken promptly to ascertain whether there is a problem, not only to quantify the size of the liability and make the necessary Tax Returns, but to ensure that deadlines are not missed in general terms, or particularly if there is the opportunity of a Scheme Pays application (which is where the tax that has arisen because of excess contributions can be paid from the pension scheme, rather than by the taxpayer).

**N.B.** This article only provides information relating to the tax implications arising from the making of pension contributions. It does not cover matters relating to investment decisions in respect of pensions. Such matters must be referred to an Independent Financial Adviser.

If, having read through the information provided above, you require advice regarding the tax implications of your pension contribution record to date, your proposed contributions in the future, or you need us to calculate the Pension Savings Charge for the purposes of your Scheme Pays application, **please contact either myself or my assistant Nicola Tarry FCA on 01485 534800 or email [kate@kathryngigg.co.uk](mailto:kate@kathryngigg.co.uk) if we can assist in any way.**

**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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## Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny



Well here we are again with the Dersingham Village Voice from the Boy Dick at Sunny Hunny. It's been a funny old summer but compared with the rest of the country I think West Norfolk has been okay. We had a few high tides at the end of September but nothing like the great flood on 31<sup>st</sup> of January 1953, thank goodness. This is a bit about my father's family and their connections with the house building and public house trade.

### Father and grandfather

My father was born in 1907 at a house in Manor Road, Dersingham, No. 30 or Tresco Cottage. His father had a hut up the corner of the front garden from which he sold paraffin. He also sold things like crosscut saws, slash hooks - straight and half moon, axes, choppers, reap hooks and scythes. When my father left school at fifteen he helped his father by delivering paraffin round the village of Dersingham on a handcart.

In the meantime, his father bought three building plots on the Lynn Road, Nos. 39, 41 and 43, building one pair of bungalows and a single bungalow on these plots. After the Second World War my aunty and uncle lived in No. 39, and from 1944 until 1946 my mother and I lived in No. 41, waiting for my father to come out of the army. Then we moved up the road to No. 63 ('Restu').

When my father was sixteen he got fed up with pushing the handcart round the village so he went to Norwich and joined the army. Then in 1927 my grandfather sold up and took on a pub in Marham called the Fox and Hounds. In 1934 he gave up the public house and took on a builders' yard in Clenchwarton. In the November of 1934 my father came home from being abroad for four years. He went on leave and got a train to King's Lynn, then another train to Narborough. When he got to the Fox and Hounds he found that his mother and father had moved to Clenchwarton without writing and telling him, so he had to get over to Clenchwarton.

My grandfather did not stay at Clenchwarton for long, when they took a pub called the Riverside at Thetford. They stayed there a year or two and then moved to the Flower Pot in London Road, Brandon. A relation of my grandfather, a Mr Edwards, kept the Flint Knappers Arms in Brandon on the corner of London Road and Thetford Road. He said to my grandfather, "Why don't you set up a builders' business as we are short of builders in the town." So my grandfather took his son-in-law, Bob Skipper, in as a partner; they called the firm 'Skippon' and specialised in flint buildings as most of the old buildings in Brandon were built of flint. He carried on in this trade till he retired, and then he passed on the building firm of Skippon to his grandson, Brian Skipper, who still lives in Brandon.

### Thomas Drew

One of my grandfather's brothers was Thomas Turner Drew, my father's uncle. Tom's relation, William Melton, kept the Albert Victor pub in Dersingham from 1877 to 1879; then William's brother moved into the Albert Victor from 1879 to 1883. In 1896 Tom's eldest sister, who was married to a Fred Hartley, moved in to the Albert Victor. He was also a wheelwright, so he used the big barn (behind the pub) that I think is still there. They moved out in 1912. Then, in 1925, Tom moved into the Albert Victor and stayed there till 1933; then he



*The Albert Victor in the early 1900s*

set himself up as a builder and called his firm the Dersingham Building Company. In the meantime, Bob Hartley, who was married to Tom's youngest sister Flo (Florence), moved into the Union Jack at Roydon in 1929. In 1937 he passed away but the brewery let Flo stay on at the pub as long as her daughter Peggy lived with her. They stayed in the pub until 1975, so Flo was in the Union Jack for 46 years.



*The wife and daughter of Fred Hartley c. 1912*

Tom did well in the building trade, having four or five men working for him before the Second World War. He built the hairdressers' shop opposite the Club at No. 18 Lynn Road. He also built a small shop for his daughter Doris, No. 50 Lynn Road, and a bungalow each side of it, Nos. 48 and 52. Number 52 was let to the police for one of their constables. The shop at No. 50 was operated over the years by Mr Whisker, Mr Pullen, Mr Binder and Mr Mason. He also built: Nos. 37, 56 and 58 Lynn Road; some of the council houses on the Gelham Manor estate; three or four houses in Ingoldsby Avenue, Ingoldisthorpe; and a bungalow for his brother George next to Tom Howling's thrashing tackle yard on Lynn Road, Ingoldisthorpe,

Elizabeth Fiddick wrote a bit about my great uncle, Thomas Turner Drew, owning the old blacksmith's shop and out buildings on the corner of Post Office Road and Centre Vale. Tom never did live there: George Dunger, one of his bricklayers, lived there for some time. After Tom passed away in 1954 another one of Tom's workers took over the Dersingham Building Company and George Dunger went to live in No. 37 Hunstanton Road. This property belonged to Doris Drew, one of Tom's daughters. For many years the Dersingham Building Company was the largest building company in the village.

### **Villagers' rights**

I read in the press today that the Scolt Head and District Common Rightholders Association wants to reassert what it says is a centuries old claim to the 621 acres known as Brancaster Marsh Common on the North Norfolk coast near to Wells-next-the-Sea. There are almost 300 common rights holders who registered the land in the 1960s, based on an historic claim that dates back to the Enclosure Act of 1765. There are many commons and areas of land in Norfolk where the rights of the villages have been taken away. One clear-cut case is here in Dersingham. Before the by-pass was constructed in 1990, the villages had many rights over the fen, which covered seventy-nine acres from the old main road to the second hill. The by-pass went right through the middle of the fen, leaving the villagers twenty-nine acres of fen between the by-pass and the old main road, with restricted rights. The other fifty acres was fenced off from the by-pass, whereas it should have been fenced off at the Dersingham boundary where the village boundary posts are. We know that Dersingham will never get their rights back, and I doubt if Brancaster will get theirs back, but all the same I wish them the very best of luck and top marks for trying.

A very happy Christmas to you all. Just keep on a troshin' and keep out of those snowdrifts.□



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## Was Britain ever covered in trees?

Brian Anderson

You still hear that in the past a squirrel could travel from Land's End to Ullapool without putting a foot on the ground. But is it true?

