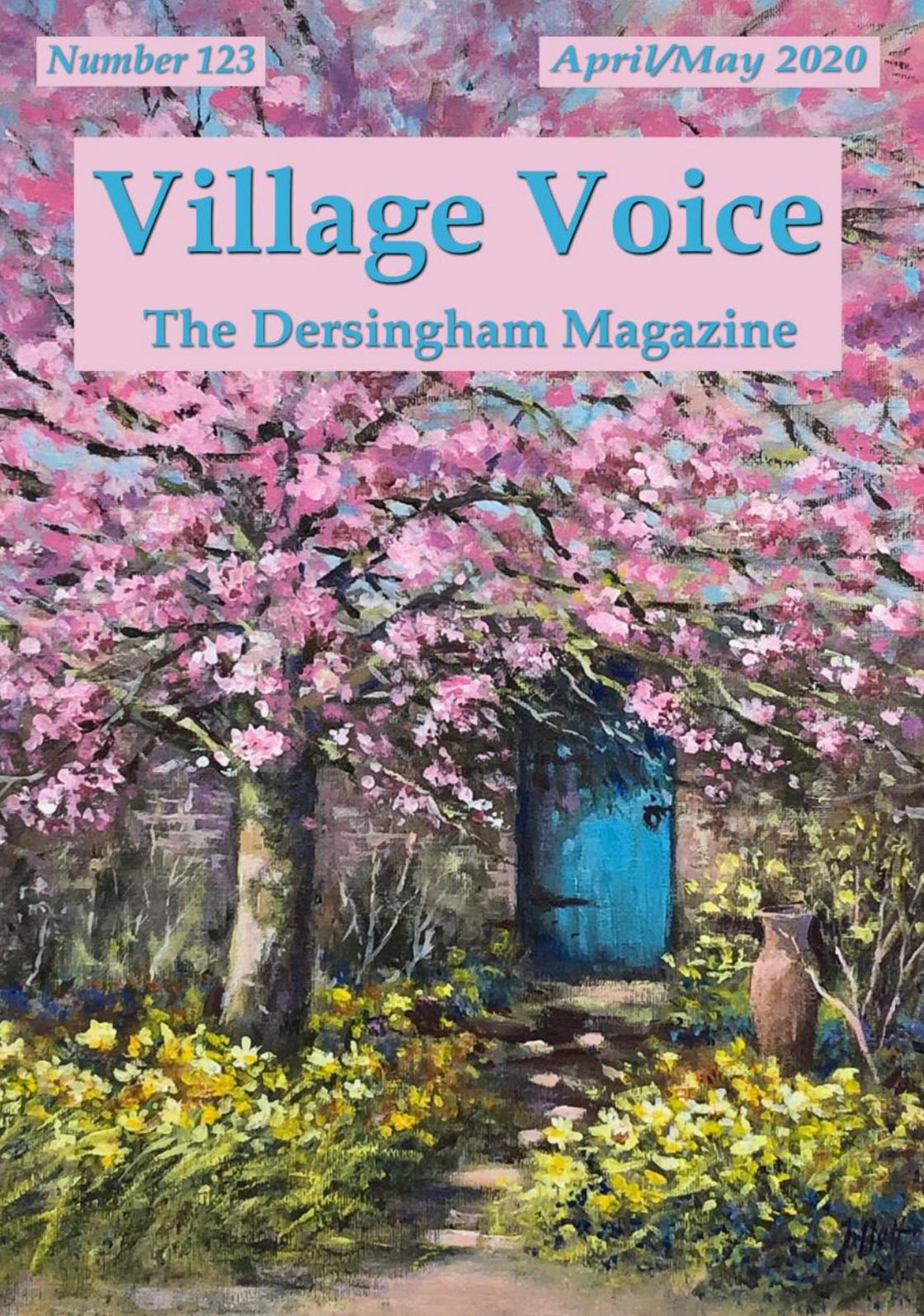


Number 123

April/May 2020

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine





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Editor's Notes Jo Halpin Jones



This edition of Village Voice is coming out at an extraordinary time for all of us. I am writing this on 17th March, just after the Government announced its strict new guidelines relating to coronavirus. Needless to say, these measures will have a profound effect on all our lives, but particularly for older people, those with other health conditions and for those whose jobs have been affected.

Because the deadline for this edition was today, most organisations have already sent in their submissions. Some have updated them informing us of cancellations, or letting us know where to get more information as the situation evolves. But there may be other entries in the magazine implying that things are still going ahead. To be sure that an event is taking place, contact the organisers of the various clubs and classes to check for changes. You can also get up to date information by Googling [Dersingham Village Centre Blog](#). If you wish to get automatic email updates to the Blog, just click on **Sign up** on the left hand side of the page and follow instructions.

Whilst in the middle of writing this I have been informed that **Dersingham Village Centre is to close until further notice, with immediate effect**. This will come as a big shock to all those users of the Centre, for the organisers of the various activities, and for all the volunteers. Please see the article by David Collingham, Chairman of the Dersingham Village Centre Association for further details.

Dersingham Library is also now closed for the present. Full details can be found on page 41.

On a more positive note, as I am one of those in my seventies, I am actually quite looking forward to some time at home with an empty diary. I have this piece of paper called my "megalist" which catalogues all those things I'd like to get done, but never do: from sorting out my cupboards and defrosting the freezer, to decluttering my computer files and painting the garage. I am also looking forward to having time to do gardening, reading, catching up on all those recorded TV programmes, and applying myself to that list of exercises I should be doing. So don't let's sink into doom and gloom and give in to fear, but just be careful and use the time to best advantage. If you have access to the internet you could do online classes, learn a language. I am finding it best not to watch too much TV news, just the basics to keep in touch with events. You may also be able to help support elderly neighbours who have difficulty getting to the shops or chemist, or walking their dog. I'm sure the good old wartime community spirit will get fired up.

Village Voice will keep publishing. Why don't you send in articles and photos of the things you do to fill in this time spent at home or at least away from other people. Send them to villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk.

From June we shall be starting the new year of advertising in Village Voice, with discounts for block booking. There are many businesses which at present will be able to operate as normal and we hope most of our current advertisers will continue supporting Village Voice. Hopefully local residents will support local businesses as they come under pressure in these difficult times.

Keep safe out there, and keep washing those hands!!!!

Many thanks to Jill Ilett for the delightful painting on the front cover. Yes, spring is just about here and will hopefully cheer us all up.



Dear Village Voice



Able Community Care is a Norfolk home care company which was established in 1980 and now provides care 24/7 throughout the UK and beyond.

We continually read news/articles flagging up the activities of doorstep criminals - fraudulent roofers, gardeners, service officials and other non-genuine visitors who target older people. Over the years we have also had first-hand evidence from our own clients and carers.

As a company we have decided to see if we can help prevent this on a small scale and so we have had Door Safety Stickers printed to give away to older people. To date we have sent out 40,000 since February and if you think your older readers may like to have one, please ask them to either ring us on 01603 764567 or email to info@ablecommunitycare.com.



Angela Gifford, CEO of Able Community Care



Two issues ago I wrote an article "Labyrinths of my Mind" in which I described the massive Labyrinth my wife and I walked in El Cotillo, Fueteventura, of how I was planning to make a ball bearing puzzle based on the same design layout, and I thought readers may care to hear the completion of the tale. Although rather fiddly to cut out with a hand fretsaw, then assemble and sand down to get it all operational, I did indeed manage to complete the 30cm square project, which having had the benefit of with family and friends over Christmas, I took with us when we returned to the same El Cotillo in February. At the expat run Church (fuertechurch.org) that meets in the hotel, we again spoke with Ruth, the same lady I referred to in my article, who'd originally told us of the little known El Cotillo Labyrinth and I had the pleasure of presenting my puzzle version of it to her - along with a copy of Village Voice bearing the article of course!

Steve Davis

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Parish Council Chairman's Report Coral Shepherd



As I write this we are all beginning a new chapter in our lives. The way we live is changing daily with all social contact being discouraged (by the time you read this it may be banned) even with families.

Supermarket shelves are empty despite warehouses being full, hospital appointments and routine surgery are being postponed and even walking the dog is discouraged in some areas. It is a frightening time for many, especially for those who live alone, so if we can all do our bit and keep in contact by email, Skype and even a simple note through a neighbour's door, it will all help.

On the note of helping others, Kemps fruit and veg store in Hunstanton High Street have now started a home delivery service for vulnerable people who cannot get out and about. Their phone number is 01485 535212.

Sadly, the Village Centre is now closed until restrictions are eased (see more in David Collingham's column on page 9).

Many of our Parish Councillors are over the age of seventy and like everyone else we are concerned about gathering together. We are making temporary changes to the way we conduct our business, so please keep an eye on our website for further updates. As from today (18th March) the Parish Council office will be closed to visitors and if you have a query or wish to report a street light not working please either email clerk@dersingham.org.uk or telephone 01485 541465 or 07486 999530.

Sadly, it looks as though restrictions on our daily lives will be continuing for several weeks to come and it is with much regret that we are cancelling our VE Day veterans' tea. Hopefully restrictions will be eased and we can rearrange for VJ day.

I do hope that we can all turn these strange times into something positive for us all. Please let us know what you have been doing so that we can publish your stories and photos in our next edition. □

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Coronavirus Vida Healthcare

Here at Vida Healthcare we are taking the necessary precautions to counter the coronavirus. Please see below some advice and guidance related to this. Given the impact of COVID-19 there will be some changes to the way appointments to the practice are accessed. It is possible that we may need to cancel appointments over coming days but currently (at the time of writing) we are changing them from a face to face consultation to a telephone appointment with our clinicians in the first instance. Only those needing to be seen will be asked to attend.

During this time we will be accepting prescription requests over the telephone.

The NHS and Public Health England (PHE) are extremely well prepared for outbreaks of new infectious diseases. The NHS has put in place measures to ensure the safety of all patients and NHS staff while also ensuring services are available to the public as normal.

NHS 111 has an online coronavirus service found at 111.nhs.uk/covid-19 that can tell you if you need medical help and advise you what to do.

Use this service if:

- * You think you might have coronavirus. You have a temperature of 37.8 or above and/or a new persistent cough and symptoms are continuing or worsening after 7 days of self-isolation
- * In the last 14 days you've been to a country or area with a high risk of coronavirus – see coronavirus advice for travellers and a list of high risk countries on nhs.uk.
- * You've been in close contact with someone with coronavirus.

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Stay indoors and avoid close contact with other people. Call 111 if you need to speak to someone.

Further information and details of how to self-isolate are available on nhs.uk/coronavirus.

Some more advice:

- * Please wash your hands when in the surgery facilities. Supplies of sanitiser are reduced but will be available while we have them.
- * Wash your hands more often for at least 20 seconds.
- * Use soap and water or a hand sanitiser when you:
 - * Get home or into work
 - * Blow your nose, sneeze or cough
 - * Eat or handle food

For more information and the Government's Action Plan go to nhs.uk/coronavirus

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Chair of West Norfolk CCG wishes patients healthy futures as he steps down from role

Dr Paul Williams, Chair of WNCCG

(Ed: This article was written on 11th March 2020 before the latest government and NHS advice concerning the coronavirus)

The date of the merger of the NHS Norfolk and Waveney clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and the formation of the new single CCG is nearly upon us. My last day as Chair of West Norfolk CCG is 31st March. The new CCG's west locality team is up and running under our locality director Howard Martin and I will be chairing the last West Norfolk CCG Governing Body meeting on Thursday, 26th March at the West Norfolk Deaf Association building in Railway Road, King's Lynn, at 9.15am.

I will be sad to say good-bye to West Norfolk CCG. I think it has done an excellent job in focussing on the health issues facing the population, and the problems faced by healthcare providers, in West Norfolk. During its tenure West Norfolk CCG has been able to give local support to healthcare providers and has had a greater understanding of the different needs of people living in the west of the county. Those lessons and ways of working will now be continued as the new CCG will have a locality focus, with specific teams based in key geographic areas, including the west. This will give each area a voice and a dedicated workforce to ensure they can focus on local issues.

