

Number 129

April/May 2021

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



*N. Adams
2021*



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Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones



Thank you to Neil Adams for his delightful springtime painting for our front cover. It is a welcome reminder of more pleasant times and that PERHAPS things are now improving. Vaccines are going full steam ahead, but the reality is that we still have a long way to go. However, I'm still looking forward to sitting in the gardens of family and friends at the end of the month, even if I am heavily wrapped in blankets.

I have become, almost, a Zoom expert and am getting more and more adventurous in hosting meetings. My latest is getting together eleven people who all lived in a students' hostel in London fifty-five years ago. Between us all, links have been preserved over the years, with physical reunions taking place about once a decade. This will be a very complete reunion, including people in Ibiza and in Australia. I have also used it to keep in touch with family and friends, listen to lectures, and to join business meetings. At first I encountered a few glitches, but it's actually very straightforward. Only the host has to have a Zoom account, other participants just have to click on an invitation link sent to them by the host.

I hope you find an interesting mix of articles in this edition of Village Voice: there have been many contributions relating to how to enjoy and preserve our local environment – where to walk, the conservation programme on Dersingham Fen, what's going on at Snettisham RSPB reserve, a butterfly report, how to keep our rivers healthy, beach cleaning plans, news of the CPRE Awards for environmental projects, and Jane Justice tells us about what has been happening in her garden over the winter and her plans for the year ahead. It is so easy to take for granted what we have around us, but I am just so happy that individuals and organisations put in such efforts to maintain and improve our surrounding area. And of course our own gardens offer the opportunity to create a personal piece of the environment. We can encourage wildlife with the plants we choose, by not tidying up every nook and cranny, and refraining from using weedkilling chemicals and slug pellets, which poison birds.

We also have Dick Melton's latest collection of diverse bits and pieces, ranging from the reintroduction of sea eagles to advice for US servicemen during the last war, and from the origins of Doddshill to the Royal Warrants issued in Dersingham. Joining all these articles are updates from village organisations which are now daring to start planning summer activities and tell us how they have been keeping in touch throughout the last difficult year. The school and the Guides and Scouts have been making huge efforts to keep our children occupied and educated in meaningful ways.

During the period covered by this edition we should hopefully be able to get to the Library, return to the Village Centre, play tennis and bowls, and actually be able to start restricted visiting with each other. Sandringham Estate is gradually extending various activities and hopefully by 12th April you will be able to visit the amazing new children's play area with its impressive water tower slide. You can take a look at its construction on page 13.

Websites of individual organisations and attractions will give details of reopening plans.

Because of COVID restrictions, delivery of the last Village Voice was not done by people used to the village and a few of you did not receive your copy. Our apologies - they are now available at the Post Office. □



Dear Village Voice



Parking around Dersingham

I believe that it would be very helpful if you could remind drivers in the next edition of the magazine how we could all benefit from people parking their vehicles with more thought and consideration for others.

Now I know that (at present) it is not classed as illegal to park on pavements (although, perversely, it IS illegal to drive ONTO a pavement). Nor is it illegal to park opposite residents' driveways, but, speaking personally, it is most certainly NOT appreciated. I have lost count of the number of times my dog and I have been forced to walk onto the road, thanks to some thoughtless drivers using the pavement to park (exacerbated at the present time, due to the need for all pedestrians to respect the social distancing regulations).

I have also had difficulties in manoeuvring round vehicles which have parked opposite our driveway. Again, a bit more thought would not go amiss.

However, some drivers' parking practices ARE classed as offences, namely parking opposite a road junction, or less than 10 metres (or 32 feet) from the road junction, and again, these transgressions happen on a regular basis around Dersingham, especially it seems on the more narrow roads in newer parts of the village.

Also, I have noticed on quite a number of occasions that some drivers reverse out of their driveways onto the main roads. Again, whilst this is not classed as illegal, it is definitely not advisable and I have seen some pretty hair-raising near misses. It is far better to reverse into a driveway and then drive out, which keeps everyone safe, including the driver.□

Miss C. Baker

Sandringham Post

Whilst on a recent walk around Sandringham, I visited the Viewpoint and I noticed that near it was a post (please see attached picture), with some markings on it that I did not recognise. I have not seen another post like this one, even during my walks around Sandringham and Dersingham.

Perhaps one of the Village Voice readers might be able to tell me the significance of the post - I suppose that Garry Marsden, who contributes the Sandringham news to VV, would be able to provide an answer.

[Ed: I have been in touch with Garry Marsden and this is what he writes: "The picture is of an orienteering post that forms part of a trail that can be completed in the park with the aid of an orienteering map. The trail must have been installed some years ago and some of the posts are missing. It is very much on my list to replace all the posts and get the map published online so that budding orienteers can try out the route once again".]



Roger W. Jackson

Parish Council Chairman's Report Coral Shepherd



As there were delays with the publication and distribution of the last edition because of the lockdown restrictions, it is only a short while since I wrote my last column, so this will be a brief message. I would like to thank all of the contributors and the editorial team for their patience with the delays, but, as ever, it was an excellent edition. Hopefully, now that we are gradually easing out of lockdown, normal service will be resumed. I think we will all be pleased to see the back of lockdown and restrictions on our daily lives, but also be pleased as we all become fully vaccinated. However, the virus is still out there, so we must all continue to respect whatever rules will be in place and continue to be vigilant.

I am very sorry to have to repeat myself, but there is still a problem with the amount of dog waste around the village, on pavements, verges, fields and grassed areas. The Parish Council has thirty-one dog waste bins around the village that are emptied weekly, so wherever you are in the village you are never far from a bin. When you are walking your dogs, do please take a bag with you so that you can pick up any waste and place it in the nearest bin or take it home, if that is closer.

I only have a few things to draw to your attention from the last month's Parish Council meetings. Several times we have raised with the County Council officers the issue of the regular flooding at the junction of Church Lane and Manor Road at the entrance to the doctors' surgery. We had been told improvements were not planned in the immediate future, but County Councillor Stuart Dark has now become involved and we are hopeful that the problem will be solved.

We received complaints about the problem of motorbikes in Life Wood and took it up with the police. There was also a problem of motorbike users damaging the sports field. The police responded and very quickly made arrests. We don't like to be killjoys, but we need to think about the impact of our actions on the enjoyment of others.

I was hoping to be able to give you further news about the skatepark, but we are still waiting for a start date from the contractors. We continue to press them for a date and will post it on our website and the village group Facebook page once it is confirmed. □

Dersingham Task Force Dennis Weatherill

At the time of writing, spring really is upon us and, providing that government guidelines proceed as planned, we should be restarting our Task Force activities at the end of March, although with a maximum of six people.

We are a small group of dedicated volunteers who help to maintain the two public gardens in the village. They are the rose bed at the end of Post Office Road and the garden in the children's playground on Lynn Road.

We meet every second Wednesday morning at 10.00, (weather permitting), starting on Wednesday 31st March.

If you think that this might be your kind of activity, then please feel free to join us by contacting me, Dennis Weatherill, on 07482 913399 or email denzilweatherill@gmail.com

You would need to bring a few gardening tools and lots of enthusiasm; we will provide fresh air, exercise and good company. □



Dersingham Village Centre Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

It is good to be writing this when things are looking much more positive. In accordance with the milestones set out in the government's roadmap, the Centre will re-open for groups that provide children's activities on 12th April; most other groups will return in the middle of May. Our social activities will resume when restrictions are fully lifted (21st June). In practical terms, this means that Coffee Shops and Friendship Lunches should resume in the week commencing 5th July, and the Village Cinema returns on 27th July with *The Keeper*. Dates for Village Voice Live, Tea Dances, and Sunday Socials are yet to be agreed.

We are looking forward to welcoming back our volunteers, and seeing people enjoying groups and activities in the Centre again. Events for the summer and onwards, including a disco and supper in July and the Ceilidh in October, are being worked on.

News and updates will be published in Village Voice, and also on notices at the Centre and around the village. Please check the website www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk and sign up for the regular newsletters. We also have a Facebook page and post announcements on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group.

Village Centre Lottery winners for February were numbers 54, 72 and 34; March winners are numbers 45, 2 and 29. The Lottery costs just £5 per month and the proceeds provide valuable regular income to support our activities. The more members there are, the bigger the prizes!

The Garden Group volunteers have been making plans to further enhance the outside space. As I write, the snowdrops have finished, but the daffodils are looking lovely and tell us that spring is on the way. Some wild flowers will be sown in the grass area at the western end of the car park; we just hope the rabbits and muntjac don't like them!

Please stay safe and well, support the vaccine rollout, and carry on sticking to the rules so that the restrictions can be lifted in June.

We look forward to seeing you soon! Best wishes from everyone at the Centre. □



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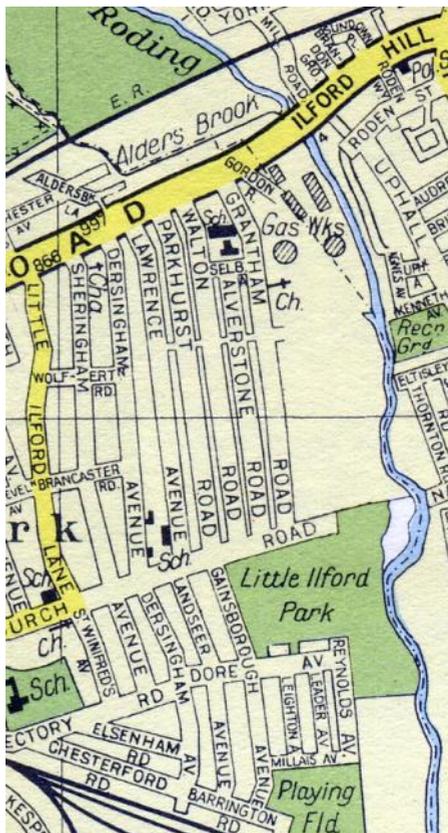


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Dersingham Questions Asked by Tony Bubb

A few days ago I was watching a video about a newly reclaimed path along the River Roding from Ilford to Barking, lying to the east of London. Pulling out a map of the area, as I often do, I was reminded that a little to the west of the river there is Dersingham Avenue. This is joined at one point by Wolferton Road. In the vicinity there are two other roads with Norfolk names, but others to one side are imaginatively named First to Eighth Avenues, and on the other seemingly celebrating England's prisons. So I wondered why the names? The avenue looks to have been built about 1890 when Dersingham was just a small village of about 600 souls and Wolferton even smaller. Did the builder come from Dersingham? Did the builder have a good holiday here and remember it in his development? It seems a very specific choice, as often estates were named after famous people or after notable regions – The Cotswolds, for example. So I ask the question – can you throw any light on this? Did one of your ancestors have a hand in the matter?

PS. If you want to find the video of the river walk go to: thelostbyway.com □



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Monday 12 April 2021

From desk to bureau: writing furniture from the 16th to 18th Century. - Janusz Karsczewski Slowikowski

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Monday 10 May 2021

The Art and Culture of Vienna - Gavin Plumley

At the turn of the last century, Vienna was the capital of a vast empire and one of the most exciting artistic laboratories in the world. It produced painters such as Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele, architects like Otto Wagner and Josef Hoffmann, and the composer Gustav Mahler. Looking at these and other figures in the context of the society in which they worked, this talk asks how and why the City of Dreams became a cultural hotbed around 1900.

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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club Jan Rawstron



It is with a heavy heart I have to report the passing away of our dear friend, and long-time member, Dickie Murrell. Dickie was, I think, the oldest member of our club, having been instrumental in building our clubhouse and being a stalwart member of the club committee. Dickie also, over many years, looked after our green, and received many compliments on such a wonderful job, from members and visitors alike. He had to take a back seat in this regard for the last year and a bit, due to health problems, not surprising at ninety years of age. He was also involved in other village activities, and was a parish councillor. We will miss his ready smile and quirky sense of humour. He always had a tale to tell of his early days in Hackney. A family funeral was held at Mintlyn Crematorium, which many of our members were able to watch virtually. Not the send-off we would have wanted, but hopefully, when we can get

together again socially, we will have a memorial get-together at the club along with Dickie's family.

During Dickie's illness, the green has been capably looked after by Keith Dixon, and a few other members when needed. Our thanks go to Keith for all his hard work, having been dropped in at the deep end, as it were, and doing such a great job. However, due to personal issues, Keith has stepped back from this commitment, and the green will now be cared for by Graham Keeley, who I'm sure will be given the support of all the members in this vital role.

