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Village Voice

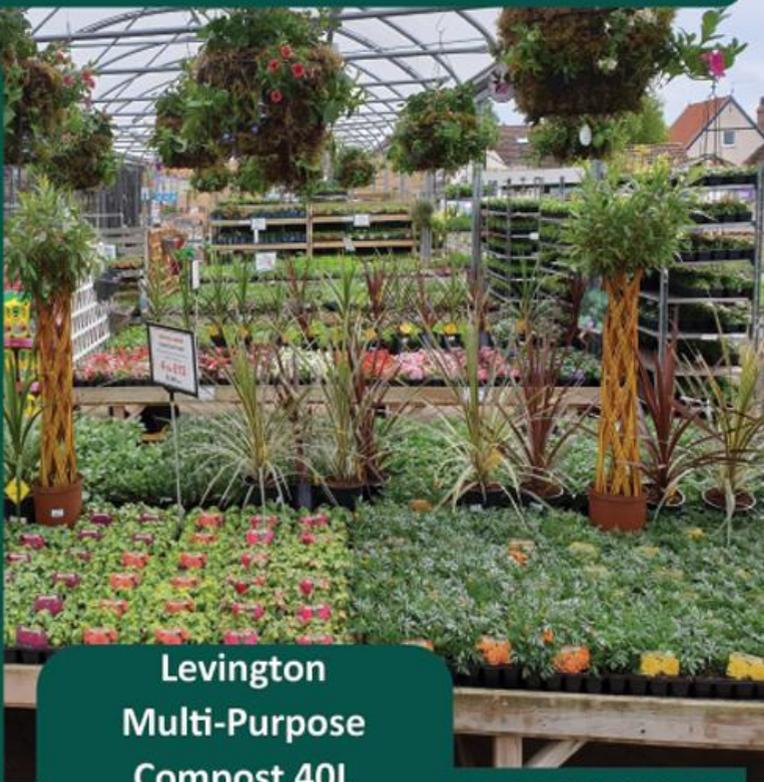
THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



**Dersingham celebrates
Her Majesty The Queen's
Platinum Jubilee**

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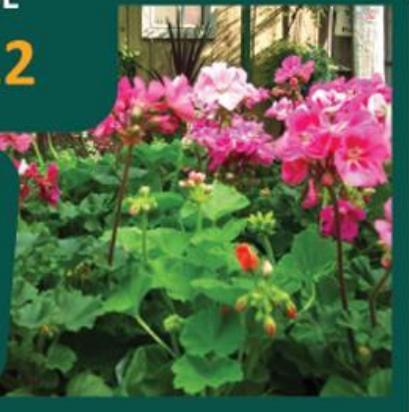
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Editor's notes
Jo Halpin Jones



The village of Dersingham would like to send Her Majesty the Queen every good wish on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne. We have been privileged to be such a close neighbour to Sandringham and to have received so many visits from the Queen and other members of the Royal Family over the past decades.

We are publishing this edition of Village Voice a week or so early so that people can see details of all the events taking place in the village over the Platinum Jubilee holiday weekend. Tony Bubb has produced a souvenir programme covering all the local celebrations and this is inserted into the centre of the magazine. Over the four days there will be the lighting of the village beacon, a children's concert, two days of activities on the Recreation Ground (a Fun Day and a Big Lunch), a Jubilee Jamboree evening at the Village Centre with music and food from the Fifties, a day of cricket matches, and coffee and tea events. Full details in the brochure. We hope you are able to participate in and enjoy some of these activities, and let's hope the weather stays fine!

The various groups and clubs in the village and local area all seem to be back in full swing after so many months away. The weather has been so kind, apart from a few hailstorms, and this has put people in a cheerful mood! My garden is bursting with new life, and I have actually got around to sewing some beans. My granddaughter helped me construct a wigwam of support with hazel sticks held together with string – it doesn't look exactly neat, but hopefully it will do the trick. Now decisions have to be made about when it's safe to bring plants out of the greenhouse. My pots of dahlias are starting to emerge after a winter inside, but will the frosts still return with a final flourish to kill off tender shoots once outside and damage all that beautiful blossom on the apple trees? By the time you read this, the danger should be past!!