Each locality has a Local Delivery Group (LDG) as part of the work to transform health and care services locally. This group is represented by all the providers of healthcare in the area, including voluntary sector organisations and primary care. It also has patient representation and involves social care providers and in the west, the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, which is responsible for so many local services and initiatives. The West Norfolk LDG is an especially vibrant and energised group in which each organisation wants to help the others to deliver the best care possible so we can continue to drive down health inequalities and find new ways of working in West Norfolk.

We have supported the new executive team at the Queen Elizabeth, Hospital King's Lynn to deliver improvements following challenging Care Quality Commission (CQC) reports in the last two years. That is bearing fruit as there have been some very noticeable improvements at the Trust which we will hear more about at our next Governing Body meeting.

The novel coronavirus continues to receive much attention in the media. A national campaign is underway to promote key public health advice and I would encourage you to look out for these messages and follow the guidance, particularly in regard to hand washing. Do call NHS 111 if you are concerned about your health and please don't visit your GP surgery, hospital or pharmacy if you think you might have symptoms of the virus. You can find out more information about the novel coronavirus on the Government and NHS websites.

So I will sign off my final blog and wish you all healthy futures. Good-bye from West Norfolk CCG. □



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Please send a CV by email or post by Thursday April 30th

Email: chairman@dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk

Post: The Chairman, Dersingham Village Centre Association,
Dersingham Village Centre, 83 Manor Road, Dersingham,
PE31 6LN. Mark the envelope 'Private & Confidential'

For more information and a Job Description, please contact:

Sue Payne

Dersingham Village Centre Association

Tel: 07707 832295



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www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk
Tel: 07707 832295



Dersingham Village Centre - STOP PRESS! **David Collingham, Chairman DVC Association**



It is with regret that the DVCA trustees have taken the decision to close the Centre in line with current Government advice. We will be reviewing the situation monthly and will show updates on the home page of the website (dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk). There will also be posters around the village to keep you updated. Of course, the Centre will reopen as soon as Government advice permits.

Up until 18th March, the Centre was operating almost at full capacity, with a wide range of activities and social gatherings, including new initiatives such as Zumba classes, Social Sundays and Thursday coffee mornings. We do hope you will come and enjoy these when we reopen.

In the recent months, the Centre has hosted some spectacular events, including a very entertaining Quiz Night and our second 007 Casino Night, organized by the Dersingham Tennis Club. Village Voice Live put on a popular talk by the former Norfolk Royal Protection Officer, David Reeve. Last, but not least, our Film Club broke all records with the screening of Downton Abbey, complete with period style Afternoon Tea!

Our next big project will be to recruit a part-time Caretaker – details are shown opposite. For further information, please contact Sue Payne on 07707-832295.

The Village Lottery will continue to be drawn each month. March winners were 44, 28 and 17. Congratulations!



Our AGM is planned for May 28th at 6pm, subject to the Centre being reopened.

The Trustees and Volunteers of the DVCA wish you all the very best in health and mind at this difficult time, and please do keep in touch with us by email or Facebook. □

Salvation Army, Snettisham District **Alison Kirby**



In line with government advice, and as instructed by our headquarters in London, all public gatherings at The Salvation Army, Snettisham have been stopped with immediate effect. We are sorry that this means that our special events, along with our regular activities including Sunday worship, have had to be cancelled until further notice. However, The Salvation Army is still here to serve the community and so if you or anyone you know needs our help in any way please contact me on 01485 579079 or email alison.kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk. You can also visit our website for the latest information www.salvationarmy/snettisham or see our Facebook page. Take care and God bless. □

Dersingham

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Painting by Jill Lett

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Dersingham Open Gardens 2020

The Dersingham Open Gardens event has now been cancelled due to the coronavirus. It is hoped that the event can be rescheduled for later in the year. So the rest of this article will hopefully relate to the event taking place in the autumn.

For the latest information visit dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk

Gardeners have had a lot to contend with over the last winter. As we all know it has been a particularly wet and dismal time! As I write this there are two more storms forecast, although the map seems to show that we will escape the major deluge. The sun is beginning to have some warmth in it but the winds are still bitterly cold. So how will our gardens have coped with these last few months? That is the unknown which we watch unfold as



the days go by into spring and summer. It is also the time of anticipation and excitement as we watch for our old favourites, and new acquisitions, begin slowly to make their presence known, or in some cases don't!! But that is an opportunity to spend time browsing garden centres, websites and catalogues for what will take their place, and what gardener doesn't enjoy that pleasure!



Then there are the animal irritations! Squirrels who dig up the bulbs, however many times they are replanted. "Something" that has decided our greenhouse makes a wonderful larder to store and eat piles of walnuts. The worst offender in my garden

is the muntjac. They have eaten the tops of my rhubarb, bluebells, tulips, carnations, hardy geraniums and "pruned" the lower parts of most of my shrubs! But with a gardener's eternal optimism and nature's power of recovery I am sure most will revive, and if not, we can fill the gaps with interesting new plants.

So, with all that in mind, we will be welcoming all who visit around sixteen gardens, many regulars and some returning gardens. Everyone has their unique style and charm and many surprises are hidden behind the gates, fences and hedges of our village. Look to find banana growing, a large leaping frog, a magical mistletoe orchard and teapots galore! For the children, and any adult who feels like joining in, see if you can spot the decorated stone in each garden. As we all know gardens are never the same from one year to the next and it is always interesting to see how they have developed and changed over the year.

This year the artists of our village will be coming together to showcase their talents in a "pop-up" gallery in the Village Centre.

Also in the Village Centre teas and light refreshments will be served on both days. Tickets will be on sale in advance from Dersingham Post Office - £4, and on the day from the Village Centre - £5, with profits being shared by Dersingham Village Centre and St Nicholas Church. This event is a major fund raiser for our village, so we look forward to sharing our gardens with many visitors over the two days.

Full details on www.DersinghamOpenGardens.co.uk





Volunteers out there, the RSPB needs you!

With busy lives, it can be hard to find time to volunteer. However, the benefits of volunteering are enormous to you, your family, and your community. The right match can help you find friends, reach out to the community, learn new skills, and even advance your career.



The volunteers at RSPB Titchwell Marsh support us in all aspects of reserve life, from carrying out practical maintenance in the hides, making delicious soup in the café to monitoring wildlife and helping in our busy shop. They are frontline ambassadors for the RSPB, welcoming visitors, passing on their enthusiasm for nature and sharing their knowledge of the reserve. Our volunteers make an invaluable contribution to our work, helping to stretch our scarce resources and keeping us firmly in touch with the grass roots.

Titchwell Marsh is growing in popularity and we're welcoming more visitors than ever before. This means we need extra help this year to deliver the fantastic experiences we're famous for. Currently we have volunteer vacancies for café and shop assistants, welcome hub assistants and family event leaders.

If you are interested in these or have the potential to support us in other areas please contact Lucy Ferrer, Operations Manager on 01485 210779 or email the team at titchwell@rspb.org.uk. □



Hunstanton and District Rotary Club Presentation

Our Group were delighted to welcome Hunstanton & District's Rotary Club President, John Crofts, to one of our regular support group meetings. John presented a cheque for £500 to volunteer Debbie Peel (Group Secretary) and our stroke survivors who will benefit from this kind donation, providing arts and craft activities.

The Rotary Club held one of their annual fund raising events at Norton Hill Railway, Snettisham, last summer raising money for many local charities and is a supporter of our group – thank you Rotary !!

If you have some spare time and are maybe looking to become a volunteer and would like to do something really rewarding, please come along and have a taster session at our group. You never know, it might be the thing for you.

Contact information

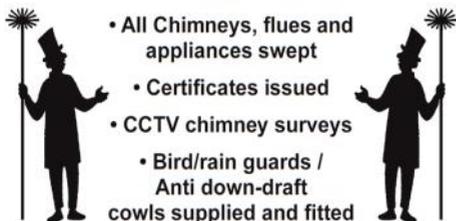
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Sandringham Update Garry Marsden

Time flies and as I write we are making final plans to open Sandringham House, Transport Museum and Gardens to visitors once again. Currently we are amid uncertain times as you will be aware and like all organisations, we are monitoring the situation daily and will react according to advice from the relevant authorities. Please check our website www.sandringhamestate.co.uk for updates.

The main space of Sandringham Café re-opened on Saturday 14th March after large improvement works. I realise for both visitors and staff that this has been an unsettling time as we look to improve our visitor facilities and I would like to thank everyone who has supported us. We have had to contend with storms, heavy rainfall, power outages and now coronavirus; however, in the end, through the hard work of many staff, contractors and the support of our visitors we will emerge with what will be a better facility for everyone. .



The car parks will open fully, with new charges in place at the end of this month. Lots of you have already purchased season tickets for car parking for the gardens and transport museum. The new improved car park now has disabled parking bays, a drop off point for the less able and two bays for the charging of electric vehicles, with capacity to grow this should the demand be there. We will also have our mobility shuttle to and from the car park from 10am till 4pm, seven days per week.

The Sandringham Gift Shop will also re-open at the end of the month after its re-fit. Kelly, our Retail Manager, has been busy creating a completely new product range of quality items, locally sourced where possible and many reflecting the new Sandringham brand. We have had great help from many local suppliers and businesses in creating all sorts of products from lavender gifts to cakes, honey, Sandringham gin, children's clothing, tweed and textiles.

We have also recently completed some repair work in the children's play area and are looking to expand our play facilities for younger visitors soon. If you have any ideas on what you would like to see please get in touch.□

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From your Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb



First of all we must mention the subject which is uppermost in most folks' minds which is the coronavirus (COVID-19). As the situation is constantly evolving we would advise everyone who can to consult the Public Health England website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>.

Aside from this dominant issue, your Borough is working on many fronts to improve our towns by accessing as many grants as we can. Towns will survive if they attract visitors and local communities to take part in leisure activities, whether those be visits to museums, historic buildings, cinemas, theatres or restaurants and cafes. Retail will benefit from increased visitor numbers which will flow from offering such amenities. Of course in the current circumstances none of this type of activity will happen. However, we should look to the future and better times.

A word about parking: there has been an increase in parking charges but you may hardly notice it! You used to pay for two hours and get an extra hour thrown in. This is no longer the case and the third hour will need to be paid for. Revenue from parking enables the Borough Council to keep Council Tax as reasonable as possible and also hopefully encourages people to use the bus service which, in the interests of preserving the planet, is the greenest way to travel.

My (Cllr Collingham's) attention has been drawn to the drastic pruning and tree felling which is underway in Life Wood. The matter is now with the Borough for consideration as to the best way forward to preserve what is left.

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[Ed: Open gardens has now been cancelled, but hopefully will take place in the Autumn. See pages 10 and 11.]

We do hope you all keep safe and well as we look forward to happier times. □

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Memories of a trolleybus driver's son Brian Anderson



I was born on 12th February 1946 at Brockett Hall near Hatfield in Hertfordshire. Before you conjure up images of mouths and silver spoons I must point out that Brockett Hall was part of a hospital evacuated from London during the war and had not yet returned. I don't know if the hospital was Barnet General or Finchley Memorial. From the hospital I came home to a ground floor flat in Finchley in North London. No bathroom - still a tin bath by the fire on Saturdays. The loo was indoors but only just.



Henry Anderson in uniform and his wife Beatrice

I was a late baby. My Mum was thirty-eight and my Dad was fifty-three when I was born. They were both born in Cardiff but didn't meet until they were both in Finchley!

I don't remember when I first became aware that my Dad was a trolleybus driver, but I must have been around five or six when my Dad lifted me into the driver's seat of a trolleybus at the Finchley depot. I have a clear memory of that, and that I realised that the trolleybus I was sitting in wasn't the same as the ones out on the road. But before we get ahead of ourselves I ought to say a bit about trolleybuses. I was surprised a few years ago to find that someone I knew didn't know what a trolleybus was - so I'd better say something about that. A trolleybus is an

electrically powered bus that draws current from a pair of overhead wires. It is different from a tram in that it has conventional tyred road wheels rather than a metal track. The first attempt at such a vehicle was in Germany in 1882 - really no more than a cart with overhead power. London had its first trolleybus service in 1931. These were large six-wheeled double-decker vehicles nicknamed "Diddlers" and it was into one of these retired buses that my Dad unceremoniously plonked me.