We also received the sad news that former member, Rosemary Brice, had lost her long battle with cancer last month. Our thoughts are with her family.

On a lighter note, although we have not yet had any guidance from our governing body, Bowls England, we hope to be able to bowl before too long, although in a somewhat restricted way. The format will probably follow last year's arrangements, offering limited, socially distanced bowling sessions to begin with, gradually introducing more formats, as restrictions are lifted. I would like to thank those members who supported the club last year, and am confident we can offer lots of opportunities to bowl this year, especially in the light of the vaccine roll out.

By the time this issue is published, I hope our bowls season will be under way. It will be great to see all our members, old and new, especially after the winter lockdown, so take care everyone, and see you soon. □



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Snettisham Salvation Army
Alison Kirby



As I write this article the Prime Minister has just outlined a roadmap out of lockdown for England. I don't know about you, but it made me feel better just knowing that better days are ahead with fewer restrictions and more freedom, even if that is sometime in the future.

When Jesus was crucified on Good Friday the future for his followers couldn't have seemed more bleak. Their beloved master, friend and teacher had died a most cruel death and the likelihood was that the authorities would now be after them. They were frightened and in hiding when the news of his resurrection was brought to them. Suddenly, the future seemed much brighter, they had hope, all was not lost.

Every year thousands of people climb a mountain in the Italian Alps to stand at a crucifix. One tourist noticed a trail that led beyond the cross. He fought through the undergrowth and to his surprise came upon another shrine that symbolized the empty tomb. It was neglected and overgrown. Everyone had gone as far as the cross but there they had stopped. Far too many have got as far as the cross and known the despair and the heartbreak. Far too few have moved beyond the cross to find the real message of Easter – the message of the empty tomb.

The message of Easter is one of hope.

Although things looked bleak on Good Friday it was through Jesus' death on the cross that we can all look forward to better days ahead. When we accept Christ as our Saviour, then no matter what dark times we go through we know that there is a roadmap out. A roadmap to a brighter future.

We hope to be able to reopen our charity shop from 12th April, if the restrictions allow, and will restart Sunday worship as soon as it is safe to do so.

Email: alison.kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk
Mobile: 07436 425118 □

Ingoldisthorpe Village WI
Lesley Geer, President

A light at the end of the tunnel – hopefully!

Looking at the current situation, we are loosely planning to start again with a meeting in July, possibly outdoors, although nothing can be set in stone.

In the meantime, we keep busy with a new way of communicating via Zoom. Not only have we used this for our committee meetings, we are starting to reach out to other local WIs to have joint discussions. These are all opportunities for learning. This said, I cannot wait for us all to meet face to face.

We still do our regular newsletter and telephone calls and are now thinking about how we can celebrate Easter; perhaps a goodie bag for everyone, who knows!

Hopefully, we are over the worst, folks! And next time we may be putting dates in the diary.

On behalf of Ingoldisthorpe Village WI, take care and remain careful.

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Sandringham Estate News

Garry Marsden



Thank you to everyone who has, and continues to, exercise reasonably in the Royal Park over the last few months.

After the latest announcement and the outline roadmap heralding the easing of restrictions, we are now putting plans into place to reopen safely but slowly. Our staff's, visitors' and residents' welfare remain a priority.



The first stage of reopening will be from 29 March, when it will be possible to meet for exercise in the Park with five other people (the Rule of six) or from two different households. In addition, the gardeners have been working hard and the newly replanted arboretum area will also reopen. Work is nearing an end for the Play Area improvements, however, this will remain closed and not reopen until 12 April.

The design of new structures for the Children's Play Area takes inspiration from buildings around the Estate. These photographs were taken during various stages of construction.

A key feature will be the reminder of the distinctive local Appleton Water Tower, which is echoed in the accessible 8m water play tower, with slide and climbing wall.



In addition, a toddler specific play area, high level walkways, landscaping and new seating areas will be also added in this next phase.

The shop and café will also remain closed until this date, subject to the latest guidance.

We hope that 2021 will bring brighter times and that you all stay safe. We hope to welcome you back to Sandringham soon. □

Like walking? Like meeting people? Want to improve your fitness? Then read on.

Slow Ways is an initiative first proposed by geographer Danile Raven-Ellison during the first lockdown in spring 2020. Slow Ways aims to connect local people and businesses by highlighting walking routes from one community to the next.

So what's different from following an Ordnance Survey map? Well, over the years, in some parts of the country, these routes have been lost or the routes overgrown and not well defined. It is also true that many social walking groups choose perhaps a scenic circular route taking in the best views. Nothing wrong with this, of course, but Slow Ways aims to focus on connecting villages and towns and therefore people and businesses.

So why not use Google Maps? Again, you can! However, Google Maps is great if you're driving, but not so great if you want to walk. Many times it will follow the shortest route, following roads with no path; not ideal if you are walking.

Slow Ways has already recruited over 700 volunteers to trial and walk the routes to check out if they are safe, walkable and pleasant. It has already 'created' 7,500 routes covering 110,000km in many parts of the country.

To quote Slow Ways:

"While there are thousands of miles of paths linking places across the country, there isn't a comprehensive network designed to help people walk off-road between all towns and cities. That's what the Slow Ways project aims to do."



So what about our local area? Just as an exercise, I dug out my West Norfolk Ordnance Survey map and set myself the task (on paper) of walking from King's Lynn railway station to Hunstanton. Although I know much of the route from driving and walking much of it, I certainly had not tried to connect the villages of South Wootton, North Wootton, Castle Rising, West Newton (Sandringham), Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe, Snettisham and Heacham along the way. Remember, the aim is to connect these communities through public rights of way, avoiding roads (at least those roads that don't have a public footpath).

The exercise did indeed highlight the area of Sandringham as a potential issue. Many of the routes through Sandringham are considered 'permissive paths'. Before any potential Slow Way through the Sandringham Estate is included on the Slow Map, courtesy would suggest (and I guess legality) that the Estate should be consulted.

For us in Dersingham, how could you walk to Ingoldisthorpe, West Newton (Sandringham), Wolferton, Anmer, Shernborne or Great Bircham avoiding roads where possible? Some routes are

obvious, of course, others less so.

Want to get involved? You can get involved/sign up, either as an individual or group.

Want to know more? Visit www.slowways.uk □

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Dersingham Gardening Tips

Jane Jestice

I'm writing this sitting outside with my lunch, enjoying the surprising warmth of the sun. My garden has decided that spring is well underway. This is a unique spring as it is nature emerging from the long winter, as it does every year, but for all of us it is also the beginning of emerging from our "long Covid winter". Winter in the garden and beyond is a fairly bleak time, and for most plants a colourless and dormant season, but from now onwards, little by little, colour and life emerge. I feel that the past year has been the same for us; we have stopped doing almost all the things that make us feel "alive", but now, as the restrictions gradually lift, life will begin to brighten again.

My garden suffered quite badly from the very cold spell. I have lost a number of plants that I should have protected and didn't. I'm heartened, however, that although many were looking totally beyond help, when I look really closely I can see tiny signs that they have survived, so I am being very cautious about rushing to condemn any of them to the compost heap too soon.



I love spring bulbs, so I am keeping an eye on any areas in the garden that are a bit sparse so I can add bulbs there later in the year. I am really regretting taking up my daughter's offer of some wild garlic bulbs. I never knew any plant could spread quite so quickly, so be warned, unless you like flowerbeds covered in it within a couple of years, plant it sparingly and actively keep it under control.

I'm heading off to the garden centres to buy some plug plants and get my hanging baskets started early so they have time to establish before I hang them out. I always

push a few trailing nasturtium seeds in each basket too.

The birds are now thinking of nesting; in fact, today, while out walking in Dersingham, I saw a crow placing a large twig down a chimney pot and arranging it carefully! So, if you have any hair from grooming your pet, pop it out in a hedge or bush so birds can line their nests with it.

So, I think this year should be a year of no holds barred in our gardens, patios, window boxes and pots. The more colour the better to prepare for a summer of sharing our homes and gardens with family and friends again after a VERY long time. I know that is my plan!! (If you haven't yet discovered Sarah Raven, take a look and order her catalogue to see what colour really can be like!)

With that thought in mind, how about putting a smile back on our faces and a spring in our steps and celebrating Dersingham's summer as "Colour out of Covid"! Forget pastels and understatement for one year and go boldly into a riot of colour to (hopefully) celebrate our return to normality. I'm going to, and I hope some of you will join me.

Dersingham Open Gardens is scheduled to take place in September again this year. If you would like any information on opening your garden, especially if you haven't done so before, please email janejestice@gmail.com. □

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Bonds of Love and Intimacy

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

This picture of a grandfather holding his grandchild speaks volumes. We continue to love and hold dear in our heart those whom we are not able to see in person at this present time. Lockdowns have, for our safety, kept us from meeting people, yet the bonds of love with those for whom we care remain and have for many continued to grow and mature in new and different ways.

I have heard many a grandparent longing to be able to hug their grandchildren. Some have taught their grandchildren during lockdown via Facetime, continuing to strengthen the bond of love. Many others have taken to writing cards and letters by hand to family or friends, keeping in touch and showing love and care. There is a book in the Bible which has romantic love at the heart. Have you ever read the Song of Songs, otherwise known as the Song of Solomon? You may be rather surprised! Here is a little of the more subdued expressions describing the bonds of love and intimacy: "Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away. If one were to give all the wealth of one's house for love, it would be utterly scorned" (8:6-7).



Sometimes couples choose this for their wedding service as it has wonderful meaning. In a wedding service there are a number of different seals which form part of the ceremony. The obvious one is the seal of love with a kiss as the couple are pronounced husband and wife. There is the seal through the commitment of vows, the seal of the rings visually confirming their marriage and also the seal in the legal form through the signing of the registers and wedding certificate. The seal or sign of God's love for us is that he gave his only Son so that we can have forgiveness for our sins and life everlasting through him. Communication is at the heart of a lasting marriage, friendships, family relations and with God.

Relationships are built upon communication, commitment and time – when did you last pray to God? Easter is an amazing opportunity to explore further the claims of Jesus. Why not sit down and read Mark's Gospel (a good name and great Gospel!). Jesus in his earthly life had an intimate relationship with God; we too can have a living relationship with Jesus as we pray, worship and turn to God's Holy Word in the Bible. Why not join us on a Sunday online, or soon in the physical sense, and explore more?

As we look to the future safely and steadily, we expect there will be one service in a church building each week, in addition to an internet based worship. Please keep an eye on the websites below or follow on the social media platforms (Instagram or Facebook) for more information. The first physical service in church for the united benefice will be at St Nicholas Church, Dersingham on Easter Sunday at 10am, which will also be live streamed. Please contact secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk for details. Easter is the most important time of the year as we celebrate Jesus defeating death and rising to new life, and through it, opening the door to us of intimacy with God, an Easter present to give thanks for.

Happy Easter - Jesus is Alive!

www.dersinghamonlineoworship.com www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk □

Butterfly Report for 2020 - Recording under Restrictions

Brian Anderson



This report is quite unlike previous reports - the lockdowns due to the Covid-19 virus were inevitably going to have an effect. The transect walk on the old railway line from Ingoldisthorpe to Station Road is usually the lynchpin of the reports, but in April 2020 Butterfly Conservation suspended the National Recording Scheme. We decided that we could still do "our" transect as it could be reached on foot and the time and distance were within the specified limits for exercise. Transects ideally should be walked once a week between 1st April and 30th September, subject to weather conditions. Other areas in Norfolk were not so fortunate - distances were too great, nature reserves were shut and some recorders had to shield. Some transects opened up later in the season as restrictions were eased. All in all some twenty out of fifty submitted records - some of these managed the full twenty-six weeks. Our transect was going quite well until late July when I injured my back and hamstrings, so week seventeen was the last we did, leaving nine weeks unrecorded. The results we did get were quite good.

Large Skippers were about in reasonable numbers. The Whites were around in some numbers, including Orange Tips but we missed the autumn peak of Large, Small and Green-veined Whites. The Blues and Coppers were also low in numbers for the same reason - we didn't see any Holly Blues at all, although they were frequently seen in our garden.

The early season Aristocrats were around in good numbers, but, again, we missed the late flush. Red Admirals were above average numbers, although well down on the peak year of 2019. Peacocks and Commas also did well. Sadly, Small Tortoiseshells are still bumping along the bottom.

