

Number 134

February/March 2022

# Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine





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## Editor's Notes Jo Halpin Jones



Thank you to Tim Howard who sent in the front cover photo, taken a year ago on February 14<sup>th</sup>. This chilly dog walk took place along Mill Road, up beyond Fern Hill. I seem to remember there were strong winds when the snow came, which encouraged the drifts in that rather exposed location. With our unpredictable weather, who knows what meteorological delights await us in mid-February this year.

Despite the current increase in Covid cases locally, most village groups and events seem to be continuing as usual. Well, the “usual” embraces following guidelines regarding face masks, ventilation, distancing, testing and getting vaccinated. But each group is making its own decisions and we suggest you contact your organiser to check what is happening.

I have been out and about with my camera taking photos of the Christmas Tree Festival in St Nicholas Church and tree planting on The Warren. Both events showed wonderful community spirit in action. Firstly, in December an inspiring number of village groups and organisations came together for this annual event to set up the trees in the church and decorate them in their own personal style. Then on New Year's Day and the following Monday, a band of volunteers appeared on The Warren, off Mountbatten Road, armed with shovels. The Parish Council had obtained over 400 saplings of a variety of native species and these were duly planted.

Hopefully you will enjoy this latest edition of Village Voice. You can catch up with what villagers have been up to and their plans for the New Year; check out upcoming events at the Village Centre; read Elizabeth Fiddick's interesting continuation of Law and Order in Dersingham – all about the Commons and various local rights; learn a bit more Second World War history from Brian Anderson – an event during the German invasion of Russia; find out where the walking group will be exerting themselves over the next few weeks; and see details of the newly-planned Dersingham Choral Society. I went along to sign up myself and was very heartened to see such strong support for this new venture. My voice is getting a bit ragged these days, but I do love music. Hopefully there will be some better voices to drown me out, and the organisers are encouraging anyone to join who loves to sing.

We are hoping to continue with the Village Voice Live series of lectures at Dersingham Village Centre on the second Tuesday of each month. However, at the time of writing we do not have confirmation of the talks for February and March. For the latest information please go to the Village Centre website [www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk](http://www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk).

Very best wishes to readers, contributors and advertisers from all at Village Voice. Have an excellent 2022.□

**The Parish Council has started planning events for the four-day weekend of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. There will be Bank Holidays on Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. It would be very helpful to both the Parish Council organisers and Village Voice if you could let us know of any events you may be planning, such as street parties in your neighbourhood. The Parish Council can then co-ordinate all our activities and publicise everything in the magazine. Please email the Council Chairman: [coral.shepherd@dersingham.org.uk](mailto:coral.shepherd@dersingham.org.uk).**



## Dear Village Voice



In December's "From Your Ward Councillors" piece, partly attributed to someone who seems awfully familiar to me, a number of incorrect statements were made about explorer George Vancouver and his achievements. I would like to suggest a couple of corrections:

Captain Vancouver did not "beat a convoy of American ships to the northwest coast of America." America had barely existed as an independent state at this time and the entire area was as yet unclaimed. Instead, in very brief terms, the voyage had originally set out to ascertain the possibility of a northwest passage across the top of the Americas as a potential trade route. Along the way Vancouver met a friendly American privateer, Captain Grey, at the mouth of the Columbia River, but more importantly arrived in what is now British Columbia to find the Spanish were already there. After a couple of lengthy dinners, the leader of the Spanish mission agreed to allow Vancouver to make a claim on the territories for the British, as neither party thought the land to be of any use. He proceeded to chart the coast and named a number of features after prominent people of the day and, occasionally, places with which I presume he was familiar.

The city now known as Vancouver was neither named by Captain George, nor has it ever been the capital of British Columbia. Originally the township of Granville, it was renamed in honour of the Captain when incorporated in 1886, around 100 years after the voyage of *The Discovery*. The capital of BC was at first New Westminster and shortly after Victoria, on Vancouver Island, which remains to this day the capital of the province.

There are statues to Captain Vancouver at Vancouver City Hall, on top of the Provincial Legislature in Victoria, and in the city of Vancouver, Washington State in the US.

I hope that this sets the record straight a little.

**Owen Bubb**  
Vancouver, BC, Canada

## Cryptic Confectionery Quiz

Can you work out which sweets are being referred to in these cryptic clues? Answers on page 45

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Long distance race | 14. Seen on a racecourse |
| 2. Sport of princes   | 15. Mother's local       |
| 3. 9,10,11,12         | 16. Pirates' loot        |
| 4. Wobbly infant      | 17. Far above us         |
| 5. Brown fasteners    | 18. Pub pins             |
| 6. Dairy carrier      | 19. Clever people        |
| 7. Tartan granite     | 20. Gem orchard          |
| 8. Royal herb         | 21. Assorted girls       |
| 9. Anglers' mate      | 22. Musical bards        |
| 10. Feline equipment  | 23. Upmarket road        |
| 11. Fallen fruit      | 24. Big cats drink here  |
| 12. Toothless drink   | 25. Fake rubbish         |
| 13. 100% metal        |                          |

## Parish Council Chairman's Report Coral Shepherd



I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year. I was thrilled to see a good number of volunteers on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> January at The Warren to help plant 420 young trees. Many thanks to all who turned out, from the very young and the not so young. All your help was really appreciated and without your efforts we would not have been able to get the trees planted so quickly. For those interested in statistics, we planted 420 trees in 3 hours, that's 26 seconds per tree. The Parish Council had taken advantage of the Woodland Trust's free tree scheme and, despite a hiccup over the delivery due to Covid, it meant that we were able to get them all into the ground within the tree planting season. We had a good mixture of trees - oak, hawthorn, blackthorn, rowan, birch and hazel, all native species. The weather was very kind to us with both days being relatively warm and sunny. The planting has achieved two aims – firstly to offset the carbon emissions as a result of the concrete used in the construction of the skatepark, and secondly as part of the Queen's Green Canopy to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee this year.

Talking of the Jubilee, we are moving forward with celebration plans in the village. To remind everyone, there will be an extended holiday period from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June and national plans have now been published, together with those for Sandringham. We would like to be able to publish a calendar of events in Dersingham. We already have a number of events planned and there will be something going on every day of the holiday. If you are part of a group, are planning a celebration or even simply want to have a street party, please let me or our clerk, Sarah Bristow, know by email and we can include you in our calendar.

The Parish Council is busy working on its budgets and precept and by the time you read this, we will have set the precept. It is likely that there will be a small increase, and this is mainly due to the general increase in prices resulting from higher energy and fuel costs. The precept is included in the annual Council tax bill issued in March by the Borough Council.

Would you like to make a difference to the village? We still have vacancies on the Parish Council for Councillors. If you are interested, if there is something you would like to be done or simply you want to be part of the decision making about what happens in the village, then we may be for you. You are welcome to attend any of our meetings to see what we do. Dates are publicised on the Parish Council website. If you would like to learn more, please contact myself or our clerk, Sarah Bristow.

[Coral.shepherd@dersingham.org.uk](mailto:Coral.shepherd@dersingham.org.uk)  
[Clerk@dersingham.org.uk](mailto:Clerk@dersingham.org.uk)

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## Tree planting on The Warren January 1st, 2022



## News from Dersingham Village Centre

Sue Payne, Chairman of DVCA



### Activities & Events

On behalf of the trustees, may I thank the local community for supporting DVCA events throughout the past year.

And, I would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to those who attended the Friendship Lunches for the gifts and very generous collection for the volunteers.

After lengthy discussion, we took the decision to go ahead with the New Year's Eve Disco & Supper. Thank you to Judy, David and the team for ensuring it was a safe and successful event.

The Centre re-opened fully on January 10<sup>th</sup> following a period of closure to allow for some essential works and decorating throughout the Centre. Thanks to AC Norfolk who worked hard, with some late nights, enabling us to re-open on time. At the time of writing, COVID guidance has not changed, so all activities will have resumed. We would remind all users and visitors to observe the face-covering rules. We will be reviewing last year's events and begin planning for 2022 when, hopefully, the situation around COVID becomes clearer. Open Gardens is already pencilled in for the autumn, and the Platinum Jubilee weekend will see many activities take place throughout the village, including a Dinner & Dance at the Centre.

### Volunteering at the Centre

We can always use extra pairs of hands and feet, and ideas. Please read the notice in this issue and consider joining our merry band of volunteers. You can choose which activity(ies) to support and do as much or as little as you like.

### Village Centre Lottery

December winners were numbers 3, 60 and 39, winning £24.75, £16.50 and £8.75 respectively; January's were 63, 44 and 37, also winning £24.75, £16.50 and £8.75.

Keep updated by checking notices at the Centre and around Dersingham and visit our website - [www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk](http://www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk) where you can sign up for the regular newsletters. We also have a Facebook page and we post on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group. If you have any questions about the Centre, its activities, or bookings, call our landline, 01485 543195. An answerphone is in use so please leave a message with contact details, and someone will get back to you. Best wishes from all at the Centre.

## Snettisham Gardening Club

Our February meeting will be on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham, when the speaker will be Mr David Reeve, who will tell us about the Sandringham Show. Our March meeting will be on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> when Janette Merilion will speak about *A Scented Garden*. Both meetings will be subject to any Covid restrictions that may be applied.

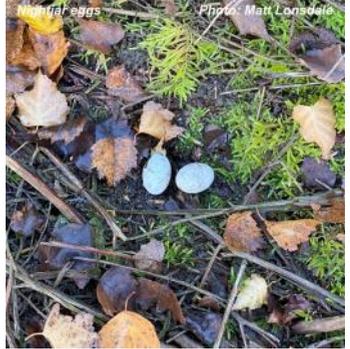
Further information from Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.□

## Dersingham Bog News

Matt Lonsdale, Natural England Warden

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With the winter solstice now behind us, I am hoping to reflect on the past couple of months at Dersingham Bog NNR as well as to look forward to what we have in store in the coming months. As the days began to get colder towards Christmas, we continued to work hard on the scrub clearance on the heathland, mainly focusing on the Middle Gate area. This work is carried out to stop the important heathland habitat from becoming taken over by pine, birch and oaks. This work is essential as Dersingham Bog supports 10% of all Norfolk heathlands outside of the Brecks region, a crucial habitat for many of our specialised breeding species such as the woodlark and nightjar. We look forward to the return of the nightjars and their 'churring' call come the spring, and hopefully a sky full of woodlark song come February and March when the common bird censuses will begin on the reserve.



Alongside the scrub work, we have been keeping up the maintenance of the perimeter fence lines, regular litter picks across the Bog, infrastructure and cattle checks, as well as working at our other NNRs. As the days get longer, and the scrub work being carried out by our wardening team being near completed, more of our time alongside the volunteers will be spent over at Swanton Novers NNR as we carry out woodland work in order to benefit the breeding species come the spring at this site as well.

A brilliant variety of birds has been noted on the reserve from November 15th to the start of 2022. A few finches continued to move from east to west over the reserve, mainly following the ridge, including a few bramblings on the 16<sup>th</sup>. A lack of easterly winds over the autumn has resulted in a dearth of winter thrushes on/over the reserve. However, following a night of light northeasterly winds, November 22nd saw some 750+ redwing and 19 fieldfares migrate over the reserve heading west. A male hen harrier was also seen over the Bog on this day and has been seen irregularly up to the New Year, including roosting. Winter visitors are now in full swing with the skies being filled with the sound of pink-footed geese. They are best seen at Dersingham in the late afternoon as birds head back from feeding inland to roost on The Wash at RSPB Snettisham and can be seen with the beautiful backdrop from the ridge. A single flock of 12,000 was noted over the reserve on the evening of November 26th. Woodcocks are also wintering in the area with double figures seen some days, and a jack snipe and ringtail hen harrier were nice pre-Christmas surprises, seen on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> respectively. During the months of February and March we should expect sightings of some of Dersingham's most desired bird species to increase, with singing woodlark, firecrest and



crossbill to be expected on clear and sunny days. Pink-footed geese sightings should begin to become scarcer as birds head back towards northwest England, before a stop off at the Montrose basin in Scotland on the way back to Iceland.

In other ecological news, a new fungus for Norfolk has recently been discovered in a couple of locations: the Melastiza Contorta (*M.scotica*), which is exciting news.