Diddler Trolleybus c. 1931

He was demobbed in 1919 and in 1920 went to work for London United Tramways as a tram conductor working at the Finchley depot. I don't know which routes he worked but if



Trolleybus 1962

his later career as a trolleybus driver is any guide it was routes 9, 19 and 21. Exactly when my Dad became a trolleybus driver I don't know, but I think it must have been around 1935 as that was the year that trams were replaced by trolleybuses on all the Finchley routes. These were much more modern-looking than the Diddlers - in fact they were, at the time, the most modern-looking of all the public transport vehicles in London. There were several reasons for the replacement, both here and elsewhere in London. Firstly, in 1933 all the public transport in London (apart from the mainline railways) was brought into public ownership under the London Transport Passenger Board. Secondly, the

LTPB concluded that the ageing tram infrastructure was going to be very expensive to replace. Trolleybuses were chosen to replace trams as they had better hill-climbing capability, were larger than the motor buses then available so could carry more passengers and were more flexible than trams as they were not confined to a track and could overtake one another (admittedly on battery power). My Dad drove three routes: the 609 service running between High Barnet and Moorgate in the City of London, the 521 and 621 running between Finchley and Holborn Circus, albeit by slightly different routes.

I remember being taken into a large room with a large piece of machinery doing something very loudly. I thought it was some kind of generator. It was years before I realised that there was no motor or turbine driving it. It was even more years before I found out what it was. The trolleybuses ran on direct current but the public supply was (and is) alternating current. The machine was a rotary converter to convert AC to DC. I feel slightly embarrassed that it took so long to realise, given the nature of my career. They've pretty much fallen into disuse now, having been replaced by various sorts of rectifier.

I also recall another large room with a line of cashiers' windows at the end. The rest of the room was equipped with small desks with a leather surface and a wooden lip around three edges. It was here that the conductors quickly counted the money at the end of their turn of duty. The wooden lip was to stop money rolling onto the floor (obviously!). The piles of pennies, halfpennies, three-penny bits, sixpences, shillings, florins and half-crowns soon stacked up (until 1960 there were even farthings). I look back and wonder why we tolerated such a ridiculous currency for so long.

Riding on a trolleybus was a different experience from a motor bus. They were very quiet and had a smooth and rapid acceleration. There were occasionally little incidents that brightened a journey. One was de-wiring, when the booms came off the overhead wires. This was generally due to over-steering on the part of the driver, but sometimes a broken-down trolleybus had to be passed. In all cases, the conductor had to manoeuvre the booms with a long bamboo pole with a hook on the end. The poles were stored in a long tube running the full length under the bus. Another little diversion was where trolley bus routes diverged and the correct pair of wires had to be selected. This is rather like points on a railway track.

Like all public transport workers, my Dad had rostered duties so could be at work at any time of day. This was a bit of a problem for my Mum, who had to provide meals. She hated early rostering on Sundays as the Sunday roast had to be eaten in the evening. Christmas was worse - yes there was a limited bus service on Christmas Day! My Mum didn't work when I was very young but when I got a bit older she had various jobs - cleaning, working in a grocer's, working in a dry cleaner's and preparing meals in the staff canteen of our local Sainsbury's.

Another irritation for her was my Dad's habit of coming home for his tea breaks - we lived very close to the depot and terminus. When I was very young, tea was still rationed and she didn't want her tea ration depleted when my Dad could have his tea at the canteen. This obsession with tea lasted for the rest of her life - she would always open the packet out flat and retrieve every scrap of tea. She was pretty much the same over butter - a knife would remove every last trace from the paper (no plastics in those days). I used the trolleybuses a lot - fares were low and I could go fair distances for a few (old) pence. By the time I was about twelve some school friends and I got into collecting bus numbers (these are not route numbers but vehicle numbers, like train numbers). And not just trolleybuses - the London Transport bus fleet was huge. The low fares meant we could travel widely over London and then cross off the numbers in the Ian Allen London Bus Numbers book.

I can remember one evening when my Dad was very late home and my Mum got very worried. When he eventually turned up he said he'd been in an accident - he was driving over a junction when a car jumped the red light and slammed into the side of the bus. Both men in the car were killed. No-one on the bus was injured. The two men were on their way home after a day out at Southend. Other times when my Dad was late home were generally due to fog. Because of the widespread use of coal fires, fog was a frequent hazard in winter. One day he came home and said that he'd completed his journey and returned the bus to the depot. When he got out of the cab there was a car behind the bus - the driver had simply followed the tail lights in the murk! The story sounds apocryphal but he swore it was true.

I can imagine that my Mum was equally worried during the War as the routes my Dad did went down into the City of London. Trolleybus routes were vulnerable as the overhead could be disrupted by bombing. Services were often terminated short of areas with bomb damage, but in many cases repair crews were able to provide alternative routes with temporary wiring.

In 1960 my Dad retired. In November 1961 trolleybus routes 521, 621 and 609 were withdrawn and replaced with Routemaster motor buses.

That wasn't quite the end of my relationship with trolleybuses - in 1966 I had a very long trolleybus journey in the Crimea from Simferopol to Yalta. This is the longest trolleybus route in the world at 86km. Later, when I worked at CERN near Geneva, every trip from the airport to CERN involved a trolleybus journey. □



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Greenfinch

Eco news from our local planet by LM Williams

The early bees are back in the garden. It's lovely to see them again. This month



**Professional beekeeper
David Arlott tending hives**

Greenfinch chats with beekeepers David and Irene Arlott of Berberis House Apiary (www.bhahoney.com). They look after some hives in Dersingham and sell top-quality local honey at Sandringham Farmers' Market.

What motivated you to become beekeepers? When David took early retirement from teaching and Irene decided to close her boarding cattery, we both wanted to devote our time to helping the environment and the ecosystem. At about the same time, in 2005, there was much publicity about the declining honeybee population and much encouragement for society to take up beekeeping husbandry. Although we knew little about honeybees and their management, we knew that this was the direction we wanted to pursue.

How did you start? By reading numerous beekeeping books and watching untold numbers of DVDs and YouTube videos! A particularly good DVD we liked was by a local Norfolk man, Paul Metcalf - *A New Introduction to Beekeeping*. Paul has over sixty years' beekeeping experience and was the

Beekeeping Advisor for Norfolk and a lecturer on beekeeping at Easton College. We found YouTube videos extremely helpful, in particular a continuing series by a Norfolk beekeeper, Stewart Spinks (www.norfolk-honey.co.uk) and another series by Paul Kelly from the University of Guelph's Honey Bee Research Centre (<https://honeybee.uoguelph.ca/>). Some excellent books include Ted Hooper's *Guide to Bees & Honey*, Michael Badger's *Heather Honey: A Comprehensive Guide* and Brother Adam's *Beekeeping at Buckfast Abbey*. Having gleaned as much theoretical information as possible, our next step was to gain practical experience. We joined the West Norfolk and King's Lynn Beekeepers' Association (www.wnkiba.co.uk). For anyone interested in starting beekeeping we'd recommend joining this local Association. They're keen to help newbies and they run courses specifically for beginners.

Eighteen months on, we were ready to purchase our first colonies of bees. This we did from Don Cooper, a prominent beekeeper, who had worked with Brother Adam. We quickly established a working relationship with the National Bee Unit regional inspectors, first Andy Wattam and now Keith Morgan. It has always been good to be able to call on both the regional and seasonal bee inspectors for second opinions when something unusual occurs within a honeybee colony. Keith Morgan was kind enough to allow us to take some hives with his, up to the heather moors in the Peak District. This was our first experience of migratory beekeeping, which wasn't particularly successful, but we have continued to take our hives to the Peak District ever since and have managed to bring back some decent crops over the years.

Where are your apiaries and what plants do your bees like to forage? Our home apiary is in Lincolnshire, where one of the main crops is oil seed rape (OSR). This early crop produces a mild-flavoured, white, set honey. Then we have field beans, with not much else until the ivy, the last crop of the foraging season. This was fine with just a few hives, but as we expanded we needed to move our hives into more productive areas or risk our honeybees starving. We now have apiaries in three counties: Lincolnshire at Sutton St James, Gedney and Holbeach Hurn; Cambridgeshire at Fitton End and Wisbech, including the gardens of Peckover House; and Norfolk at Dersingham, Narborough and Oxburgh Hall. We continue with our migratory beekeeping, moving our

hives around the country for specific crops. Our main seasonal honey crops are OSR, blossom, heather, lime tree, sea lavender and ivy.

Why do you take only the surplus honey from your hives? Our priority is the welfare of our bees in an eco-friendly environment. Bees need honey to survive and thrive. In some seasons, we're unable to provide the variety of honey we would like because we leave it for the bees themselves.

Tell us about your products. With the exception of our cooking honey, all our honey is pure and from the hive as the bees left it. The honey is mostly filtered and, only when necessary, may be gently warmed to enable it to flow. We do not heat-treat or blend our honey. From our surplus beeswax we produce balms, polish, candles and food wraps. Our products are chemical- and paraben-free and we try to ensure that our products and packaging are either compostable or recycled after use.

What flowers and shrubs can Dersingham's gardeners grow to support bees? F.N. Howes excellent book *Plants and Beekeeping* is one we've found very helpful. We'd recommend:

Annuals: Calendula, Cornflower, French Marigolds, Poppy, Scabious, Zinnia

Perennials: Hollyhock, Peony (single), Heather, Aubretia, Sedum, Fuchsia

Bulbs: Muscari (Grape Hyacinths), Tulip, Crocus, Galanthus (Snowdrop)

Herbs: Thyme, Lavender, Mint, Rosemary

Wildflower: Clover, Blackberry, Dandelion□



Bee –friendly plantings at Berberis House Apiary

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Budget 2020: “Stability today” and “Prosperity tomorrow”

Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

In a nutshell, the Budget on 11th March 2020 was one of the most extraordinary in recent memory. The first Budget of the decade, and the first one in fifty years outside of the EU. It marked a significant swing in economic policy from austerity coming to an end to a level of “borrow & spend” that nobody would have imagined possible from a Conservative government. The new Chancellor came across well, articulate and brimming with “Getting it done” enthusiasm, seemingly having the full attention of the House.

Wherever you go, the coronavirus is at the forefront of everyone’s mind – and this Budget was no different. The Chancellor acknowledged the significant impact of COVID-19 on people, place, business and public services. His “temporary, timely and targeted” measures all spoke of a government that is willing to intervene and do “whatever is necessary”. Given that they are likely to be the hardest hit, small and medium sized enterprises were a primary focus, with access to cash and staff support at the forefront. Businesses with fewer than 250 employees will have fourteen days of statutory sick pay for employees who are off work with the virus refunded by the government. The “Time to pay” scheme is to be scaled up, with a dedicated phone line and 2,000 HMRC staff to man it. A new temporary business interruption loan scheme will be put in place, but we need to understand how quickly and effectively these loans can be administered, as cash flow pressure is day to day, and taking fourteen or thirty days to receive funds may be too late.

The Chancellor announced a temporary abolition of business rates for small businesses in retail, leisure and hospitality with premises that have a rateable value up to £51,000. This means that those sectors likely to be hardest hit by self-isolation measures, such as shops, restaurants, bars, gyms and cinemas, will see their rates bills fall. Additionally, small businesses who do not pay business rates as a result of receiving Small Business Rate Relief, will receive a £3,000 cash grant to help smooth their anticipated cash flow pressures.

For individuals, there was a range of measures to provide security and support to those who need it most, including Statutory Sick Pay from day one of absence from work due to the virus (or Employment Support Allowance for the self-employed).

After he announced the special coronavirus measures the Chancellor moved to the main business of the Budget, including:

There wasn’t much in the way of announcements on Personal Tax and National Insurance. The increases in the NIC thresholds will be worth £104 to most employees and £75 to the self-employed. There were no changes to Personal Income Tax Allowances and Rates: the 2019/2020 figures continue for a second year, as expected.

The tapered pensions Annual Allowance Charge thresholds will be increased by £90k each, which should help mitigate Income Tax liabilities for higher paid employees in a salary and contribution windfall year.

Corporation Tax rates are to be held at 19%.

Entrepreneurs Relief was not entirely scrapped but the Lifetime Allowance was cut back from £10m to £1m for disposals on or after Budget Day.

Structures & Buildings Allowance was increased from 2% to 3% with effect from 1 April 2020.

VAT Zero rating of books and printed matter was extended to e-equivalents from 1

December 2020.