The Browns were just coming to their peak numbers when we had to stop, although Speckled Wood numbers were very poor - the spring brood seemed to be almost entirely absent - we saw just one.



Green Hairstreak

Our garden was the main source of butterfly data; speaking to Andy Brazil (County Recorder) he said that most of the records coming in for 2020 were from people's gardens. We did manage a few walks within the restrictions. The high point was seeing three Green Hairstreaks (15th May) on the ridge walk between Dersingham and Ingoldisthorpe (Mill and Chalk Pit Roads and a permissive path) and a few White Admirals (9th July) in Ken Hill Wood.

I am grateful to Roger du Bois and Michael Mees for records of the emergence of hibernating butterflies early in the season.

"New" species to Norfolk

Readers may remember various items in my reports about butterfly species previously resident in Norfolk that have reappeared. The first was the arrival of Chalkhill Blues at Warham Camp near Wells, then at Ringstead Downs. The second arrival was the Silver-washed Fritillary, first seen at Holt Country Park, then widely in woodland throughout the county, arriving at Ken Hill Wood then Sandringham over the last three years. Next, Purple Emperors have been recorded at Holt, Sheringham Park, Swanton Novers, Foxley and Northrepps. Lastly, Small Blues have been seen at Cranwich Camp near Thetford.



Purple Emperor



Small Blue

It is almost inconceivable that such a clutch of returning species could have happened naturally. So we are left with deliberate introductions. There are a number of committed people who spend an inordinate amount of time breeding and releasing butterfly species into areas where they do not currently exist. Some of them (such as the Mazarine Blue) have not been resident in the British Isles for many decades, if ever. It is very likely that Norfolk's Purple Emperors were imported from Germany. I have to admit to being conflicted about this. It is nice to feel that the range and number of less common (in some cases threatened) butterflies is increasing. One re-introducer successfully repopulated an area in Lincolnshire where the Marbled White had died out. This reconnected two remaining populations and probably reinforced the viability of the species in that county. But there is a downside. Unregulated introductions can bring pathogens into populations of related butterflies already resident in the release area. Studies to determine the range and population density of species and the effect of things like climate change, habitat loss and the loss of thirty per cent of government funding over the last decade, are put at risk by such introductions. There are officially sanctioned reintroductions - the spectacular success of the Large Blue reintroduction in the West Country is a case in point. An attempt to bring the Chequered Skipper back to England is currently underway. So you pay your money and take your choice...but I would like to see the Purple Emperors at Sheringham or Holt.

An update on the Speckled Wood

Some of you will recall my series on the commoner British butterflies. One of the early articles was on the Speckled Wood. As an habitual Radio 4 listener, I heard an episode of *The Curious Cases of Rutherford and Fry* programme that looks at quirky scientific subjects. One item revealed that studies have revealed that the male Speckled Woods have asymmetric wings - one pair of fore and hind wings is larger than the other. I looked up the original research paper, published by the Royal Society and authored by J.J. Windig and S. Nylin. They concluded that this feature allowed males to turn faster and may confer an advantage on the faster-turning male in those aerial battles you see in patches of woodland sunlight when males compete for territory and mates. □

West Norfolk Befriending



West Norfolk Befriending has continued to support socially isolated older people throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Current clients who were matched with a volunteer stopped receiving face to face visits in their homes and switched to regular telephone calls with their befriender.

We match volunteer befrienders with socially isolated older people. These are generally people in their eighties or nineties living in their own homes who struggle with poor mobility, or sight or hearing loss. Our work supports them but also family carers.

Towards the beginning of lockdown we received £8,885 from the Norfolk Community Foundation allowing us to offer short term telephone befriending to people who were on our waiting list. This allowed us to help even more people and we are now operating a telephone befriending service which will run alongside our existing face to face service in the future.

Our volunteer befrienders are very important to our work. We have stayed in touch with our volunteers through regular Zoom calls. If you're interested in volunteering with us we would love to hear from you. Call us on 01553 763500 or email us on info@wnbefriending.org.uk

We always appreciate your support for our coffee mornings in Dersingham. Several of our fundraisers had to be cancelled and we are unsure when we will be able to reorganise our coffee mornings and social events. We are looking forward to getting out and about in the community again to support events, and to raise awareness and funds for our charity once it is safe to do so.

More information about us at our website: <https://wnbefriending.org.uk/>
You can like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/westnorfolkbefriending>
And follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/wnbefriending>

As a small charity, donations are always hugely appreciated and go a long way to helping our community here in West Norfolk. We've now set up a JustGiving page to make it easy for you to support us, no matter how small the amount. <https://www.justgiving.com/wnbefriending>

Charity number: 1111735 □

Dersingham Day Centre Jan Holt

Members and volunteers of Dersingham Day Centre are still keeping in contact with each other by phone or shouting across the road when out for a walk! We've all been enjoying the warmer weather and the beautiful spring flowers - there seem to be swathes of snowdrops wherever we look. We are reminded of happier times and now we are getting our vaccines hopefully it won't be too long before we can all meet up again.

We give thanks for all our friends and remember June Dorman who sadly passed away in January, we will miss her. □



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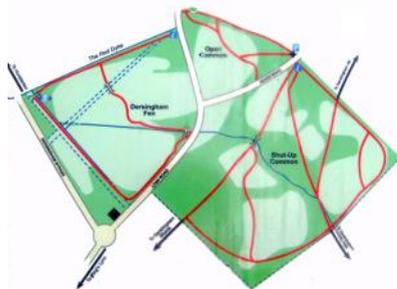
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The Planned Works on Dersingham's Commons and Fen First Update from Alex Coombs On behalf of the Trustees of Dersingham United Charities.

In last year's April/May issue of the Village Voice (issue 123) we explained that the Commons and Fen were to undergo an extensive ten year conservation programme of works. We are now over a year into that programme and would like to keep you abreast of the progress so far.



Needless to say, like everyone, we have found 2020 a very difficult year due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the resultant lockdowns implemented by the Government. The Trustees have not been able to have the face-to-face meetings necessary to discuss the various topics that need to be planned, but, despite everything, progress has been made - and will continue.

The previous article explained that the Countryside Stewardship Agreement contains works falling into two major categories. Firstly, the four specific jobs that must be completed by 31.12.21, and secondly, the ongoing projects that need to be carried out throughout the ten year term. So how have we fared in 2020?

Of the four specific jobs:

- * The removal of 500 sqm of molinia tussock (purple moor-grass) was completed in April.
- * The felling and removal of 25 specified trees from the Fen was completed in December.
- * The eradication of 5,000 sqm of rhododendron from the woodland was well on target until January, when burning the deadwood had to cease.
- * There are nine areas of scrub removal (totalling 25,000 sqm). We have completed three (notably clearing the Red Dyke path on the Fen). Quotes are being sought for the two worst areas and we hope to use volunteers on the remaining areas.



Tussock Removal

For both the rhododendron and scrub clearance we did request a time extension, which was declined; however, if necessary, we can re-request it later this year. If an extension is granted then these two jobs should be achievable (and funding given), however, it will

now be very difficult to complete both of these by the current the deadline of 31.12.21, but we will try our best!

Of the long-term projects:

- * The veteran tree survey was carried out in February. No veterans, diseased or ash trees requiring attention were identified.
- * The wildfire risk assessment was carried out in June. As a result, temporary signage was put up which will be changed for permanent signs shortly.
- * The Ride (the old Wayleave) has been cut back and opened up.
- * A new mowing regime for the grassland areas and the Ride has been agreed with our resident mower and will begin in the summer.

For this oncoming year we will continue with the clearance of the rhododendron and some more of the scrub. After that the most significant projects will be opening up the immature birch woodland with clearings, freeing the stream from undergrowth and removing the reed bed on the Fen.

Please bear in mind that this is a hugely ambitious and varied programme. The Agreement is written by DEFRA under the guidance of Natural England and has forty pages of detailed “do’s and don’ts”. It is supplemented by the Forestry Commission’s Woodland Management Plan of twenty-five pages, so there still remains a lot to do. However, reading around all the detail in the Agreement, its fundamental aims seem to be that the Fen should be wetter, the Open Common more open and the Closed Common more bio-diverse – so these are our ‘broad-stroke’ goals.

Aside from the necessary contractual works, we have also tried to improve on the car park in Heath Road and some of the Common’s bridges which were badly silted-up underneath, making them wet and slippery. The water is now flowing freely and the bridges are less dangerous to walk on.

So, as I hope you can see, we have made a positive start in very restricting times. We are especially dependent on the invaluable efforts of our volunteers and we can’t thank them enough for what has been achieved in 2020. Hopefully we will be able to get back on site in September in more ‘normal’ and productive times to continue what we have started. If you would like to volunteer please email me, the charity’s clerk, Alex Coombs, at ducclerk@gmail.com, to register your interest. □



Gorse burning by the Red Dyke

A Hardy Dersingham Postman

This photo, sent in by Tom Cannon, is of Shaun, his local postman.

Apparently he is clad in shorts the whole year round, and was not even deterred by our recent cold snap!! ☐



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The Daily Doings of Mrs Dolittle



The other morning, I realised with shock I must have put on an extreme amount of weight, for on doing up my front-fastening bra, I realised my boobs were barely contained at all. It took me a puzzled while to realise my brain function was out of kilter. That bra does up at the back! Old age does suck.

I put loads and loads of bulbs in fresh beds along underneath my new garden pagoda. After chemo I felt very weak (still do) but I felt sure if I could get the task done, I would live to see them bloom.

Well, I'm still in remission, and a host of pretty blue irises are now marching along the flowerbed, giving me much joy and hope. Soon a mass of forget-me-nots and bluebells will be continuing the blue theme, then big, bold peonies will be showing off, together with deep blue agapanthus. At least, I hope the agapanthus have survived. They looked rotten and slimy with all the rain, but there is a hint of new growth, so I hope they might get going soon. I've planted climbing roses and wisteria up the pagoda posts and have now set my sights on seeing them bloom and climb over the trellis on top. I don't expect them to be prolific the first year, but I'll let you know in a couple of years how they are doing!

It's the first day of March as I write and the weather is grey and chilly. The last day of February had a deep cerulean blue sky with barely a cloud. The day was lovely and sunny and warm, so I spent all of the day out in the garden, dragging big pots full of earth and plants into their positions under the new pagoda. Not bad for an old biddy who is half extinct! I also dug in some new roses and peonies - all very slowly of course, with lots of sit-downs on one of the many seats scattered around in cosy nooks I have made throughout the garden. It was lovely to sit and gaze at all the bulbs and plants popping up that I had managed to get in before winter, and to discuss the state of the world with a cheeky blackbird at my feet.

On retiring to bed exhausted, I discovered I'd left it unmade, which was bad enough, but the sheets were covered in ghastly muddy paw prints from the dogs! That will teach me to leave the door open. The cat, who was in there lawfully, had, unbeknownst to me, been in a fight and had bled all over the rest of the sheets. Mud and blood, and me so desperately tired! I collapsed on this filthy heap and fell asleep, to wake at midnight. A little refreshed by then, I staggered out of bed, took off the sheets, shoved them in the washing machine, put on fresh bedding and then fell back into what could be called the sleep of the almost dead.

Checking on my bank account, I noticed a woman's name on the joint account - and a payment had been made to her of £80.00. What had Remote Control Man been up to? I could only think of one thing, so while I didn't really believe that he had been led astray by a fallen woman, I nevertheless confronted him, hands on hips. He looked at me, then said, "What kind of woman would I get for only eighty quid these days, for goodness sake? Mind you, if it were Catherine Deneuve..." We both laughed, and so did the parrot. After a little ferreting online, all was made clear. It seemed I had paid a tradesman who had given me a woman's account to pay into. Just goes to show, one should never assume, especially when your own memory is at fault! Luckily, we both thought it amusing, so no harm done.□

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How can you keep your river healthy and clean? Norfolk Rivers Trust

In a series of articles Norfolk Rivers Trust will provide advice to help maintain the health of our globally rare chalk streams and lowland rivers in Norfolk. In times of drought and hot weather it is especially important because of the wildlife our rivers support. Endangered white clawed crayfish, brown trout, eels, and water voles are just a few of the iconic species at risk in Norfolk and you can do your bit to help protect them.