With the breeding season approaching, there are some exciting opportunities for volunteers to participate in species' surveys and monitoring at Dersingham Bog NNR, starting in early 2022. We are particularly looking for individuals to help with common bird censusing, butterfly transects and dragonfly transects. However, we would also welcome volunteers to survey all species groups on the site. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the knowledge of species on the reserve and to help build a complete picture of all the species present on the NNR. All species records will be submitted to the various recording bodies, allowing the data to be used nationally as well as locally on site. Some experience of undertaking surveying and monitoring would be useful, however, some training can be provided by Natural England. For more information or to register your interest please contact Senior Reserve Manager, Thomas Bolderstone at [thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk) □

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## Sandringham News

Luminate Winter Light Trail during November and December was widely attended, and we would like to thank those of you who visited with family and friends for supporting the event. Plans are now underway for Winter 2022!



*Photos: Gary Pearson*

Sandringham Restaurant is fully open daily offering brunch, lunches, light bites and sweet treats, using produce and ingredients from around the Estate - if you fancy a warming bite to eat after a winter walk.

We are delighted to announce that for the first time we will be opening the Gardens over February half term week (12th-20th February) and at weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) in March.

Early spring planting and flowers will be on display and if we are lucky the snowdrops will make an appearance.

Celebrations will be held across the year to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the Estate. From a free Jubilee beacon lighting event on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to live music and festivities over the June Bank Holiday weekend. In addition, an official commemorative range of products will be launched for the Sandringham Shop.



Inside Sandringham House, a very special Platinum Jubilee exhibition, highlighting objects and photographs of time spent by the Royal Family here at Sandringham, will be on display in the Ballroom from April to October, and a dedicated Jubilee planting scheme will also be on display from May in the Gardens.

We look forward to celebrating a historic year with you.

Tickets must be prebooked for all visits and events. For full details on all the events and how to book tickets, please visit the website [www.sandringhamestate.co.uk](http://www.sandringhamestate.co.uk). □



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## Dersingham Day Centre Jan Holt

A belated Happy New Year to everyone from all at Dersingham Day Centre. As I write we hope to be back at the Village Centre on January 12<sup>th</sup> after our Christmas break.

We've done such a lot over the last few months – I think we were making up for lost time! We have, of course, had our usual activities of Scrabble, cards, dominoes and chatting. We also worked hard to complete one of our famous quizzes set by our Honorary President.

We celebrated the birthdays of Margaret Boston and Roy Hancock. We also celebrated Dersingham Day Centre's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday with a tasty buffet lunch and then enjoyed the afternoon's entertainment provided by Merv and Maria. Another afternoon we enjoyed the beautiful singing of the Heacham Songsters.



In December we held our very successful Christmas Fete. We raised £534 - many thanks to all who came and supported us. Then we had our Christmas party. We had a delicious Christmas dinner prepared and cooked by Carol and Avril and were wonderfully entertained by Purple Angels in the afternoon.



We hope that 2022 will be a good year for us all.

If you would like to know more about joining Dersingham Day Centre, then please contact Ann Saunders on 01485 542885 or Hilary Judd on 01485 543204 or 07887486739 □

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It's been a challenging half term for pupils, parents and staff, as Covid tightened its grip and scuppered plans for Christmas activities, but in true Dersingham style exciting alternatives were devised. Each class contributed towards a Christmas trail, decorating trees, performing and recording songs, and engaging in the Christmas story. The hall looked truly magical, and Father Christmas came to visit the children bearing gifts and good cheer. Classrooms were awash with glitter, singing and laughter, as the children made cards, decorations and enjoyed parties in their bubbles with their classmates. A virtual performance of *Jack and the Beanstalk* rounded off the festivities beautifully.

Children in Need was a huge success again, with children dressing up and raising money for this wonderful charity. The Eco Council have started preparing for the Green Flag Award, involving pupils, parents and staff and hope to raise awareness throughout the community in 2022 and beyond.



Sporting activities took a Covid blow with sports hall athletics and Boccia being cancelled, but our wonderful cross-country participants did a fabulous job representing the school in the finals at Lynnsport.

Year 1 have enjoyed following Paddington Bear on his adventures around London. The children have been learning about the capital's landmarks, the Royal family and recreating the Great Fire of London. They even buried cheese just like Samuel Pepys! Mr Edwards taught the children how to stay safe and helped to set fire to their models. They enjoyed a DT project designing and building a London bus and thought about different transport used in the capital.



Year 2 spent lots of time outside enjoying autumn. They learned much about the native woodland animals and their habitats as part of the *Fox and Star* topic, capitalising on the school's wonderful outside area and the beautiful Sandringham Woods that run alongside the school grounds.



Year 3 finished off their *Alice in Wonderland* topic before Christmas by thinking about the tea party, learning about

nutrition, and baking healthy banana muffins to try. Some of them even enjoyed doing the washing up! The topic has now moved on to the Romans and it is hoped the children can visit Norwich Castle Museum later in January. Two new classmates were welcomed this term, and everyone enjoyed trying the gym equipment on the first day back!



The Year 4 class have been learning about Pneumatics with a balloon and a syringe. They spent time experimenting with different equipment and went on to complete a STEM project. They had great fun exploring a range of scientific and mechanical apparatus.

The last half term for Year 5 started with 'the Bard' going to Thornwood Warren on Bramblemas Eve and sharing the amazing story of *Podkin One-Ear*. This exciting class novel led to the children drawing story maps and writing adventure books. This is the amazing story starter by Alexa:



*All the rabbits were enjoying setting up for the Nightshade dance tomorrow and everybody was excited, but three young rabbits were playing in the hot sun outside. Their names were Luna, Leo and Leon. Leon was only three so he did not understand the rules of the game, Leo did not understand the rules of the game either. The only one who understood the game was Luna (The oldest rabbit.)*

*Suddenly, all the floorboards started to creak and the shelves started to collapse, so Luna put Leon on her shoulders and grabbed Leo by the arm and started scurrying towards the door.*

*Leon had started shivering and Leo's fur was standing on end as a dark figure approached. The figure was as tall as a skyscraper, it went clunk, clank and as it got closer the darker the clouds became...*

This incredible text also enabled the children to think about the different developmental stages of animals and humans in science, completing a wonderful watercolour study of a rabbit and finally learning all about how to create peace and community cohesion.

Last half-term, Year 6 studied *Floodland* by Marcus Sedgwick, a dystopian novel set in a future in which England has been consumed by rising sea levels. The themes in this novel informed much of what was studied during the course of the seven-week term, which included the 1953 floods that affected areas along the Norfolk coast. The year ended with a Design Technology task focused upon constructing fan boats, which incorporated elements of science as diverse as forces and electricity.

As we turn the corner and look forward to longer and brighter days, the children are eagerly anticipating new topics, learning, and having fun with their friends. Perhaps we can soon see the back of Zoom assemblies and virtual get togethers and experience the complete coming together of all year groups. Let's see what the next instalment brings! □



## Coffee and Community

**Rev Dave Cossey (Curate to Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe, Anmer, and Shernborne)**

Tea or coffee? I wonder what your response is when this question is posed to you.

Personally, I'm more of a coffee drinker. I love the rich aromas, the smells, the taste, and the extra boost it provides to a working day too. If you delve deep into the world of 'good coffee' you really can go on exploring forever.

In 2010 I had the privilege of touring a coffee farm in Chiang Mai, Thailand to observe the process of a sustainably run coffee farm which was managed by some local Christian friends of mine. I experienced the fascinating process from beginning to end, including the final important step of enjoying one of the best cups of coffee I have ever tasted!

A big part of what made that venture worthwhile was the farm's focus on developing community by working closely with all those who produced, sold, and consumed the coffee. Success also came out of the innate ability that drinking hot drinks holds, to draw us all closer together in relationship.



How many times have you stepped foot inside a café? How many people have you gathered together to catch up with over a warm drink? I expect it might be too many to count. I would personally argue that one of the most

quintessential images of 'community' would be the local café. It is a place that people gather together at to enjoy great tastes, but also great relationships.

A priority of the church has always been to help nurture and develop the community around it. In biblical times, Jesus frequently visited many centres of community – either through attending parties or other forms of gatherings - to be amongst the people, of all backgrounds, and to share the good news of God's love. Perhaps the most famous of all was when Jesus attended a wedding and turned water into wine when the supplies ran dry.

Coming through the pandemic as a local church in West Norfolk, we have reflected for some time now on ways in which we might similarly interact with our own community. Of course, we won't be replicating turning water into wine, but perhaps something similar!

At the time of writing, we have been developing a vision for a local expression of serving good quality coffee and other drinks, centred in the local area of Ingoldisthorpe, through the church hall, and connecting out further afield.

This place, rooted locally, will be called 'The Well'. It will be a place to come and enjoy good quality coffee, or tea, to develop a sense of local community, and simply to be together.

We look forward to sharing more of this vision as it develops further in the coming weeks and months ahead. In time, please know that you will be warmly invited to drop by to sip coffee, build community, and enjoying nurturing great relationships together. More details will follow as they become available.□

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## Dersingham Walking Group

Tony Bubb

There is a lot to be said for winter walking. You don't get too hot, you can see further as the trees are leafless and you often get a good sunset before one of our walks is over. Our last walk in December had a less than promising start with windblown drizzle, but we went forth and before long the rain went and eventually out came the sun, so it was well worth having faith in the weather report and we saw some new walkers join us.

Whatever the weather, the leader will always be at the start of the walk, even if it has been cancelled due to inclement weather or some other problem, but if in doubt, do ring the leader for the latest information.

**Wednesday February 9<sup>th</sup> 1.30pm** Starting from the Dersingham Village Centre we shall walk up to Sandringham before taking a variety of woodland footpaths. We will return to the Centre via Admiral's Drive and Dodds Hill. Start point: the Village Centre car park TF 692302. About 4 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

**Wednesday February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2.00pm** Starting from Docking Church we will explore a little of this historic village before some footpaths and tracks lead us around fields with many fine views over the local countryside. Start point: St Mary's Church, Docking TF 765369. About 4.5 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.



**Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm**  
**(Note change of day)** One of our occasional tours of Hunstanton Park and Ringstead Downs. Being spring, there might even be some lambs to watch. Start point: Old Hunstanton Church car park (parking donation £1) TF 687420. About 5 miles. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

**Wednesday March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2.00pm** Narborough and the River Nar. Field tracks and a riverside path contrast with a dense fenland nature reserve, rich in birds and other wildlife. Start point: the centre of the village - the junction of Swaffham Road and the Marham Road TF 760127. About 5 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

**Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup> 2pm** An angular tour of the paths and lanes around Fring, with a pump house to go past – sorry sewage farm fans, none this time. About 4.5 miles. Start point: Fring Church TF735348. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

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

Joining the walking group is a great way to meet some of your fellow villagers and to explore the local area. You'll probably discover footpaths that you never knew existed and maybe views that will give you a fresh appreciation of the local landscape. So, if you

haven't walked with the group before why not join us for an amble through our wonderful countryside. Most of our walks are between 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 their best to look after you.

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

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

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## Any hand bell ringers out there? Alan Polaine

We are a friendly, mixed group of hand bell ringers, playing from music at church events and, prior to the pandemic, at care homes and local organisations.

After an eighteen-month (Covid) break we started again in October 2021, but have lost several members, including our musical director.

We would be very glad to hear from anyone who could take on this leadership role, as well as anyone who would like to join us. Previous experience of hand bell playing is not essential, but some knowledge of reading music is needed.

We practise weekly on Tuesday evenings from 7.00 to 8.30pm. in St. Nicholas Church. If you would like to try it, either as a leader or a playing member, we would be very pleased to welcome you at an open evening on Tuesday, 1st March at the church between 7.00 and 8.30pm.

**Enquiries: please contact Alan Polaine on 01485 542147 or Ron Cossou on 01485 542838.**

We look forward to hearing from you. □



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The faithful from around the world suggest Papal prayer intentions in each country to their national office. Some of these are then selected and sent to the international office of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network in Vatican City. After prayer and discernment, the Pope selects a number of them and sends them to be translated and published as the official set of monthly prayer intentions. The Pope's prayer intention for February 2022 is: **For religious sisters and consecrated women:** "We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times". For March 2022 it is: **For a Christian response to bioethical challenges:** "We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action." The World Day of Prayer service for 2022 will be at St Mary's Parish Church, Heacham on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March starting at 10.30am. This year's service has been prepared by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the theme is 'I know the plans I have for you.' It is an ecumenical service and everyone is welcome to come to the service.

The Sisters at St Theresa's Convent are now offering daily Mass at 12 noon. Please confirm with them if you intend to be present. Contact 01485 532837.