Regarding gardens, there's a piece inside encouraging residents to decorate their front gardens with a royal theme to celebrate the Jubilee year. This would be in time to go alongside the wider Open Gardens weekend in September. Also in this issue, apart from the regular updates from village groups, there are some enjoyable articles: Elizabeth Fiddick has come up with another interesting historical person with strong links to Dersingham, Brian Anderson enlightens us with information about lightning, we had feedback about the names of ladies taking a cookery class in an old photo, and we have had several people informing us about The Ship Inn in Ingoldisthorpe. Those organising the St Nicholas Flower Festival are looking for volunteers to become involved in arranging the flowers, with training provided if required. The Borough Council tells us about the Warm Homes Scheme – you may be eligible for grants to help insulate your home or get an air source heat pump. And you will find various other snippets with which we hope to entertain you.□





Dear Village Voice

The query in the last edition of Village Voice about The Ship Inn in Ingoldisthorpe has led to several people contacting us about their memories of this pub. Here are a couple of them!



The Ship Inn, Ingoldisthorpe

My grandson read out to me your little bit in the Village Voice about the Ship Inn (formerly the White Horse) at Ingoldisthorpe. Sam Daniels, who kept it from 1911 to 1937, was also a cockle merchant and hawked cockles around the villages.

George Blowers became licensee in 1954. Before that he was the village blacksmith with his shed just down Manor Road, opposite the Albert Victor public house.

As you go through the middle of Ingoldisthorpe you come to a crossroads. If you look to your left, there is a lane that took you to the railway crossing. Halfway between the main road and the crossing on your right stood the Ship Inn. The site is now occupied by houses that have been there many years.

Dick Melton, Sunny Hunny



The Ship stood in The Drift opposite the football field where the bungalows now stand. The Ship was closed by Watney Mann on 11th May 1970 and was sold in 1972 to my grandfather John 'Jack' Ransome for re-development. The licensees were:

- Thomas Balls 1790
- William Webbon 1794
- Francis Townsend 1836
- Issacc Flight 1845
- Robert Cater 1869
- John Howard 1888
- Alfred Howard 1904
- Samuel Daniels 1911
- Sidney Bridges 1945
- Fredrick Easton 1946
- Bert Fountain-Woodhouse 1949
- George Blowers 1954-1970

The Ship is the white building to the left of the bus shelter in the modern-day photograph.
Hannah Farrow on behalf of Donna Farrow

Parish Council Chairman's Report

Coral Shepherd



Sadly, the war in Ukraine has intensified since our last edition and pictures of the destruction are horrific. Our thoughts are with all those affected.

It has been a relatively quiet time at the Parish Council; we have been carrying on with business as usual with our normal cycle of meetings. Our efforts have concentrated on the planning of events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend. You will have received a brochure with this magazine showing the events. I hope that there is something there to appeal to everyone, and as it's our first opportunity to celebrate as a nation, I hope that we all have an enjoyable weekend, however we choose to celebrate. Here's hoping for good weather.

We will be doing a litter pick around village on Sunday May 29th so that the village will be looking at its best for the weekend. If you would like to join us for an hour or so we would welcome your help. We will be meeting in Station Road at 10.30am.

Could I also remind all dog owners that we have many dog waste bins around the village. They are emptied once a week and are meant for dog waste, not any other type of waste. Please could I ask that you do pick up after your dogs and use the bins provided.

As you know, the Parish Council made an early start to the Platinum Jubilee in January. We took advantage of the Woodland Trust's free tree scheme and we worked with a number of residents to plant over 400 trees at The Warren. Last month we continued this theme and a small group of Parish Councillors planted a beech tree to commemorate this momentous occasion. It is



planted near the village sign by the junction between Lynn Road and Heath Road. The photograph shows myself and Councillors Bubb and Frost completing the planting. □





News from Dersingham Village Centre Sue Payne, DVCA Chairman

Activities and Events

The DVCA's Platinum Jubilee Jamboree, with the Summertime Kings takes place on Saturday June 4th. Full details are in the souvenir programme in the centre of Village Voice. Make sure you get your tickets from Fraser at the Post Office. We are very grateful to him and Maria for their support.

Other Platinum Jubilee events taking place at the Village Centre:

Thursday June 2nd

Coffee and cake shop - fundraising for Norfolk Hospice Tapping House.
Children's concert, followed by lighting the beacon.

Friday June 3rd

Afternoon tea for over-70s.

Let's hope the weather is kind to all those organising events over the holiday weekend, especially outdoor ones.