Water use and pollution: East Anglia is one of the driest regions in the country and water security is becoming increasingly compromised due to excessive abstraction and water waste, as well as increasingly long dry spells. While we have a large proportion of agricultural land use, most of the water abstracted in East Anglia is actually for domestic consumption. The average person uses 140 litres of water per day, so by reducing water use in your home you can directly reduce the impact on Norfolk's rivers.



Reducing the use of cleaning products and chemicals around the home will help reduce the chemical load in our rivers and maintain a healthier stream. Checking your septic tank regularly can also reduce pollution in our rivers. If you see any sewerage, pollution or chemical damage in a river please report it to the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60 as soon as possible.

If you are a landowner with riparian land and would like to talk to us about restoration and rewilding please do get in touch with us at Norfolk Rivers Trust. We offer a wide range of services including surveys, restoration and management advice. Email info@norfolkriverstrust.org □



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Dersingham Evening WI Katrina Mundy



The snow has gone and the sun is shining. Snowdrops and aconites and now some daffodils have appeared, so perhaps, despite lockdown continuing, there is something to smile about.

On 3rd February we had a practice session of Zoom for members who wanted to try it, as we planned to have our first evening meet since February 2020 by Zoom on 17th February. Twenty plus members indicated they would like to try it; the practice went well.

On 17th February fifteen members sat down in front of their computers/iPads for a chat. It was lovely to talk to those we hadn't seen for some time and especially without the restriction of a mask. It was an enjoyable forty minutes hearing how some had taken up new pastimes. One member was even learning to play the keyboard (possible entertainment for the Christmas party? - only joking Carol), another crocheting for the first and perhaps last time. Our members have been busy during this lockdown and are a very talented lot. Knitting, sewing, painting, crafts, trying new baking recipes (with varying degree of success in a few cases). We ended the evening with a quiz devised by Wendy, which was won by Stephanie.

The My WI website has some lovely recipes and craft ideas from other WIs around the country for members to try.

A lot of our members have also rediscovered on their walks how lovely this village is (hopefully some of us will be fitter by the end of lockdown, despite all the home baking going on.) Will we keep this up, I wonder, when lockdown finally comes to an end?! For the foreseeable future it looks as if we will do a Zoom evening meet every month until we can safely meet again in St Cecilia's Church, which now looks hopeful for July. This will be just a social evening for everybody to have a good chat. Thoughts for future Zoom meetings are a simple craft project from our craft expert Babs and a gentle sit-down exercise from Peg (note, GENTLE, Peg). The hope is that more members will take part next month and when we ease lockdown perhaps some members without internet can sit in with others and thus take part.

We are still delivering a monthly newsletter either by email or hard copy. We have sent our votes on our Resolutions into Federation and our top two were:

- * Call to increase awareness of ovarian cancer
- * Stop destruction of peat bogs.

The Resolution that received the most votes from all WIs and will go forward to National AGM is **Call to increase awareness of ovarian cancer**.

We hope soon to restart our small coffee mornings, most probably outdoors to begin with, and our other group activities when members feel it is safe to do so; but of course this will depend on the rules as we ease out of lockdown.

Stay safe, get your vaccinations and see you all soon. If you would like to know more about the WI please contact 01485 542424

[Ed: Many thanks to Maggie Guest for all the articles about the Evening WI that she has sent us over the years. For the time being she has handed over to Katrina.] □

Dersingham Littleuns Rolf Palio

In view of the interest in the recent reports of sightings of the Yeti in Siberia, I feel attention should be drawn to our local folklore. We, in this area, have Black Shuck, a ghostly black dog that haunts the coast road between Wells and Cromer, the Ringstead Hairy Man (who just turned out to be a man from Ringstead who was hairy) and our own Dersingham Littleuns.

Not much was known about these creatures until 1343 when Thomas Wolferton (born 1/04/1312), a noted anthropologist and part-time coracle salesman, wrote about them in his book *I Spy Littleuns*. Thomas wrote, "whilst out walking on Dersingham Bog I came across sandstone diggings which, because of the numerous small caves, were obviously home to troglodytes."

To inform anyone new to the area, Dersingham Bog is on the right of the A149 going towards King's Lynn and not the conveniences at the picnic site going towards Snettisham, and the sandstone diggings are now the Quarry. On further visits to the diggings and much patient observation, Thomas writes, "at last I have discovered the occupants of the caves; they are very small, so that one could fit in the palm of one's hand, and they are extremely hairy." He also noted that they were very shy. On inquiring in the village about these creatures he discovered that the locals were very reluctant to talk about them and considered it bad luck to do so. He reported overhearing two locals saying, "Heh yew sin the littleuns?" And the reply was, "Now thet oi hent und if oi hed oi wunt tell yew!" However, Thomas carried on with his investigation and published his findings of ten years of watching these Littleuns and even to living among them.

He described in detail their equivalent to the Grand National, where they rode on the back of rabbits round a seventeen-yard course. He also described how they cultivated the pasta vines as their main source of food. Thomas died in 1360 and no more was heard or seen of the Littleuns, although over the years there have been reports of sightings by customers on their way home from the Dun Cow (alas no more) and the Coach and Horses.□

The logo for u3a, consisting of the lowercase letters 'u3a' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

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Our next Zoom meetings, starting at 2.00pm, will be as follows:

Monday 19th April

The Political Satire of Gilbert & Sullivan, speaker Bernard Lockett.

Monday 17th May

Stories from the Clink, a guide through some well known prisons by Neil Sadler.

For anyone who would like to join us, the Hunstanton u3a website gives more details and membership information: www.u3asites.org.uk/hunstanton

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Local walking challenge inspired by Captain Sir Tom Moore Yvonne Bridger

None of us could fail to be moved by what the late Captain Sir Tom Moore achieved in the last year of his life in particular. The money he raised for NHS charities was nothing short of epic, phenomenal and a range of other adjectives. He walked, walked and then walked some more in the 100th year of his life. And always in a calm, focussed, humble, unassuming, gentlemanly and determined manner. Captain Tom struck a chord in the hearts and minds of us all.

Having learnt of his death in early February, I asked myself, "What's my excuse for not walking and doing something to honour the memory of the remarkable, plus, plus, Captain Tom?" The answer was that I did not have an excuse really. I am, thankfully, at the moment fit, active and mobile, so all I needed to do was to get my thinking cap on. As I fell asleep one night, my brain suddenly came up with an idea. This year I am going to hit a milestone birthday which starts with 7 and I wanted to use the number 7 in my idea.



So, on Sunday 7th February, I began a challenge to walk 700,000 steps over 70 days, with my goal being not only to honour, in a very small way, the memory of the late Captain Sir Tom, but also to raise funds for the COVID-19 Support Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn, whose staff have for over a year put their lives on the line for the sake of our loved ones. I have never done any solo fundraising before, but there is a first time for everything! My target is to raise £7,000. I have set up a GoFundMe page - just open up GoFundMe, put my name in the Search, and the rest is plain sailing.

For all of the kind and generous GoFundMe donations received so far, even if I said "thank you" a million times over, it would not be enough. That said, for those not wanting to do financial transactions online, please call me on 01485 533896 if you would like to make a cash donation or to send a cheque. A receipt for all cheques and monies donated will be issued and put through your letterbox.

Update 6th March

I had no idea when I embarked upon my 700,000 steps' walking challenge just how difficult it would be to raise funds during COVID-19 times. To be honest, I hadn't really given it any thought at all, but we are where we are. It is not possible to have coffee mornings or hold other fundraising events, so in the light of the current restrictions I have abandoned my target of £7,000 and will just be happy to raise whatever sum of money is possible, as long as there is a number 7 in the total proceeds at the end!

Yesterday, by kind permission of the Borough Council and King's Lynn Licensing Department, I was able to carry out a Charity Street Collection in Hunstanton. The amount raised was £148.31.

Update 13th March

My step count since February 7th is 425,499 - i.e. 60.78% of my target. This means that I have five weeks remaining to reach 700 000 steps, a balance of 274,501 steps.

The grand total raised so far is £1,273.89p (and yes, there is a seven in there!!!)

Onwards and upwards everyone - and only two weeks until we move the clocks forward and can start to see and hopefully to enjoy more daylight hours!

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. □



Dersingham Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb



Well, we've made it to March and there are signs of spring everywhere; daffodils gleaming yellow in the (occasional) sunshine and snowdrops sadly dying away; so we know the year is progressing inexorably towards an easing of restrictions and a return to some kind of normality.

Activity at the Borough is now more widely focused than just on the response to the pandemic, and we would like to acknowledge the hard work of Council officers in disbursing Support Grants and other assistance during this difficult time. We must now look to the future and to the regeneration of our towns and restoration of businesses and jobs. Panels are once again being scheduled and you can of course watch online. Comment about St George's Guildhall will have been made by the time you read this and let us all hope the Borough can secure the necessary funding to regenerate the complex to the benefit of everyone in the area.

We have been concerned over flooding reports and the difficulty of reporting flooding and then getting action. We understand there is to be a "one stop shop" for flooding issues, chaired by Lord Dannatt. There has been so much surface water around, with parts of the borough virtually impassable, for example around Fring and Shernborne, to name but two locations. This represents almost unprecedented levels of water incursion and, while we have seen heavy rainfall, it would not seem to be such as to cause such levels.

Planning Committee has continued to work through, as has Audit. Planning applications have remained steady and once again we would ask that those seeking to extend their existing properties should consult neighbours to arrive at a mutually acceptable plan.

After 12th April, self contained holiday accommodation should be able to open, but as this is post the Easter break, this move is unlikely to see large increases in holiday traffic. As visitor numbers do increase, let us hope we can see a real drive to control litter and a strong message of "take your litter home" be promoted.

In this regard, I would ask all those using the fields behind Fern Hill to pick up after their dogs; I (Judy Collingham) note there is an increase in dog mess around these fields. With families increasingly out to enjoy the countryside and perhaps picnicking in the area, it is most unpleasant to be faced with this problem.

As ever, we both wish you a happy, healthy spring. □

Dersingham Guides & Scouts in Lockdown

Lynne Wheeler

Guiding and Scouting has continued virtually in Dersingham during lockdown and we are now looking forward to returning to face-to-face meetings very soon.



The Rainbows and Brownies have been receiving weekly emails full of different activities to enjoy. The Rainbows have been planting seeds and watching them grow, having a name scavenger hunt (can they find different items for each letter of their name, e.g. a giraffe toy for G), celebrating Chinese New Year and making crafts. The Brownies have been creating flowers using recycling, finding out about endangered animals, designing a code and sending secret messages, and badges.

The Guides and Scouts have been having weekly Zoom meetings. The Scouts have taken part in Escape Rooms and scavenger hunts, tied knots and lashings, and continued with badgework; while the Guides have also completed badges, created confused sandwiches (sandwich making Beetle game), made butter, played virtual games, learnt some sign language and celebrated Thinking Day.

Thinking Day is celebrated by Guides across the world on 22nd February and is when Guides celebrate that they are part of a worldwide family. In the past, when Thinking Day has fallen on a school day, the girls have been able to wear their uniform to school. This year the girls were challenged to wear their uniform while completing their home schooling. In the evening, the girls were able to meet with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from across north west Norfolk for a renewal of Promises via Zoom. The renewal of Promises has always been a feature of our local Thinking Day celebrations and is a way of joining together, as everyone in Guiding makes the Promise when they join. □



Thinking day





Our Canarian Winter Retreat (or how we managed to miss most of Lockdown 3 and the snow!)

by Steve & Lindsey Davis

As we might have mentioned before, the Canary Island of Fuerteventura has become something of a favourite winter haunt for us, and, in particular, the relatively quiet little town of El Cotillo on the northwest coast. From previous visits, having made some good friends amongst the expat run church there (fuertechurch.org), we thought how great it would be just to up sticks and spend an entire winter there. Like Marmite, some hate it and can't see the attraction, whilst others, like us, simply love it for what it is, at least in the wintertime! Come spring, summer and most of the rest of the year, Dersingham and around about is the place for us, but when we had the offer of an apartment in El Cotillo at a modest rent during December 2020 and January 2021 we couldn't resist. We decided to just go for it and soon after had taken up good easyJet offers on flights too, little realising quite what a devastating impact the intervening pandemic would have on people's holiday plans. In faith that things would get better, we even later extended our booking till mid-February 2021 when it was offered.

Well, of course things got tougher throughout the year, and although folk started to assume we would cancel, we stubbornly clung on to our dream. Even when lockdown 2 was announced and that it wouldn't end until 2nd December, we still simply moved back our flight there back until the 4th and hoped. Christmas and Advent are normally busy times for us both with our church activities, music/playing engagements and family gatherings. However, since none of these would amount to much at this time and all our dersingers.uk recordings for use in online services during Christmas and Advent had already been under way since the beginning of October, we held our ground.