For Parish news, including Mass times and prayer requests, please see the **Parish News** page on our website. For information about live streamed Masses in the Diocese and related matters, including Coronavirus updates, see the **Links** page of our website at [www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org](http://www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org). People are advised not to go to Mass if they have any symptoms, however mild. Wearing masks when coming to church is still advisable, and hand sanitiser is still provided. We now have communal singing of hymns at our Sunday Masses.

The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and 11am at Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 10.15am at Dersingham on Wednesdays.

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

**Email:** [parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org](mailto: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](mailto:parishpriest763@gmail.com) □

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Dersingham Village Centre Association runs a variety of activities and events with help from our brilliant volunteers, but we would love more people to get involved and help spread the load.

Regular activities include Coffee Shops, Friendship Lunch, Tea Dance, Village Cinema and Village Voice Live. These and the events - Christmas Fair, Open Gardens, Cellidh, Quiz - raise funds which help us maintain, equip and improve the Centre, and deliver services.

If you would like to help manage and shape the future of the Centre, we also have a couple of vacancies on the Management Committee.

For more information, or if you want to help in any way, please get in touch via -

E: [contact@dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk](mailto:contact@dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk)

T: 01485 543195

Or, come along to any DVCA activity and speak to an organiser

**Thank you**




*Anmer Social Club*

**EVENTS FEBRUARY 2022**

**QUIZ  
NIGHT**



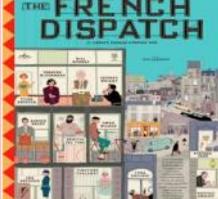
**FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**BINGO NIGHT**



**MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**THE FRENCH DISPATCH**



**FRIDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**FISH & CHIPS SUPPER**



**SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

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*Anmer Social Club*

**EVENTS MARCH 2022**

**QUIZ  
NIGHT**



**FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

**BINGO NIGHT**



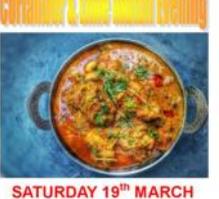
**MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

**SPENCER**



**FRIDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

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**SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

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## Dersingham Garden Tips

Jane Jestice

Belated Happy New Year to everyone in the village. I hope your Christmas and New Year went well, although I suspect many of you will have had some kind of disruption due to Covid. Our Christmas four-day trip was cancelled due to my daughter-in-law testing positive just as we were about to load up the car! We were left with red cabbage, brandy butter and Christmas pudding while they had enough of the rest of the meal for 12!!!!

What strange weather we are having too. My garden doesn't know from day to day what season it is in! The daffodils are beginning to come up, while I still have some roses and hollyhocks flowering. I put out some oyster shells with sugar water in my hanging baskets last week as there were honey bees out looking for nectar.

The begonias that I decided to try and keep over the winter in the greenhouse have not been successful. They have literally fallen apart! However, my orchids are showing new shoots and the pitcher plant is very happy. I have begun to change my unsuccessful veg area into a cutting garden. So, I have covered the area in last year's walnut tree leafmould to make room for this year's leafmould bags (who knew one tree could produce SO many leaves!) I have emptied the contents of one compost heap, which is satisfying, full of hundreds of worms, and added some bags of free horse manure (thank you to the person down Manor Road!!). My plan is to plant some bulbs, perennials and annuals that will give me good cut flowers. It will be interesting to see what grows well and what doesn't. I hope I have more success with them than the veg! My plant and seed catalogues have just arrived, so I am folding corners of pages down with enthusiasm.

My daughter is gradually changing my view on gardening and plants and flowers in general: this year I am going to try and make one area of my lawn into a wildflower meadow. I will mow a path through the middle so I can access the vegetable area. The area is not very big, and I have been reading up how to change a lawn into a wildflower meadow, rather than having to take the turf out and start from scratch. I believe it will be a challenge, but the first step seems to be to let the grass grow and see what is already there. I know daisies and buttercups will come up, but I am quite intrigued to see what the weeds I have been trying to dig out actually are.

I have also begun to see plants and flowers in different ways. My daughter has a business based in dried flowers and she has opened my eyes to the beauty of the shapes as flowers and plants dry. With this in mind, over new year my grand-daughter and I picked dried flowers, seed heads and grasses from the hedgerow as we went for a walk. As you can see from the photo the result is quite beautiful.

Looking forward to spring!□





## **Property in a limited company? Watch out for April (i.e. plan ahead)** **Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton**

Some Limited Companies owning residential property could be in for an unwelcome surprise in April. The Annual Tax on Enveloped Dwellings was introduced from 2012 to remedy (or at least tax!) the perceived distortion which

could arise where residential property is held within a limited company. The tax is levied annually based on a scale value and the amount charged is increased each year broadly in line with inflation. When first introduced the tax was only levied on properties valued at over £2m but this was subsequently reduced in 2015 and 2016 so now stands at £500,000. By way of example, the ATED charge on a property worth £500,000 to £1,000,000 was, in 2021/22, £3,700, and this is charged in addition to any personal Income Tax which might arise for an occupant (such as a director or a member of their family) under the “benefit in kind” rules.

Fortunately, there are a number of exemptions from the charge, primarily where the property is held as part of a rental or property trading business, is occupied by a (non-connected) employee or is a farmhouse. However, the reliefs are not given automatically and must be claimed annually.

Most businesses that are within the scope of the tax will be familiar with the disclosure and filing requirements, however, the rapid rise in property prices during the pandemic may give rise to a problem in the near future. The value used in assessing both the amount of tax payable and the £500,000 exemption is either the cost (when the property has been acquired since the valuation date), or the market value on the valuation date. The initial valuation date was 1 April 2012 and there is a requirement to revalue every 5 years – so on 1 April 2022 all property held on that date will need to be revalued.

This could give rise to two problems. Firstly, since property prices have risen by 20-25% over the last five years, Companies will need to look at each property and decide which value band is appropriate. Using 2021/22 bands for illustration, a property that was worth £750,000 in 2017 could well now be worth over £1m, so the annual charge will rise from £3,700 to £7,500. A property which has risen from £1.6m to £2.1m will see the charge go from £7,500 to £25,300, and it seems quite likely that those charges will also be subject to the usual annual increase by the time the relevant return is due.

The second problem is that a number of properties which have previously been “below the radar” will now be brought within the scope of this tax. This may give rise to an unexpected charge, but even if the property falls into an exempt category, there will still be a need to file a return and claim the exemption.

Since rural properties have become particularly desirable post pandemic, this could mean that corporate landowners will need to do some work over the next few months to ensure that they are compliant following the 1 April 2022 valuation date.

**Please contact either myself or my assistant Nicola Tarry FCA on 01485 534800 or email [kate@kathryngigg.co.uk](mailto:kate@kathryngigg.co.uk) if we can assist in any way.**

**N.B. Article written in November 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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All our volunteers are friendly, approachable, have a sympathetic manner, good communication skills, and are determined to help and support others living in Norfolk.

If you would like to have a conversation about the volunteering opportunities available at Voluntary Norfolk, please get in touch.

You can email us at [volunteering@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk) providing your preferred contact information; phone 07385 378740 and speak to a volunteer coordinator or leave us a message; or fill in the volunteer registration form for the relevant service you are interested in via this link: <https://www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk/home-2/register-to-volunteer-2/>

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your help. □

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3. Visit our website [www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk](http://www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk)



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# VOLUNTARY NORFOLK

## Dersingham Evening W.I. Katrina Mundy



Happy 2022 to you all and I hope you had a lovely Christmas.

In November we held our Annual Meet and now have a new committee and a new President (what do I let myself in for) for the next fifteen months. Many thanks to Stephanie Coulson our past president for all her work from 2019 to 2021, plus Wendy Snell and Maggie Guest for all their hard work while on the committee.

In December we took part in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Nicholas Church and all the members made a Christmas candle to hang on our tree. We had a most enjoyable Christmas party, with cake, mulled wine and singing some well-loved Christmas songs and carols. Many thanks to the Purple Angels for their entertainment.

And so to 2022. As you read this, hopefully we will have had our first meeting of the year on 19th January, with our speaker Chris Boxall, speaking about Sir Robert Walpole and Houghton Hall. I know it makes me think about revisiting this local landmark. Perhaps a group visit might be in order. Our members' competition for this meet was to bring a piece of sculpture.

It was at this meeting that we collected our members' voting slips for the W.I.'s 2022 Resolution. The five in the running were:

1. Fit for Purpose, Fit for Girls – making girls' clothing to the same standard as boys'.
2. Appropriate sentencing for non-violent women offenders.
3. Equality in law for the menopause.
4. Women and girls with ASD and ADHD: under-diagnosed, under-identified, mis-diagnosed and under-supported.
5. Tackling digital exclusion.

We will vote later in the year for the definite one we wish the W.I. to focus on as a campaign this year.

We had a lovely meal at the Rose and Crown in Snettisham on the 12<sup>th</sup> and many thanks to Diann and Maggie for organising this. Diane Hall hosted our first coffee morning of the year on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

Our craft groups all started back this month and we recycled our Christmas cards from 2021 ready for use this year. MAD group restarted although I doubt if many of them stopped knitting over the Christmas holidays. February will see us have a talk by David Reeve on "Protecting the Royal Family".

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at St Cecilia's Church at 7.15pm. All ladies are welcome.

If you would like to know more about the W.I please contact Lyn on 01485 541257 or Katrina on 01485 544773 □

## 'The Naughty Ladies of Shady Lane'

Marion Mardall

The oldest profession in the world or allegories of love? Or to paraphrase, can a Tart be Art?

This appears to have preoccupied artists for centuries and in every culture world-wide from France to Japan, Italy to India and England. The answer rather depends on the extent to which the artist sanitizes his muse into near respectability: a courtesan in ancient Greece or a mistress to royalty such as Nell Gwynne, as opposed to Toulouse Lautrec's unashamedly graphic depictions of prostitutes.

Many will recall the old Dean Martin song which took its inspiration from *The Naughty Lady of Shady Lane* who 'hit the town like a bomb', although she proved to be a complete literary illusion. After toying with lines like 'The back fence gossips ain't been this good since Mabel ran off with Tom' and 'You should see how she carries on with her admirers galore', the songwriter reveals in the last line that it's all mere titillation as 'she's only nine days old!' But I digress into frivolity! So, let us look at some serious definitions.

A person, in particular a woman, who engages in sexual activity for payment is defined as a prostitute. In the 1750s and 1900s prostitution was the norm in art. In Paris in particular, artists found modernity and inspiration in these women. For example, Toulouse-Lautrec captured them in his painting *Rue des Moulins*, showing the indignity of forced medical inspections that Parisian prostitutes endured. The provocative and lustful side of these women added to art and revealed new views on the female body and self expression.

A courtesan is basically a glorified prostitute and these women played major roles for many artists when it came to exploring the worlds of art. The term courtesan, which originated around 1540, came from the fact that these were women of the court. They weren't just regular prostitutes but rather high-class ones. Many artists such as Kitagawa Utamaro and Alphonse Mucha used courtesans as the main subject in their work. These women played major roles for many artists when it came to exploring the worlds of art. Courtesans are in fact a particularly large theme in art, probably more so than queens and duchesses. They were not just sexual partners but elegant women those men of society wished to be seen with, and would 'court' with gifts, in the hopes of becoming her patron (or one of two or three patrons, depending on how she played the game). Many were famous as singers and actresses, but some were known as poets, and in Ancient Greece, some were even reputed to be philosophers. They always had a strong bond with artists, who portrayed them in paintings, novels, and in the opera, for example as in *Madame Butterfly*. *La Traviata* is the story of one of Paris' most famous courtesans of the 1840s, Marie Duplessis, the so-called Lady of the Camellias. So next time you walk through a portrait gallery and see those haughty looking women, smile to yourself and wonder if they are exactly what they seem!

If this has whetted your appetite for a further mixture of art historical analysis, scandalous anecdotes and illustrated examination of this subject, come and join us at Sedgeford Village Hall on February 14th at 2pm for a lecture by Linda Smith, an Arts Society Accredited Lecturer entitled **Great Tarts in Art: High Culture and the Oldest Profession**. We aim to make our events welcoming places of friendship for all those who have a curiosity for the arts. Details of membership are on our website [www.theartssocietynwnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietynwnorfolk.org.uk). □



THE ARTS  
SOCIETY  
North West Norfolk

## THE ARTS SOCIETY - ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS

Lectures held at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2pm

**Monday 14 February**

***Great Tarts and Art: High Culture and the Oldest Profession***

**Lecturer: Linda Smith**

A mixture of art-historical analysis and scandalous anecdote, this lecture takes a light-hearted look at changing attitudes to sexual morality down the ages, by examining the portraits and careers of some of history's most notorious mistresses and courtesans. It also charts the rather complex and ambiguous attitudes of art and society towards the anonymous working girls at the lower end of the scale, by investigating how they have been represented in art at different times and places from the 17th to the 20th century.