Village Cinema: Please check the posters in this issue and make a note that strawberries & cream and Pimms will be available at the June showing of *King Richard*, which will start at 7pm (30mins earlier than usual).

Coffee Shop: Due to increasing costs (especially electricity) we have, regrettably, had to raise our prices. We have been given a small espresso machine, so our volunteer baristas can serve Espresso, Cappuccino and Latte, once they have mastered it!

Toilet Facilities: To make life a little easier for Centre users, we have made some alterations to the disabled toilet and moved the baby changing unit there. Having the unit in the toilet off the St Nicholas Hall meant it was inaccessible when the Hall was in use.

Memorial Bench: We have a new addition – a bench, dedicated to the late Duke of Edinburgh, has been purchased and installed in the grassed area at the western end of the car park. It is made of recycled plastic and is virtually indestructible. We think he would approve.

Thanks to the hard work of the gardening team, we had a beautiful show of snowdrops then daffodils outside the Centre.

Car Parking: The Centre is quite busy on some evenings, which means the car park gets crowded. If visiting by car, please ensure you park so there is space for other vehicles and for drivers to manoeuvre. Also, please do not obstruct the disabled parking spaces or the footpath which runs alongside the Centre.

Village Centre Lottery: April winners were numbers 30, 2 and 63, winning £23.25, £15.50 and £7.75 respectively. As this edition of Village Voice is being published early, we will not have made the May draw.

Keep updated by checking notices at the Centre and around Dersingham and visit our website - www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk where you can sign up for the regular newsletters. We have a Facebook page and also 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.□

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On the next two pages are extracts from the souvenir programme produced to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Silver Jubilee back in 1977. Perhaps readers would like to write in with their observations of the changes in the village since then.

Once again Dersingham prepares for a Silver Jubilee, this time of Queen Elizabeth II. And what changes there have been in our lovely village during the last twenty five years.

The installation of street lighting at various corners which was a great help to the older people in the Winter months. For the older people too was formed the Seniors Club which the writer helped in it's formation and running in it's early stages. New housing estates appeared such as Manor Side, Valley Rise; Houses for the District Nurse, the Police and Council houses and bungalows at Dodds Hill.

A sad occasion for the village was the closing of the Railway line from King's Lynn to Hunstanton despite vigorous protests from the village and surrounding district. However, continuing on the credit side a special event was the building of the Sports Pavilion after many years of hard work on the part of the few. One sunny morning on October 29th, 1967, the Duke of Edinburgh performed the opening ceremony. Another honour falling to Dersingham was when the Queen at Sandringham started the baton on it's first stage to the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand on January 9th 1974. The baton was then handed over at our Pavilion by Ian Stewart, Gold medalist Scotland, to Mr. G. Pratt, Chairman of the Parish Council, who handed it to the Norfolk County runners destination Heathrow Airport.

The Scout and Guide Headquarters has also been built on the Sports field. Where the late Mr. C. Reynolds had a successful Nursery business for many years there now stands the grouped homes for elderly people and a great asset - our lovely library. However, perhaps one of the most welcome changes was the installation of mains sewerage, something very long overdue.

The Old Tithe barn used for many years by the Manor farm for corn dressing and drying has been given by the Queen to the N. C. C. to use for the storing of Historical Treasures.

One could go on recalling changes in our village and one always hopes we shall become more united which would make it easier to accomplish more for the benefit of all.

Wallace J. Twite.



Jubilee Quiz

In 1977 the Queen's Silver Jubilee was celebrated and a Dersingham Jubilee Committee pulled together a series of events to mark the occasion. A souvenir programme was produced, which included the following quiz for children, asking what they know about "Kings and Queens", though I think adults could also enjoy it!!

Which British Queen:

- Defeated the Romans?
- How did she ride into battle?
- What was the name of her tribe?
- Where is there a famous statue of her?

Which Queen:

- Made some pastry?
- Always stands on her own colour?
- Started a nursing service for soldiers and has an annual flag day named after her?
- Became Empress of India?
- Never wears a crown and flies by air just once?
- Which state in Australia has Brisbane as its capital?
- Trod on Sir Walter Raleigh's cloak?
- Is often found in a roof?