Before we examine the evidence, we can look at where this concept came from. This traditional model was first formalised by Sir Arthur Tansley in 1939 in *The British Islands and their Vegetation*. The model proposed that England at least was covered with trees, most of them close set, some of them of giant stature. This concept was repeated many times, both in popular and scientific literature. It is perhaps most famously promulgated in W G Hoskins's *The Making of the English Landscape*, published in 1955 and very widely read. A key quotation from that work is:

*From rising ground England must have seemed like one great forest before the fifteenth century, an almost unbroken sea of tree-tops...Even after twenty generations of hacking at the waste the frontiers of cultivation were rarely far away from the homesteads.*

It must be made clear that we are talking about the period since the last of the ice disappeared from Britain (about 12,000 years ago), leaving a rather barren land but one which was still connected to Continental Europe by a very substantial land bridge, across which came plants (obviously including trees), animals - and people. A much larger range of wild animals existed in those times than exist today. Especially significant in their effect on woodland regeneration were aurochs and giant elk, other deer species, but there were also wild boar and beavers. Hunting of these herbivores would have had an effect on the appearance and structure of woodland as early as the Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age) and Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) periods (up until about 5,800 years ago). Following that, Neolithic (New Stone Age) people began farming. It is from this time that



we see quite widespread use of wood for a variety of purposes. Woodland was doubtless extensive in this period and we are certain that large quantities of timber were being utilised, since waterlogged deposits have survived in a number of locations. These trends continued in the Bronze and Iron Ages. In the Bronze Age there was extensive use of wood, including the use of very large trees (as shown at Seahenge and Flag Fen). The presence of very large standard trees strongly suggests that there were substantial areas of relatively

open woodland, as very big trees achieve their stature more easily if they have not had to compete for resources.

And then the Romans arrived. Despite the Roman Empire being keen on bureaucracy, there are very few documentary records showing the appearance and use of the landscape, and the extent of woodland. However there is enough archaeological evidence to suggest that although areas around *Aqua Sulis* (modern Bath) were probably well wooded, the countryside around *Ratae* (modern Leicester) had a relatively open landscape because of more extensive farming.

From the fifth century onwards the landscape becomes Saxon, although the changes

seem to have been relatively modest. Wood still had extensive uses and the Saxons were masters of some forms of wood structure. Most notable are fish traps constructed in the estuaries of Suffolk and Essex. These are some of the largest timber structures ever built in Britain. Far from most of Britain (and especially England) being a vast amorphous mass of trees as suggested by Hoskins (above), there is considerable evidence that there were and still are woods defined by Anglo-Saxon names, implying very strongly that they were used as a resource for wood and timber, fruits and nuts, hunting and wood-pasture. We know from archaeology that the Saxons had a sophisticated water management system in the Fens, so this area could not have been extensively wooded. The Great Domesday survey of 1086 shows woodland covering about 15 per cent of England. The woodland was very unevenly distributed: areas like the Weald in Sussex were much more wooded than areas of central England where the open field system of agriculture was paramount. From this point on enter the Middle Ages, which brings us to the statement made by W G Hoskins at the start of this article.

So it is likely that in the period leading on from the Neolithic the tree cover of Britain was much less than the earlier authors suggest. But it leaves one question unanswered - how much of the country was deeply forested before the Neolithic? To find some answers we have to turn to the analysis of pollen. All trees produce pollen and pollen grains can survive for millions of years in permanently wet or permanently dry places. By examining the pollen from stratified deposits, generally from current or former lakes, ponds and peat beds, we can determine the sequence of trees returning to Britain after the end of the last Ice Age. The record shows that birch arrived first, followed by various pines. Then there was an explosion of hazel (which, oddly, seems to have spread from the *north*). Following this, the native trees with which we are familiar arrived: elm, ash, oak, beech and hornbeam. Holly and field maple were the last to arrive before the sea cut us off from the Continent about 7,000 years ago.

At the start of this article I referred to the Tansley model, which posited a Britain covered with trees. There is, however, an alternative model proposed by Francis Vera in 2000. This suggests a much more open landscape, almost savannah-like in places, well-wooded or like wood pasture in others. Oliver Rackham in his book *Woodlands* says that it is clear from the evidence that no absolutely definitive conclusion can be drawn in favour of one or the other. The Vera model has defects. For example, there is too little hawthorn, blackthorn and grass pollen in pre-Neolithic deposits, which militates against a very open landscape. Likewise, there seems to be too much elm, which is very sensitive to browsing, especially by large herbivores. On the other hand, there are intriguing deposits dating from the pre-Neolithic of pollen from plants such as ragged robin and devil's-bit scabious, both of which require very open landscapes. There is not much pollen, but then both these plants use insect pollination so require much less than those using wind pollination. It is hard to account for the current distribution of a large number of sedentary insect species without there being large areas of open grassland or wood pasture from a very early date.

There is evidence that some changes in the tree cover occurred as the result of biological factors. For example, elm underwent a serious decline about 6,000 years ago and recent investigation of stratified layers in the silt at Diss Mere shows that elm disease was probably a major cause of this. It is also true that the amount of tree cover varied from region to region. The tops of mountainous regions and the Scottish Flow Country seem never to have had any significant tree cover, whereas lowland areas would have been well-wooded.

One final point: the successive migration of species into Britain has not had much attention. But after the ice retreated, everything was able to move - plants, animals and people. So it seems to me that there would have been little opportunity for total tree cover to develop, as grazing animals and people would have been cropping back the growth. □



## From Your Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb



So much for autumn when we had bright days with the traditional autumnal nip in the air now slipping into a cold, wet, dark winter. Something to look forward to.

With everything in Westminster in turmoil still, we can report that the Council is forging ahead with a number of projects designed to enhance your Borough generally and King's Lynn in particular. It will not be news to say that small towns are experiencing challenges to their very survival, and if King's Lynn is to thrive, we need to create different opportunities and encourage more visitors to see it as a leisure destination and also a place in which to live. It is encouraging to hear, as we have on occasion, that those visitors that do go to Lynn have a positive experience. The opening of the new H&M store on 7<sup>th</sup> November is testament to an external view of our town which confirms its potential.

It's disappointing, if not unexpected, that the Knights Hill planning application refused by the planning committee has gone to appeal. At least this will be a public hearing and is set for the middle of January in the town hall. Hopefully the inspector might see reason and uphold the refusal.

A word about parking charges at Sandringham: there has been a meeting between the Agent and your ward Councillor to discuss the implications of the introduction of charging. The £40 per year charge (which gives access to the gardens) seems reasonable, but it is to be expected that folk who have always seen Sandringham as their "back garden" will find the idea of paying to park rather difficult. The only comment we would make is that all the costs of upkeep, eg, toilets, cleaning up after dog walkers, forestry management, staffing, are borne by Sandringham, and it is not unreasonable that they would seek to recoup some of those costs. We are aware that the Farmers' Market is in discussion with the Estate to extend the free parking period to allow them to set up their stalls.