**Monday 14 March**

***Influences in Photography.* Lecturer: Charlie Waite**

Landscape photography is a way of life and is an essential method of expression for Waite. In discussing his work, he refers to 'pre-visualisation', first used by the great American landscape photographer Ansel Adams, from whom he draws much inspiration, amongst others. "It is the creative act of the artist-photographer who, in visualising a poetic or revealing image within the scene in front of him, anticipates what the final print must convey to express what he sees and feels." Charlie refers to Adams and other artists and photographers who have inspired him and shaped his work.



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## From Your Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb



A review of 2021 from the perspective of your Borough Councillors:

What have we been up to? Well, last year brought the usual round of disagreements between neighbours which we have endeavored to resolve. Chief amongst them are issues around planning and approvals for local developments. It is tricky to live alongside neighbours with whom you have had a dispute, especially if, for instance, their new extension will take all the light from your conservatory, or the new build requires access which will cause inconvenience. Or you are faced with building teams on site, causing disruption to your daily life. We feel it is very much part of our job to help settle such problems and, indeed, there have been quite a few in the past year, most with a happy outcome.

We have tried (though admittedly failed) to protect mature trees in Life Wood; and we have responded to reports of inadequate maintenance, be it verge cutting or leaf fall removal, when you have reported such matters to us. We have attended Parish Council meetings to listen to concerns and offer advice where appropriate. We have supported local facilities such as the Village Centre and the proposed new Sports Pavilion in Dersingham. We have mediated neighbour disputes over fences and property borders generally and we have, hopefully, represented your views over major questions such as the hospital, the Guildhall and the regeneration of our towns.

This part of the UK has so much to offer to both residents and visitors alike and it is the Borough's job to ensure that our towns present as attractively as possible. With the funds from government it is to be hoped that King's Lynn will benefit from increased footfall from locals and visitors. We have listened to requests for pop-up shop opportunities; the Christmas market in Lynn was but the first toe in the water to promote and develop this idea. We need to invest more, both in terms of money but also ideas and commitment to our communities. Rest assured that in 2022 your Councillors will continue to work hard in all areas of their responsibility to bring about positive change and outcomes for the Borough.

Don't forget that Councillors now have a pot of money to help local groups, clubs and societies with small funding for projects. Do let us know if you think we can help.

We wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year. □



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## Dersingham Institute Bowls Club Jan Rawstron

Happy 2022 to all Village Voice readers. It's hard to believe that it's now two years since Covid hit the world. We are gradually coming to terms with this new way of life, thanks to the vaccinations, and the commitment of most people to follow the experts' guidelines. It has certainly been a challenge, but we are hopeful that when we return to bowls in April, we can offer a fuller programme than last year.

Meanwhile, Winter Warmers, our weekly get together during the closed season, is well-attended, with much laughter, and large quantities of tea/coffee and cake consumed.

It was with sadness that we learned of the passing away of former member Eric Hill. Our thoughts are with his family at this very sad time.

Our AGM was held on November 16th in the Village Centre. Compared with past years, the attendance was a little disappointing, but this could be due to the AGM being in the evening. We do understand that as we get older, we are reluctant to venture out on winter evenings. Maybe we can find an alternative this year. However, the new committee was voted in and are already planning for the coming season. Also, we were so impressed with the N.A.R.S. (Norfolk Accident Rescue Service) charity, that the members voted to continue supporting them again this year.

Thanks to Rita Picton and Muriel Saunders for decorating our Christmas tree in the church Festival - it looked lovely, as did they all.

Regarding our new shed - I did say it was going to be a challenge! The good news is that it has now been erected, thanks to some very hard, cold work by our team. It just needs a few finishing touches, then will be ready to use for storage. It will be very useful, I'm sure.

It won't be long before we can once again start work on preparing the green for the coming season, and sprucing up our clubhouse, so plenty of work to keep us occupied.

Hopefully I will have more to report for the next issue. Stay healthy everyone. □



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**contact@dersinghamvets.co.uk**

## Dersingham Task Force Dennis Weatherill

At this time of year the Task Force should be relaxing with our collective feet up, without a care in the world, listening to the howling winter gales and watching the snowflakes through the window.

However, this year we have been involved with St Nicholas Church Christmas Tree Festival. In addition to helping bring in and place the trees at the end of November, we also took them down, removed them from the church and swept the aisles clear of pine needles in early January. Although I'm sure, just as at home, they will be finding needles right up until Easter!



To all those who were able to help - a big thank you; a fine example of "many hands make light work". Having visited the fully decorated trees during the Festival, it was rewarding to see the final results of the hard work put in by the various Dersingham organisations.

We will now hibernate until spring, but I'm happy to be disturbed if any of you wish to join us in 2022: Dennis Weatherill, [denzilweatherill@gmail.com](mailto:denzilweatherill@gmail.com), 07482 913399.□

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# St Nicholas Church Christmas Tree Festival

Here is a selection of the trees decorated by many of the village's groups and organisations. I'm sorry there is not room to see all of these wonderful contributions.

First Dersingham Scout Group



Children's Church



Dersingham VA Primary School



Baby Basics



Flying Geese Patchwork & Quilting



Dersingham Day Centre

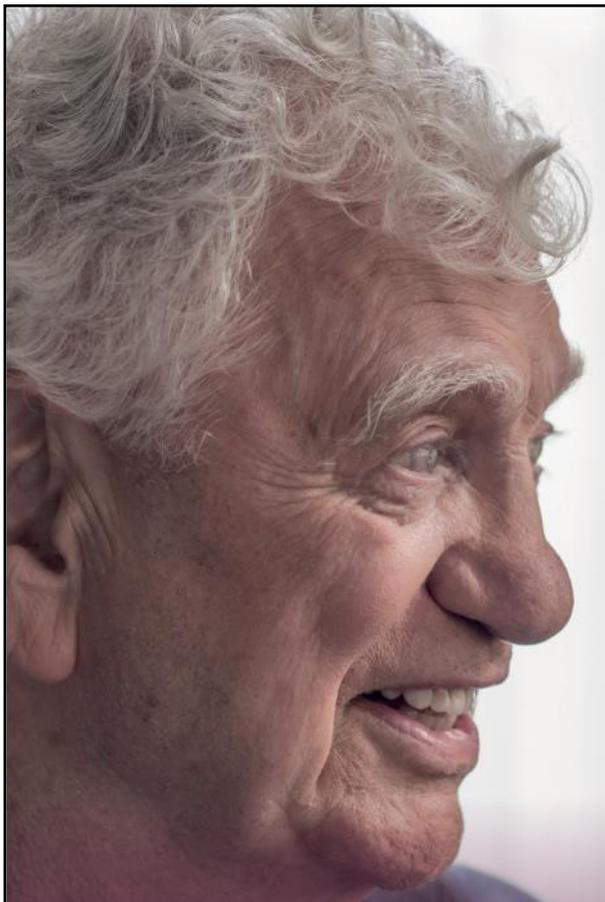


St Nicholas Friendship Group



St Cecilia's Catholic Church





  
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## The Bridge at Kalach

Brian Anderson



Rudi Heuer was cold, very cold. He couldn't remember ever being as cold as this, not even when the advance had been halted before Moscow the previous year. He was wearing a balaclava with his forage cap on top, his full uniform including greatcoat, a blanket over his shoulders and gloves over mittens. On his feet he wore a pair of *valenki* felt boots that he had looted from a dead Russian soldier. And still he was cold.



**German troop carrier**

His thoughts drifted to the summer of 1941. He'd been conscripted in the spring and then in June moved with his unit to the Polish border. On June 22nd the offensive against the Soviet Union began. It was beautiful weather and the offensive just kept rolling on through cornfields, past villages that the *Waffen SS* had razed to the ground. That disturbed him, although he knew that he could say nothing, and he felt shame at his early exhilaration of their rapid progress. In the early days he'd regarded the Nazis as ridiculous, all *lederhosen* and mock battles at weekends. As the offensive progressed the truth

was soon obvious and shocking - the Jews being rounded up by the *Einsatzgruppen* and dispatched to some unknown fate, the makeshift gallows with the bodies of alleged partisans dangling.

The offensive moved on, but gradually, inexorably, their supply lines were getting longer and partisan attacks were increasing. The Red Army continued either to mount suicidal attacks or to fall back. At the time, Rudi couldn't help feeling that the *Wehrmacht* was being drawn further and further east. The unmade roads were exacting a toll on the vehicles. Rough surfaces, dust and grit were hard on engines and transmissions. Then the autumn arrived and with the autumn, the rain. The trucks and tanks got hopelessly bogged down - even the horse transport floundered. Then the Red Army sprang its big surprise. They deployed a new tank that was better than anything the *Wehrmacht* had. It was faster, better armoured and better able to travel over the mud. This tank, the T34, was to be the nemesis of many a German unit.



**Soviet T34 tank**

The first snow came in October. After that the offensive slowed almost to a halt. It became very cold and the engines of the tanks and other vehicles had to have fires lit under them to thaw the diesel enough to turn the engines over. Then, just outside Moscow, the Red Army counterattacked. The *Wehrmacht*, ill-equipped for a winter campaign, began to suffer from frostbite and lack of food. They just avoided encirclement. Rudi's unit was lucky - they were far enough back in the rear area that they avoided the worst of the fighting and shortages. But it was clear that there would be no victory that year.

His unit moved back and settled in for a winter refit. Then in spring 1942 they moved south - a new offensive was in the offing. In some ways it was a repeat of 1941: a rapid advance, the Red Army falling back as the *Wehrmacht* rolled across the southern steppe. Rudi's unit moved behind the main advance, going east at first, then south, then east again. So, after a series of orders, counter-orders and tactical adjustments, Rudi found himself at Kalach in September 1942.

It was an unprepossessing place. Poor, neglected, with a multitude of workshops and shacks. Rudi wondered why they had come - but Kalach had a bridge over the River Don, the only bridge for dozens of kilometres both upstream and down. He learned that there had been a battle at Kalach in August when the Red Army had suffered a resounding defeat and retreated eastwards, towards the river Volga and the city of Stalingrad. The mood was optimistic: Stalingrad would fall in days, weeks at the most. So Rudi and his unit settled into the routine of rear area activity. He was puzzled at the arrangements in Kalach - there seemed to be no organisation in the town. The bridge had been mined for demolition to prevent the Red Army capturing it intact. If the offensive was going so well, why was that necessary? Who was in charge? The security of the bridge was entrusted to civilians from the *Organisation Todt* (engineers). The garrison comprised disparate elements of *Luftwaffe* anti-aircraft troops, some Romanian units and a contingent of *Feldgendarmarie* who behaved like military police everywhere, exhibiting arrogance and self-entitlement. The remainder (and the majority) were maintenance and supply troops. Rudi's commander was clearly uneasy about the civilian responsibility for the bridge and designated his own troops to keep a watching brief on the *Todt* workers. Thus it was that Rudi and others spent time on guard duty some distance from the bridge. He found it boring and, as autumn turned to winter, very uncomfortable. The news from the front continued to be optimistic as October faded into November. News was still optimistic but there had been no breakthrough. That the fighting was heavy was obvious from the casualty vehicles that came through Kalach. Sometimes when on duty Rudi would look at the stream of Ju52 tri-motor transport planes lumbering east. There seemed to fewer coming back than going. Maybe some of them went a different way back...or perhaps they didn't come back at all

The food grew worse. Rudi longed for something wholesome and simple - *bratwurst* with white bread or his regional specialty *Pfälzer Saumagen*, pig's stomach stuffed with pork, onions and herbs. What he was actually getting was a thin stew of fish or horse meat with sour black bread or potatoes. But what he really longed for was a cup of coffee that wasn't made from ground acorns. The weather grew steadily worse - very much colder and then foggy. November 19th was a day just like any other - more overnight bridge duty for Rudi, although he felt sure in the hours before dawn that there was artillery fire in the distance. It was two days before the news came through that the Red Army had broken through both north and south of Stalingrad. But Rudi reasoned (as much to reassure himself as anything) that the front was still miles away and there was time for the *Wehrmacht* to regroup and counterattack.