Kings:

- Who was known as "Coeur de Lion"?
- Who was forced to set his seal to Magna Carta?
- Who dissolved the monasteries?
- Who was killed by an arrow in the New Forest?
- Who was the last Plantagenet King?
- Who was the son of Mary, Queen of Scots?

Answers on page 61

Queen of Puddings

The souvenir programme also included a recipe with a royal flavour:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 pint Milk | 2 eggs (separated) |
| ½ pint Breadcrumbs | Grated rind of 1 lemon |
| 1 oz Butter | 2 tablespoons jam |
| 4 oz Caster sugar | |

Boil milk and pour over breadcrumbs, add 2 oz sugar, lemon rind and butter. Cool slightly.

Beat in egg yolks and put in buttered pie dish.

Bake in oven at 325 degrees F (160 C) for 30 minutes, or until set. Cool.

Spread with jam. Whisk egg whites stiffly and fold in remaining 2 oz of sugar and return to oven at 350 degrees F (175 C) for about 15 minutes, or until crisp and light brown.



Rover Sheila Davies

It was around 1950, and we were living on the farm. Life was quite agreeable, although at times a little lonely, due to the lack of playmates living in the vicinity. My elder brother had just started an apprenticeship, and one day announced that a young workmate's dog had given birth to a litter and they were now of an age to be homed, and we could have one. A few days later he arrived home carrying an adorable, warm, sleepy border collie puppy with gentle brown eyes. I instantly fell in love. My brother said he had decided to call him Rover. We nodded in approval. A good solid doggie name of the time. So, Rover joined our family.

Rover settled in well to life on the farm. I don't recall him ever having a collar and lead; he was allowed to come and go as he wished. He never wandered far, mainly preferring to be around the yard. I don't think there was any specific food for dogs in those days. Mum just cooked extra potatoes and whatever veg we were having - which were plentiful on the farm - and added gravy. He didn't get a lot of meat, but this certainly didn't seem to hinder his growth or his energy. Rover loved all of us, but such is the nature of the border collie that he picked on one of us to give all his friendship and loyalty to. This he bestowed upon me; mainly, I think, because I was around the most, still being at school. In school holidays and summer evenings, Rover and I would wander the lanes and orchards looking for adventure. We never found much, except of course in my childish imagination. We became "The Famous Two" or at times "The Secret Two", ready to unravel all the unsolved mysteries and crimes in the area. The house was set down from the road, and to enter the yard you went down quite a steep slope, around the corner passing the outbuildings, and across the yard to the house. I would arrive home from school on my bike, gathering speed as I rode down the slope, careered around the corner, where Rover would be waiting, and he would race me as I hurtled across the yard and skidded to a halt in a cloud of dust by the front door.

One evening I overheard Dad telling my mother a tramp had been thought to be sleeping rough in an old barn near the orchard but had now moved on. My ears pricked up. This sounded interesting! As I went to bed that night my mind was racing with all sorts of possibilities. Before sleep came, I had concluded this was no ordinary vagrant; it was obviously a bank robber on the run, who had fled in panic at being disturbed, leaving behind his stash of ill-gotten gains. Me and my trusty side-kick Rover would discover the loot. Maybe we would even make it into the local paper. I could see it now, our photo with the caption "GIRL AND DOG FIND MISSING BANK MONEY". Then I remembered, I had decided when I found the treasure, this time it would be only fair for it to be finders keepers to help the family fortune. Sadly, I would have to forgo the publicity. Never mind. I had listened to enough episodes of *Dick Barton - Special Agent* to know just how to tackle this. Contentedly, I drifted into sleep. The next morning, with Rover trotting at my heels, we set out for the orchard to search the barn. We poked around amongst rusting old farm machinery and discarded fruit boxes. Nothing. Rover signalled an end to the matter by cocking his leg up against the wall. Strange that we never found anything!

Then came the fateful night when Rover was around three years old. He had whined to be let out for his nighttime ablutions, and I shivered as I left the warmth of the kitchen range and went into the passage to let him out. It was a cold, clear winter's night and I figured it wouldn't be long before I heard his familiar scratching at the door to come back in. I went back to the range and waited. No scratching came. Concerned, I went out and called for him, but all was still and quiet. I did this several times, growing increasingly uneasy. My mother eventually made me go to bed, saying he had probably picked up the scent of a lady dog and was off on an amorous nocturnal adventure. I wasn't happy but

accepted this. There was no sign of him again the next morning and I set off to school with a heavy heart. This went on for a couple of more days and I was filled with a deep sense of foreboding, for I knew Rover would never have willingly abandoned us in this way. The next afternoon, as I arrived home from school, the farm tractor and trailer drew into the yard. There, lying inert and cold on the trailer, was my beloved Rover. I was utterly heartbroken. There wasn't a mark on him. The driver had spotted him lying on the grass verge near the main road and brought him home for us. We tenderly wrapped him in one of my old coats and laid him to rest in a grave my brother had dug under a large fir tree in the garden. At least I knew what had happened to him, and he was back home.