A December General Election is probably not something which many of you will welcome; however, the possibility of leaving the EU with a deal now seems a real possibility so the options have become clearer. **Polling will be in our new Village Centre and not St Cecilia's.**

Although it seems premature, we would like to wish all readers of Village Voice a happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. □



**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
Monday December 16th at 6.30pm  
£7.00 Adults £5.00 Child/OAP  
(includes hot drink/squash & mince pie  
**Dersingham Village Centre, Manor Rd.**

**OPEN DAY**  
Rollason Stage school will be having an open day on 11th January offering children free "Taster Classes" in ballet, tap, street dance, acro, drama & modern dance.  
Contact Michelle Rollason FBTDA for more details of these events:  
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**Rev Mark Capron**  
**Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and**  
**Shernborne**



As you can see from this picture taken at the end of October the new roof for the Chancel of St Nicholas Church is progressing well. The contractors have had to cope with extreme wet weather and also, unusually, a huge amount of horse hair that had been used in the roof when it was last done many generations ago. It is nearly finished now and will last for many generations to come. The new Welsh slate going on the roof looks immaculate, so new and clean. It is through Jesus that the slate of our lives is made clean by His death and mighty resurrection, going away from the multiple sacrifices of Old Testament times with His one true sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. About Jesus we hear in the book of Hebrews: "He concludes, I'll forever wipe the slate clean of their sins." Once sins are taken care of for good, there's no longer any need to offer sacrifices for them. So, friends, we can now - without hesitation - walk right up to God, into "the Holy Place." Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of his sacrifice... So let's do it - full of belief, confident that we're presentable inside and out. Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. (Hebrews 10:17-21 Message). As the new year approaches why not ask ourselves the question: Is it the time to embrace this new life and a clean slate through Jesus now, not putting it off anymore?



The cost of the new clean slate roof of St Nicholas Church roof is £74,160. We are thankful for the donations and a grant that have been kindly given to make this possible. Talking of roofs, Anmer side chapel roof was completed about eighteen months ago; the next roof to aim to raise money for is that of the north aisle of Ingoldisthorpe Church which is leaking.

Christmas is fast around the corner and with that are the carol services at each of the parish churches: Anmer on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 4:30pm (ticket in advance only); Shernborne on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm; Ingoldisthorpe on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11am (with the Dersingham Church Choir) and finally Dersingham Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm, with the hand bells ringing before from 6pm. The other Christmas and Advent services are listed below and are on the church website. Also, the wonderful Bilton Silver brass band will be dazzling us again on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm (for tickets ring Pauline on 01485 544561. £10 in advance, £12 on door - unless sold out!). The Christmas Tree Festival starts on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December with stalls and refreshments continuing on Saturday and "trees by candlelight" from 4pm on Friday. So much to look forward to as we celebrate the coming of the Lord Jesus – who enables our slate to be clean. Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year.



**Christmas Services:** 1<sup>st</sup> December 6.30pm Advent Taize Service; 8<sup>th</sup> 4pm Christingle Service; 15<sup>th</sup> 4pm Tea & Carols; 18<sup>th</sup> 2pm Village Carol Service; 22<sup>nd</sup> 6.30pm Lessons & Carols; 24<sup>th</sup> 4pm Crib Service; 11.30pm Midnight Communion; 25<sup>th</sup> 8am Holy Communion; 10am Family Service□



## The Dersingham Walking Group Tony Bubb

Eleven walkers enjoyed an anticlockwise walk around Old Hunstanton Park and Ringstead in early October. Going “widdershins” does, to my mind, make the best of this circuit and no doubt we will revisit this one again.

Have you got a favourite walk? Do let me know the route and we may well do it for one of our meets.

As we do not know who is walking ahead of the start the leader will always turn up at the start point, whatever the weather, when a final decision will be made as to whether the walk goes ahead.

Our next walks are:-

### **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm**

We shall explore the villages of South and North Wootton using suburban streets, lanes and footpaths. Start point South Wootton Village Hall, Church Lane, parking either in the hall car park or on nearby streets. TF640228, length of walk about 4.5 miles. Leader: Steve Martyn 01485 541333



### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 1.30pm**

A circular walk on some of the many footpaths and lanes in Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham. Passing near at least two churches and a sewage works, this route was once described as bells and smells! Start point the big lay-by near Ingoldisthorpe crossroads, TF683324, length of walk about 4.5 miles. Leader: Steve Martyn 01485 541333

### **Wednesday January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1.30pm**

A walk along the coast to Hunstanton and back using the sea defences, as much as possible, to give us the best chance of a mud free route. Start at the Brays's Pit duck pond, Heacham TF672374. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638

### **Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup> 1.30pm**

This local walk will take in around 4 miles of the Sandringham Woods. Start at the Dersingham village sign TF685297 Leaders: Steve and Lindsay Davis 01485 543138

All our planned walks will appear here in Village Voice and can also be found on our page on the Parish Council website and in the Calendar on that website. Our page is at [www.dersingham.org.uk/walkinggroup](http://www.dersingham.org.uk/walkinggroup)

Joining the walking group is a great way to meet some of your fellow villagers and to explore the local area. You'll probably discover footpaths that you never knew existed and maybe views that will give you a fresh appreciation of the local landscape. So if you haven't walked with the group before why not join us for an amble through our wonderful

countryside. Most of our walks are between 4 and 5 miles long and take around two hours, with a rest stop at some point. There is no cost involved, just turn up with your boots on. Dogs are welcome on most walks, provided they are well behaved and tolerant of other dogs. The leader of the walk will do his or her best to look after you, of course, but it is a condition of coming on a walk that you take responsibility for your own safety. As that great hiker Alfred Wainwright said, "Watch where you put your feet!"

*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. If you want more information about any particular walk then please contact the leader.*

Group coordinator: **Tony Bubb** Tel: 01485 542638 Email: [frostytrees@btinternet.com](mailto:frostytrees@btinternet.com) □

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## The Millers' Tale, Part Two

Elizabeth Fiddick



We know from Faden's map of Norfolk 1797 that there were three windmills here, at Mill Hill, Mill Way and Mill Road and that by 1826 only the one at Mill Road remained. The most elusive of the three was Mill Hill which used to stand on the land that now overlooks the old station. The reasons for its demise are unknown but fortunately we do know much more about the other two mills. Mill Way stood at the top of Sugar Lane, as part of Hill house Farm. Mill Road refers to the one that stood, until 1907, at the top of Mill Road where it meets the road to Ingoldisthorpe. In the Enclosure Act of 1779, Fern Hill, leading into Mill Road, is described as a private road solely for *"the use of persons going to and from said mills."* Sugar Lane, *"an ancient lane proceeding in a north direction"* is also considered a private road for the same purpose.