So it was that lockdown 2 came to an end the day after we took our fit-to-fly Covid tests, and after an agonising wait, our negative results came through on the morning of 3rd December, the day we caught the train to Gatwick for our overnight hotel stop-over before our flight the next day. Quite a sanitising experience in every respect!

Once in Fuerteventura, life became a lot freer, although, as in all Spanish provinces, mask wearing was mandatory outside in the streets and in all public places. Gatherings were restricted according to a similar system of tiered levels as they were in the UK, with stricter and higher penalties for infringement by the ever watchful *Guardia Civil* police patrols than is perhaps the case here. Fuerteventura, although a big island well over 100km from tip to toe, had far fewer cases of Covid per unit of the population than the UK and was initially on tier 1 when we arrived, then up to tier 2 after Christmas, before returning to tier 1 after *Mardi Gras*. We were in a relatively quiet, low populated area, so felt as safe as we could be. Most of the day we spent walking and enjoying the wonderful deserted beaches and barren landscapes where we could remove our masks to enjoy



the scenery; or we watched the enormous crashing azure Atlantic waves, a bit of a magnet to the surfing community in all its forms; or we swam in the tranquil, fish filled, tidal lagoons formed by natural rock breakwaters (Christmas Day being no exception!) There was good companionship amongst the few fellow Brits staying in their own properties there or, like us, long-term lets.

Curiously, we had a Spar shop just around the block from our apartment and a larger *SuperDino* supermarket, about as far away to walk as the Co-op is from us here, so it really was a home from home. Not having a car, we simply walked and shopped most days, as were self catering. We enjoyed working our way around the interesting fish varieties on *SuperDino*'s fresh fish counter, which they'd happily fillet for us – although our favourite was really just a slice of fresh tuna, often priced as low as nine euros per kilo! Mostly the temperature remained in the low twenties during the day, although residents suggested it was the coolest January they'd known for years! Mind you, we did get the occasional downpour and high winds too, the latter being par for the course there but, suffice it to say, it was shorts, sandals and shirtsleeves most of the time. Although the prevailing wind was a north-westerly, occasionally it would swing around to a south-easterly, blowing high up sand and dust from the Sahara, causing a thick, brownish-tinged, misty haze that could blot out our view of mountains or sea, not to mention covering any surfaces, cars and windows with dust!



Much of the time we kept ourselves to ourselves, although with our friends we were able to visit a few places we wouldn't otherwise have been able to reach by bus or on foot. We also attended the local expat run church services and had the odd musical evening. According to our fitness devices we walked over 650 miles during our stay: along relatively deserted beaches, clifftop footpaths and various terrains, including El Cotillo, over the mountain passes to the main resort of Corralejo, and exploring the amazing *Barrancos*, which are channels, sometimes deep ravines, cut through the landscape by once flowing rivers, long since dried up, although still flooding occasionally during heavy rain. Such rain also brought alive flowers in otherwise barren wildernesses. Spotting the local fauna was a great attraction to us too. The loveable Barbary ground squirrels, the Atlantic lizards and even the occasional mouse would come up to share a morsel of our packed lunches. Many of the wading birds so familiar to us from our Snettisham reserve were there, as well as the more indigenous trumpeter finches, Spanish sparrows, Berthelot's pipits, plus Canarian versions of stonechat, warblers, larks, hoopoes, grey shrike and, amazingly, stone curlews. We also saw swallows and martins very early on in the year, obviously stopping off on their way to the UK from Africa. But champion sightings of all for us on this visit must be the huge Egyptian vultures soaring above and the Canarian houbara bustard, an emblematic, elusive and quite endangered bird.

Although due to fly back on 15th February, due to UK lockdown 3 we were to experience five flight cancellations before eventually making it onto one of the limited easyJet UK repatriation flights to Luton Airport on 6th March, arriving at 23:55. Once our stack of UK entry paperwork had been checked and approved, it was good to be whisked back home by Steve's Taxis of Dersingham, arriving just before 3am on Sunday 7th March, which became day one of our ten days of home quarantine. An expensive business with all the extra Covid tests we had to book, but well worth it for the lasting memory of an opportunity taken when we had the chance, which folk are forever reminding us we should do.

By the time you read this, we trust we will be well clear of our quarantine obligations and hopefully free to enjoy more of the things we so love about living in these parts, not to mention receiving our long overdue Covid vaccines. If you'd like to view all our photos from the trip, please visit tinyurl.com/fv2021.



Beach clean guardians needed

Catherine Leigh, Norfolk Coast Partnership



Through our small grant fund, we'd like to fund a Norfolk Coast Partnership sponsored beach clean station, or three, and need volunteer guardians at each site to manage the day-to-day running of these. Guardian responsibilities include putting the information board out each morning and bringing it in at night, with regard to weather and tides, and so nearby storage and suitable waste disposal facilities will be essential. We think this would suit a beach-side café, shop, or other coastal business perhaps? Full training will be provided.

Of course, we would be looking to place new boards once the current Covid-19 restrictions are ended.



Beach clean litter picking stations are provided by the 2 Minute Foundation, a registered charity devoted to cleaning up our planet 2 minutes at a time, which believes that simple, achievable acts can add up to make a great difference. Communities and visitors are encouraged to spend 2 (or more) minutes picking up marine litter working from their #2minutebeachclean station boards. Further details are on their website <https://beachclean.net/> and see the Norfolk coast locations (you'll see that there is quite a gap between Hunstanton and Cley!), along with other excellent local beach clean initiatives, at <http://www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/partnership/beach-clean-events/691>

New boards would be part of an innovative project where low grade waste, the kind picked up on beach cleans which cannot be easily recycled, is put to good use. Alongside several other organisations, including Reworked and The Ocean Recovery Project, the 2 Minute Foundation is turning this low-grade plastic into the litter picking stations, making a completely closed-loop operation.

For an informal chat about becoming a guardian, email aonb@norfolk.gov.uk or phone us on 01328 850545.□

Snettisham Gardening Club

sends

Best wishes to all our members for 2021

We sadly remain unable to hold our meetings at present. We are, however, pleased to advise that all who hold 2020 Membership Cards are able to use them in 2021 at Wards Nurseries and Moulam & Horne, who have very kindly agreed to accept 2020 membership cards.

Any further information can be obtained from Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.□



The World Day of Prayer service this year, prepared by the women of Vanuatu with the theme 'Build on a Strong Foundation', was very different as sadly we couldn't all get together as we normally do. As a global event, people worshipped on the day in unusual ways, mostly online services or private prayers at home. You can still give online donations via the WDP website – www.wwdp.org.uk – minimum £10.

For Parish news, including Mass times and prayer requests, please see the Parish News page on our website, where you will also find Easter Mass times.

For information about live streamed Masses in the Diocese and related matters, please check the coronavirus section on our Links page. People are advised not to go to Mass if they have any symptoms, however mild. Please remember to wear a mask when coming to church, keep your distance and use the hand sanitiser provided.

The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and 11am at Sandringham Road, Hunstanton, but there is a limit on the number of people allowed in. Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and 10.15am at Dersingham on Wednesdays. There are quite a few changes to the way Mass will be celebrated and people should be guided by the stewards.

EASTER SERVICES

**Our Lady & St Edmund RC,
Sandringham Road, Hunstanton**

1st April - Maundy Thursday Mass from 6.30pm

2nd April - Good Friday Liturgy from 3pm

3rd April - Easter Saturday Vigil from 7pm

4th April - Easter Sunday Mass from 11am

**St Cecilia's Mountbatten Road,
Dersingham**

1st April - Maundy Thursday Mass from 7pm

2nd April - Good Friday Liturgy from 3pm

4th April - Easter Sunday Mass from 10am

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org

Email: parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org

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



Helping to Keep Your Independence

HOUSE WORK All domestic duties within the home

GROCERY SHOPPING Collection of pension, prescriptions

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COMPANIONSHIP All helpers are very carefully employed and references are always asked for and confirmed. Our helpers are all mature and dependable by nature

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Mrs K Hudson **01485 570179**

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Making Gardening Easier

Marianne Charles, Gardening Advisor

In a recent article Tony Kendall outlined the history of the charity Gardening with Disabilities Norfolk. I went to the first meeting in King's Lynn, was on the Committee for over twenty years, and I am still a member and the gardening advisor. My interest in "Making Gardening Easier", our charity's motto, came about because I developed osteoarthritis while a mature student at Easton Horticultural College and hoping for a new career. Then my father, a keen gardener, suffered a stroke and could only garden with one hand, and this led me to taking courses through the horticultural therapy charity Thrive and also the Royal Horticultural Society.

My husband and I have gradually moved towards making our quarter acre garden in Holme-Next-The-Sea more low maintenance. We enjoy gardening, but, like me, he also



now has a "dodgy" back. My main interest is plants and so we do have large borders with year round interest. Most have drought tolerant plants, flowering evergreen shrubs which require little pruning, sturdy perennials which do not need staking, and bulbs, mainly dwarf, which do not have untidy leaves. There are some self-seeding annuals, and because we avoid digging, plenty of ground cover plants to cover any bare soil and exclude weeds. There are stepping stones for easy access to plants, and I sit on one for the small amount of maintenance required. (When you love gardening, you find a way!) Just one border contains any plants which do need watering such as dahlias, Rob's favourite. Watering the whole garden promotes more weeds. Our vegetables are grown in a raised bed near a water source, and we do have large pots of summer bedding, mostly drought tolerant pelargoniums. I sit and garden in my little greenhouse where I raise plants from cuttings, and even my cold frame, where I harden them off, is raised up.

Every July we enjoy being part of Holme-Next-The-Sea Open Gardens, but we were not able to open last year of course. We really hope that the event can take place this year.

Message from May Davey, Chairman: We hope that we will be able to have a meeting at Dersingham Village Centre at 2.00 pm on Friday 21 May 2021, presuming the lockdown deadline is met. Our members will be notified by post. We look forward to seeing you all again. Contact May at 01485 544953 for more details. □





Dersingham Walking Group Tony Bubb

Sadly, as I write, there can still be no organised walks for the moment. As you see below, we have walks planned, but I have removed the dates and replaced them with numbers. We walk, when allowed, on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, so as soon as we are allowed out again, the three planned walks below can start up from the first scheduled Wednesday; but to be sure, ring the leader for confirmation. The walks will certainly not be restarted before 17th May; after that, we look forward cautiously to getting out and about again. However, nothing can be definite in the current situation.

Our eventual walks will be:-

1 Wednesday 2.00pm

Woods, Warren, Fen and Common. A circuit around the varied terrain of Dersingham and Sandringham. Start at the old Dersingham railway station at the bottom of Station Rd. Map Reference TF680308. Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

2 Wednesday 2.00pm

Wolferton and the Bog. A village and country walk. Start at Wolferton Station. TF650285. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

3 Wednesday 2.00pm

A circular walk around the Houghton area of about 4.5 miles with woods, fields, the Peddars Way and if we are really lucky some pigs. Start at the Peddars Way road crossing. TF757285. 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. The leader of the walk will do his or her best to look after you, of course, but it is a condition of coming on a walk that you take responsibility for your own safety. As that great hiker Alfred Wainwright said, "Watch where you put your feet!"

PLEASE NOTE THAT the leaders are happy to organize and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety. If you want more information about any particular walk then please contact the leader.

Group coordinator: **Tony Bubb** Tel: 01485 542638 Email: frostytrees@btinternet.com □



Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School has been open throughout the current lockdown for key workers' and vulnerable children. All classroom staff have been working within their bubbles daily, with up to half the class. Zoom lessons have taken place with teachers and teaching assistants supporting learning, either from school or home. We are incredibly proud of all the children, whether engaging in home learning with their parents, who have done an amazing job, or continuing their education within the classroom setting. They have taken on their daily tasks with enthusiasm and have adapted brilliantly to the ever-shifting patterns of learning through lockdown!

Nursery and preschool have enjoyed Zoom lessons, ranging from counting with Digit the Dragon to bingo and Kahoot! quizzes. The children have participated in scavenger hunts and even did phonics in the snow! The most exciting Zooms have been the bedtime stories, which even ran during the half term holiday, with children snuggling up in their PJs and sipping hot chocolate.