My schooldays were now coming to an end, and working life was looming on the horizon. It was time to leave the imaginative wanderings of my childhood behind me and adjust to the responsibilities of adult life. Occasionally, however, as I rode down the slope and turned the corner - with slightly less exuberance now - I fancied I caught a rare, fleeting glimpse of Rover waiting for me.

In recent years (pre-Covid) at the retirement complex where I now live, we often arranged social trips out. One of our favourite outings was to the Raceview Restaurant at Peterborough greyhound stadium. This proved very popular, and we went several times. On the first trip, I realized we passed quite close to the tree that was Rover's resting place. I light-heartedly explained to the coach passengers that this tree was where my beloved childhood dog Rover was buried and we had to acknowledge him. They reacted with good humour, and gaily shouted "Hello Rover!" and waved as we passed. I could almost hear his tail thumping madly in joyous recognition! This became a ritual on our trips. It was dark on the return journey, and some bright spark would inevitably pipe up and ask: "Where are we? Are we at Rover yet?" So, he became a landmark; for we knew that when we reached Rover, home wasn't far away.

We did eventually get another family dog. My brother presented me with a miniature Yorkshire terrier for my fourteenth birthday. We called her Trixie, and she was a feisty little character given to yapping at her own shadow. I soon grew to love her, but she wasn't Rover. Nor did I want her to be; to me he was unique, and the short time spent with him is amongst my most cherished childhood memories. Rover was a special dog. □

Wolferton events

For such a small village we've got plenty going on during the summer months. The centre of activity will be the Social Club.

Platinum Jubilee celebration

On Friday June 3rd the Club is inviting all Wolferton residents and Club Members who don't live in the village to a special BBQ evening from 4pm to 11pm. Food will be served from 5pm. Food and your first drink are served free!

Prize bingo

Always popular are our prize bingo evenings:

June 21st: Doors open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7.30pm

July 9th: Doors open 6.30 pm. Eyes Down 7.30 pm

All welcome!

Wolferton - St Peter's Church

Please visit the Church website at www.sandringhamchurches.org.uk for details of services to be held during June and July. □

Hospice to install a Butterfly Meadow at Sandringham Estate

This summer, during the Platinum Jubilee year, hundreds of steel blue butterflies will be installed in the gardens of Sandringham House in a collaborative project with The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House and the Royal Sandringham Estate.

1,500 butterflies will be crafted by local blacksmith Nigel Barnett of Fransham Forge, Great Fransham and painted blue in the style of the Silver-studded Blue butterfly, a species which can be found in Norfolk. They are now available to reserve for a suggested donation of £25 per butterfly.

The Butterfly Meadow is a remembrance campaign by The Norfolk Hospice which will echo the poppy installation at the Tower of London. The butterfly will be affixed to a steel pole so they can be easily planted in the ground, and they will measure approximately six inches wide and three foot high.

The Butterfly Meadow will be installed in the gardens of Sandringham House from July 16th and the display will be open to visitors until September 1st. Once the installation closes, donors will be able to collect their butterfly from The Norfolk Hospice. It is open to everyone, not just those whose family members were cared for by the Hospice.

Lyndsay Carter, Chief Executive at The Norfolk Hospice, said, "We are extremely grateful for the tremendous support from the Sandringham Estate who are very kindly allowing us to use their beautiful Gardens as the location for the installation, and for Fransham Forge for creating such a lovely keepsake.

The butterflies are a beautiful way to remember someone special to you and commemorate their life. They may have been cared for by The Norfolk Hospice, they might have been lost to Covid-19, or they may simply be someone very special to you. We hope that the public get behind this campaign and remember their loved ones and support the vital work of the Hospice at the same time. The Butterfly Meadow with the backdrop of Sandringham House will be a spectacular scene and we can't wait to see the installation this summer."