### Mill Way and a Great Storm

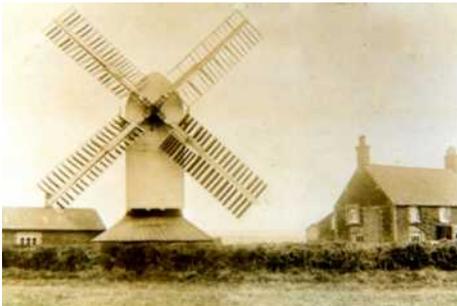
John Stanton owned the mill at the top of Sugar Lane, with Richard Stanton recorded as the miller. The Stanton family farmed extensively in the area at Ling House Farm, as well as Hill House. In the twentieth century they farmed Manor Farm behind the church where our surgery and other businesses now occupy the greatly changed farm buildings.

There is no need to speculate on what may have happened to this mill as in March 1808 the Norfolk Chronicle reported the sale by auction on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at the premises of Mr Richard Stanton of Dersingham of the wreck of a windmill lately blown down. There follows a list of the items to be sold, including a pair of four-foot French stones; a new eight-foot head wheel; new geared flour mill, sail cloths and all the remainder of the wreck. In addition there was a complete horse mill with a twenty-foot diameter fly wheel, plus two other large wheels and a pair of French stones along with a large quantity of flour sacks and beach plank. A horse mill was used in conjunction with a windmill so that on days when the wind was slack the grinding of the corn could still continue.

In the light of events in recent times, it is not difficult to imagine the storm that raged over the village in 1808 and all the other damage it must have caused to homes, fences and buildings. The Tith Map of 1839 reveals that the area where the mill had stood was leased by Richard Stanton as arable land to one Robert Claxton.

### The Mill at Mill Road

The longest standing of our mills occupied the highest position above the village. Over the front door of the mill house was a tablet recording the dates when the mill was built and then dismantled: 1667-1907. A



description of the mill records, *"4 double shuttered sails drove 2 pairs of French stones and a flour mill. A horse mill on the premises drove a further two flour mills."*

In 1778 we know from the Enclosure Act that it was owned by William Smith. In 1811, when it was advertised to be sold or let, it was described as being in good repair with a valuable trade and most desirable and worthy of attention. Mr William Smith Senior would show the premises of which immediate

possession could be had. Richard Johnson is then recorded as the miller until a Mr George Silcock takes over just before 1826. There is an interesting entry posted in 1826 when all the farming stock, implements, household furniture and other effects of Mr George Silcock were offered under Deed of Assignment for the benefit of creditors. This

chimes with a series of letters I have just found written in 1822 and 1823 from Richard Lane Stanton and William Stanton who comment on the severe difficulties faced then by farmers and landowners. A few years later the mill was again advertised to let and Robert Sherwood took up residence as miller and baker until 1835 when the whole property, dwelling house, windmill, stables, granary, piggeries, outbuildings, yards, garden and seven acres of excellent land was once again to be sold by auction by George Silcock at The Dun Cow on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

### **The Fitt Family, Millers and Bakers**

It is at this point that the Fitt family enter the scene and James Fitt, aged fifty, takes over the Mill property with his wife Mary, three sons and one daughter. Mary Brett of Dersingham Hall was the owner of the house, millyard and garden. James employed Stephen Softley as a journeyman baker. The census intriguingly records his address as Dods Mill. There was also an apprentice, fifteen-year-old Thomas Dyball, from Harpley. This is the beginning of the long association the Fitt family would have with our village.

On the death of his father in 1859, Matthew, the second son, took over the business and would run it until his death in 1890. He had married Susannah Engledow in St. Faith's Church, Gaywood in 1852 and now had three sons, Matthew, seven, Harry, four and James, one. His younger brother Michael was an assistant in the mill. Over the next years the family grew to include Edward, John, Mary, Christmas Herbert and Bessie. Matthew's wife died in 1880 aged forty-nine. Matthew also farmed 100 acres so he employed a miller, a baker and a carter to conduct the business of the mill. During his time running this enterprise he placed frequent advertisements in the Lynn News for "a good man who has been accustomed to a country trade. Liberal wages with cottage" and "Wanted - a good miller and baker who understands driving a cart."

One man who must have applied successfully was John Wyer, who, with his wife Elizabeth, a straw bonnet maker, and family moved into the Mill Cottage as the journeyman baker. Having worked with the Fitts for some time John Wyer moved down into the village and opened his own baker's shop shortly before 1891. Although not certain, evidence suggests that his shop was in the house at the bottom of Sandringham Hill opposite Parker's Stores (now Petals Tea Room). John and Elizabeth had six children and a family member told us recently that the Royal household would sometimes buy bread from their shop.

The Fitts also opened a bakery in Chapel Road. The Old Bakehouse still stands, although the building next to it where the sacks of flour were stored on the upper floor no longer exists. The baker had to climb a steep ladder and carry the sacks down over his shoulder. The Fitts ran their bakery there well into the twentieth century.



Matthew Fitt died in 1890 and over the next few months the mill and all his personal and business effects were offered for sale. John Whitrod, with his wife Ellen and two daughters, took occupation of the mill. In the 1891 census Herbert Playford, living there as a lodger, is described as neither an employer nor employee. This mystery is soon solved as shortly afterwards Herbert George Playford purchases the mill and begins his family's long association with this village which continues even today.



## The Playfords, Millers and Bakers

Herbert had previously worked as a baker with his father in Littleport Street, King's Lynn. Nothing now remains of that bakery. In the early days Herbert used to go to Lynn by horse and cart to fetch the corn to grind at the mill. He employed one assistant baker who lived at the mill house, and an assistant miller lived in the mill cottage. It was in 1907 that the villagers looked on in amazement as the 400-year-old mill, a working landmark for so many years, was demolished. In 1908 Herbert built the baker's shop in Manor Road with the extensive premises where the bread was made at the rear. He advertised as a baker and confectioner. Horses, waggonettes, dog carts, and cars (with or without drivers), could be hired on reasonable terms. Luncheons and teas could be provided.

Herbert was awarded the Royal Warrant, by Appointment to The Prince of Wales, at this time and displayed the Prince's Coat of Arms above his shop. Later the family would be awarded the warrant by appointment to His Majesty the King.

Herbert died in 1936 aged sixty-five. His son Charles had taken over the business in 1933. Bill Playford, his son, remembered as a young boy doing odd jobs about the shop and remembered Swiss rolls being 6d each and little cakes were a penny. Bill and John

took over on the death of their father in 1952. The bakery was doing good business and in the 1980s, in a newspaper interview, Bill said that they would bake about 550 loaves at once with all types of confectionery, from a bread roll to a wedding cake, using some three tons of flour a week. They also supplied corn meal for pig and chicken meal.