For a day there was no firm news and so Rudi's duties remained unaltered. And so it was that Rudi found himself chilled to the bone on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1942. Despite the cold, he found it difficult to keep awake - his daydreaming all too easily subsided into a doze. He was aware that this had to be avoided at all costs - the penalty for sleeping on duty was summary execution. His turn of duty was to end at 07.00; that could be only an hour away. But then all the temptations of sleep vanished. The misty silence was being broken by the sound of engines, and then by the noise of tank tracks. He slipped his rifle off his shoulder and peered through the mist. He saw the spots of two headlights. Gradually the shape of the tank came into view. It was a *PzKw IV*. He sighed with relief - one of ours. Behind it came another tank, another *Panzer* and behind that a reconnaissance vehicle. The first

tank crossed the bridge and stopped. The second stopped in the middle of the bridge and the recce vehicle stopped just short. What were they doing? He instantly found out - the tanks began firing on the bridge guard posts and the town. On the bluff above the town more tanks appeared - but these were T34s. All at once firing broke out everywhere and Russian troops appeared from every quarter. Rudi realised that he and everyone else had been duped. "How am I going to get out of this?" he wondered.

And that was the last thought he ever had.

*The story of the Red Army deception at Kalach is true. The capture of the bridge allowed the two arms of the Russian attack to link up, consigning the German Sixth Army at Stalingrad to defeat. Rudi is my own invention. □*

## Dersingham Carpet Bowls Club



Happy and Healthy New Year to all. Let's hope that 2022 will be the year we finally tame COVID-19 and we are able to resume a much more normal life. The Club has successfully re-established itself after the lengthy lockdowns of the last two years, and around thirty members regularly attend the Tuesday afternoon sessions. Although a few of our previous members are no longer with us for various reasons, new members have joined us.

On October 8<sup>th</sup> twenty-six members, friends and family attended our first social event since the lockdown, with a lunch at The Anvil. A good time was had by all, with the usual good food and efficient service. A big thank you to Maureen for organising the event.

On October 26<sup>th</sup> twenty-nine members attended the first AGM since lockdown. The Treasurer, Secretary, Chair and Vice Chair were returned unopposed, and six committee members were elected. Officials had little to report due to the truncated season, but accounts were agreed and accepted by members.

On Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup> a group of fourteen member and friends attended a matinee performance of the pantomime *Aladdin* at the Princess Theatre, Hunstanton. The usual menu of boos and hisses, "it's behind you" and "oh no it isn't; oh yes it is", brilliant costumes, very silly jokes and super singing and dancing made for a very entertaining afternoon. A group of eight members and friends then continued on to the Honeystone for a meal. A brilliant way to spend a cold and miserable afternoon. Finally, on December 21<sup>st</sup> we held our annual Christmas party, which has become a bit of a tradition. Members all bring a plate of food which is placed on a communal table, and this always produces a splendid spread. Then there is the target bowls competition, 50p a go, with all the money going to the winners. There is also a free raffle with gift-wrapped mystery prizes, a cryptic quiz, and - new for 2021 - a mystery bag competition where small objects such as pasta shapes, paper clips and sea shells were put in non-see-through bags to be guessed by sense of touch. This proved very successful, and the compiler is already collecting items for next year's party!

We now look forward to a successful 2022 and hopefully some of the previous leagues and inter club competitions will be reinstated.□

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# Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership Briefing: COVID-19 booster programme - 05 January 2022

## **An astounding response from local people and the NHS sees Norfolk and Waveney reach number one in the region for booster vaccinations**

The overwhelming support from local people in coming forward for their COVID-19 booster jabs means that Norfolk and Waveney is currently top in the East of England region for the number of booster vaccinations given, with 56.5% of the **total population** having now had their COVID-19 booster.

We are also performing better than the national average, with 82% of **those eligible** for a booster in Norfolk and Waveney having now received one. Over the last three weeks, 217,000 COVID-19 vaccinations have been administered, putting Norfolk and Waveney second highest in the region for volume of vaccinations given. This incredible achievement is thanks to GP practices, community pharmacies, hospitals and large-scale vaccination sites pulling out all the stops to get as many jabs in arms by the end of December 2021 as possible, as well as hundreds of our own staff who have been redeployed to support this huge vaccination drive.

It is vital that people continue to come forward for their COVID-19 booster as we move into the New Year. The more people that come forward for their COVID-19 booster, the better Norfolk and Waveney will be protected. Please do share messages you see on social media and continue to encourage your friends and family to get their vaccinations, if they haven't already.

We are working with partners across the system to review the amount of vaccination capacity we need going forward, with a view to gradually reducing clinics, as demand is expected to decrease now the majority of eligible groups have received their vaccinations and booster. We will be reinstating the roving vaccination model during January, focussing on areas across Norfolk and Waveney with low vaccine uptake and reaching out to our most vulnerable populations.

## **Norfolk and Waveney's health and care system under pressure as we enter the New year**

With health and care services in Norfolk and Waveney under unprecedented pressure, people are being urged to use services wisely and to look after themselves and others.

Health leaders have thanked local people for the many ways they have responded to the pressures on our health and care services in 2021 and are urging the public to continue to help us to help you. Health and care workers across Norfolk and Waveney continue to work tirelessly together to keep services running to support us all, our loved ones, our neighbours, and our communities.

Winter is always a time of pressure for NHS services and even more so this year with the threat of the new COVID-19 Omicron variant. There is high demand for all health and care services, and we are preparing for further increases in the number of Covid cases locally. It is vital we keep beds in our acute hospitals free for people needing urgent and emergency treatment, our community hospitals free to provide continuing care, and our ambulances on the road able to respond to emergency calls. We are seeing large numbers of very unwell people requiring 999 ambulance services and urgent hospital care. This is resulting in delays in ensuring some patients already admitted to hospital and who are ready to leave can do so, and the ongoing restrictions and reductions in our bed numbers brought about by COVID-19 is creating additional pressure. We are also

seeing an increase in seasonal illnesses such as flu and the winter vomiting bug. It is really important that people do not delay seeking help from the NHS if they feel unwell. However, with local health services increasingly stretched people are being urged only to attend an Emergency Department if it's absolutely necessary.

### **There are a number of ways you can help us to help you:**

#### **Support loved ones to leave hospital**

Please collect loved ones from hospital as soon as they are ready to leave, either from the Emergency Department or from wards, to free up beds for patients needing emergency care. If you need help managing your loved ones at home, let us know and we will do all we can to support you.

#### **Choose services wisely**

The best way to get the medical help you need is to think NHS 111 first. Phone NHS 111 or visit [111.nhs.uk](https://111.nhs.uk) for anything that feels urgent, or if you are unsure what to do. They can direct you to the most appropriate place. In life-threatening emergencies dial 999. Pharmacists can give expert and speedy help with minor ailments. They can also provide over the counter remedies for minor health conditions.

#### **Get your COVID-19 jab**

Around 90% of those currently in hospital with serious complications from COVID-19 are unvaccinated. The evidence is clear. Not getting vaccinated against Covid puts you at greater risk of serious illness and death. Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself, your family and your friends as we head into 2022, whether it be a first, second or booster dose. It also means that you are much less likely to end up in a hospital bed that could otherwise be used to treat someone else.

Make an appointment via the NHS national booking service online at [nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](https://nhs.uk/covid-vaccination) or call 119 (free), between 7am and 11pm seven days a week or you can attend an advertised walk-in site, which can be found at <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/Walkin/>. Please help us by cancelling your appointment if you no longer need it to free it up for someone else. There are plenty of appointments available, but please be patient and be kind to our NHS staff.

#### **Keep safe – if we all work together, we will keep everyone we love safe**

We should continue to wear face coverings in public and crowded settings, wash our hands, keep rooms ventilated, get tested regularly and isolate if you or anyone else at home has symptoms of COVID-19. Do not visit your GP, pharmacy, our hospitals, care homes, or schools if you have symptoms of COVID-19. Remember, all services are available online or by phone. Protect yourself and others this winter by getting the flu vaccine and practise good hygiene this winter, like washing your hands frequently.

#### **Look after your mental health**

We know that the festive season can be a challenging time for some people. Help is available for anyone, including those who want to talk to someone. If you need urgent mental health support, please call First Response on 0808 196 3494. **First Response are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week.**

[www.norfolkandwaveneypartnership.org.uk](https://www.norfolkandwaveneypartnership.org.uk) □

## Dersingham Methodist Church Elizabeth Batstone

Christmas is long past, but I just wanted to thank those who attended our Christmas services. We raised £318 for Sightsavers, an organisation that works in many countries to provide cataract surgery for children, and treatment for adults and children with other eye conditions.



Thank you to everyone for their support in 2021. We are looking forward to being able to continue as normal as possible in 2022 and will continue to follow Government guidelines as required.

You are welcome to join us for any of our church activities:

Church Services: 10.30 am weekly

Bowls Club: Wednesday 2.00 - 4.00 pm weekly

Jigsaw Club: Third Thursday 9.30 - 10.30 am

Mid-week Communion Service: Fourth Wednesday 10.00 am

Coffee mornings: **Saturday 26th February** 10.00 - 11.30 am for flower festival funds

**Saturday 26th March** 10.00 - 11.30 am for Action for Children and Methodist Homes for the Aged.

Tel: 01485 541068. Email: [stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com](mailto:stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com) □

### **Phobbies: Hobbies club for those with and without physical difficulties**

By the time you are reading this I hope we will be back to normal. We closed over Christmas and all of January to escape the worst of COVID.

The club meets every Thursday at the Social Club in Dersingham to do a variety of craft-based hobbies. Over the years these have included woodwork, embroidery, knitting, rug making, art, card making and many others as well. Most of the men and women who join us either have a disability or have become infirm in some way, but those who have no problems are welcome as well. What we all enjoy is the company of others, while at the same time doing something practical. Currently we have art, card making, knitting, crocheting and rug making. We all help each other to learn new things or to re-learn something we liked doing in the past.

Anyone interested in joining us please contact Maggie on the number below.

**FOR SALE** - a variety of handmade items: cards, rugs, hats, scarves, gloves, children's jumpers and toys. Please drop in any Thursday between **10.30 and 2.00** at the Social Club or contact **Maggie** on **07967 799816**. □

## Old Postcards Tony Bubb

Regular readers of Village Voice might recall that I collect old postcards. Not randomly, they need to fall into categories that I want. I started out with Raphael Tuck's "Oilette" series of views round here, later expanding the brief to any that took my fancy. Postcards of this area get collected, although I think I have probably got nearly all of those and some of those were exceedingly dim and dull – not a really enticing way of getting your friends envious of your travels. I am not too parochial about what I buy so King's Lynn, Hunstanton and our environs all get considered. Very often the best cards can be found well away from here, like this view of Hunstanton I found in Bowness on Windermere just before Christmas.



Sent by "Gwen" in July 1962, it shows The Green in all its hand-coloured splendour. Gwen, we are told, had a pleasant week staying in a bungalow far enough from the main streets to make their car useful. However, a close look at the photo reveals that it was a bit long in the tooth when it was bought. The road does not look to have a hard surface, fashion styles appear much older, but it cannot have been taken much before 1950 as there is a P4 Rover parked in front of the Golden Lion, unless a crafty publisher did the then equivalent of photoshopping the view. (I briefly worked for a postcard publisher and know that they got up to this sort of thing.) Far right shows Breda Lodge that had a notorious past before becoming the Green Lodge restaurant.

Postcard collecting opens a view into the past as the messages on the back are almost more interesting than the pictures, and with the internet and streetview the people can often be traced. Have I got anything that I still am looking for? Well, yes, if you have a McTavish everlasting greetings card do get in touch.□



We're working in partnership with Anglian Water to help make sure members of our community are aware of the support they can receive if they're customers of Anglian Water.

The **Priority Services Register (PSR)** offers additional practical support such as providing extra help in the event of a water incident, adding a password to your account to provide an extra layer of protection against bogus callers, and Knock & Wait, which gives you a little more time to get to the door.

Like many people at the moment, if you're finding paying bills a challenge, Anglian Water offer a wide range of **financial assistance** that may be able to help you. This includes discounted tariffs, assistance schemes if you've fallen behind with your payments, as well as flexible and affordable payment plans to suit you.