You can reserve a butterfly with a donation online at www.norfolkhospice.org.uk/butterfly or by calling The Norfolk Hospice on 01485 601701.



Hospice Nursing Staff L-R: Topaz Fuller, Rachel Ash, Kerry Collison with a prototype of the steel butterfly



Nigel Barnett of Fransham Forge with the steel butterfly prototype

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Ingoldisthorpe Village WI

Lesley Geer, President

I'm pleased to say WI life is beginning to feel normal. April was a busy month with our events to start celebrating HM The Queen's Jubilee. The first was our April meeting, when for a change we used a local business to provide the catering and we all sat together to enjoy an evening of food and a good singalong with the odd hand jive thrown in. Then to follow on the Saturday we provided an Afternoon Tea for approximately fifty local residents to celebrate HM The Queen's Birthday and St George's Day.

Our next 'community event' is our Strawberry Tea on July 16th, which will be advertised around Ingoldisthorpe village nearer the date.

In true WI style, following discussions with the local Parish Council, we agreed our contribution towards their weekend of Jubilee celebrations in June will be homemade cakes to be served on the Sunday, and I'm sure some members will also go along to join in the fun.

Also, in June several of us will meet up with other local WIs to celebrate and be entertained by the Swaffham Shanty Singers, always an enjoyable time catching up with friends.

Throughout the month, our regular activities continue: Walks, Knit & Natter, Darts, Book Club and outings; virtually something every week, as well as the monthly meeting.

And remember the Centenary Salva competition? Our entry depicting the fire at Notre Dame came fourth and was voted 'The People's Choice'.

Visitors are always guaranteed a warm welcome at Ingoldisthorpe. We meet on the third Thursday of the month, 7.30pm at Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall, or if you have any questions do not hesitate to call Lesley on 01485 298645 or Jean on 01485 541462. □

British Cactus and Succulent Society

Noel Mellish

Dersingham is the home of the local branch of the British Cactus and Succulent Society. The club meets on the first Tuesday of the month in the clubhouse of the Albert Victor Bowls Club (of Manor Road, near Lynn Road). We meet from 2.00pm to 4.30pm.

Most meetings have a guest speaker and slide show covering many of the cacti and succulent species. It is also an excellent opportunity to share growing experiences with other members. In addition, we organise trips to specialist shows in order to meet with other enthusiasts and for the opportunity to widen our collections of plants.

Below are some examples of these extraordinary groups of plants.

For more information on our meetings, please contact me on 07745 242896.□



Christian Aid Week 15th – 21st May 2022

This year we are giving out Christian Aid Week envelopes in churches and with this month's church magazine (May) and asking you to return them to the collection point: **Dersingham Post Office** by 28th May.

Thank you for any support you are able to give.



“Women are at the mercy of climate change and hunger” – Jessica, in rural Zimbabwe.
“My children give me the power to go ahead... I pray they have a better future.”

How our gifts could help: Jessica could grow drought-resistant crops, set up water taps on her farm, learn how to grow food in the harsh climate.

More information at www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals

Local contact: Alan Crawshaw. Tel. 01485 543836 □

“Royal” Front Gardens of Dersingham

As a mark of respect for HM The Queen in this her 70th Jubilee Year, the Dersingham Open Gardens team are asking for those with lively front gardens to decorate them with a “Royal” theme. This could take the form of a picture of HM Queen with flags, memorabilia relating to the Queen's accession, red/white/blue colour palette in your planting or decorations round the garden, and of course bunting and/or Union Jacks. Visitors to the main Open Gardens event in September would then also get a roadside look at these front gardens with no need to disturb residents. A map would be produced showing locations of the front gardens (eg there might be a row of gardens such as opposite the church). Anyone interested in joining the scheme should contact: Judy Collingham on 01485 540271 (jcairnscol@gmail.com, or 07425138160). □

Dersingham Village Centre Association

Notice of

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7pm, Tuesday 25th May

at

Dersingham Village Centre

The business to be transacted will include -

- Chairman's report
- Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts
- Committee elections

All Association members are invited to attend.