Fuel duty was frozen for the 10th consecutive year.

Fuel subsidies for “red diesel” will be scrapped “for most sectors” in two years’ time – agricultural, rail and non-commercial (e.g. domestic heating) will be excluded, but concern has been raised by the construction industry as it has been suggested that this measure will add c.£3k to the cost of a new house.

There will be no delay to the implementation of the Construction Industry VAT Reverse Charge which will come in as planned on 1 October 2020.

The Revenue’s standard Home Working deduction has been increased from £4 p.w. to £6 p.w., but it is unclear as to whether this will only be available for permanent home working or whether temporary home working arrangements whilst the coronavirus crisis continues will qualify.

The Capital Gains Tax Annual Exemption for 2020/2021 will increase to £12,300.

There will be no delay to the new rules for reporting and paying Capital Gains Tax on chargeable residential property, so the deadline becomes thirty days.

Total investment in flood defences will be doubled to £5.2bn over the next five years.

£640m will be made available for the “Nature for Climate Fund” to protect natural habitats, including 30,000 hectares of new tree planting.

More than £600bn is set to be spent on roads, rail, broadband and housing by the middle of 2025, representing the largest capital investment in infrastructure for generations.

£2.5bn will be made available to fix potholes and resurface roads over five years.

The ISA allowance remains at £20,000 p.a. but the Junior ISA and Child Trust Fund investment limits were increased materially from £4,638 to £9,000 to encourage saving for the younger generation.

Budget 2020 had been anticipated with some foreboding by tax practitioners. Several advisory bodies had recommended root and branch reviews of Capital Tax reliefs and there was a feeling that a new government with a clear majority for the next five years, and plenty of energy, might have taken the strategic opportunity to deal with the bad news first, keeping more palatable announcements for later.

In the event, and with the threat of economic disruption from COVID-19 looming, hardly a single one of the predicted, or feared, adverse changes came about.

All in all, it was a remarkably benign Budget, designed to stimulate the economy and prevent COVID-19 tipping the economy into a deep recession. However, sooner or later there will be a financial reckoning, so, beware: “spend today, tax tomorrow”. Hence we all need to be braced for the Autumn 2020 Budget as somebody is going to have to pay for all of this!

If, having read through the information provided above, you require advice, please contact either myself or my assistant Nicola Tarry FCA on 01485 534800 or email 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.□

Dersingham Institute Bowls Club Jan Rawstron

By the time you read this article, we should have officially opened our green for the 2020 season. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic, this has not been possible. Nor will we be able to hold the planned Open Day on 19th April. We hope to be able to re-schedule this at a later date. Depending on how things go, I may have more positive news for the next issue.

It's good to see our long-time member and Club Vice-Chairman, Dickie Murrell, in better health after what proved to be a long road to recovery. Dickie has just celebrated his 90th birthday, and we wish him all the best, and hope his health continues to improve.

Meanwhile, our thanks must go to Keith Dixon, who took over the maintenance of the green in Dickie's absence. Well done Keith. The green looks a treat. Work will continue in order to keep the green ready for what we hope will just be a delayed season.

All that remains now is to hope we all avoid the coronavirus and have a healthy summer.



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Dersingham Bog News Natural England

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It's been a cold and wet couple of months and the Met Office declared February to be the wettest month on record since 1990. This didn't dampen our spirits and daily tasks, such as checking that our nine black Galloway cows had plenty of food and a place to shelter, no matter the weather, were still being carried out across the reserve. Both staff and volunteers have continued to clear scrub from the mire such as birch and pine in order to keep areas of the reserve open. We've also been working hard after heavy rain and strong gales battered Britain for four consecutive weekends, through additional fence checks and tree inspections. Enabling us to check for damage which could have led to our cows escaping or windswept trees causing an obstruction to surrounding walkways and roads is just some of the vital work we carry out across the reserve.

Our shiny new water level meter has helped us to record water levels across twenty-six wells situated across the reserve, which saw a notable increase in depth at thirteen locations. This is most likely due to the recent heavy rainfall events.

We have had several sightings of a barn owl (*Tyto alba*) over the pond and edges of our woodland. The ghost-like white owl was seen quartering, methodically searching an area for prey such as voles and other rodents by flying over it back and forth. Its heart-shaped face and intricately patterned upperparts make this bird unmissable and something of a British icon. Following this, a number of our volunteers kindly repaired and reattached our broken barn owl box in the hope it might decide to nest.



Tree Bumblebee

March was the start of our monthly bumblebee transect which kicked off with a visit from Dr Richard Comont from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. Staff and volunteers enjoyed the fun packed day which included detailed presentations on bumblebee ecology and how best to identify these fascinating insects, followed by a field session capturing bumblebees across the reserve and using guides to identify them correctly. □



Dersingham Day Centre

We've been really busy the last couple of months at Dersingham Day Centre. In January we celebrated the birthdays of Ernest Mills, Pauline Walker and Shirley Daniels, followed in February by those of Victor Byles and Jean James.

Also in February we had our AGM and thankfully our very hardworking committee all agreed to stand again, and were voted in unanimously.

We had two brain teasing quizzes set by our favourite very strict quiz setter. We very much enjoy these quizzes and they certainly get us all thinking. It all gets very competitive, but with lots of laughter.

In February the Day Centre was visited by a representative from "Lily" (Living Independently in Later Years). He was very informative and was able to show our members the many ways that support can be provided for West Norfolk residents living on their own. Our members found this extremely useful.



Another day Yang came and gave our members a "sitting down" Tai Chi session. Everyone enjoyed it tremendously – so much so that we asked her to come back! Yang very kindly came back a second time and this too proved very popular.

On 19th February we all went to the United Services Club in Hunstanton for lunch. We had a choice of roast beef or pork, followed by fruit crumble and custard, or jam and cream sponge and ice-cream. Everyone agreed it was all delicious and an enjoyable trip out.



In amongst all of the above we had our usual activities of knitting, chatting, cards, Scrabble, dominoes and Rummikub.



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.

The Day Centre is now cancelled until things get back to normal and we look forward to seeing everyone again.

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Dersingham Methodist Church Elizabeth Batstone



Dersingham Methodist Church is closed until 31st May, events cancelled are church services, coffee mornings, bowls club, monthly lunches, Bible fellowship, mid-week communion and the flower festival. The Jigsaw Club held on the third Thursday of the month, 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. will continue. The situation will be reviewed in mid-May.

Anyone who is struggling, and needs someone to talk to, please contact Revd Steve Oliver on 01485 570232 or Philip and Elizabeth Batstone on 01485 541068.

Operation No Cold Shoulder

Do you (or someone you know) sometimes feel lonely or socially isolated? This is a particular issue with the current government guidelines relating to the coronavirus, with so many people over seventy having to self isolate. As social interactions in communities decline, people's feelings of loneliness can skyrocket, which can impact negatively on people's health and overall well-being.

Operation No Cold Shoulder is a year-long project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund that aims to tackle loneliness and social isolation. The project is being run by a partnership of Norfolk charitable organisations including Age UK Norfolk, Community Action Norfolk (CAN), Creative Arts East, Future Projects and West Norfolk Befriending.

The project is running in Dersingham from April 2020 until March 2021 and offers free support to people who are feeling lonely or socially isolated including:

Free Telephone befriending for people aged 60+ - call 01603 785223 or email befriending@ageuknorfolk.org.uk

Free face to face befriending for people aged 60+ who are isolated - call 01553 763500 or email info@wnbefriending.org.uk

It was planned for there to be free arts workshops once a month for anyone aged 18+, offering activities such as mosaic making, printing, and music making. These were going to be held at Dersingham Library starting in April. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus, these have now been temporarily cancelled. However, they will start up as soon as the Library reopens. For the latest information call Lea on 01953 713398 or email lea@creativeartseast.co.uk



West Norfolk
Members' Group

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2nd Dersingham Brownies visit "Stories of Lynn" Lynne Wheeler



Just before half term the 2nd Dersingham Brownies enjoyed an entertaining and interesting visit to the Stories of Lynn Museum in King's Lynn. The Brownies met in Saturday Market Place and watched a light display projected onto The Minster to celebrate Chinese New Year.

On entering the Museum they were met by Rachael Williams who showed them around. They learnt about Florence Ada Loxon, the first female Mayor in 1925. They saw her robes and heard about the traditions surrounding the Mayor of King's Lynn. They saw the regalia, maces, robes etc. and learnt about the annual procession at the beginning of the Annual Mart on 14th February. They also had a chance to dress up in small sized robes and re-enact the procession around the Museum.



Rachael showed them a number of King's Lynn Town treasures including the King John Cup and they enjoyed a craft session by decorating their own small version.

The visit included a chance to see the Stone Hall where the girls all received their Local History Interest badges.□

Distributors needed for Village Voice

With an ever-increasing population in Dersingham, there is an ever-increasing pressure on the dedicated band of volunteers who deliver Village Voice to every house in the village. The more distributors we have, the smaller the rounds need to be.

Would you be able to offer an hour or so every two months to take on a delivery route?

We have a particular need for help with distribution around the western end of Manor Road, as it joins Lynn Road.

If you could offer some help or would like more information, please email villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk, or telephone Geri Scanlon on 01485 541465 (Mondays - Wednesdays, 9.00am to 1.00pm)□



Sandringham Parish News

Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 11th March at Wolferton and one member of the public attended.

The main issues discussed were parking, litter and verges in Wolferton. These are all linked – the more visitors there are to the village the more parking and inevitably (but avoidably) the more litter. The worsening situation is caused by the coming together of a number of factors and Councillors agreed that they had never known it to be so difficult previously in the winter months. Natural England is seeking to attract more people to Dersingham Bog and growing numbers visit the preserved former railway station. Although not yet introduced at the time of writing, there is also the prospect of more dog walkers visiting due to the decision to charge for parking at Sandringham Country Park.

The issue became acute over a February weekend with cars parked on one side all the way down the road from the Cliff Top car park towards the village and others on the other side, making the road too narrow for agricultural vehicles, and dangerous going up the hill into what, in effect, became a blind summit at the top, with traffic in both directions using the same residual road space.

Concern was also voiced that car parking on the hill, where there is no grass verge, is churning up the soil so that when it rains the water washes the debris down into the village and blocks drains. The matter was discussed with Natural England and it immediately took action to check and clean road drains where necessary. That is a welcome short term fix, but it does not deal with the wider issues of parking and litter. The Estate agreed to discuss parking arrangements further with Natural England to seek an acceptable solution and will keep the Parish Council informed.

There was growing disquiet at the unilateral change to the hours of the mobile post office which now visits West Newton, by the Church, at 8am on Wednesday mornings for half an hour. Repeated contact with the Post Office has only triggered automatic acknowledgement emails and it is clear that there is very little interest either to listen to local voices or stimulate new business. It was resolved that the Parish Council should write to the Chief Executive of the Post Office, copied to our MP.

We discussed whether to consider starting work on establishing a *Neighbourhood Plan*. This Plan is the way local residents can influence future development applications to the Borough Council and how they are decided. For most parishes there are clear advantages in having one, but that is less so in the unusual circumstances of our parish. After discussion it was decided not to proceed.

Questions were asked concerning the road safety improvements on the A149 through the parish. The County Councillor confirmed that the average speed cameras either side of the parish are now working and that Orders have been published to introduce the promised 50mph limit between Babingley and Dersingham roundabout. Whether this will be operational in time for this tourist season is an open question. County Council officials will be ready to discuss the junction and road layout improvements with the Parish Council soon, before they are formally consulted upon.

It is hoped that a possible candidate for co-option as the seventh Councillor will be able to attend to observe the next meeting in May. We hope this will trigger interest in becoming an extra Councillor, as we are supposed to have seven (based on the number of electors in the parish) and whilst we can work with six, it is not ideal.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 13th May 2020 at the Sandringham Club in West

Newton. The Annual General Meeting of the Council will be preceded by the Village Assembly starting at 6.30pm and followed by the ordinary two-monthly meeting of the Council. The Annual General Meeting is where the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman are elected by Councillors and the position of the Clerk is confirmed for the year. It is therefore an important meeting and all residents of the Parish are invited to attend.