You can find out more about the support available by visiting [anglianwater.co.uk/WaterCare](http://anglianwater.co.uk/WaterCare), scanning the QR code or calling their specially trained Priority Services team on 0800 232 1951. □



### Cryptic Confectionery Quiz Answers

- |                       |                      |                    |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Marathon           | 12. Wine Gums        | 23. Quality Street |
| 2. Polo               | 13. Terry's All Gold | 24. Lion Bar       |
| 3. After Eights       | 14. Tic Tac          | 25. Humbug         |
| 4. Jelly Baby         | 15. Mars Bar         |                    |
| 5. Chocolate Buttons  | 16. Bounty           |                    |
| 6. Milk Tray          | 17. Milky Way        |                    |
| 7. Edinburgh Rock     | 18. Skittles         |                    |
| 8. Mint Imperials     | 19. Smarties         |                    |
| 9. Fisherman's Friend | 20. Opal fruits      |                    |
| 10. Kit Kat           | 21. Dolly Mixtures   |                    |
| 11. Pear Drops        | 22. Minstrels        |                    |



## Law and Order - Part 2: The Commons Reeves Elizabeth Fiddick

Common land is land owned by a person or persons who have rights to allow livestock to graze there, to collect wood and cut turf for fuel. These rights were of great importance to villagers, especially the least wealthy members of any village, when they could be literally a lifeline. These rights were granted to the owners of tenancies of particular plots and houses usually situated next to, or close to, the common land. The occupiers of such tenancies were known as commoners. There were millions of acres of such land up to the medieval period, but a series of Enclosure Acts beginning in the 16<sup>th</sup> century drastically reduced the amount of common land, limiting many traditional rights.

The Enclosure Act of 1778 was of supreme importance to the villagers of Dersingham. Five Commissioners, among them the wonderfully named Jehosophat Postle from Norwich, were appointed to set out and allocate the allotment of lands to be enclosed, ditched, fenced and drained, and the lands to be set aside for the use of the parish. Thus we learn that 100 acres of land known as Rice's Common were allocated to George, Earl of Orford (Houghton); Dixon Hoste (Sandringham Estate); Samuel Hey, Vicar; Horatio Hamond and William Stanton, Churchwardens; and William Stanton and Robert Golty, Overseers of the Poor, to administer for use of the commoners.

Further allocations were made for the same purpose, namely Badger Fen of some 28 acres, Little Common of 17 acres and Marsh Common. So where are these parcels of land? Rice's Common is the present day Open and Shut Up Commons. There was no Heath Road at that time to divide the common, so it stretched open and treeless from the

edge of the village down to near our present roundabout. A photo taken in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century affords us some idea of what it would have looked like.



**Badger Fen**

(turbary), and take sufficient wood from smaller trees, gorse or fallen branches for use in their own homes (estovers), and extract minerals, sand or lime. The open sandpits on

The smaller Badger Fen was situated on the opposite side of the road, with the larger Marsh Common stretching behind it down to the waters of The Wash. In the following photograph Badger Fen Common is on the right.

Little Common seems to be the area of land bordered by Lynn Road, Post Office Road, and Manor Road, now filled with housing, and the playing fields and the allotments on the opposite side.

The commoners had the right to graze cattle, horses, sheep and pigs on this land (pasture). They could gather turf for fuel

Rice's Common could be used in accordance with the rules set out by the Vicar, Churchwardens and Overseers.

There were 56 rights of feeding cattle on the commons. They ranged from Horatio Hamond and Robert Golty, who each had 7 rights due to the property they owned, down to villagers like Westcot Littleton and Eleanor Roope who had just 1 right each. However, to protect the commons from overgrazing or overuse there were very strict rules laid down by the Commissioners on the exact number of animals permitted for each right and the time of year when those rights could be exercised. For example, a commoner could graze four cows or heifers over two years old, or two geldings or mares, with or without foals under six months old, and no infected animals were allowed on the commons. No beasts were allowed on the commons between 13<sup>th</sup> February, old Candlemas Day, at six o' clock at night until 12<sup>th</sup> May at 8 o'clock in the morning. No animals were allowed to graze on the Marsh Common.

Every poor person who was an occupier of a common right house could yearly take, but not dig, two wagon loads of whins between 1<sup>st</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> May. (Whins were furze or gorse.) They could cut or dig turves or flags (reeds) not exceeding 1,000 from Badger Fen Common, but the turves must be cut in such a way that they could be removed upon one wagon with four horses. In later years these rights were extended to all the poor of the village, not just commoners. The Commissioners decreed that *"No whins can be stuffed off the field allotments between the last day of May and 1<sup>st</sup> of September."*

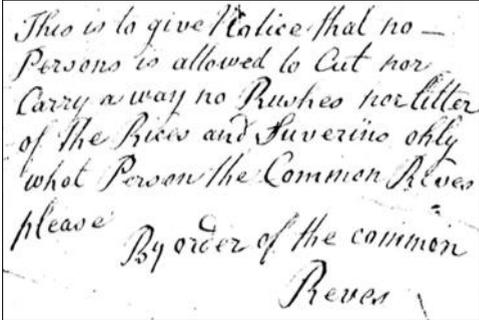


If, as a result of poor weather perhaps, Rice's Common and Badger Fen Common did not supply sufficient fuel for two wagon loads, then the Reeves could open up Marsh Common and allow the commoners to gather fuel there to make up the amount. All the owners of common rights and their tenants were ordered to meet every year to appoint the Commons Reeves. The Commissioners stipulated that on Whit Monday between 10 and 12 in the morning they were to meet in the church porch and choose three of their number to be Commons Reeves. It was the duty of the Reeves to ensure all the regulations were enforced and obeyed and carry out the many and various duties to maintain the commons in good order.

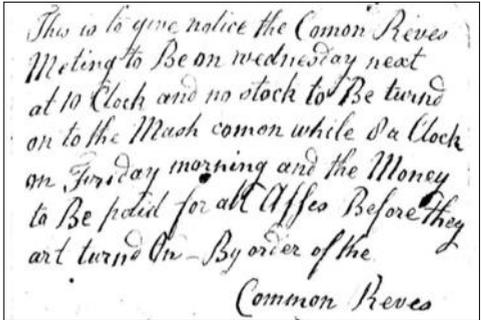
It was stipulated that every common right tenant should pay not more than two shillings for every cow, heifer, horse, mare or colt. Not more than one shilling was to be paid for each ass. If any refused to make the annual payment, then they would be issued with a fourteen days' notice and excluded from the use of the commons with any animal. The Reeves could drive their animals off until payment was made. They could impound goods or chattels to cover the debt. The Reeves would collect the money and use it for the general maintenance but also, for instance, to purchase a sufficient number of bulls for the villagers' use. They could also sell any bull that was found to be useless. They were responsible for killing moles, mowing reeds and rushes, and keeping proper watering places. Reeves could also in good years cut and sell bushels of whins, reeds, etc and sell to the highest bidder using the money for the general good of the commons. They had to keep gates and fences in good repair and prevent cattle from Badger Fen moving over onto the Marsh Common. When they stipulated that fences and gates were to be erected between Badger Fen Common and the Marsh Common the Commissioners had

already appointed a Benjamin Parker, a carpenter from Fincham, to make them. They were very specific in their instructions. Ditches were to be four and a half feet wide at the top, one foot wide at the bottom, with a depth of three feet. Banks were to be planted with hedges or have fences placed on the top.

The Reeves could retain twenty shillings from the money collected for "their care, pains and trouble in executing the office." The villagers, therefore, would regularly find notices from the Common Reeves attached to the church giving instructions concerning the commons, outlining rules, arranging meetings and the collection of monies due. The following notices are preserved in our church records:



This is to give Notice that no Persons is allowed to Cut nor Carry away no Rushes nor Litter of the Rices and Suverins only what Person the Common Reeves please  
By order of the common Reeves



This is to give notice the Comon Reeves Meting to Be on wednesday next at 10 Clock and no stock to Be turned on to the Marsh comon while 8a Clock on Friday morning and the Money to Be paid for all Asses Before they art turned On - By order of the Common Reeves

This is to give Notice that no Persons is allowed to Cut nor Carry away no Rushes nor Litter of the Rices and Suverins only what Person the Common Reeves please.  
By order of the common Reeves.

This is to give notice the Comon Reeves Meting to Be on wednesday next at 10 Clock and no stock to Be turned on to the Marsh comon while 8 o Clock on Friday morning and the Money to Be paid for all Asses Before they art turned On - By order of the Common Reeves

By the time we reach the 20<sup>th</sup> century the duties of the Commons Reeves were then the responsibility of the Trustees of the Dersingham Charities. The recorded minutes taken at meetings held at that time reveal the problems encountered by the Trustees. The dumping of rubbish on the common was a recurring theme. Mr. Lines was employed over and over again to clear tins and rubbish from the common. In 1908 it was agreed a notice board should be erected warning residents not to deposit rubbish or litter there. An application to deposit laundry refuse on the commons was vehemently refused. In 1899 a Mr. Warren was written to requesting him to disconnect the sewage from his property onto the common!!

But the biggest recurring problem was that of fire. The sum of ten shillings was agreed in 1899 to be paid to Messrs. Lines, Bullman and Green for extinguishing fire on the common. It was obviously a continuing nuisance as in 1906 Sergeant Collyer attended the meeting of the Trustees to outline the efforts he had made to stop the firing of the common by young men from the village. A special meeting was called at the school to decide on action to be taken and legal proceedings were taken against two young men. Sadly, it did not end the practice as fire continued to be a constant hazard, even up to the present day. It made me wonder if the Commons Reeves had the same problems. □

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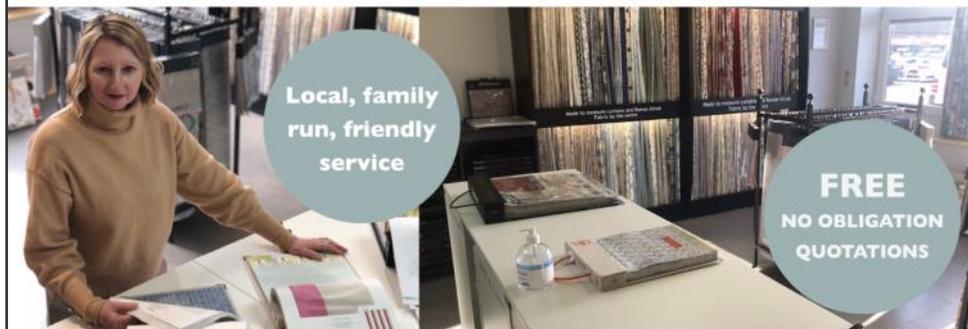
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## Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny



Well, here we are again with some more fact, fiction and squit for the February/March issue of the Dersingham Village Voice. As most of you know, I have lost my sight in one eye and 50 per cent in the other, so I can't read the papers or books. Therefore, I can't look up or read about what I would like to read about, but I have still got a very good memory.

### How things have changed

I have lived in West Norfolk for over eighty years and it's amazing how some of the villages have changed, especially Dersingham. When I was a lad you could wander more or less where you liked, everybody would speak to you and you would know most people in the village. Neighbours would go in and out of each other's houses. If you did lock your door the key would be under a brick near the back door or hanging from a nail behind the shed door that had no lock on it. We would take our air guns up the two village dumps to kill the rats. No one stopped us; they thanked us for killing them.

### Marsh and fen

One of the worst things that happened a few years back was when the gates were put up on Dersingham Beach Road and Wolferton Marsh Road. When I asked the council and Sandringham Estate why this had been done, they both said it was to stop the farm machinery being stolen. Had they never heard of a pair of bolt croppers? Many of us from the village used to go down to the shingle pits to swim. Even Superintendent Mitchell, who lived in the police house, would go down and have a swim before breakfast,

Many of us would go down to the pumping station, or go through Wood Farm and fish at the weir on the Babingley River. I was told that I could ride or walk down there but, when you get there, the pits are fenced and looked after by the RSPB to protect the birds. Yet there were many more birds in the pits before it was fenced in. People I know have been stopped by gamekeepers and told the roads are private. There has also been a fence put around the area of Dersingham Fen to the southwest of the by-pass, yet the fen has been hacked about so much that it looks like an army training ground, with a lot less birds than were there fifty years ago. I have been told that some work is being done on the Open Common. Let's hope that they do not get rid of the gorse bushes but just trim them back so that people can use the pathways.

### The great ladybird invasion

I was very interested in the write-up about ladybirds by Brian Anderson in the latest issue of Village Voice. One hot Monday morning in July 1976, I was working at the Kit Kat public house right next to the promenade at Hunstanton, putting out the tables and chairs, getting ready for another busy day, when I saw a large cloud out to sea. Thinking nothing of it, I went back in and shut the doors. The next thing I knew people were coming in covered in ladybirds.