Year One's topic this half term is centred on a quality text called *Our Blue Planet*. Oceans and continents of the world will be explored and the children have already been busy putting their skills to the test making safari vehicles to take them on their adventures. They are very excited to see where they will travel to next!



Year one—Safari vehicles



Year one—World book day



Year two—cooking Welsh cakes



Year two—World book day

Year Two have travelled to Kenya and back, comparing the weather in Africa and England. They made rain gauges, anemometers and explored wind direction using a compass. They are now getting to know a Lonely Beast, as he searches the world for some new friends. The weekly highlight for children is the celebration Zoom, where work is posted onto a presentation and they talk about their week's learning. It's a chance to reconnect with one another and celebrate success. The snow Zoom was definitely the most popular of the half term!

Year Three have been learning so much about the stone, bronze and iron ages, both in school and at home. They have found out how tools, weapons, shelter, food and clothes changed during these times, and how society evolved. Children have done cave art on paper, rocks and old sheets, made presentations about what they have learned, and tried making stone age fruit stews. Both school and home learners had a go at making weapons and tools out in the woods, and when the snow came, they even had snow henges to mimic Stonehenge and a snowy woolly mammoth! Now it's the turn of the rotten Romans to inspire the children's learning!



Year three– Stoneage tools

Year Fours are taking a trek into the depths of the rainforest this half term. They will discover where the rainforests are located, what they are like, who lives in there, (including animals, plants and indigenous peoples) and much more. Remote learners have been given the quality text *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell. The book follows four children fighting for survival in the Amazon and its inspiring, poetic writing is helping to develop a love of language.

This term Year Fives are learning all about rivers and the water cycle. They are reading a brilliant book called *The City of Secret Rivers*, which is filled with magic and adventure. The Year Five and Year Six children have also had an exciting move down to the site at Saxon Way, where the classrooms are all set up for everyone to return to 'in school learning.' The children are looking forward to getting outdoors more as the weather gets warmer. They have plans to work on the outside area, starting by giving the raised beds a makeover, anticipating a crop of fruit and veg.



Rainforest display



Year Five—Clearing the well



Year Five—Cooking

Year Six should be commended for their engagement in online learning via Zoom during lockdown. They have risen to the many challenges whilst studying a book called *The Island at the End of Everything*. Based on real events, this book looks at the human stories involved in the creation of a leprosarium in the Philippines.

The whole school community joined in World Book Day by dressing up, sharing special books and activities as our favourite characters, writing book reviews and blogs, and reading book blurb to one another on Zoom. Year One even acted out a story for their home schooling friends. Staff members disguised themselves and read books for a guessing game, and children photographed themselves reading in unusual places. With Red Nose Day on the horizon, everyone is looking forward to a jolly good laugh with their friends, socially distanced, of course!



World book day

At the time of writing, 8th March is a landmark date, where we look forward to welcoming all children back to school. It is hoped that there will be no more separation, unless it's for a longed-for holiday, when we can all escape!□



Sandringham Parish News

Ben Colson

Parish Council

The Parish Council met virtually on 10th March with both Borough Councillors and the County Councillor in attendance. The main matters discussed were:

A149 speed restriction and junction safety improvements

The County Council is working actively on this and has now got agreement from parishes along the A149 for a common speed limit of 50mph which will apply through the Parish. The next step will be for the County to do the 'legal bits and pieces' before it comes into force. As far as the junction improvements are concerned, it is hoped that once Covid restrictions permit, there will be a site visit to discuss the details which will include the Parish Council.

Parking in Wolferton

The problems that have been caused by this have died down a bit, except at weekends, but once Covid restrictions ease and with a year of staycations in prospect, the issue still has to be resolved. Residents have put up no parking signs of their own, but they all look different and in fact none of them can be enforced. Stories abound of visitors parking in people's drives last summer – or trying to – and it is even being said that visitors tried to set up their picnic tables in residents' front gardens.

Natural England is working on a solution and we are waiting to see it, but there is a danger that the early part of the summer months will be blighted by more of this. In the meantime, Natural England has started charging for parking at the two car parks on a voluntary basis and there is some early, very slight evidence, that this may simply lead to people parking on the road and recreating some of the problems experienced last summer.

Localised flooding

There have been numerous reports of roads, gardens and even properties flooded throughout the county, and West Norfolk is no exception. The cause is the unprecedented amount of rain falling on already saturated land. However, the situation is made more complicated by so many different agencies having responsibility for the issue, so that a co-ordinated holistic view is not being taken. As a result, a Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance has been set up with a mandate to make sure the issues are addressed, and hopefully in a way that reduces the likelihood in the future.

Whilst there are no particularly badly affected sites within the Parish, they exist locally in Dersingham and Shernborne. As a Parish Council, we know of a number of less severe road edge flooding issues which have been reported to the County Council and which they will investigate and deal with as time and budget permit.

We're looking for a new Councillor and a new Clerk

The Parish Council is authorised to have seven Councillors, but at the present time we only have six. In addition, it would normally be served by a Clerk to the Council, who looks after the administrative matters of the Parish, but our Clerk has asked to stand down. We are therefore looking for interested people to take on either role. If you think it would suit you, please check our website for the contact details and contact a Councillor to put yourself forward. We can then meet to discuss, once Covid restrictions are eased.

Next meeting of the Parish Council

This will be on the changed date of Wednesday 28th April 2021 at 6.30pm, held virtually. If you want to attend please advise the Chairman by email by Monday 26th at the latest so that you can be provided with the necessary digital link to come into the meeting. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th May 2021 at 6.30pm. Under current legal requirements, this has to be held in person, which means that the date and location, to take into account the need for social distancing, may yet be changed. Details will be posted on the Parish Council website.

Refurbishing St Peter's Church in Wolferton

The work to refurbish the roof has now been completed, and the Parochial Church Council wishes to thank all those who contributed to the fund to achieve this essential work to protect the fabric of the ancient building, which dates back over seven hundred years. Work is progressing on the porch, and after that the next step will be to identify other work needed to refurbish the building, which will have to be ranked by the urgency of it being done and the associated cost. The whole project could therefore take some years to finalise.

Church services

No churches in the Parish have held any services this year, due to the lockdown. That is starting to change now as conditions gradually ease, and by the time this is published it is anticipated that it may be possible to hold limited Easter services, especially in the larger churches in the Sandringham Group.

Social Clubs and other local activity centres

These are all closed until further notice.

Visitor facilities at Sandringham Estate

The eagerly awaited new children's play area at the Visitor Centre is expected to open on 12th April, as will the country park and gardens, and the facilities at the Visitor Centre. Sandringham House will not open until Saturday 29th May. This is all subject to restrictions being eased in accordance with the Government's roadmap, so please check for updates and precise details on the Sandringham Estate website.

Food waste action week – 1st March

I missed the fact that the week starting 1st March was designated Food Waste Action Week. You may have done so too. It is worth reading up on what Norfolk County Council is doing – and there are prizes to be won too! Go to foodsavvy.org.uk for more information. WRAP stands for the Waste and Resources Action Programme.□





Dersingham Tennis Club (DTC) Rosie Russell

Now that the days are getting warmer and longer, and we can expect some more sunshine, we invite you to think about playing tennis again. There are two smart, floodlit tennis courts on the sports field in Dersingham, which is behind The Feathers and Coach & Horses pubs.

During the last year, all government guidelines have been adhered to, so there has been little possibility to play, but the restrictions will be lifted from Monday 29th March, which fortunately fits in wonderfully with the new season commencing on 1st April.

The courts are easily accessible when you become a member and there are various ways in which you can enjoy playing tennis:

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You could join the coaching sessions, helping to improve your game or just brush up on your skills.

Please visit the website at clubspark.lta.org.uk/dersinghamtc for more details and how to contact us.

Please note that at the time of this going to print in the Village Voice, the Dersingham Tennis Club AGM has yet to be held, so some details on the website will be inaccurate.□

Erratum

[Editor: Apologies to the Ordnance Survey for the proofreading error in the last Village Voice, which assigned them an “i” in the middle of their name!!! This was pointed out to us by Di Hall, whose late father worked with ‘trig’ pillars, from ‘trigonometry’, which is the mathematical method used to make accurate measurements of landscapes. He was a surveyor for many years, working for the Ordnance Survey, which is recognised for its attention to detail and accuracy. His job was to make the initial plans of new roads, housing estates, etc. from which the maps were traced, copied and ultimately printed; so he always corrected people who referred to this institution as the Ordjnance Survey. (As I understand it, an ordinance survey would be a review of an old custom – eg a church rite or a long-standing instruction/law.)]

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The entry categories are: (i) rural living (for projects that improve the sustainability of rural living such as reducing energy, carbon, water use etc. in rural communities); (ii) countryside champions (for projects that enhance wildlife, landscapes or improve countryside access); (iii) digging deep (for businesses, local authorities and parish councils that are putting something back to benefit the environment or landscape); (iv) good lighting design (to recognise schemes which keep light pollution impact to a minimum in the rural countryside) - this category is not competitive.

Size of projects doesn't matter, especially where initiatives can be replicated throughout the county.

Entries can be made between February 1st and May 28th 2021 and there will be an awards evening in September (hopefully a live event, but if this is not possible, we will hold a virtual event).

Find out more here: www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/awards-2021

Download a leaflet about the awards <http://bit.ly/AwardsInfo1>

Download an entry form <http://bit.ly/AwardsApp2>

Please contact info@cprenorfolk.org.uk if you have any queries.

The CPRE Norfolk 2021 Awards are generously sponsored by [Brunswick Investment Management](#).

Find out more about CPRE Norfolk and the Awards on our new website : www.cprenorfolk.org.uk □

Maps of Dersingham

There are still a few road maps of Dersingham available, and a separate sheet pinpointing the various footpaths that criss cross the village. These will be available in the racks in Dersingham Village Centre when that reopens, which will hopefully be from 12th April. You may discover short cuts you have never been aware of, or find alternative routes for the daily stroll round the village.

The Parish Council is discussing creating a new single map to include all these features. □



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Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny

Sea Eagles

Sometime in 2008 my wife and I and two of our friends went to Brancaster village hall to watch a film show and a talk about bringing the white-tailed sea eagle back to West Norfolk. The sea eagle is one of the largest birds in the British Isles. At the time there were sea eagles in Scotland and since then some have been introduced to the Isle of Wight. A lot of people were for this idea but many more against it. They did not tell us at the time where in West Norfolk this sea eagle would be, but afterwards we found out it would be on an area of land half way between King's Lynn and Hunstanton. It did not take long for us to work out that the area of land they had in mind was Wolferton and Dersingham Fen. We were told that a survey was taken of 500 people in Hunstanton as to whether or not the sea eagle was wanted in West Norfolk. I put a bit in *Town and Around* asking if any of these people would come forward but no one did. Nothing more was heard about this white-tailed sea eagle again until now.

We have now heard that the white-tailed sea eagle has raised its head once more and the Ken Hill estate at Snettisham would like to bring some of these eagles to its woods. When King George V was King (1910-1936) he brought a



sea eagle to the woods at Sandringham and it was protected by his gamekeepers. He also brought some grouse from Scotland that were put on Dersingham Fen. After three or four years nothing more was seen of any of them. It is my opinion that before these sea eagles are brought to Ken Hill, the people of West Norfolk should be asked if they want them in this area or not. These eagles will not stay in the vicinity; they will fly all over East Anglia. At the present time there is already one of these eagles flying around Norfolk that has come up from the Isle of Wight. It is also reported that these white-tailed sea eagles prey on 170 species of other birds.

Sandringham Time

This is a little bit about Sandringham Time, which is the name given to the alterations that King Edward VII made to the timekeeping on the royal estate and was used between 1901 and 1936. Contrary to rumour, it was not begun to assist Queen Alexandra, who was constantly late, but it was brought in to create more evening daylight for hunting and shooting in the winter months.

The King ordered that all of the clocks on the estate be set half an hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. In later years the practice was also observed at Windsor and Balmoral castles. The custom of Sandringham Time continued after the death of Edward and right through the reign of his son, King George V. However, because of the confusions that the time difference caused, which were heightened during King George's final hours, King Edward VIII abolished the tradition during his brief reign. Neither King George VI nor Queen Elizabeth II chose to restore the tradition.