It's easier now to get to the Health Centre in Dersingham

Extra bus stops have been added on the 35 bus route close to Dersingham Church. These provide ideal access to the Health Centre and shops at St Nicholas Court and the Village Centre right opposite.

VE Day 75th anniversary celebrations at Wolferton

Due to the coronavirus situation, sadly the VE Day anniversary celebrations have been cancelled.

Restoration work at St Peter's Church, Wolferton

Scaffolding has gone up again as work is finished on the North Chancel roof and starts on the South side. It is hoped that fundraising will continue sufficiently for the south facing roof restoration to be completed without having to stop again, whether for funding, bats or anything else. If this work is completed this year, then the roof will be secure and waterproof before next winter, which is critically important. However, it leaves considerable expenditure on the rest of the fabric of this ancient building still to be funded. A coffee morning was arranged by Jacquie Dennis and others on 7th March in the Social Club, which was very well attended, and raised considerable funds. Other events are planned throughout the summer, watch out for details. □

Anmer Social Club Film Nights

Please note Film Nights at Anmer Social Club have been suspended until further notice.

For further information please visit our website at www.anmerclub.co.uk or Facebook at www.facebook.com/AnmerSocialClub

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Gift of dictionaries for Dersingham pupils

The Hunstanton and District Rotary has been raising funds together with local businesses to buy dictionaries to be presented to pupils in local schools as part of a nationwide scheme.

The books are provided by the publishers Usborne at a reduced price. In January John Crofts, the Hunstanton Rotary Club president, and Mark Page of Hughes Electrical of Hunstanton, presented dictionaries to Year 5 pupils at Dersingham Primary. □



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Dersingham Evening WI Maggie Guest

We had a most interesting talk by Penelope Watkins called *Inside Out – Looking at Lingerie*. We were all fascinated hearing about historic underwear (feeling glad we didn't have to wear it!) and Penny had an amazing collection of them all that she had collected over the years.



Lorna Hutchinson



WI Penelope Watkin (Left) assisted by Diane Hall

The January meeting had the pleasure of Lorna Hutchinson talking about her time growing up in Jamaica. It was fascinating to hear her stories and she had brought food samples for us to see and taste.

In February Peg Hunter entertained us with Bollywood Dancing. Actually, we entertained Peg by having a go at doing some of the moves! Everyone who joined in had a great time and the people who sat out and watched were much entertained! Sadly, although I took lots of photos, the lights in the room have made them unprintable!

The theatre group, run by Diann, went to a show at the Corn Exchange called Sweet Caroline, which was fun, and Herman's Hermits at the Princess Theatre. The dining group enjoyed lunch at The Coach and Horses. So far this year the coffee mornings have been hosted by Christine and Sharon - more to come as we have one a month in members' homes. It's great to have informal chats with other members in a relaxed setting. Babs has continued to run two craft groups a month and generously had a 'Craftalong' one Saturday with members making tissue peonies.

All meetings and activities are now cancelled for April, May and probably June. Members will be contacted when meetings start again.

To get updated information please contact Stephanie on 01485 542146, Lyn on 01485 541257 or Maggie on 01485 542424. □

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Challenging Times - Creative Responses

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



As a creative response to the challenging times we are living in, St Nicholas Church has creative plans in progress as I write. We are preparing and planning to launch "Dersingham Online Worship" as a creative response that the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have challenged churches with, as now there are no public worship services. They said: "We urge you sisters and brothers to become a different sort of church in these coming months: hopeful and rooted in the offering of prayer and praise and overflowing in service to the world." There is a lot to plan and prepare but by the time you read this the first service will be (hopefully) accessible for viewing on Sunday 5th April, Palm Sunday. Please be patient with us as there is a lot to do but we are determined to offer a form of local worship which people in our communities can join in within their homes, including The Gables residential home. The weekly worship will be accessible through the church website www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

Challenging times call for creative responses. St Nicholas Church has now formed a group of non vulnerable volunteers called "**St Nicholas Outreach**" who are willing and able to help the communities in three ways:

- * We are putting in place a telephone system where people can ring you; offering the possibility of conversation.
- * Secondly, those who isolate will need assistance with provisions. We have some capacity for doing people's shopping for them if they ring through first. This will then be left at the front door (please ask for more information on how this works).
- * Thirdly we are aiming to deliver a weekly newsheet with "Thought for the Week", Bible reading, prayers, puzzles, crosswords and news to keep people at home in touch, especially if they are not on the internet. If you would like to receive this through your letter box for free please let us know.

If you or someone you know would be blessed by these possibilities please speak with the Church Secretary Pauline Martin or her husband Hadyn on 01485 544561 or alternatively Jane on 01485 543229.

And Finally!

Little did I think I was going to be writing about toilet rolls in this issue. I still can't get to the bottom of the run on sales in shops and other panic buying. However, it was funny to see some appropriate humour and a business getting some free publicity with the newly adapted amusement grabber game – rather than winning cuddly bears you can win a toilet roll! Eddy Chapman, the owner of an amusement arcade in Bridlington, came up with the idea after seeing people stocking up on the bathroom essentials because of the coronavirus. Similar to the current trend of buying toilet rolls there has been a quick flush of people working their way to play his game and win a toilet roll!



Folded toilet paper could remind us of Easter. After Mary Magdalen had first been to Jesus' tomb she ran back to Simon Peter and John; then they went to the tomb. "Simon Peter came along behind [John] and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped round Jesus' head."(John:20 v5-7). Strips of toilet paper neatly folded could represent the empty linen that the disciples found on the day of Resurrection. We have empty chocolate eggs to remind us of the empty tomb and to celebrate God's love for us through the death and Resurrection of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

As I write this article things are changing and future ways of life for some may change considerably. This offers us all an opportunity to look out for our neighbours, helping where safe to do so in loving care. In ways that are possible may you celebrate the victory of Easter.

The abseiling down the church tower on 18th April has been postponed ☐

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Fairyland Trust Charity Needs Helpers

Worried about the state of our planet and want to help children and nature?

Can you spare a few hours to help Norfolk family charity The Fairyland Trust? Volunteers are needed to help with the annual Fairy Fair at West Acre on Sunday 24th and Monday 25th May (Bank Holiday).

The Fairyland Trust teaches families about nature through arts, crafts, folklore, storytelling and theatre. Volunteers are needed for a few hours each day to help in the café or pub, manning stalls or helping with workshops. Volunteers can camp on site and bring their children who will then get into the Fair for free both days.

Call Ben on 07837 815452 or email ben@fairylandtrust.org



The Fairy Fair is a popular fixture for families with young children, likened to a magical Country Fair or an "Organic Disneyland". Attractions at this year's Fair include workshops to make Fairy Gardens, Fairy Pets, Bumble Burrows, Wildflower Crowns and Woodland Wings. The more adventurous can take part in Fairy Training, Elf Training, the Wildlife Hospital and The Pirate Fete or try Maypole Dancing or boogie in The Bug Ball. You can also walk in the beautiful woods to find the Fairy King and Queen, meet the Walkabout Fairies, colour in a post card in the Pixie Post Office or seek out The Storytelling Hut. There's also live music, craft and vintage stalls, face painting and local food traders. Dressing up is popular and this year the theme for the no-new-plastic home-made Fancy Dress Competition is Beautiful British Bugs.

If you can't volunteer, tickets are £7.50 in advance, £12 on the gate. Full details and tickets at www.fairylandtrust.org □

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Snettisham Beach Sailing Club Open Day

If you are eight or eighty, or anything in between, everyone is welcome as Snettisham Beach Sailing Club throws open its doors for its "Push The Boat Out" Open Day on Saturday 16th May 2020 from 10am to 4pm, as part of the Royal Yachting Association national initiative to promote sailing and discover more champions. Everyone is welcome to come along and try sailing – all for free! There will be free sailing taster sessions on the lake from 10am and an opportunity to try sailing on the sea in the afternoon.

Snettisham Beach Sailing Club is the prime place to go to learn to sail in north and west Norfolk. We can take you from first steps into a small boat on our lake, through your RYA courses and onto confident sailing on the sea, and thereafter the world is your playground!

Food and drink are available all day from the bar. Save 10% off any RYA courses booked on the day.

There is no need to book in advance, just come along on the day! Just bring footwear you don't mind getting wet, a windproof top, a change of clothes, and a towel.

No experience is necessary and would-be sailors of all ages from eight years upwards are welcome. Children, you must accompanied by an adult but your adult doesn't have to go sailing. Come and chat with our members and find out how you can get into sailing.

For full details see www.snetbeach.co.uk. For further information, please contact: Mark Foley: publicity@snetbeach.co.uk. 07833 332055/01362 688946. The club is at Snettisham Beach, Norfolk PE31 7RB



Ingoldisthorpe Village WI Lesley Geer, President

Well, January has been and gone and we are now into February.

January was a busy meeting for us, voting on the five resolutions, listening to a very interesting talk and demonstration from Peg Hunter on the History of Dance and announcing the winner of our creative writing competition.

Our Soup and Sandwich event put on for the village was very well attended and thanks to a good number of helpers it went off smoothly and was enjoyed by all.

Last month, February, as well as our usual activities of a walk, darts, ten pin bowling and knit and natter, we held a members' tea at the end of the month. Not doing the catering ourselves was strange but allowed us to spend time appreciating the event and enjoying the company.

Due to the coronavirus Ingoldisthorpe Village WI have cancelled all meetings and events until May.

Royal Airforce Bircham Newton Heritage Centre

The Anson VX-B (K6183) was the first of Bircham Newton's aircraft to be shot down in World War II on 5th September 1939, just two days after Britain declared war on Germany. The story of this plane and its fortunate New Zealand pilot, who survived to become one of the first prisoners of the war, can be read in the RAF Heritage Centre. The Heritage Centre at Bircham Newton has a unique collection of memorabilia from the former Royal Air Force station's past service, which spanned more than forty-four years, including two World Wars and the Cold War. On display are photographs and personal memories of servicemen who served there and other related items from its fascinating history.



Avro Anson flown by 206 Squadron

**The 2020 Season of OPEN DAYS will begin on Easter Sunday
Easter: Sunday 12th and Monday 13th April
Early May Bank Holiday Weekend: Friday 8th and Sunday 10th May
Spring Bank Holiday Weekend: Sunday 24th and Monday 25th May
Sunday 14th June and Sunday 28th June
Sunday 12th July and Sunday 26th July
Summer Bank Holiday Weekend: Sunday 30th and Monday 31st August
Sunday 27th September and Sunday 25th October
Remembrance Sunday: 8th November**

The Centre is open from 10am until 4pm with free entrance and car parking. Disabled access and toilets are provided. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available.

Venue: The National Construction College, Bircham Newton PE31 6RH. NCC is signposted off the A148 and B1454. For further information visit www.rafbnmp.org.uk or contact David Jacklin on 01379 741884, email david.jacklin@outlook.com or Avril MacArthur on 01362 860139, email avril.macarthur1@btinternet.com.

VE Day 75th Anniversary

It was planned to be holding various VE Day 75th Anniversary celebrations in the village around the 8th May anniversary date. It remains to be seen how the coronavirus restrictions will affect this. But to take a look back to that time you might be interested to visit the *Dersingham History* website. On the site, at the top click on **people**, then **Interviews with Dersingham Folk**. Right at the bottom click on the pdf version of **Dersingham - A Village Remembers War Time, 1st & 2nd World Wars**. There are some fascinating recollections of wartime in Dersingham and on page 13 Ivy Lines recalls:

I remember the end of the war, we really did celebrate. We put all flags up right across the garden. We wrote on the road. We really celebrated. A big party in Dersingham. They all paraded, Dances. Fancy Dress.

Does anybody out there have any photos of VE or VJ Day celebrations, or any other information? □

Old Photo Corner Tony Bubb

Here's a photo from about seventy years ago. Was this the Dersingham Church Choir? Does anybody recognise themselves or others?