I went outside and there were swarms of them. This was the start of the great ladybird invasion that went on till the Friday of that week. They got everywhere: in your food, in your drink and on your clothes. Many pubs, clubs and restaurants closed and by the Wednesday a lot of holidaymakers had got fed up with them and went back home. We managed to keep the Kit Kat open, but we had to keep all the doors and windows shut and, as it was a very hot summer, you lost a bit of sweat. All of a sudden on the Friday they all went away, except for all the dead ones that you were sweeping up for the next week.

One of the council staff who was sweeping up the ladybirds noticed that they were attracted to anything that was yellow, so he got the council to paint a yellow line all the way along the edge of the Prom. He said that then, if the ladybirds came back, they

would land on the yellow line and could be swept into the sea. Up to now they have never come back to Hunstanton, so the sight of the yellow line must have kept the ladybirds off.

Well, that's about all for now. I wish you all a Happy New Year. Keep yourselves safe. I am off to Swaffham to do a day's troshin' for nothing.

All the very best from the boy Dick, Sunny Hunny ☐

## Dersingham at Christmas By Mac A Demia

Over the Christmas period we sent out our roving reporter, Nick Olas, to gauge the man in the street's view of Christmas. One of the families he met was Mr and Mrs P Nutt from Brazil, with their son and daughter, Wal and Coco. Our reporter asked Mr Nutt (a retired kernel) for his view on Christmas. He said he thought it had been more expensive as he had shelled out more this year than last. When our reporter asked his wife, Hazel, about her overall thoughts on Dersingham, she said that the staff in the supermarket were most Cooperative and to get an afternoon tea at Thaxter's was a piece of cake.

She also commented on the Christmas lights and thought the ones on the trees were beautiful, but that the ones at the crossroads, although pretty, the red, red and amber, then green sequence could be improved. Well, that's the Nutts' thoughts on Dersingham and overall I think it a good review. ☐



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### GOLDEN AWARD

Three members of the 2nd Dersingham Brownies had a special reason to celebrate at their last meeting before Christmas. The three Brownies - Harriet Reeves (9), Emma Coates (10) and Jessica Lee (9) - were presented with their Brownie Gold Awards.

The Gold Award is the highest achievement for Brownies. The girls had to achieve six Theme Awards, each theme requiring an Interest badge, a series of skills to master and a number of activities within the Unit.



Picture: left to right: Harriet, Emma, Jessica

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## **Dersingham, we have a new choir!**

Saturday, 11th December was a cold but dry day with no wind, which, when you're tying balloons to posts and trees, is a bonus. We're not as young as we used to be so sprinting after them was not an option!

We were excited about our new choir Open Day finally happening and of course we knew the residents in the village wouldn't let us down, but just in case.....we had taken stuff to pass the time. Well, it all remained in our bags, as once the doors were open at 10.30am, we were pleased to welcome so many people wanting to join our choir. We were bowled over by everyone's appreciation of our efforts as we had prepared information leaflets and a mockup of the welcome pack that every member will receive and examples of the scarf (ladies) and bow tie (gents) that will be worn during concerts.

And people were generous with their donations. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

We finished at 1.30pm totally enthused, knowing that we had made the right decision to start a choir. A big thank you to Stuart and St Cecilia's Church for helping us with the open day.

So what now?

We are delighted to have the services of Simon Bower as Musical Director and Matthew Preston as accompanist and we know we are in safe hands with them both to guide us and get the best out of the choir.

We are busy planning for our first rehearsal on Thursday 10th February. This is subject to the impact of Covid restrictions. Any changes will be notified via the parish notice board near the Co-op, Facebook (Dersingham Village Group) or email if you have already registered with us.

Rehearsals will be at St Cecilia's Catholic Church, Mountbatten Rd, Dersingham, PE31 6YE on Thursday evenings between 7pm and 9pm. There is likely to be a queue for registration so we will open the doors at 6.30pm. Please wear a mask whilst queuing and moving around. Also please bring your own refreshments (eg water).

Your first two weeks will be free of charge. Thereafter the fee is £5.50 per week paid per term or per half term.

You do not need to know how to read music or audition, just come along to sing and have fun. We will have a varied repertoire based on some serious work such as Faure's

*Cantique*, works by John Rutter, rousing Old American songs from Aaron Copland and lots in between.

At the time of writing this, we are still waiting for funding decisions to be made but we are determined to continue and we know we will have the support of the whole choir.

We will be spreading the word to the other villages in the area and raising funds ourselves by organising open days whilst continuing to pursue other funding opportunities. If you would like to make a small donation to help purchase music and equipment we would welcome cheques made payable to Dersingham Choral Society, 25 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Dersingham, PE31 6JQ or bank transfer to Account: 62653652 Sort Code: 53-61-15.

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The Coastal Stroke Support and Carers' Group were delighted to welcome Hilary Farrell from Hunstanton's Inner Wheel, who is the Inner Wheel's District Vice Chairman (as well as the Hunstanton Inner Wheel Club's immediate Past President and current Treasurer), to one of our regular support group meetings on a Tuesday morning.

Hilary presented a cheque for £426.50 to volunteer Debbie Peel (Club Secretary/ Chairperson), stroke survivors and their carers who will benefit from this kind donation, providing art and craft sessions, and exercise and relaxation activities.

The Inner Wheel Club held a sponsored walk raising money for The Stroke Association, which is the Inner Wheel President, Betty Roberts', charity of her year in office – thank you very much Inner Wheel ladies !!

If you are a stroke survivor or carer and would like to join our group, we meet every Tuesday morning at the Hunstanton Methodist Church between 10.30am and 12.30pm where you will be made most welcome.

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

### **Contact information**

Chris Bryant Tel: 01485 541457  
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## Never enough Found by Antje Franke

She sat at the back and they said she was shy.  
She led from the front and they hated her pride.  
They asked her advice and then questioned her guidance.  
They branded her loud, then were shocked by her silence.

When she shared no ambition they said it was sad.  
So she told them her dreams and they said she was mad.  
They told her they'd listen, then covered their ears,  
And gave her a hug while they laughed at her fears.

And she listened to all of it thinking she should,  
Be the girl they told her to be best as she could.  
But one day she asked what was best for herself,  
Instead of trying to please everyone else.

So she walked to the forest and stood with the trees,  
She heard the wind whisper and dance with the leaves.  
She spoke to the willow, the elm and the pine,  
And she told them what she'd been told time after time.

She told them she felt she was never enough,  
She was either too little or far, far too much,  
Too loud or too quiet, too fierce or too weak,  
Too wise or too foolish, too bold or too meek.

Then she found a small clearing surrounded by firs,  
And she stopped...and she heard what the trees said to her.  
And she sat there for hours not wanting to leave.  
For the forest said nothing, it just let her breathe."

*Author unknown*



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## Rhododendron – like Marmite, you either love it or hate it

Alex Coombs, Clerk to Dersingham United Charities

If you have walked through the woods on the Common over the past year or so you have probably noticed that we have been putting a lot of effort into eradicating the rhododendron that has grown up there over the past few decades. Whilst being ensconced in the bushes I have inadvertently heard passers-by making comments like “I don’t like what they are doing, I like rhodi”, “I love the pretty flowers”, “they will do anything for grant money”... etc. But, believe me, it is hard work and we aren’t doing it just for fun (or money), so why are we doing it?

Let’s start with the plant itself: the genus *rhododendron* has over 1,000 sub-species (including azaleas) which mostly originate from the Himalayan regions - it is the national flower of Nepal. It thrives on poor, acidic, heathland soils like ours and is happy to flourish in severe cold, wet conditions – in fact it probably finds our climate quite balmy and in a mild winter it can grow, even flower, throughout the winter season.

Rhododendron is, therefore, not native to the UK, in fact it doesn’t naturally belong in Europe. It was introduced into the UK in 1763 and was extensively planted in gardens for its beautiful flowers and on large estates to provide cover for game birds, particularly pheasants (also Asian in origin) by the Victorians. Over time, one species, *Rhododendron ponticum* (described by the Woodland Trust as the “Devil in disguise”) has invaded the countryside to such an extent that it is included under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as an invasive non-native species (along with Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam) making it illegal to “plant or otherwise cause it to grow in the wild.” Being non-native, it doesn’t support any native wildlife and has no natural enemies here to keep it in check. No one knows its longevity in the UK, but there are individual bushes in Scotland over 130 years old.

It is an aggressive colonizer, spreading by seed (a large bush can produce a million seeds per year), suckering roots or layering branches. Its dense, dark canopy can greatly reduce biodiversity by cutting out sunlight to the understorey and generates cool, damp conditions ideal for harbouring pathogens of tree diseases (especially for oak, larch and beech) - the destruction of any such infected plants is a statutory requirement. Its nectar is reportedly poisonous to bees, and anecdotal evidence suggests that honey from *Rhododendron ponticum* is toxic to humans. Fortunately, our native bees aren’t keen on it.

The sheer physical size of the plant, up to 8m in places, together with its tough, waxy leaves, makes rhododendron a difficult weed to tackle; it will quickly re-grow if it is not completely killed. Even once removed from a site, native plant communities may not return for thirty years! The cost of clearing it from the Snowdonia National Park has been estimated at over £30 million, and clearing the cliffs of the small island of Lundy, Devon takes 105 days’ work costing £26,880 per year. Fortunately for us our Common is not on the same scale!

Locally, it was introduced by the neighbouring Sandringham Estate in the 1960s and has progressively spread since then. Our battle plan is: *during the summer* – to drill a small hole into the base of every stem and pour a thimble full of herbicide into the hole. This will kill the main plant without affecting the soil, or any other plant or animal (but this will often leave suckered growths unaffected, and, needless to say, we will miss some.) *During the winter* – we cut the deadwood down and burn it. Any subsequent regrowth or missed bits will be selectively re-treated or sprayed in the spring. The extensive root systems are damaging the boundary ditches (especially along the eastern edge) preventing the water from flowing along them; it then spills over the banks and the paths. The plan is,

therefore, to clear the Commons of this potential menace, and if you walk into Sandringham's woods you will see they are freeing large areas from rhododendron too. Below you can see the various stages of the clearance program.



So, have any rhododendron lovers changed their minds? Perhaps not, but at least I hope you now understand our reasoning for the work that is being carried out. Improving our Commons is a long term project so there will be other tasks to undertake too; so if you would like to help just email me at [ducclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ducclerk@gmail.com) and I will include you on my volunteer list, and let you know what is happening and when. □



Our February meeting will be on Monday 21st at The Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton. **Giles Orpen-Smellie**, our new Police Commissioner, will be updating us on Norfolk Police activities.



Our March meeting will be on Monday 21st, also at the Community Hall. **Saffron Summerfield** will be speaking about "When Birds Sing".

The meetings will be held under current Government COVID-19 requirements.

Please go to the u3a Hunstanton site at [u3asites.org/hunstanton](http://u3asites.org/hunstanton) for further information or [publicity.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:publicity.u3a@gmail.com)

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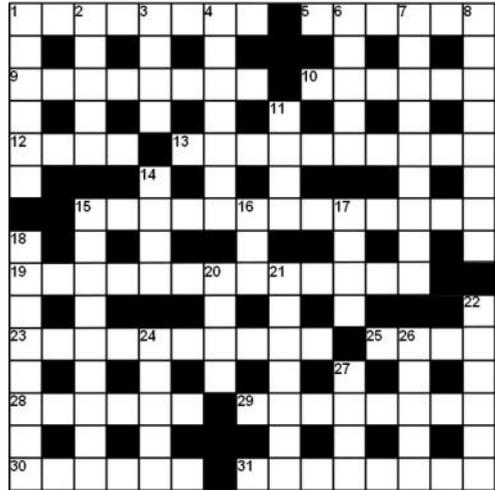
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**Across**

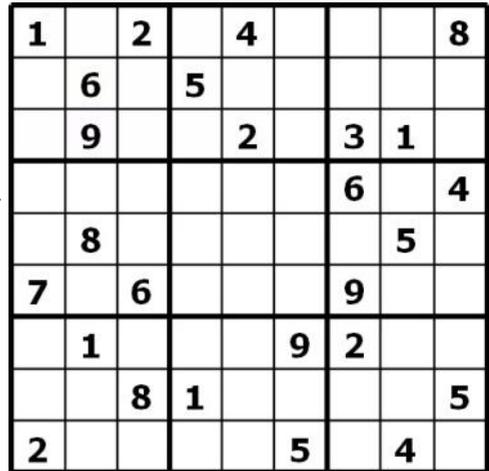
- 1 Captivate approach (8)
- 5 Beer kept old butler productive (6)
- 9 Nylon beds pulled back by Elvis (8)
- 10 Beer again, but this time thrown over old piebalds (6)
- 12 Yearn to lie on new groundsheet initially (4)
- 13 Reconditioned tyre animal found in canal (10)
- 15 Britney Spears worked for a religious sect (13)
- 19 Shooting skills displayed by Spencer's mate with fruit collected by Nazis (4, 9)
- 23 Tearful Charles found wandering around young men's organisation (10)
- 25 Fighter pilot with rare shrub (4)
- 28 Digit surrounds middle of super rug (6)
- 29 Taxi reversed on diamond game (8)
- 30 Refer back in English jacket (6)
- 31 Celestial plant on old papers (8)