### The Royal Warrant

Some years previously the family had not succeeded in renewing the Royal Warrant

which had been awarded to another local baker, Terry Wagg. When Guy Playford took over the business from his father he decided to apply again for the Royal Warrant to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. To obtain a Royal Warrant the business had to have supplied the Queen and Royal Family over a period of five or six years. An application is made in writing to the Royal Warrant Holders Association with all the relevant invoices. Once a year the Association sits to decide who is eligible and Playford's bakery gained the Warrant. Guy took the old Coat of Arms out of storage, restored it and fixed it once again on the shop front. *"It was really nice. Huge great thing"*, Guy recalled. They also opened a shop on the Main Road called "The Crusty Cob", later "The Crusty Loaf" in Jubilee Court. In his millennium interview Guy recounts how the supermarkets were installing instore bakeries and that, plus other factors, meant that like many other small and family businesses the decision had to be made to sell.



Guy had to inform the Royal Warrant Holders Association that he was no longer trading so the Royal Warrant was cancelled. *"But I kept the Coat of Arms,"* he said.

So the Millers' tale comes to an end. The three windmills are now just pictures on old maps with the faded photos of only one to remind us. The family run bakers' shops and the premises in Manor Road that once hummed with activity as dough was pounded and the delicious smell of freshly baked bread wafted into the road, are now family homes. Another era has passed.□



## Mrs Dolittle

Well, hello again. It seems ages since I last wrote for this magazine, as I missed an issue having been rushed into A&E and when I came out I was a bit do-lally with the medication and couldn't put two words together.

In my last posts I was wittering on about my trip to the other side of the world to visit my friends Trixie and John in Tasmania, and was writing more about my adventures, up to the bit where I had reached Brisbane to stay with my friend Gina who lives in a wonderful place called Tamborine Mountain where you can see the Gold Coast in the distance. This mountain is all lush rain forest and very beautiful. Unfortunately, two days into my stay with her I became ill and spent a few days in hospital and the rest of my stay in bed - so not much of Oz did I see, nor a sighting of a kangaroo, koala, possum or Aboriginal. I was gutted! I did write a witty piece about it all, but I had written far too much, and anyway it all seems so long ago now.

After my return home, I spent my days asleep like the dead on the day-bed and my nights asleep like the dead in bed - an unnatural sleep like Rip Van Winkle. The doctors said my blood tests were fine except for a deficiency in vitamin D and therefore didn't know what was wrong with me, so sent me off home.

Luckily, though it didn't seem it at the time, after six months of my 'mystery illness' I had stomach pains in the night and just 'knew' I must go to A&E. I felt a bit of a fraud, because it wasn't as if I was writhing in agony on the floor, but just as well I went as it transpired to be a pancreatic infection, plus they discovered I had gallstones, a heart murmur and ovarian cancer that's spreading. Quite a bumper bundle and a bit of a shock to boot!

At the moment I am fulfilling my bucket list, just in case I don't survive the impending operation and chemotherapy, or maybe I survive it all, but not for long. No, I'm not being negative, far from it, but none of us knows what is going to happen to us, but at the moment I do feel I am on a bit of a short list.

I am desperately trying to finish wallpapering my over-the-top bedroom. I was aiming for the Victorian "tarts' boudoir" effect, all gold, satin and velvets, and have been valiantly climbing up and down the rickety ladder, presenting peacock wallpaper to the wall. It's been collapsing over my head, been so difficult to line up the pattern, it's been shrinking on the wall to reveal a quarter of an inch of painted wall behind, and latterly peeling off completely behind the radiator that I switched back on too soon. It has been a nightmare, and it seems that I only have enough energy to put up three drops in a day before I collapse onto the sofa and then need a day to recover. What is up and stuck down properly looks "amazeballs" (don't the young have some delightful new words these days?) so even in its unfinished state, it looks so much better than it did. While this is proving to be a long, slow and backbreaking job for an 80-year-old crone, I am very proud of my achievements and I will complete it - honest I will!

The other thing I am proud of is my art life drawings. I discovered a group at South Creake which I am thoroughly enjoying. I found it very difficult at first, having had no training whatsoever, and perspective is a strange thing to deal with. How can a leg that you know to be three feet (or whatever) long be bent into a position where it looks only a couple of inches? I understand it is "perspective" but it just doesn't seem to make sense. I've discovered that if I draw the lines of the shape or outline NEXT to the leg that my brain is being bamboozled by, rather than the lines of the actual leg, then I get a better representation and it somehow works. At the first class I was completely exhausted after the three hours of sketching, but now, after the fourth class, I am taking it in my stride and pleased with the results.

It's difficult to be positive when you get a life threatening condition like cancer - but I have decided not to be negative, and get as much enjoyment and fulfilment out of my life as possible. So, more art classes and painting; more writing (must finish the second book of that trilogy I am writing); laugh as much as possible; and smother myself in colour - I am a great believer in the beneficial qualities of colour: I remind myself to try and feed myself with rainbow food. Apparently each colour in food provides a different nutrient, so if you have a rainbow plate, you are giving your body more chance of healthiness. Mind you, I do find it difficult to bother to get myself proper food, as I am always tired.

Oh, and on the bucket list, MORE library books too. I love reading and if I am going to be tired a lot, then that gives me the opportunity to flop out on a comfy chair to lose myself in lovely, lovely books where I can visit all sorts of places, and be different people. Indulgence, indulgence, indulgence.

I don't know yet if my hair will fall out. They have to wait until the results of the operation before they will know what kind of chemo to put me on - but I do have a rainbow wig that I can don, so if you haven't already sussed out who Mrs Dolittle is, you soon will when you note a pale faced, rainbow-wigged lady tottering around the village!