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Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny

Sheep drives

A lady said about a flock of sheep being driven through Dersingham in the 1940s and 50s. In those days Mr. Stanton of Manor Farm kept a lot of sheep in the late springtime. They would be driven down the marshes to go on fresh grazing; then they would be brought back up to Manor Farm in early autumn. As you go up Ling House Road there is a track that takes you down to Shernborne. Half way along this track were a pair of cottages; at the back of them was a crew yard. In one of the cottages lived Mr Fred Easton the shepherd and in the other lived Mr Pease and his family. Mr Pease was the stockman and he looked after the cattle in the crew yard. When they wanted to take the sheep down the marshes Frank Geoff would help Fred. They would take the pony and trap and have three sheep dogs with them. They would take the sheep up to the Shernborne Road and continue down to Dersingham village, along Chapel Road, across the main road at Linfords Corner, then down to the station. Sometimes they would have to wait while a train went by. Fred would go down the marsh about three times a week to see if they were okay. Then in the autumn the sheep would be driven back up to Manor Farm ready for the lambing. When Fred Easton retired Frank Geoff took over as shepherd. Fred's son, young Fred, was a second hand car dealer; he had a showroom on the corner of Manor Road and Heath Road. An old village boy told me once that a shepherd from Ringstead drove 200 sheep from Ringstead to graze on some marshland at Dersingham. Just to the north of the duck decoy the sheep were driven from Ringstead through Sedgford into Snettisham, along St Thomas's Lane, past Ingoldsthorpe church, along Chalk Pit Road to Dersingham Mill, down Mill Lane, then Fern Hill onto Chapel Road, across the main road at Linfords Corner then across the railway line and down to the marshes.

Just opposite the Sandringham saw mill there is a track that takes you through to the top of Sandringham Hill. This track is called Docking Drove, as this is the way many years ago that the drovers from Docking would come driving their cattle, sheep, turkeys and geese to Lynn cattle market. Now here is a bit of Norfolk squat - geese could be driven faster than turkeys - they feed as they walk, but turkeys would keep stopping to feed.

Croft House

This is a little story about a wooden box. A gentleman who lives in Dersingham said to me, "I have a wooden box in my garage and on it is stencilled 'Croft House', then underneath '5/- (five shillings) deposit.'" "Well," I said, "I have not heard of Croft House but I will look in my little Blue Books." These books, published every year in the 1950s, 60s and 70s, contained an alphabetical list of residents and trades of King's Lynn and some of the villages around including Dersingham. So I got out my Blue Books and I found Dersingham and King's Croft House, Lynn Road. Well, I lived in that road from 1945 till 1966, so I knew it was not there. So I got the help of two dear ladies who had lived in the village for many years and they both solved my problem. Lynn Road up till 1968 ran from the Eight Mile Stone corner right through the village as far as Life Lane Wood, then in 1968 the road from Post Office Road corner to Life Lane Wood was renamed Hunstanton Road, and there it is still Croft House in Hunstanton Road.

Edward VIII and Sandringham

This is another write-up about Sandringham, as many people seem to like reading about it. Even though a lot of people live nearby, they know very little about the place. The death of King George V in 1936 saw the new king, Edward VIII, at Sandringham, but not for long. He almost immediately flew to London in order to be in the capital for the proclamation of his accession to the throne. The King's hurried withdrawal from Sandringham, however, was symptomatic. He had never been as fond of the estate as his father and brother. Fort Belvedere, the home of his choice, lay in Surrey - a county of mild

climate in sharp contrast to Norfolk, where the wind on the heathlands blows mostly from the northeast. It now seems that King Edward VIII identified Sandringham with the restrictive and repressive regime imposed on him by his father. It is recognised that King George V had, in dealing with his eldest son, possibly exerted his authority with an unwanted severity. One of the first things to be changed at Sandringham was the time, which was forward by half an hour ("Sandringham time", introduced by King Edward VII) and which reverted back to Greenwich Mean Time.

The King then called upon his brother, the Duke of York, to investigate the administration of the estate with a view to making changes. This development caused consternation and Edmund Beck, the Sandringham Estate agent and the third member of his family to hold the post, handed in his resignation and this was accepted. The changes continued: the King preferred hunting to shooting so the number of game birds bred was drastically reduced. The breeding of cattle was confined to Wolferton and Appleton and finally the number of persons employed directly by the Crown was reduced. Also, the number of gamekeepers was cut from forty to twenty. In his brief reign King Edward VIII spent less than one day at Sandringham and in the ordinary course of events the estate would have probably provided a home for the widowed Queen Mary, as it had in the case of Queen Alexandra, but this was not to be. Sandringham and Balmoral were in the personal possession of King Edward VIII. Under the wills of Queen Victoria and King George V, King Edward VIII was a life tenant. Any satisfactory financial settlement had to be based on the transference of the estates to his brother. Informed guesses put the figure for Sandringham and Balmoral at one million pounds and the yearly income paid by George VI to his brother was £60,000 pounds.

The Queen's Drive

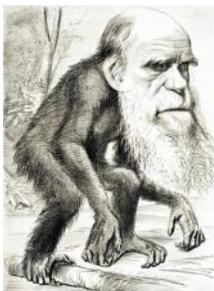
Mike Strange, who has a very good article on the Dersingham history web site, asks where in Sandringham is Queen's Avenue. Well I think it could be the Queen's Drive (now called the scenic drive). If you go up Sandringham from Dersingham, at the top of the hill look to your right: there is a drive that goes south through the woods past the nursery head woodsman's house, on past the water works, past the house in the woods. Keep on, then on your right you will see the wooden viewing platform (views over The Wash), then past Folly House and out onto the Sandringham/Wolferton Road. I was told that this drive was made for Queen Alexandra (Queen from 1901 to 1910) so as she could be driven in her carriage from Sandringham House, through the Norwich gates, down the avenue, turn left into the Queen's Drive, go right along to Wolferton Hill, turn left and back to Sandringham House by way of the Norwich gates.

Well that's it for now. I am in a hurry as I am going to Swaffham to do a day's troshin for nothing. All the best from the boy Dick, Sunny Hunny.□

Dersingham Library Norfolk County Council

Following careful consideration and Government guidance on coronavirus, we have taken the decision to close all our libraries from Saturday 21st March at 4pm. The mobile and home library services have also been suspended.

All borrowed items have been automatically renewed until further notice, and library books should be kept at home. You will not be charged overdue fees, and charges won't increase over time. A range of free eBooks, newspapers and audio will still be available for library users to download using their library card information. People can sign up to the Library Service online and receive a library card in the post. For more information visit the [Norfolk County Council website](#).



Origins by Allan Coleby

The meaning of phrases in common use, such as “To pass the buck” are known to everyone. It is, though, fascinating to discover how they came to mean what they do in modern English. The objective of the game “Origins” is to identify the one correct explanation from the three possible derivations which are offered. Answers are on page 65.

Phrase: “To come up to scratch” (Meaning: to pass a test; to fulfil or meet a requirement).

Origin (a): A runner starting from scratch in a race is the one beginning from the usual starting point – that is to say, on the line marked, or, historically, “scratched”. The other competitors in a race will start ahead of this person, and so run a slightly shorter race, because of a handicap they are awarded according to their previous performances over the same distance. Thus, the runner who has “come up to scratch” is the one who has more ability than the other competitors, the one whose time will refer to the full regulation distance for that race. The origin of the phrase in this context is therefore at an athletics meeting, starting with the ancient Greeks and coming through history to the modern Olympiads. Handicaps in other forms of racing will apply to different features of that activity, but all will use the word “scratch” or the phrase “up to scratch”.

Origin (b): If a person sustained a physical injury to an arm or leg, the person treating them might be worried that they have broken a bone without realising it – not a large, main bone, but a smaller one that would not show a fracture, especially on the back of the hand or the top of the foot. The doctor, paramedic or nurse may investigate the presence of feeling, or nerves, in the hand or foot. There may be a numbness, or a feeling of “pins and needles”, or no feeling at all. Therefore, to prick the hand or foot with a sharp needle, or even a tiny scratch, will test the presence or absence of feelings (that is, nerves). The presence of feeling will be shown by a wince at the prick or scratch, and the person showing these reactions will not be paralysed or numbed. They have “come up to scratch”.

Origin (c): Under the rules of prize-fighting in boxing, published in 1839, a round in a prize fight ended when one of the fighters was knocked down. After a thirty-second interval, this fighter was allowed eight seconds in which to make his way unaided to a mark scratched in the centre of the ring. If he could not do so, he had not “come up to scratch” and was declared beaten.

Phrase: “Cold feet.” (Meaning: to be apprehensive; to withdraw from a commitment).

Origin (a): For a long time in this country, it was believed by doctors that the blood directly controlled the temperament or state of mind of a person. Early physiologists believed that the blood actually boiled within the body when a person became excited and that it grew cold when someone was calm. As the feet were extremities of the body furthest away from the heart, cold feet were early indications of a return to normality after excitement. “Cold hands, warm heart” is a similar echo of this belief, and so, whether hands or feet, coldness in the body’s extremities illustrated a placid, phlegmatic, unemotional character.

Origin (b): There is an old Italian expression which literally means “to have cold feet” and in Lombardy was always used in the proverbial and figurative sense of “to be without money”. It was used in this sense by Ben Jonson in his play *Volpone* in the seventeenth

century. An article in *Modern Language Notes* in 1912 explained how the phrase “to be without money” came to mean “to lose one’s nerve”. In card-playing, a player, as a pretext for quitting a game in which he was losing money, might say that his feet are cold, and therefore he must retreat from a difficult position and go and participate in a more energetic activity. In this sense it also existed as an American expression in the 1890s, having been brought into America by Italian immigrants.

Origin (c): In the emotional sense, the phrase is associated with fear, as in the phrase “cold-blooded” (to do something with cold calculation) or “cold war” (a state of tension or distrust between states without actual fighting). As with the card-player, the “cold feet” will be activated to warm up by retreating or running from the source of danger. □

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Dersingham Walking Group Tony Bubb

So far this year our walks have been well attended and enjoyable, so let's carry on in this vein. Just check with the leaders whether the walks are to go ahead in view of the current situation.

Our upcoming walks are:-

Wednesday April 8th 2pm

Sandringham Woods again but different woods from February's route. Start at the Dersingham village sign, map reference TF 685297. Leader Brian Eldridge 01485 540862

Wednesday April 22nd 2pm

The cowslips of Courtyard Farm are to be visited on this 4.5 mile walk. Start from the car park on the left of the Ringstead to Burnham road about 0.7 miles east of Ringstead, map reference TF 722405. Leader Keith Starks 01485 542268

Wednesday April 13th 2 pm

A 4.8 mile walk starting at Brancaster taking in Barrow Common and the Coast Path. Start from Brancaster Church, map reference TF 772439. Leaders Steve and Lindsay Davis 01485 543138

Wednesday April 27th 2pm

A circular tour of Castle Rising, including some of the extensive woodlands of Ling Common. There is the option of a visit to the tearooms at Castle Rising after the walk. Start at the Unique car park, map reference TF 667347. Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333

Wednesday June 10th 2 pm

A circular trip of about 4.7 miles around the Nar Valley passing through the village of Castle Acre and past the Priory ruins. Start at the Bailey Gate, map reference TF 817152. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638

Wednesday June 24th 2 pm

A 4.5 mile tour of Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham including a special visit to the new wetlands area created near the treatment works at Ingoldisthorpe. Start at the big lay-by at Ingoldisthorpe, map reference TF 683324. Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333

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 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 four and five 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.

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



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Dersingham Task Force

The Task Force was established as an independent group in 2004 to help keep the village spick and span. It is still going strong, having gone through various incarnations, and currently has thirteen members.

We are all volunteers and we receive no funding from any council. In the past we have taken on various roles, including public footpath clearing, litter picking and maintaining the two public gardens (at the junction of Chapel Road/Post Office Road and in the children's play area on Lynn Road). We meet on the first and third Wednesday morning of each month, from mid-March through to September, at whichever location requires attention. With our limited resources we currently maintain the two gardens and carry out an annual bulb planting session on roadside verges in selected areas. I would like to think that this year we could also offer to help at the annual Church Flower Festival in July and at the Christmas Tree Festival in December.



Of course, being able to do all of this requires volunteers who are able to spare some time to help. None of the work is particularly arduous but does require a certain level of fitness and commitment. We always welcome new members, so, if you can spare an hour every fortnight, please consider joining our happy band. In return for your efforts you will get an hour's fresh air, exercise, good company and a chance to put just a little something back into this village that we love.