**Down**

- 1 Frames for headless stoats (6)
- 2 Thunderous immortal named Spike (5)
- 3 Birds – and another at sea (4)
- 4 Trick fat chat (7)
- 6 As a rule we hear drops (5)
- 7 Bats layer peculiar deceptions (9)
- 8 Composition first worked by Lamb for example (8)
- 11 Fathom it out! (4)
- 14 All-points bulletin (4)
- 15 Soldiers hang about in this in fancy gold chapter (9)
- 16 Long to become a member of Derby engineers (3)
- 17 Check bridle as six defy gravity (4)
- 18 Learner in our team injured rival (8)
- 20 Force cricket supporters to lose book (4)
- 21 Remarks about wood walks (7)
- 22 Spoke of grass found in dictionary (6)
- 24 Medieval steward related to first woman (5)
- 26 Petrol helps load (5)
- 27 Mark found in ammo chest but not in the sport we hear (4)

**Sudoku**



**Answers on page 69**

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## The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle January 2022



The New Year began for me with the revolting stench of corruption wafting from Remote Control Man's bedroom. No, it wasn't him, but caused by rats that had moved into the loft above his room and had been having a wonderful time arranging their furniture, playing games of catch and kick-the-Christmas-bauble, behaving, in general, like the world's worst of noisy squatters. After many notices to quit pinned on the wall to no effect, the pest control man was called in. Five mini stains of death juices are seeping through RCM's ceiling as I write, with the accompanying frightful smell of rotting bodies. From the nocturnal noises, there will be many more corpses to follow. Neither of us can get up into the loft - full of stuff, as lofts are wont to be - so the cadavers shall remain till dry and devoid of flesh. No doubt a plague of bluebottles will ensue, then a multitude of massing maggots to further perpetuate Nature's Reason for Being. In the meantime, Amazon's mighty store is doing a mammoth trade in joss sticks, parcelled up in copious boxes within white vans to trundle, non-stop, night and day, to our door, for the imminent weeks ahead. Ah, what joy.

*Hmmm – I waxed a bit lyrical there, didn't I?*

My hallway is a nice ten foot by eight foot in size. Installed within, I have two funky chairs by the glass wall that contains the front door. The backs of these chairs reach the ceiling, have round seats with only one arm each. They are covered in an astonishing flocked velvet fabric in black and white. My curtains are black and white polka dot. I have a marble washstand against one wall upon which rest objets d'art of no value and a large ceiling-height 'candle tree', under which resides a beautiful tub-chair covered with patchwork velvets of wonderful hue. On the opposite wall, a low and long modern cupboard with more 'objets' artfully arranged. To finish off, a bookcase crammed full of books stands sentinel to an inner hallway. And very nice it is too, though with all this furniture in it, the actual walkway is understandably limited.

This rather charming space had become somewhat cluttered after a delivery of four brooms that spayed across the floor, refusing to stand upright. The boxes and paper that contained them were ripped and torn. I had cast these upon the floor. There was also an old-fashioned zinc baby bath that had contained a garish display of gladioli in the summer, but now lay abandoned. A plastic bin bag of gladioli bulbs, brought in to sort out for over-winter storing, was slumped forlornly against one of the astonishingly fabricated chairs, plus wellington boots and ordinary boots adrift in no particular order and three rubber spooky bats – relics from Halloween – which I had also cast upon the floor. Casting things upon the floor is a failing of mine. Oh, and there were dog leads, harnesses, two retractable leads, four supermarket bags and a partridge in a pear tree. You realise, I am painting a picture for the forthcoming story...

Come bedtime that night, and with my hands full of empty food bowls from Prince Charming, Walter O' Dersingham's isolation room (another story), I slipper-shuffled over to the front door to check the lock and pull the curtains, but didn't quite make it. I don't really know what happened, but over I was falling at an alarming rate. If you are young, you won't understand, but if you are old, you will. One's reactions are not as they used to be. Instead of immediately righting oneself, you just fall like a ton of bricks. I was thinking as I plummeted, "Oh, God, No!" and just managed to put a hand out to break my fall on the chair. That didn't help, because of all the clutter covering the chair. I misjudged and down I went, face to the floor.

Okay, so you fell, I hear you say. Get up! Unfortunately, it's not that easy when you are old and fat and you can't kneel because your knees are knackered. The simple fact is *YOU CAN'T GET UP!* I was a stranded whale on my cluttered hallway floor. A cold, hard, limestone floor. There was no point calling out to Remote Control Man, for he never hears me. No, I had to work this out somehow. In time, I managed to manoeuvre myself up from prone, to rolling sideways and eventually up onto my bottom. So, I am now seated on the floor and realise that maybe it could be a night time vigil, getting colder and colder, for I had already switched off the radiators. But, ah! There are a couple of cushions on the two seats. If I can reach those, I can get them under my knees and there might be a hope of heaving my way up...

To reach the cushions, I had to grasp and throw out of the way four brooms, two long cardboard containers, the wellingtons, the boots and all the dog paraphernalia. By this time, I was so angry that I screeched out all the old-fashioned expletives I was capable of (capable of quite a lot, actually.) Inch by inch I huffed and puffed and managed to get myself in a kneeling position with a cushion under each knee when my beloved - who for the first time in thirty-five years had actually heard my screams of distress - wandered in wearing baggy night time knickers, a coffee-stained tee shirt and a dazed expression upon his sleepy face. "Are you all right?" he queried. I craned my neck and stared at him. Complete mayhem and me crouched over the chair. No, I was not all right! He then began to laugh at my predicament, and the mess I had made chucking stuff out of the way. He also couldn't resist the temptation to poke my bottom. This didn't help. He offered his hand but what with his bad back and my huge weight, I didn't think that a good idea as we would both be on the floor, stranded for the duration. So, I was humiliatingly watched and laughed at as I heaved and heaved until I was eventually in an upright position. I laughed too, as I realised it must have all looked very funny, but the thing is, it IS frightening when you are old, you fall, and you can't get up again. The silly thing is, though, that all I was worried about was that someone might have passed by and witnessed my humiliation!

Despite the time of the year the weather is quite nice today, so I must away outside to try and sort out my garden with the shepherd's hut as I still haven't got it sorted after the builders left. I've planted lots of bulbs, so soon it will be looking lovely as the spring flowers bloom. Thank you to all the people who stop and chat over my fence and tell me how good the garden looks, and an especial thanks to a little girl named Isabella, who stopped on her pink bicycle to tell me how beautiful she thought my garden was.

Cheerio until next time, and I'm wishing you all the best for 2022, from Mrs. Dolittle, covered in cat hairs and the odd bruise or two.□

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### Word Wall by Philip Neal

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

QUEEN	MADAM	FERRY	SKIPJACK
LEVEL	VW	PINK FLOYD	KAYAK
TENET	BEATLES	COLORADO	VOTING
OVERHANG	ZEBRA	ABBA	KINKS



## Making Gardening Easier May Davey

We welcomed twenty-five members and guests to our Christmas lunch at Knights Hill Barn. Most of them did dress brightly in Christmassy outfits, as you can see in the photographs. Tony Kendall said the Grace and spoke movingly about John Hannant, who had been in charge of the gardens at Park House, where the club met for more than twenty years. This year we have lost three other long-standing members: Nessie Rosier, John Smith and Pat Ransome. We will miss them all.



On 19th November Tom Bolderstone gave an illustrated talk to us at Dersingham Village Centre about the six woods - Sites of Special Scientific Interest - he manages for Natural England. His pictures were excellent. Most fascinating of all was a woodland, at least a thousand years old, full of traditional English trees like oaks, but which have been pollarded through the centuries, so are just gnarled trunks now. Afterwards we had Christmas cake and mince pies in the hub.



Our next meeting is on Friday 21st January at the Centre, with Richard Ernst, Head Gardener at Houghton Hall.

New members are always welcome. We meet at 2.00 pm on the third Friday of the month at Dersingham Village Centre, unless an outing has been arranged. Entrance costs £3.00 for tea and a raffle ticket. The annual subscription is £12.00, payable in January 2022.

*Our provisional programme for 2022 is as follows:*

January 21<sup>st</sup> – Talk by Richard Ernst, new Head Gardener at Houghton Hall.

February 18<sup>th</sup> - Oliver Locke from Fakenham Garden Centre, spring planting. Plants for sale.

March 18<sup>th</sup> - AGM and Marianne Charles with slide show on 'Perennials for the shade'.  
 April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Visit by coach to West Acre Garden with tea.  
 May 20<sup>th</sup> - NAFAS arranger Joanne Randall will give a demonstration and talk on plants for flower arranging.  
 June 17<sup>th</sup> - Our annual Flower Show.  
 July 15<sup>th</sup> - Visit to a member's garden.  
 August 19<sup>th</sup> - A talk on tulips by Jo Munson.  
 September 16<sup>th</sup> - Visit to Barnsdale Gardens, Oakham. By coach.  
 October 21<sup>st</sup> – TBC.  
 November 18<sup>th</sup> - Bamboo expert Lou Dyer.  
 December 16<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Lunch at Knights Hotel.

**Come and see how you like us. Happy New Year!**

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### Crossword Answers

#### Across

1 Entrance. 5 Arable. 9 Stocking. 10 Pintos. 12 Long. 13 Alimentary. 15 Presbyterians.  
 19 Marksmanships. 23 Lachrymose. 25 Acer. 28 Toupee. 29 Baccarat. 30 Reefer.  
 31 Asteroid.

#### Down

1 Easels. 2 Thorn. 3 Auks. 4 Conflab.  
 6 Reign. 7 Betrayals. 8 Essayist. 11 Omit.  
 14 News. 15 Parachute. 16 Yen. 17 Rein.  
 18 Emulator. 20 Army. 21 Sashays.  
 22 Orated. 24 Reeve. 26 Cargo. 27 Oche.

### Word Wall Answers

**Palindromes:** Tenet, Madam, Abba, Kayak  
**Crossing:** Level, Zebra, Ferry, Voting  
**Beetles:** VW, Skipjack, Colorado, Overhang  
**Pop-groups:** Queen. Pink Floyd, Beatles, Kinks

### Sudoku Answers

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

## 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 135 (April/May22)	Mon 7th March 2022	Mon 28th March 2022
No 136 (June/July 22)	Mon 25th April 2022	Mon 16th May 2022
No 137 (Aug/Sept 22)	Mon 4th July 2022	Mon 25th July 2022

## Advertising in Village Voice

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

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

These should be emailed directly to the Editor:

**villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk** 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. □*

**Dersingham Parish Council Office, Dersingham Village Centre**  
**83 Manor Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE31 6LN**  
**Tel 01485 541465**

The Production Team for this edition of Village Voice consists of

Editor: Jo Halpin Jones Assistant Editor: Rob Smyth

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

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

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A Welsh bartender decides to breed a racehorse even when she lacks the necessary experience and money. She convinces people from her community to chip in a small amount every week to raise the foal.



Doors open at 7pm

Entry £6; Under 16s £3

(Entry includes tea/coffee/squash)

Licensed Bar available



Dersingham Village Cinema is managed by  
Dersingham Village Centre Association, Charity No 1178462.  
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Tel 01485 543195



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# VILLAGE CINEMA

at Dersingham Village Centre

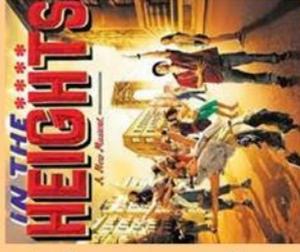
Presents on

Tuesday March 29th at 7:30pm

## IN THE HEIGHTS (PG)

Film version of the Broadway musical, with  
Anthony Ramos, Melissa Barrera, Leslie Grace, Corey Hawkins.

In Washington Heights, N.Y., the scent of warm coffee hangs in the air just outside of the 181st St. subway stop, where a kaleidoscope of dreams rallies a vibrant and tight-knit community. At the intersection of it all is a likable and magnetic bodega owner who hopes, and imagines and sings about a better life.



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