I shall continue to write about my experiences. Some people prefer not to talk about their cancer, but I feel it is better to release it out into the open, and in any event, if you happen to be going through the same thing, it might help you in your particular journey, knowing that you are not the only one. I am quite a strong old bird and don't give in easily, so I am hoping that I will remain "above it all" and not crumble. But I might, of course, go completely under. Watch this space! Can I take this opportunity to wish you a happy Christmas? □



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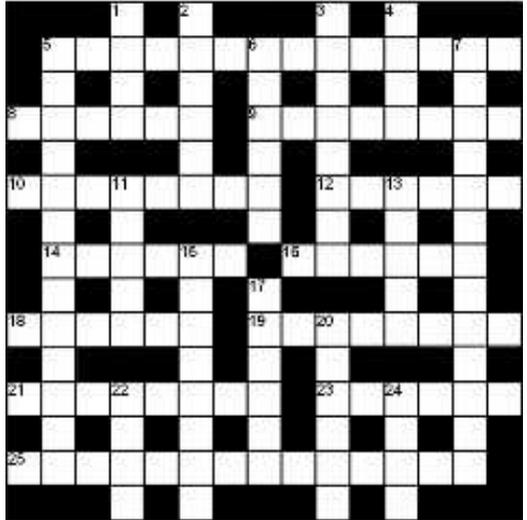
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# PUZZLE CORNER

Crossword by Philip Neal

## Across

- 5 Is this how Father Christmas feels when he comes down the chimney? (14)
- 8 North Eastern trio assembled from here (6)
- 9 Did they know it was Christmas? (4,4)
- 10 Fool on a donkey in an eradicator (8)
- 12 Crooner wearing a Christmas trinket (6)
- 14 Mechanism turning auction item into suitable accompaniment for Xmas dinner (6)
- 16 Gurkha for example found in Alpine maze (6)
- 18 Crashed out – so P.T.O. (6)
- 19 Funny if an endless vermin becomes nefarious (8)
- 21 Serpents writhing under the tree? (8)
- 23 Separated strands to unpick bone papers (6)
- 25 Present aerosol sprayed for individual entertainment (8,6)



## Down

- 1 Lump inside yucca kept on the Christmas tea table (4)
- 2 Leave it (2,2,2)
- 3 Beanpole dancing is essential requirement for all presents (8)
- 4 Compound same old devious acronym (4)
- 5 Cram his street complex with a twelve day wonder (9,4)
- 6 Unto us is born ground garden friends (6)
- 7 Good Christian men rejoice in bijou lucid Latin abroad (2,5,6)
- 11 Harry eager to concur (5)
- 13 Remove attack from morning run broadcast i.a.w. Regulation 4 under normal association rules manual (5)
- 15 Contestant works quietly on hospital dept. (8)
- 17 Listen out for seasonal decoration (6)
- 20 Festive day of the bird call (6)
- 22 Band of Special Forces lying against harbour wall (4)
- 24 Like twenty but this is one of an energetic dozen (4)

## Sudoku Answers on page 65

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



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### Ballroom and Latin classes at Dersingham Village Centre

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[www.taketheleaddance.co.uk](http://www.taketheleaddance.co.uk)

### WORD WALL by Philip Neal

Sort the following into 4 groups of connected words. Answers on page 65

WISE	MINDED	BASSEY	SPLINTER
FRACTURE	DIVIDE	CHER	INTEREST
SEPARATE	MOYET	RENT	SIMON
ADELE	HARDY	TON	FRANKLIN

## Christmas at The Village Centre David Collingham, Chairman DVCA

Christmas and New Year will be celebrated in style at the new Village Centre.

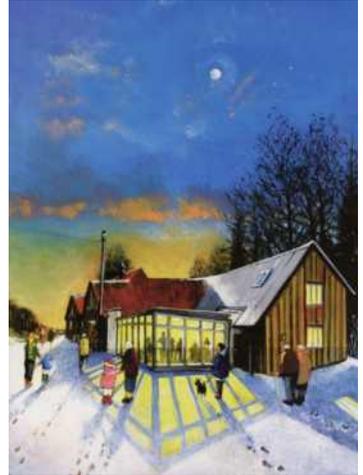
The Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 6th December from 6pm to 9pm. Please bring family and friends to enjoy the wide range of Christmas fare on offer, plus of course the food and drinks (including mulled wine).

For the first time the Centre is hosting a Christmas Lunch put on by our volunteers for those villagers not otherwise engaged. To book please ring Shirley Brooks on 01485 50644.

Having enjoyed your festive Christmas, why not join us on New Year's Eve for a fantastic night of dance music, food and drink? Admittance, by ticket only, is from 8.30 pm, supper at 9.00pm. Tickets are available from the Post Office.

In the New Year, we are planning to hold regular Sunday afternoon (2pm-4pm) socials, and pop-up coffee mornings on Thursdays, in addition to the regular Monday mornings.

Other regular activities continue with Village Voice Live on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm (*Monsieur Hulot's Holiday*) and on Tuesday 14th January (*100 Below: The High Seas Fleet* - tells the fascinating story of the British Fleet at Scapa Flow, Orkney).



Painting by Mike Smith

**DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CINEMA**  
at  
**Dersingham Village Centre**

**Programme: January to March 2020**

<b>7:30pm Tuesday January 28th</b> <b>FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS (cert 12A)</b>
<b>7:30pm Tuesday February 25th**</b> <b>DOWNTON ABBEY (cert PG)</b>
<b>7:30pm Tuesday March 31st</b> <b>FINDING YOUR FEET (cert 12)</b>

**Tickets: £5 - includes tea/coffee/squash**  
\*\*£10 for a special showing including a late 'Downton style' afternoon tea at 6pm; more details nearer the date.

**Under 16s: half price** (Entry subject to film classification)

**Licensed Bar also available**

Dersingham Village Cinema is managed by  
Dersingham Village Centre Association, Charity No 1178462.  
Supported by Creative Arts East.  
For more information, call 07707 832295

The Village Screen film programme includes: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Fisherman's Friends and on 25<sup>th</sup> February we are showing Downton Abbey with a special tea at 6.00pm prior to the film – tickets for the latter cost £10 each.

For those interested in more details of our activities and events, please join our News Blog, linked to the website at [www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk](http://www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk). Once on the site, click on EVENTS at the top. This will take you to a page where you can sign up for the blog and details of events will be emailed to you. You will also find details of the Dersingham Centre Lottery, drawn monthly. We welcome new participants. You can apply on the above website. All the profits are used to improve the Centre facilities. Lottery winners for November were 41, 29 and 14.□





## Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

The children have had a very busy half term, voting class reps onto the Student Council, Eco Council and Sports Council and organising sporting and fund raising events for the new academic year. They have come back after the half term break to embrace their learning and launch themselves into their new creative topics.

The Eco Council have been working hard over the past two years and are happy to announce they have secured another Green Flag Award.

Friendship and family is a strong theme resonating at the Early Years site. Reception class have loved reading a book called *On Sudden Hill*, and the children have had fun creating games and offering advice on friendship.



We are always looking for volunteers to come and be part of school life. If you would like to volunteer to come and read to/with the children we would love to hear from you. Or perhaps you have a passion for gardening! Our allotment area is in need of some tender loving care. We are looking for some keen gardeners to help us grow our own vegetables.

If you can spare a few hours or would like to join us regularly on a Friday afternoon we would love to hear from you. Please contact Jude on 01485 540022.



Children in Year 1 have enjoyed a fun packed Superhero topic, which culminated in creating costumes from recycled t-shirts and old cardboard. They are now looking forward to meeting the Queen and learning all about London, with some help from Paddington Bear!