Sculthorpe base

If you are over the age of seventy then you may well remember the USAAF (the US Army Air Force) coming to Norfolk and taking over the RAF base at Sculthorpe. They were there from 1949 to 1962, and a lot of them brought their families with them. There was not that much accommodation at Sculthorpe, so a lot of them lived off the base in the surrounding villages like Dersingham, Heacham and Snettisham; however, over 1,000 Americans and their families lived

in Hunstanton. In 1951 the population of Hunstanton was 5,180, of which over 1,000 were Americans; Hunstanton was nicknamed Little Brooklyn. There were two ballrooms in Hunstanton: the Kit Kat and the Casino. The Americans were not allowed in the Kit Kat as a lot of RAF servicemen went there and it was thought this might bring trouble, the reason being that the lowest rank in the RAF only got 12 shillings [60p] a week and the American servicemen of the same rank got £30 a month, which made a lot of difference. It was worked out that during the time the Americans were in Hunstanton they were spending £30,000 a month in the town.

When the Americans started coming over to England in early 1942, a small 20-page booklet was published by the American government entitled *Over There, Instructions for American servicemen in Britain, 1942*. A copy of the booklet was given to every American serviceman over here and they were told to read every page. The following is a write-up of one page of the book:

Some Important Do's and Don'ts

- * Be friendly but do not intrude anywhere it seems you are not wanted.
- * You will find the British money system easier than you think; a little study on board beforehand will make it easier.
- * You are paid more than the British Tommy. Don't rub it in. Play fair with him and he can be a pal in need.
- * Do not show off or brag or bluster or swank, as the British say that if someone looks your way and says, 'He's chucking his weight about,'" you can be pretty sure you're off base. That's the time to pull in your ears.
- * If you are invited to eat with a family, don't eat too much as you might eat up their weekly rations.
- * Don't make fun of British speech or accent. You sound just as funny to them but they will be too polite to show it.
- * Avoid comments on the British government or politics.
- * Don't try to tell the British that America won the last war or make wisecracks about the war department's or British defeats in this war.
- * Never criticize the King or Queen.
- * Don't criticize the food, beer or cigarettes to the British. Remember they have been at war since 1939.
- * Use common sense on all occasions. By your conduct you have great power to bring about a better understanding between the two countries after the war is over.
- * You will soon find yourself among a kindly, quiet, hard working people who have been living under a strain such as few people in the world would have ever known. In your dealings with them let this be your slogan.
- * **It is always impolite to criticize your hosts, it is militarily stupid to criticize your allies."**

Many local people worked at Sculthorpe and lost their jobs when the Americans left in 1963/64. Lots of English girls married Americans and went to America to live. A good friend of mine had five sisters and four of them got married to Americans.

Doddshill

In the February issue of *Village Voice* Tony Bubb asked a few questions about Doddshill. Up until at least 1826 this area of the village was called High Crops. Then a Mr Dodds had some land up there and in time it became known as Doddshill. Sometime between 1850 and 1900 Sandringham estate built twenty-three houses up there; they also established a farm by the crossroads. This farm was called The Premises, not Manor Farm (which is in Church Lane). Doddshill has always been a hamlet. In the Eastern Daily Press book called *Norfolk's 700 Villages* it has always been classed as a hamlet, separate from Dersingham. In the 1950s there were still only twenty-three houses up there. Then, sometime after 1962, three police houses and some council houses and bungalows were built on land that lavender was previously grown

on. After 1969 some more council houses and bungalows were built on the land opposite on the left hand side of the road, so now the number of properties up Doddshill is around fifty to sixty.

When my father went to work at St George's as the caretaker, he was told by the council that they would build him a house just inside the school gates. He said, 'If you do, I shall not live in it as I have a house down the village.' He then cycled up and down Doddshill four times a day, five days a week, for twenty-five years and the caretaker's house was never built.

Royal Warrants

I read in the press about all of the Royal Warrants that have been granted to people and businesses in Norfolk over the years. In Dersingham we had three Royal Warrant holders in the same road, Manor Road: Parkers grocery shop, also trading at Le-Strange Terrace in Hunstanton; Playford the bakers; and Ken Milton, butcher. Around the other side of the village in Chapel Road there was Norman Tower's butcher's shop. In 1925 Theodore Jannoch, an horticulturist living at the Old Hall in Dersingham, was granted a Royal Warrant by King George V for supplying orchids to Sandringham House. There could have been other Royal Warrant holders in the village, but these are the only ones I know of.

Open Common panorama.

In the February/March issue of *Village Voice* there was a very good picture of the seat at the top of Open Common. When I was a lad you had a clear view from this seat of Sand Pit Cottages. There were no trees on the fen in those days and on a clear day you could also see Boston Stump on the other side of The Wash in Lincolnshire. Just behind this seat was a seesaw for the toddlers. There were three other seats on the common: one at the top of The Dell, one in The Dell and one at the bottom of the hill facing towards the Eight Mile Stone. In those days the gorse bushes would be trimmed back and the paths kept in good order by local people who lived near the common.

Well, that's your lot for now. We are still living in some funny old times so please all of you take care. All the best from the boy Dick.□

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Top tips when buying first time or moving home

Allen Tomas & Co, Financial Management

Whether you are looking to purchase your first home or move to another property, Rachael Smith, our Senior Mortgage Adviser here at Allen Tomas & Co Financial Management, would recommend speaking to a professional as early in the process as possible. Taking advice at an early stage could save you a lot of headache, and money, down the line.

The first part of the process is to look at your financial situation and complete 'affordability checks' to work out the maximum loan amount available to you. This is essential when assessing your property budget. There are many variables to consider here, such as: dependents, credit commitments, the income you receive, and how different lenders may assess the varying elements of income.

If you are moving home, a great starting point is to complete a 'cost of moving analysis'. This considers the equity in your current property, calculates an estimate of costs involved and establishes how much you could have available as a deposit towards your next home. Costs to be considered include: estate agency fees for selling your current property, solicitor costs for both buying and selling, and any stamp duty due on your next home.

Getting your house on the market as quickly as possible is also key, as estate agents are highly unlikely to accept your offer on a property until you are 'positioned to buy'. This may mean having the funds in place ready to go, or having an offer already accepted on your own property and it being marked as 'sold subject to contract'. It is a common misconception that looking for your next property before listing your own is the natural order to follow, and this is often the reason a dream home slips away.

Once these steps have been taken, then comes the time to begin the property search in earnest. A good mortgage advisor should have a sound knowledge of the estate agency sector and be able to assist with assessing and implementing your mortgage needs, as well as providing invaluable tips on how to negotiate and get the right property for you.

Once you have found your new home, completing your mortgage application quickly follows. Having an experienced advisor makes this process much easier, and an independent advisor, like Rachael, is not restricted in any way to specific lenders and will have access to the whole market, getting the best deal for you. They will know what each lender is looking for, assuring your application can pass through the underwriting stage a lot smoother.

If you are looking to move home or purchase your first property, Rachael, Senior Mortgage Adviser at Allen Tomas & Co can help you. We offer an initial meeting with no charge and no obligation to proceed. Call on 07957 357212 or email rachael@allentomasfinancial.co.uk. □





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Ringed Plovers at Snettisham and Titchwell – Plovers in Peril

Hayley Roan, Senior Sites Manager, RSPB North West Norfolk reserves

The much-loved North Norfolk coast has some of the largest areas of undeveloped coastal habitat in Europe, making it incredibly rich in wildlife throughout the year and protected at national and international level.

In the spring and summer many of our local beaches, including RSPB Snettisham beach, the beach between Snettisham and Heacham and the beach at RSPB Titchwell Marsh, are home to birds that nest on the ground.



Ringed plover scraping nest
Photo: RSPB images



Ringed plover chick
Photo: Les Bunyan

Ringed plovers are one of these species and are sadly suffering from significant population declines. The Norfolk ringed plover breeding population has declined by 70% in just 30 years with just 123 pairs recorded in 2018.

Ringed plovers do not make a traditional bird's nest of twigs and vegetation in trees, scrub or grassland. Instead, they make a shallow scrape in the sand or shingle on the beach to lay their eggs. Their eggs and chicks have evolved to camouflage with their environment, making it difficult for us to see them. This can make eggs and chicks vulnerable to being trampled. The birds are also easily disturbed and, with more people using the beaches, it's important we all know what to look out for to help give these birds the best possible chance of breeding success.



Photo: RSPB

On the beaches at RSPB Snettisham and Titchwell and, thanks to funding from King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council and with kind permission from the Ken Hill Estate, at Snettisham beach to Heacham South Beach, you will see post and rope cordons from March to August while the birds are breeding and raising their young. These cordons protect nests and provide protected space for birds to settle and lay. You will also see signs letting you know where to walk, fly a kite or let your dog off the lead, for example, without causing disturbance. Additionally, (and subject to Covid-19 guidance) our

staff and volunteers will be out on the beaches talking to visitors about these special birds and keeping an eye on their nests. Do come and say hello!

What can you do to help?

With your help we can ensure these beach nesting birds rear their next generation. These birds need space to breed undisturbed, so a few simple changes to our behaviour could make all the difference:

1. Pay attention to the signage located along the coast signalling beach nesting birds are present.
2. Keep away from the cordons on the beach; they are there to protect beach nesting birds from being trampled.
3. Walk along the water's edge or, even better, on the coastal path, where it exists.
4. Beach nesting birds use camouflage to keep eggs and chicks safe – watch where you place your feet!
5. Be aware of the birds' activity – do they appear agitated? If yes, carefully move away, retracing your footsteps to avoid trampling a nest.
6. Please keep dogs on leads and under close control. Dogs are very frightening to ringed plovers and a bird will leave its nest if it sees a dog approaching.
7. Please don't leave or bury rubbish or food scraps on beaches, as this may attract predators, or birds can become tangled up in rubbish.

If you think you can help further, we are looking for friendly people to join our volunteer Roving Rangers team (subject to Covid-19 guidance), particularly between Snettisham and Heacham. If you love talking to people about wildlife and would like to help us keep ringed plover nests safe in North West Norfolk, drop us a line at: snettisham@rspb.org.uk. □

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Furnished Holiday Lettings – a potential COVID pitfall? Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

Many owners of furnished holiday lettings (FHLs) will have suffered quite badly as a result of the pandemic lockdowns. Some will have benefitted from various government grants, and some may have enjoyed full bookings from “staycationers” (e.g. in the 148

days in 2020/21 tax year that those in this area of Norfolk were legally allowed to be “open for business”); but few will have been unaffected. In addition to all the other problems, 2020/21 may also see a tax problem on the horizon for those running FHLs.

Qualifying FHLs have a privileged tax position, and despite legally being a “property” business, they are treated as a “trading” business if certain conditions are met. This not only means that the income is pensionable, but also that capital allowances can be claimed, and there is no higher rate restriction on a claim for any mortgage interest suffered. Moreover, capital gains on the disposal of an FHL asset can usually be reduced or deferred by rollover relief, holdover relief or Business Asset Disposal Relief.

In order to qualify as an FHL, a property needs to meet various conditions relating to location, occupancy and availability. In essence, a property (in the UK or European Economic Area) must be available for let for 210 days, and actually let for 105 days (during which no individual letting can exceed 31 days). Provided these tests are satisfied, the letting income will be treated advantageously for tax purposes as set out above. Clearly, these tests might be challenging during a pandemic, but fortunately there are reliefs which apply to the 31 day test and 105 day test (“exceptional circumstances” and “period of grace”) which should enable most commercial operations to escape breaching the conditions, although it should be noted that the “period of grace” has its own conditions and needs to be supported by a formal election.

The 210 day test is, however, more difficult. There has been little guidance from HMRC to date, and their “FHL and COVID” blog simply says “***There is no COVID relaxation in relation to the availability condition for furnished holiday lets. So, if the property is not available for the 210 days, then the FHL status is immediately lost.***”

Whether or not a property can still be “available” when businesses are legally barred from opening and customers are legally barred from staying, is an interesting question.

If it transpires, therefore, that no relaxation of the availability test is announced and, as a result (or due to a breach of the letting test/period of grace exemption) a property does not satisfy the FHL tests, the income will fall to be taxed as normal rental income. There has been some concern that this could actually create a cessation of the FHL trade, which has further complications, but recent updates to the HMRC business manual imply that this should not happen where there is a temporary cessation and the trade then recommences. From a CGT perspective, however, a year during which the property is NOT an FHL is not an issue which can be happily regarded as immaterial or irrelevant.