If you wish to join us, please contact Dennis Weatherill on 07482 913399 or email denzilweatherill@gmail.com □

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Notice of Planned Works on Dersingham Commons and Fen

On behalf of the Trustees of Dersingham United Charities (reg. no. 208523)

Dersingham United Charities, which is the small village charity that owns Dersingham Open and Shut-up Commons and Dersingham Fen, needs to advise of works that are due to be carried out over the forthcoming years. The two Commons are registered Commons and County Wildlife Sites and the Fen is part of the Dersingham Bog registered Site of Special Scientific Interest and Ramsar Site which legally obliges the custodians, on behalf of the villagers, to maintain these special sites to a standard set out by Natural England.

Historic importance of the sites

The sites are of exceptional importance on account of their geology, habitats and species (both flora and fauna). They straddle the lower Greensand Ridge, a sandy ridge that was deposited about 100 million years ago when the area lay under a warm shallow sea. The nutrient poor, free draining sands of the ridge provided ideal conditions for a wide range of heathland habitats and species.

The recent changes

At the turn of the last century photos show these sites were still open heath and grassland, kept so by villagers cutting peat, grazing livestock and cutting timber etc. Even the regular fires caused by the early steam trains played their part. Visitors used to describe

the commons as “ablaze with the purple heather.” But over the past sixty years the reduction of such activities has allowed the colonization of trees (especially the silver birch), scrub, bracken and latterly rhododendron, which are increasingly detrimental to the historic open nature of the sites, and the lowering of the water table on the Fen.

The variety of habitats and wildlife

In order to achieve the favourable conditions required to bring back the desired mosaic of such priority habitats as wet heath, lowland raised bog, lowland valley fen, dry lowland heath, lowland acid grassland and lowland heathland it is considered crucial to remove and manage the invasive scrub encroachment. This will encourage the desired biodiversity of species such as slow worm, common lizard, grass snake and hedgehog, as well as a variety of birds, like the nightjar, and favoured flora like sphagnum moss on the Fen and heather on the Commons, all of which once flourished on these sites.



The management plan

The Charity has now been given a ten year management plan of works. The initial site report by Natural England and the Forestry Commission starts by describing the undertaking as “Quite a complicated application”, referring to the many different types of dry and wet habitats, and the varied works to be undertaken in such a small area.

There are two broad categories of work:

1. Work to be completed by the end of 2021: This includes specified tree felling, the removal of rhododendron, molinia tussocks (purple moor grass) and scrub, mostly on the Fen but some will be carried out on the Commons.
2. Work to be completed by 2030: This is the more general ongoing management of the grassland, lowland heath and woodland, which will include such activities as thinning tree cover, especially to create more open areas and improve the structural diversity of the woods in terms of species and maturity and ongoing scrub control.

Opportunity to volunteer

Some of the work will have to be done by professional contractors. However, the Charity may be requiring volunteers to help with some aspects of the work, such as scrub clearance. If you are interested in becoming part of the team you can register by email to ducclerk@gmail.com and we will let you know what is available as it is planned.

It should be noted that public access will occasionally be restricted and footpaths temporarily closed while trees are being felled, but there may also be the opportunity for villagers to take the felled timber home for their own use. In the meantime, if you would just like further information **Village Voice Live** will be hosting a presentation about these sites by **Ash Murray from Norfolk Wildlife Trust** on Tuesday 14th July at Dersingham Village Centre at 7pm, so please come along. □



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Mrs Dolittle



I'm doing okay, if you've wondered. I have to report that the chemo it isn't as bad as I thought - I've had no nausea or headaches - but it does leave me totally exhausted most of the time, so my bed has been seeing a lot of me as I sleep away the days and nights... I was told many people on the treatment get "chemo brain", and I certainly got that on the first few days. Remote Control man tells me I was speaking utter gibberish, but it's all par for the course apparently. However, it has morphed into something much more exciting for me. My brain has gone into Creativity Overdrive, which for me is simply marvellous - and equally marvellous, my memory has come back!

I have been fighting the "little c" with colour, creativity and fun, as I believe that positivity helps in all aspects of life including ill health, but little did I realise that I would be laughing all day long (when not sleeping, of course). You see, I had a collection of wigs, gleaned over the years for fancy dress, but I had also bought in some cheap coloured wigs, blue, rainbow, pink and so on so that when my hair went, I could colour co-ordinate with my clothing, as I am wont to do anyway. At the last count I had nineteen wigs! The other thing I was doing, to cover my bald head, was to try fashioning turbans out of my vast scarf collection, and very "Molly Parkins" these turned out to be. So I clicked away on my computer camera to record the results.



Some of the wigs and silly make up I was donning for comic effect (remember, I was aiming to laugh my cancer away) seemed to put me in a different character, so I clicked on the movie button, and began to talk how I felt the character would.... One, with a smudged moustache, started out trying to be French, but ended up Irish. Another character, with the same wig, on a different day, no make up and purple spectacles, ended up as a Spiritual Therapist with a high plummy voice. I had no idea I could make myself into different characters, do accents or even ad lib funny stuff. The accents I have to admit are not very accurate, but my days have been passing where I have been howling with laughter and I can't think it can be doing me anything but good.

Whilst I was taking my year's hypnotherapy course some while ago, I learned that the brain acts according to its person's thoughts. If the person is thinking, "Oh I feel ill, I am sure I am going to get worse" then the brain decides if that is how they wish to feel, it will send all the chemicals to make them feel that way (I guess the brain is not always sensible); but when the person is musing, "I'm not going to let this get me down, I am going to laugh it away", then the dear old brain sends down the appropriate chemicals - endorphins, or whatever - so that the person indeed begins to feel so much better and finds everything funny.

I remember years ago reading about a man with cancer who decided that laughter was the cure for him, so he rented, bought in, borrowed or stole all the funny films he could, and sat in front of the TV laughing his head off. His cancer went away.

I had already decided to write a funny little book about the amusing things that have happened to me along this particular journey, then realised that I could do much more -

maybe calendars or greetings cards - in aid of the Macmillan Unit at Kings Lynn (who are absolutely wonderful, by the way). It would also give me purpose.

Then a young budding female photographer I had met at the BNI Breakfast Meetings, offered to take some shots for free and we have already begun. The photos of me in various guises will be a bit "different" and shot around the Dersingham area to denote the seasons. Maybe by not being conventional I won't get so many sales (I was never a one for "normal", as you may have realised over the years of reading my column). The locations have to be near to a car, as unfortunately I can't walk far. I am looking for a bluebell wood, a field full of oxeye daisies, en-masse billowing cow parsley that is not just along the road verge, or an old cobwebby outhouse full of memorabilia - that kind of thing; so if you know of, or have such a place, please email the editor and she will pass your message on. Thanks folks, and while I shall not be back to my regular page yet, I will do the occasional piece so you don't forget me!□



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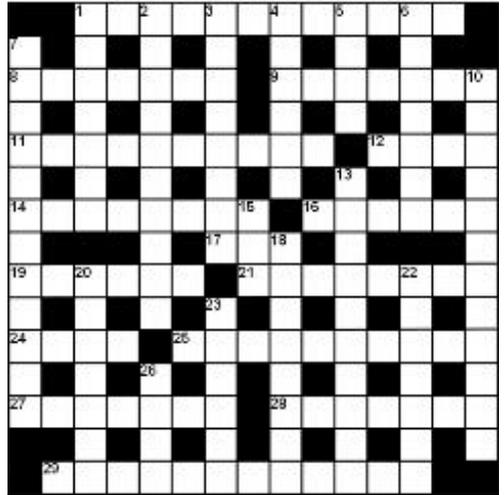
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PUZZLE CORNER

Crossword by Philip Neal

Across

- 1 No seats for substitute stableman (8,4)
- 8 Pressed light inside English record (7)
- 9 Fifty snakes in stockings (7)
- 11 German followed Alan Dolly dancing continuously (3,3,4)
- 12 Hydrated magnesium silicate reserves loving care (4)
- 14 Entertaining whippersnapper favourite on the railway (8)
- 16 A copper team judgement (6)
- 17 Legend lost a drop (3)
- 19 Lined reverse called to province (6)
- 21 Harry surmises about those that give harsh treatment (8)
- 24 Primarily Adrian reminds me of you playing soldiers (4)
- 25 Pointer used by female foreigner abroad (10)
- 27 Pipped when lighting system followed spectacle in the races (7)
- 28 UK put her in the wastepaper basket (7)
- 29 Female cat went to hospital dept. on 1st May to make a statement (12)



Down

- 1 Two rings inside Spanish mollusc (7)
- 2 A table chip cooked in conventional order (10)
- 3 Doctor penny riddles cheaters (8)
- 4 Hosiery only manufactured between poles (6)
- 5 First lady left steering gear for the swimmer (4)
- 6 Old T.V. detective proceeded marines seen at Lords (7)
- 7 Finally can it somehow account for stewed fruit making best person for the job (3,9)
- 10 Reserve or orchestral member to tend crossing erratically (6,6)
- 13 Train sinecurist to go over with a fine tooth comb (10)
- 15 Old P.M.'s climbing vegetable (3)
- 18 Performance when I've been caught by windy U.S. actor (8)
- 20 Ridicule man wearing fancy polo (7)
- 22 Incorporate Wimbledon champion in English National Trust (7)
- 23 Information containing ancient valuable (6)
- 26 Saxophone say or sound from vocal toccata (4)

Sudoku

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



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Word Wall by Philip Neal

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

| | | | |
|---------|-----------|----------|----------|
| STRAITS | DUCTS | LOUNGER | ITV |
| ENGLISH | WATERWAYS | PEW | BENCH |
| CANALS | OTTOMAN | CONDUITS | COUNSELS |
| BEANBAG | CHANNELS | LYNN | SKY |

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Thank you for taking part in this year's trail.

Due to the situation caused by coronavirus, the Trustees have, with regret, decided to cancel all events and activities in Dersingham Village Centre; this includes the family party on April 5th where the winners would have been announced and prizes awarded.

We also agreed to defer, indefinitely, the deadline for the return of entry forms and we will review this at the end of April.

Meanwhile, we have suggested that the businesses taking part move their chicks so they can be seen in or from a window or door. Therefore, if you wish to, you have plenty of time to complete the Trail and do so safely.

The family party will be rearranged as soon as we are able, hopefully for early summer.

More news and updates, including a new deadline for the return of forms, will be published on our website, blog and facebook page; notices will be circulated via schools and around Dersingham.

For more information, contact Sue Payne, Dersingham Village Centre Association.
Tel: 07707 832295 Em: enquiries@dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk

Gardening with Disabilities May Davey, Chairman

The coronavirus situation changes from day to day. With self-isolating restrictions on over seventy-year-olds and those with pre-existing conditions, and on large groups gathering, it is difficult to predict whether our regular meetings can go ahead. We hope to follow the programme outlined from June, but our members and guests must telephone the Chairman May Davey (01485-544953) or the Secretary Gloria Pantling (01553-671912) to confirm that our meetings will be taking place.

Sadly, the AGM and illustrated talk on the Norfolk coast by Philip West on Friday 20th March was cancelled.

We enjoyed the talk and demonstration from Kew Lawn Care in February. Their automatic lawn mower did its stuff and fascinated us all. We had good attendance and enjoyed tea afterwards in the Hub.



2020 Programme

April 17: Coach outing to Fullers Mill Gardens and tea - **cancelled.**

May 15: Brian Howling – the Fens – **cancelled.**

June 19: Our Own Flower Show – We hope this can go ahead.

July 10: Alan Livingstone – Butterflies

August 21: Oliver Locke,

Fakenham Garden Centre – Autumn Planting
September 18: Coach to West Acre Gardens and Tea

October 16: Geoff Hodge on Pests and Diseases

November 15: Tom Bolderstone from Natural England

December 18: Christmas Lunch at Knights Hill.

We always welcome new members and guests. Our new permanent venue is Dersingham Village Centre. From June, tea and a raffle ticket will cost £3.00 at the door. The annual subscription remains at £12.00. Come and see how you like us. We meet at 2.00pm and end by 4.00 pm. □



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Donations received during Lent, including from the Stations of the Cross lunches, will go this year to Lenten alms charities: **Aid to the church in need**, who provide ongoing support to persecuted Christians, and **SVP East Anglia**, for assistance in the purchase of a second house for the homeless.