The Year 2s have embraced their topic Land Ahoy, with a visit from Chief Pete from the Royal Navy, who regaled them with real life tales of pirates! The children learnt to speak like a pirate after being introduced to the famous Black Beard

AGHhhh and learnt about lots of other seafaring characters! The children are now thinking about life closer to home, exploring the village, where the play park proved very interesting, and investigating how life has changed over the years.

Year 3 have returned after the half term to take a trip back in time, imagining what it would have been like to live 5,000 years ago, enhanced with a visit from 'Will, Lord of the Stone Age,' who has brought the stone age to life. They are busy unearthing ancient objects and learning about astonishing mystical monuments that reveal the secrets of this ancient time.



Year 4 have buckled up for an adventurous half term, exploring the sights and sounds of 'Road Trip USA' and planning their own educational theme park, based

on American History. The children will be learning about the science behind roller coasters, writing poetry and testing mechanisms, all set alongside the emotive text *The Matchbox Diary*, learning about early 20th century migration from Italy to America.

Year 5 have been studying Shakespeare during the last half term. The murder, intrigue and themes of fate, good vs evil and loyalty in the play *Macbeth* have greatly captured the imagination of the class.



Year 6 had an incredible opportunity to perform a version of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* at the Corn Exchange. They worked tirelessly to perfect the lines and created beautiful tableaux to help tell the story. The audience gave them a standing ovation!



As we hurtle towards Christmas and preparations for carol singing, nativity plays and festive fairs, the children are spending time reflecting on those who are less fortunate than themselves and throwing themselves into the Children in Need national fund raising event. Pyjamas, cake and teddy bear sales and lots of fun with Pudsey are the order of the day!

A big thank you to Thaxters for helping the children to plant hundreds of daffodil bulbs to brighten up the coming months. □



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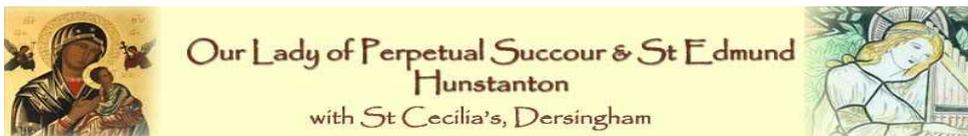
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1 Peter 1:3

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About fifty people attended the Parish Ladies' Shared Lunch on Saturday 9th November at St Cecilia's Church. We had a wonderful musical afternoon with entertainment provided by singer Cathy Martini from Oregon and the U3A Handbells Group from King's Lynn. There was also a very good selection of food and some great raffle prizes. A generous amount was donated to the 'Blood Bikes' charity. Thanks go to all who helped in any way and especially to May Davey, who organised the event.



Our Christmas Mass times are as follows: Christmas Eve (Midnight Mass) is 9pm at the Parish Church, Our Lady & St Edmund, Hunstanton. Christmas Day Mass will be at 10am in both Hunstanton and Dersingham churches. All welcome.

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** are 10am in St Theresa's Convent, 27 Sandringham Road, Hunstanton, during the winter months, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday Mass is at 10.15am at St Cecilia's, Dersingham.

**Sunday Masses** are 9am at St Cecilia's, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and 11am at the Parish Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Edmund, 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](mailto:parishpriest763@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org](http://www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org)

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### Crossword Answers

#### Across

**5** Claustrophobic. **8** Orient. **9** Band aids. **10** Assassin. **12** Bauble. **14** Merlot. **16** Nepali.  
**18** Asleep. **19** Infamous. **21** Presents. **23** Unlaid. **25** Personal stereo.

#### Down

**1** Cake. **2** As it is. **3** Openable. **4** Soda.  
**5** Christmas tree. **6** Robins.  
**7** In dulci júbilo. **11** Agree.  
**13** Unarm. **15** Opponent. **17** Tinsel.  
**20** Fourth. **22** Sash. **24** Lord.

### Word Wall answer:

**One half of famous duos:** Wise  
(Morecambe &), Hardy (Laurel &), Cher  
(Sonny &), Simon (& Garfunkel)

**Simple ....:** ... fracture, ... minded, ...ton, ...  
interest

**Split:** separate, divide, rent, splinter

**Popular female singers:** Adele (Adkins),  
Basse (Shirley), Franklin (Aretha), Moyet  
(Alison)

### Origin Answers:

Answers: Holly - version 1 is true; Mistletoe -  
version 2 is true

### Sudoku Answers

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



## Dersingham Library Events December and January

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](mailto:kerry.lingwood@norfolk.gov.uk)

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

Join in a friendly game of Scrabble and a cuppa.

#### **Just a cuppa: Thursdays 2pm-3pm**

Fancy making some new friends? Come along to this FREE drop in session for a chat and a cuppa.

#### **Knit and natter: Thursdays 10.30-12noon**

Join the friendly knitters for a cuppa, conversation and some knitting.

#### **Bounce and Rhyme: Thursdays 10am-10.30am**

Join us for rhymes and songs for pre-school children.

### **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.

#### **\*NEW\* Busy Books & Beats- Mondays 4<sup>th</sup> November – 9<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am-11.30am**

Join the Early Childhood and Family Service and share stories, songs, rhymes and fun activities around the story of the week. This is a free event, for more information please ask in the library.

#### **Peer support group for Carers led by the Alzheimer's Society: Tuesday 3rd December & Tuesday 7th January 1pm-3pm**

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

#### **Colour yourself calm: Wednesday 4th December 10.30am-12noon**

Just bring along your colouring books and pens and join our relaxing group for adults. Tea and coffee is available.

#### **Crime Book Club: Monday 9th December & Monday 13th January 5.30pm-6.30pm**

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

#### **Gardening Club: Wednesday 11th December & Wednesday 8th January 2pm-4pm**

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

#### **Police Engagement Surgery: Wednesday 11th December 2pm-4pm**

PC Lee Anderton will be holding a Community Engagement Surgery at Dersingham Library. You can discuss any concerns you may have in your local area, get advice on staying safe online or find out about working/volunteering with Norfolk police. No need to book an appointment just come along.

**Book Club: Monday 16th December & Monday 20th January  
5.45-6-45pm**

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



**Dersingham Library Friends**

Could you help organise and promote events/activities for Dersingham library? Come along and join us! Please see staff for more information.

**Walk and talk group: Thursday 19th December & Thursday 16th January 2pm**

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.

**Dersingham writers' group: Tuesday 28th 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

**Embroidery and needlework group**

Bring your own project and equipment. Everyone welcome. This group meets in Open Library time so customers will need a library card with Open Access to enter. Please see staff for dates, times or for more information or call 01485 540181.

**"NEW" Collage Club: Sunday December 15th and Sunday 19th January 2pm-4pm**

This free club for adults is held on the 3rd Sunday of every month.. Come along and bring your old magazines, newspapers, scissors and gluesticks. IMPORTANT: Club users must be registered for 'Open Library Access' before arriving - please ask the library about the Open Library Access scheme if you are not already registered.