So the moral of all this is that 2020/21 is NOT a year in which one can simply “tick the same boxes” on the tax return. Thought needs to be given as to what evidence can be produced to show 210 day availability, and appropriate disclosure needs to be made on a return to avoid a later “discovery” coming back to haunt you.

If, having read through the information provided above, you require advice regarding the tax implications of letting your FHL, **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.**

N.B. Article written in March 2021

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

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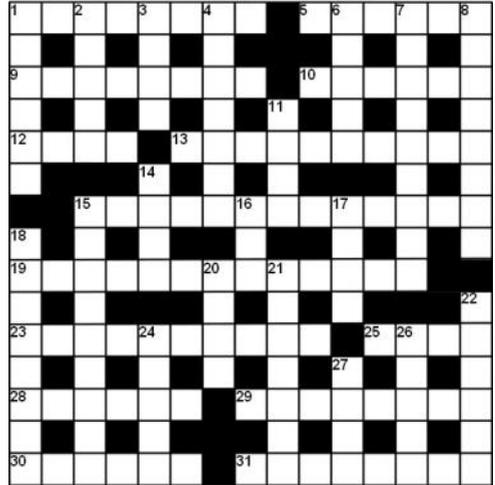
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PUZZLE CORNER

Crossword by
Philip Neal

Across

- 1 Lose many a slip between me and copyright (8)
 5 Accepts offer in seaside (6)
 9 Call round foreign isle for German varietal (8)
 10 Alliance admits son for get together (6)
 12 Uncomfortable sofa designed for idiots (4)
 13 Pride of Italy give SAS one liquid (10)
 15 Red Loire taxi taking their old currency around English tern at sea (8,5)
 19 Uncle Tom playing piano in Tuscan town (13)
 23 Sometimes bubbly French master catches fish on tangled line without rod (10)
 25 Italian town sparkles when it comes back with spumante (4)
 28 Swimmer hides the inside bar (6)
 29 Half apprentices working in white (8)
 30 Senior lighting engineer inside is French (6)
 31 Inter weapon concealed with daughter in Côte de Beaune (8)



Answers on page 69

Down

- 1 Turning red mechanism and auction item into dinner accompaniment (6)
 2 Be quiet little one it could be continental (5)
 3 Compose a bygone from a soothing melody (4)
 4 Mythical creature has dog guarding volcanic eruption (7)
 6 Beano brings the house down while crooner got round when his number was up (5)
 7 Eagles sang for road speed criminal (9)
 8 Words of judgement (8)
 11 Dog repelled the fiend within (4)
 14 Talented Lincoln recruited apprentice (4)
 15 Firm had no trace of account Ted got in touch with (9)
 16 Initially Northern Ireland lost but there was nothing in it (3)
 17 Standard decline (4)
 18 Friendly but flummoxed detectives out for a stroll (8)
 20 We accept naval pots (4)
 21 Vineyard where you can talk to the water (7)
 22 Sound reverberates inside essential organ (6)
 24 Councils ebbing tides (5)
 26 Butcher also requires new parlour ... (5)
 27 ... and new rug required for annexe (4)

Sudoku

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

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?

John Harris

Walking in Norfolk www.walkinginengland.co.uk/norfolk is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

John said, 'There is so much walking information on the web, but it is difficult to find. Walking in Norfolk (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.'

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the website and get walking!

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk



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Dersingham Methodist Church Elizabeth Batstone

A year ago the Church stewards met with our minister Revd Steve Oliver to discuss closing the Church and all activities in line with government guidelines. We made diary notes to review the situation about the middle of May. Of course, the middle of May went without any review, as we continued to keep safe and maintain social distancing.



And here we are in the same situation. However, there does seem a likelihood of some easing. Although we don't want to pre-empt future plans, hope is growing ever brighter!

In our fortnightly newsletter we have had several interesting articles on what people have been doing during lockdown. Two have looked into their family history, with very interesting results, one has learnt a new skill, another spent time cleaning and reorganising his model railway, and another has become a telephone befriender. Some had a good sort out, ready to move homes, and others tackled cupboards, finding all sorts of items they had forgotten about.

Some of us have learnt to 'Zoom'! This doesn't mean we rush around at breakneck speed, but via the wonder of technology we are able to join in services, meetings and catch up on family news. Most of us do not understand how it all works, but are so pleased to be able to 'Zoom'. Telephone calls are also much appreciated where news and concerns are shared.

We will be watching the latest government updates as restrictions begin to ease and do hope that before long we will have opened the Church doors, dusted the chairs and organ, ready to worship together as a Church family again. But we have learnt that we are a Church family even when the doors have been closed.

We continue to pray for our former minister, Revd Steve Oliver, who is receiving treatment for leukaemia, and his wife Jill as she cares for him. We are also looking forward to seeing more of our new minister, Revd Richman Ncube and his wife Sikha.

We also pray for everyone in our village, for those who have lost loved ones. We give thanks for the COVID vaccination and for those who have helped us continue to live safely and stay well.□

An advertisement for R C Clean External Cleaning Services. The ad features a blue and white color scheme with a water droplet logo. It lists various cleaning services and provides contact information for a free quote.

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A different way to teach times tables

A local Mum has come up with a visual way to teach times tables (TT), which she believes could help children who struggle with numbers up to GCSE level. It came about through trying to help her primary aged children learn (not memorise) their TT.

"I worked out how many TT needed to be committed to memory before using simple maths theory to work out the rest. My eldest cannot learn by rote. I understand his struggle as I cannot either." Weekly timed testing by his school had left him feeling like a failure with TT; stuck on the same 'level' for years, watching his classmates progress. His last outburst came just before Christmas, having spent just one term back at school.

"The pandemic, and thus homeschooling, gave me the chance to reassess his approach to numbers. Last year we worked a lot on the basics; he was being praised by his new teacher on his fraction work in September, following his return to school, so his breakdown over the TT tests was very distressing. It was a real shock and I resolved to do better when lockdown came again."

The rule is: 'whatever happens on one side of an equation HAS to happen to the other.'

For example, if stuck on knowing the product of 7×6 , think, what is 7×3 ?

$7 \times 3 = 21$ is one of only a handful of TT that needs committing to memory.

You can then reason that the '3' in 7×3 has doubled to a '6' in 7×6 . Therefore the product of 7×6 must be double 21 i.e. 42.

If stuck on a division problem e.g. 48, ask whether you recognise the TT behind half of that number.

This approach led to a series of triangles that were overlaid to show how the products of the TT interact.

"In effect, I taught all the factors first, which isn't covered until year five of the National Curriculum." (A factor is how a number is made up (e.g. 1, 2, 4, 8 are the factors of 16 (1×16 , 2×8 , 4×4)).

Is this relevant as we all now have calculators in our pockets? As adults in the 'real world' we can get away with it, but our children need to get through the National Curriculum testing system. Pre-pandemic, the pressure on schools, their teachers and last of all our children, was evident; now we have the added 'pressure' of so-called 'catch-up'.

The mental wellbeing of our youngest generation needs to be of utmost importance. This method is all about making your child feel clever as they go through the stages, e.g. prioritising the concept behind square and prime numbers over 'memorising' the TT.

As I am starting to ask more people I know about the knowledge of their children, too often I am hearing, 'I am bad at numbers', 'numbers are complicated'. My wish is to foster a love, not a fear of numbers."

To see the whole method in order, Google 'Jennifer Shah YouTube Playfit' and look under the playlist 'Times Tables'. □

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Word Wall by Philip Neal

Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 69

DOT	REVOLVER	GAIN	BISHOP
DEAN	CASTLE	PADRE	BAZOOKA
DERRINGER	MAID	CATAPULT	CHAPLAIN
PAWN	CANON	QUEEN	KING

Dersingham Bog News Joanne Feltrup, Natural England

It has been a challenging start to the new year, trying to finish off clearing scrub from our heaths, whilst our group of regular volunteers – upon whom we rely heavily - were asked to stay at home due to COVID-19 restrictions. Even working alongside colleagues has, on occasions, also proved difficult, with work tasks having to be adapted to ensure they could still go ahead safely.

Certainly, our way of working has changed significantly, and tasks are taking longer to complete. That said, I am immensely proud of my team who have successfully cleared a large amount of scrub across many of our heaths in order to maintain the site for the rare birds that nest there, such as the nightjar. Let's hope the situation improves as we step into spring, and with the continued roll out of the vaccine I think we all can see a light at the end of the tunnel.

Birds on the reserve

There has been a nice selection of birds using the reserve in recent weeks, including woodlark singing on the heaths, along with good numbers of snipe across the bog, and a few Jack snipe. The unmistakable shelduck have been spotted on the long pond displaying, and the first greylag nest was found with eggs!! Stonechats are back on territories, and large flocks of mixed thrushes have been seen moving through the reserve, so the place has been a hive of activity.

Bumblebees

As we head into spring and the warmer weather, hibernating queen bumblebees have been making their first appearance across the reserve. We've already seen the red-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lapidarius*) – unmistakable with its jet-black abdomen and thorax and rich red tail - and the buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*), which is one of the first species to emerge from hibernation in February. Winter can bring extremely low temperatures, but surprisingly few bumblebees die of the cold, at least in Britain, as most British species produce antifreeze in their blood over the winter months, meaning they can survive temperatures well below zero for a reasonable length of time.



Red-tailed bumblebee



Buff-tailed bumblebee

Fencing

Contractors have been on site in all weathers, replacing a large section of our stock fencing. The old fence was removed using a nine-ton excavator over several days. The fence was then replaced with a similar style, but a lot more secure to keep our black

Galloway cows on the reserve. Hopefully this will free up much time spent on replacing rotten posts in the future for both staff and volunteers.

Long pond management

You may or may not have noticed, but we are at the early stages of installing structures into the long pond – situated within the bog - to prevent further erosion. Currently, when there are strong winds, waves are formed on the water surface, which travel along the length of the pond. The further the waves travel, the more power they have and the more destructive they can be to the pond edge, causing the pond to grow and the bog to diminish.

To combat this, over the course of this year we will install barriers made from hazel bundles and coir rolls across the pond, which will disrupt this wave action and hopefully encourage the bog to regenerate. The coir rolls can also be planted, which, fingers crossed, will speed up regeneration.



Long pond work – coir rolls

Anti-social behaviour

Unfortunately, we've seen a large increase in litter across the site, especially in areas of high footfall such as our main paths and car park entrances. Please could we ask you politely to help us keep your reserve free of litter and a nice place to be enjoyed by all by taking your litter home with you, or using the correct bin provided at the main car park entrance.

Important messages/updates

As we approach breeding bird season, please can we remind everyone to continue to keep dogs on a short lead – two meters if possible - and stick to the main tracks throughout the reserve to reduce possible disturbance, especially in our sensitive areas where breeding birds are likely to be, for example across the heaths.

You may have noticed our new car park donation signs situated at both of our car parks. Each sign details information about how you can donate, but please feel free to contact our office on 01485 543044 if you experience any issues. Donations are voluntary, and any money we receive will go directly back into the reserve to help fund vital work, which otherwise would not be completed. A very big thank you to all those who have already donated. □

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Crossword Answers

Across.

- 1 Misplace. 5 Abides. 9 Riesling. 10 Unison. 12 Oafs. 13 Sangiovese. 15 Cabernet franc.
 19 Montepulciano. 23 Chardonnay. 25 Asti.
 28 Bather. 29 Semillon. 30 Eldest. 31 Burgundy.

Sudoku Answers

Down.

- 1 Merlot. 2 Shelf. 3 Lull. 4 Centaur. 6 Bingo.
 7 Desperado. 8 Sentence. 11 Ogre.
 14 Able. 15 Contacted. 16 Nil. 17 Flag.
 18 Amicable. 20 Urns. 21 Chateau.
 22 Kidney. 24 Diets. 26 Salon. 27 Wing.

Word Wall Answers.

- Bar...:** ...maid, ...dot, ...gain, ...king
Chess pieces: Queen, Pawn, Castle, Bishop
Church leaders: Dean, Canon, Padre, Chaplain
Weapons: Bazooka, Catapult, Derringer, Revolver

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

Forthcoming Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

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

Issue	Copy deadline mid-day on	Publication date
No 130 (June/July 21)	Mon 3rd May 2021	Mon 24th May 2021
No 131 (Aug/Sept 21)	Mon 5th July 2021	Mon 26th July 2021
No 132 (Oct/Nov 21)	Mon 6th Sept 2021	Mon 27th Sept 2021

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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, at least one Mb 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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