World Day of Prayer, held this year at St Cecilia's Catholic Church, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, on Friday 6th March, was very well attended. We are asked to continue prayers for the people of Zimbabwe throughout the year ahead. For further information and resources go to the website wwdp.org.uk.

We had a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday at St Cecilia's, with homemade pancakes donated by volunteers and enjoyed by all.

Our Easter services are as follows:

Maundy Thursday 9th April: Mass of the last supper 7.30pm at St Cecilia's, followed by Watching until 10.20pm and then Compline.

Good Friday Liturgy 10th April: at St Cecilia's at 3pm; Stations of the Cross at Hunstanton, 6.30pm.

Easter Vigil at Hunstanton 11th April starting at 8.30pm.

Easter Sunday Masses: at normal Sunday times.

Our Mass times including Easter Masses may be subject to change due to changing circumstances regarding advice about the Coronavirus.

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 Edmunds, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.

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

parishpriest763@gmail.com

Website:

www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org

Email: [parish@](mailto:parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org)

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Crossword Answers

Across

1 Standing room. 8 Clamped. 9 Ladders. 11 All day long. 12 Talc. 14 Puppetry. 16 Acumen. 17 Sag. 19 Inlaid. 21 Misusers. 24 Army. 25 Forefinger. 27 Tootled. 28 Britain. 29 Announcement.

Down

1 Scallop. 2 Alphabetic. 3 Diddlers. 4 Nylons. 5 Rudd. 6 Overarm. 7 Ace applicant. 10 Second string. 13 Scrutinise. 15 Yam. 18 Giveable. 20 Lampoon. 22 Engraft. 23 Golden. 26 Alto.

Word Wall Answers

Kings: ... Bench, ...Counsel, ...Lynn, ...English

Channels: straits, canals, ITV, Sky

Chairs: beanbag, lounge, ottoman, pew

Canals: waterways, channels, conduits, ducts

Error in the February/March edition of the Village Voice crossword

The 12 across clue was incomplete and should have read "*Catholic letters found in ground lilacs beside enclosed Youth Centre*". Our apologies to those who have been struggling to make sense of this clue.

Origins Answers

Answers to "Origins" on page 48 : 1 (c); 2(b).

Sudoku Answers

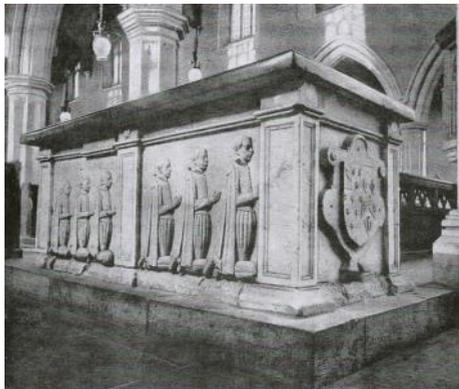
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 7 |
| 4 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 1 |
| 8 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| 1 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| 7 | 8 | 6 | 3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



Further tales of the Pells Elizabeth Fiddick

The imposing alabaster tomb of John Pell III did not always occupy its present position close to the altar. A photograph taken in the early 20th century shows that it once stood at the east end of the south aisle close to the pulpit. In 1912 the decision was taken to move it to the north side of the chancel. To make a place for it, three black marble slabs were moved. One was placed on the south side of the chancel, and the other two in front of the monument when it was moved to its present position.

However, it was soon very apparent that even the south aisle was not its original position. On moving the tomb, broken fragments of black marble were found beneath it. When these were pieced together the Pell coat of arms, with the crest as it was granted to the family in 1594, was revealed. Only the wife's side of the shield remained, bearing the arms of Calthorpe of Stanhoe. This proved that the slab once covered the grave of Sir Valentine Pell who died in 1658. Further writing can still be made out recording that he married the daughter of Sir James Calthorpe and had two sons, John and William. His wife, Barbara Calthorpe, has a slab in the chancel



where she is recorded as "*his faithful and loving wife and died his true widow 19th of February 1667 aged 76.*" So the tomb must have been moved to this position sometime after 1658. It is intriguing to wonder where it had originally been sited.

Furthermore, at a depth of some three feet a few bones were found, but too small to be those of Valentine. Also, two flat pieces of red granite that fitted together were uncovered, which evidently were two thirds of the slab of the altar that formerly stood in the south chapel. In 1550 during the reign of Edward VI, an Order of Council commanded that all stone altars were to be destroyed and replaced by wooden ones. The discarded slabs were frequently buried near to where they were used. A stone kerb that was the front of the platform on which the altar stood was also uncovered and has been restored to its original position. The Rev. Lewis writes in the church magazine that all the pieces will be set in the floor immediately under the altar.

Another slab to the memory of Ursula Pell that was at the east end of the south aisle was also moved into the chancel to bring almost all the Pell monuments into one place. The slab for William, John III's eldest son, can be found at the west end of the south aisle, but covered by carpets.

On the south wall of the chancel is a large tablet to the memory of Elizabeth Pell, the wife of Valentine Pell, great grandson of John Pell III. Elizabeth left £100 for the parish to buy land, from which the rents could be used to buy bread and coals for the deserving poor. There were several charitable donations left in this way in the wills of other residents. During the incumbency of Thomas Kerrich, 1784-1828, the loaves were known as "Thomas Loaves" and left each Sunday on the black marble top of John III's tomb ready for distribution.

Among the documents once kept in the church chest before being moved to the Norfolk

Record office was one concerning the burial of Elizabeth Pell. The vicar, Samuel Kerrich, was instructed to distribute to the poor the penalty for burying Elizabeth in linen and silk instead of woollen garments, as the law required.

The Children of John III

Not all of John's six sons worked with their father managing the Dersingham manors and shipping interests. Valentine, born in 1554, matriculated from St. John's College in 1572 and achieved a B.A. in 1574. He became an attorney in King's Lynn, married a Margaret Sadler but had no children. He died in 1623.

Rev. John Pell

The second son, John, was born in 1553. He was educated in Cambridge, eventually being ordained and is recorded as the Rector (or in some reports the curate) of the church at Southwick, a sea port town in Sussex. In 1602 he married Mary Holland and they had three children all born in Southwick, John, Thomas, and daughter Bathsua. John was just six years old when his father died in 1617. However, the boys' mother was clearly ambitious as Thomas, at just eight years of age, was sent to London to serve as a page to Prince Charles. When Charles succeeded his father James I and became King Charles I Thomas became his Gentleman of the Bedchamber. His younger sister Bathsua Makin became a tutor to Charles I's daughter.



Dr. John Pell

The Rev. Pell's oldest son, John, followed a different course, entering Trinity College, Cambridge in 1624 at the age of thirteen. He gained his B.A. in 1628 and M.A. in 1630. He progressed to St. John's College, Oxford and won a reputation for his immense knowledge and industry. He was described as a dark, handsome young man with a strong, excellent posture and a good voice. (I wonder if he inherited his looks from his grandfather John III). He also won a great reputation for his skill in mathematics and was appointed by the Prince of Orange as Professor of Mathematics at Breda.



In 1632 he married Ithamaria Reginolles and they had four children, John, Mary, Judith and Elizabeth. In 1654 he was appointed by Oliver Cromwell as the Ambassador to the Swiss Cantons. He returned to England in 1658 just after the Protector's death. (His cousin, Sir Valentine Pell, who was Lord of the Manor in Dersingham and also served under Cromwell, died that same year.)

Following the Restoration, John took the degree of D.D. and accepted Holy Orders. He was appointed the rector of Fobbing in Essex and later of Laindon and Basildon Essex, holding both appointments until his death. Sadly his wife Ithamaria died in 1661 but he remarried sometime afterwards. In 1663 he became one of the first elected Fellows of The Royal Society.



John suffered great misfortune in 1665 when his daughters, Judith and Elizabeth, his second wife and the baby son of one of his daughters, died in London from the plague raging at the time, which forced John to leave the city. John's fortunes declined over the following years and he was soon in misery and want. He was described by one associate as a "shiftless man as to worldly affairs". His tenants and family, according to this source, dealt with him very unkindly, and seemed to have taken over his finances keeping him so indigent that he often wanted for "necessaries even ink and paper to his dying day". He became so insolvent that he was twice thrown into the King's Bench prison. After these terms of imprisonment he was totally impoverished and was forced to move to live with one of his grandchildren. For some reason this did not last as he moved to a lodging house in Dyot Street, Westminster where he died on 12th December 1685. He was buried in the Rector's vault in the church of St. Giles-in-the-Field. It seems a very sad end after such as illustrious and varied career. I wonder how much his Dersingham relatives knew? There was probably quite a bit of contact, for Dr. John's daughter Mary married a Captain Raven from King's Lynn.

Now we must look at the story of Dr. John's brother, Thomas. He had been Gentleman of the Bedchamber to Charles I, but in 1635, just twenty years old, he set sail aboard *The Speedwell* for America. (One traditional account in the family says that he was caught making love to one of the King's mistresses and left in a hurry!) He eventually settled in Fairfield, Connecticut and purchased a large tract of land from the Indians in Westchester Co., N.Y. This was the start of the American Manor of Pelham. He married Lucy Brewster French in 1647 but they had no children. When he died in 1669 he left Pelham Manor and other American property to his nephew, John, living in "*Ould England, the only son of my only brother John Pell*".

John consequently left for America in 1670 when he was just twenty-seven to take over his uncle's lands. He married a Lucy Pinkney and had a son, Thomas. He was a Captain of Horse in 1684, and then promoted to Major, fighting in the French and Indian Wars. Later he was a Judge in the Court of Common Pleas and became a member of the Provincial Assembly in 1691. But misfortune struck the family as John was drowned in Long Island Sound in 1700 while sailing his "pleasure boat". (Apparently this is one of the earliest mentions of a yacht in American history.) But the American branch of the Pell family was established and thrives up to the present day. A member of that family visited our church quite recently and donated many historical records to be kept here, plus several booklets outlining the history of that branch of the Pells. □



Dersingham Messy Church now gives way to Children's Clubs

After more than five years our Messy Church held a celebratory final session in November 2019. Now in its place we run two clubs, both meeting weekly in term time:

Elevation: is the club for children in school year 6 and upwards (11 years +). It meets in the Village Centre 7pm - 8.30pm on Sunday evenings. Bible discussion, snacks and lots of games! Contact Rev. Mark for information - Tel. 297293.

Children's Club: for 7 to 11 year-olds. It meets 5pm - 6.15pm in Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall on Sundays. Games, Bible story, snack. Contact Alan - Tel. 543836 or Rev. Dave - Tel. 297102 for information.

Please see our website: stnicholasdersingham.org.uk



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

| Issue | Copy deadline mid-day on | Publication date |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| No 124 (Jun 20/July 20) | Monday 4th May 2020 | Monday 25th May 2020 |
| No 125 (Aug 20/Sept 20) | Monday 6th July 2020 | Monday 27th July 2020 |
| No 126 (Oct20/Nov 20) | Monday 7th September 2020 | Monday 28th Sept 2020 |

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Articles and Non-Profit Making Promotions for Village Voice

These should be emailed directly to the Editor:

villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk or posted to **The Editor, % Dersingham Parish Council Office** (address below), ideally well ahead of the above copy deadlines to stand a better chance of inclusion. Available space for articles is governed by 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. □

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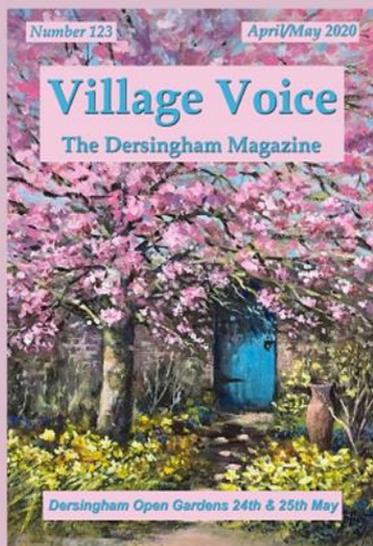
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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday April 14th

LOVE SEALS?



with
Jenny Hobson
from
Friends of Horsey Seals
and
RSPCA East Winch

Seal facts

Threats

Seal rescue



Dersingham Village Centre, Manor Road,
Dersingham. 7.30 pm Admission £5.00
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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday May 12th

A history of CASTLE FAYRE



With local author and historian
Mary-Anne Garry

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