**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.□

**Hoping to start a new activity at Dersingham Library  
Margaret Boston**

Are you interested in joining a group to play the coloured domino game "Chicken Foot"? It's easy to play: as the game progresses the dominoes form a foot - "Chicken Foot".

We are looking for people to come and join us at the Library on alternate Fridays from 10.00-12.00. There is no charge to play. Meet friends and make new ones.

If you would like to join please contact Margaret Boston on 01485 545941. When there are sufficient numbers to form a group then a start date will be set.



# New Year's Eve Disco & Supper

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## Forthcoming Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

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

Issue	Copy deadline mid-day on	Publication date
No 122 (Feb 20/Mar 20)	Tuesday 14th Jan 2020	Monday 3rd Feb 2020
No 123 (Apr 20/May 20)	Tuesday 17th March 2020	Monday 6th April 2020

## Advertising in Village Voice

More than 2,500 residential and business properties in Dersingham, West Newton, Wolferton and Sandringham receive a copy of Village Voice with another 600 available to subscribers, businesses and shop counters. It is also available online from our website at [dersingham.org.uk](http://dersingham.org.uk) Do please support the services advertisers provide and mention where you saw their advert. Our advert prices are £22.20 for an eighth page, £34.20 for a quarter, £66 for a half and £132 for a full page. Discounts available for block bookings paid up-front. These prices include VAT. Full details and booking forms can be obtained from the Parish Office or email: [villagevoice@dersingham.org](mailto:villagevoice@dersingham.org) and returned together with payment by mid-day of the copy deadlines given above.

## Articles and Non-Profit Making Promotions for Village Voice

These should be emailed directly to the Editor:

**[villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk](mailto: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 both the physical limitations of the publication as well as the revenue required 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 per inch and preferably JPEG. **Please send photographs and logos as separate files, and not embedded in an email. For text files Word documents are preferred.**

*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 any opinions expressed, or the accuracy of statements made, by contributors. □*

## Dersingham Parish Council Office

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The Production Team for this edition of Village Voice consists of

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Layout & Administration: Geraldine Scanlon. Finances: Sarah Bristow (Parish Clerk)

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# What's On in and around Dersingham

Many events are held at Dersingham Village Centre (DVC)  
83 Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LN (marked in bold)

*This is a summary of local events, most of which are covered in more detail either in articles or advertisements within Village Voice. See the Dersingham Library entry on pages 66-67 for a full list of their many activities.*

*See details of the Social Club activities in Wolferton, Babingley and West Newton on page 35.*

## Late November/December

30th Nov/1st Dec: Christmas Art Trail 11am-4pm. Map from  
Dersingham Pottery

30th Nov: Methodist Church Christmas Fayre 10am-12noon

**5th Dec: Christmas Sugar Craft Workshop at DVC 1pm-3pm**

**6th Dec: Christmas Market & Pop Up Cafe at DVC 6pm-9pm**

6th-8th Dec: Christmas Tree Festival, St Nicholas Church

7th Dec: Bilton Silver Brass Band in St Nicholas Church 7.30pm

**10th Dec: Village Voice Live: M Hulot's Holiday at DVC 7.30**

10th Dec: Hunstanton Community Choir Christmas Singalong,  
Hunstanton Town Hall 7pm

11th Dec: Dersingham Walking Group, N&S Wootton 1.30pm

**12th Dec: Christmas Sugar Craft Workshop at DVC 1pm-3pm**

14th & 15th Dec: Cinderella at Christmas, Wolferton Church 11am-4pm

25th Dec: Christmas Day swim at Hunstanton 11am

**25th Dec: Christmas Lunch at DVC**

**31st Dec: New Year's Eve Disco & Supper at DVC 8.30pm**

## January 2000

**14th Jan: Village Voice Live: 100 Below - Story of the High Seas Fleet (KL Sub-aqua Club at Scapa Flow) at DVC 7.30**

8th Jan: Ders Walking Group, Ingoldisthorpe & Snettisham 1.30pm

**9/16/23/30th Jan: Pop up Coffee Shop at DVC (NEW!) 10am-12noon**

**12th Jan: Sunday Social at DVC (NEW!) 2pm-4pm**

18th Jan: Race Night, Anmer Social Club 7.30pm

22nd Jan: Dersingham Walking Group, Hunstanton 1.30pm

23rd Jan: NWT *Birding in the High Andes* with Allan Hale at  
Hunstanton Methodist Hall, Austin Street

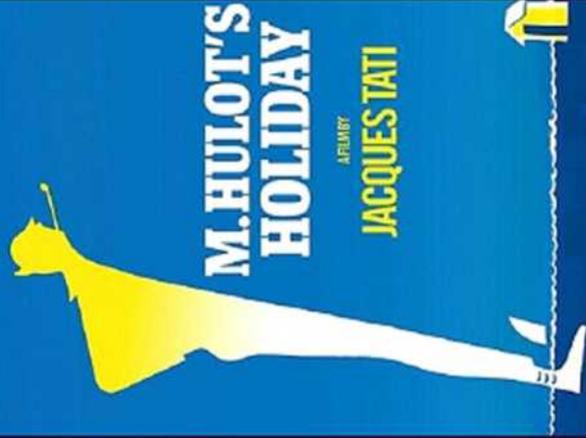
25th Jan: Methodist Church Coffee Morning

25th Jan: Burns Night at Anmer Social Club 7.30

**28th Jan: Village Screen: Fisherman's Friends at DVC 7.30pm**

## VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday December 10th



with festive refreshments

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

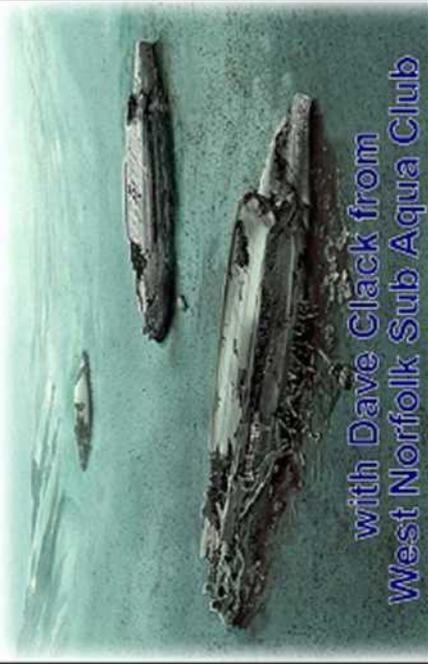


## VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday January 14th

# 100 Below

The story of the  
High Seas Fleet



with Dave Clack from  
West Norfolk Sub Aqua Club



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