For further information-

Tel: 01485 543195

Email: contact@dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk



Lightning

Brian Anderson



When I was very young and thunderstorms occurred, my mother used to say of thunder, "That's just God moving his furniture around." This is just one of numerous sayings, folk tales and beliefs surrounding thunder and lightning. One common practice was to cover mirrors during a thunderstorm as though the mirror would somehow "attract the lightning." Lightning also features in many religions, from Christianity, Islam and Judaism to Scandinavian and Teutonic myths and to the religions of Asia and Africa. Modern expressions involving lightning include "lightning never strikes twice in the same place" (actually it does) and "a bolt from the blue." The fear of lightning is astraphobia.

It was not until the late 18th century that lightning began to be the subject of systematic scientific investigation, most famously (and riskily) by Benjamin Franklin who flew a kite with a silk line in a thunderstorm. He did take some sensible precautions by staying dry and insulating himself from the ground and was able to prove, by producing sparks from



his line, that lightning was electrical. He was the first to formulate the concept of positive and negative electrical charges. The allocation was arbitrary, and it is slightly unfortunate that the electron (unknown at the time) is negatively charged, so the electricity seems to "flow the wrong way."

The details of the charging process within a thundercloud are still the subject of scientific investigation, although there is a consensus on the basic mechanism. Within the central volume of a thundercloud there is a strong updraft and a low temperature (-15 to -25°). In

this region supercooled water droplets coexist with small ice crystals and soft hail (graupel). The graupel (being quite heavy) falls and the ice crystals and supercooled droplets rise. Differences in the movement of the different sorts of precipitation cause collisions and this leads (in a process called triboelectricity) to the top of the cloud becoming positively charged and the lower part negatively charged. The actual formation of a lightning strike is still not well understood. In a cloud-to-ground strike there will usually be a "leader" of positive charge coming up from the ground and a negative leader from the cloud - when the two meet the lightning flash occurs. Occasionally, the leaders are the other way round. The flash superheats the air to 50,000°C generating a plasma which can lead to further strikes. The voltages generated by lightning are immense - 100 million volts are typical, with associated huge currents.

Lightning strikes on the ground often create fulgurites - peculiar, branched structures in the soil formed from the fused soil. The largest complete fulgurite ever recovered was about 5 metres long and about 30cm in diameter. Fulgurites have been useful in palaeontology by revealing the relative frequency of lightning strikes in the distant past.



Besides cloud-to-ground strikes, lightning also occurs between clouds if the voltage difference is large enough. Some of these flashes can extend very large distances. This year the record was broken with a single flash extending 767 kilometres (477 miles) in North America.

It is worth knowing something about protection from lightning. If you are caught out in the open the best posture you can adopt is to curl up into a ball on the ground. This way you minimise your height above the ground and also the area of ground that you cover. This last is important because the voltages are so huge that if the lightning strikes near you, the voltage drop along your body length is enough to kill you. It has been noticed that cattle in a field are more vulnerable than humans as their feet are a considerable distance apart. There is some folklore that holds that sheltering under a lone hawthorn tree affords protection from lightning - *this is not true!*

Flying in a modern aircraft is pretty safe. Electrical fields cannot exist within a conductor and the aircraft hull simply streams the charges off the back. Aircraft crashes caused by lightning are extremely rare. I have been in a plane that was struck on a flight from Geneva to Luton. All the windows on the right-hand side were filled with a brilliant white light and there was a not-very-loud bang. The passenger next to me looked alarmed and I said, "We've been struck by lightning, but don't worry". A similar announcement from the pilot came soon after. This protection is afforded by the creation of a Faraday cage (a hollow electrical conductor), effectively placing you inside an electrical conductor. The same principle applies to being in a car during a thunderstorm - the car acts as a Faraday cage. The protection is *not* provided by the car's rubber tyres which would be useless at 100 million volts! And I hope I am right in assuming that everyone knows about lightning conductors which afford protection to buildings by providing an easier path for the lightning current on the outside of the building.

Lightning can be produced in other ways apart from within thunderstorms. Lightning is quite often observed within the plumes above erupting volcanoes and within the smoke created by large forest fires, where pyrocumulonimbus clouds are created.

Lightning is not confined to the Earth - lightning storms have been observed within the atmospheres of Jupiter and Saturn. Given that these storms can last centuries, the number of lightning strikes must be prodigious! It is suspected that lightning may also occur within the dense atmosphere of Venus.

One form of lightning is rare to the extent that some scientists don't believe it exists. This is ball lightning. Accounts of size, colour, discharge smell and motion vary widely, but it usually consists of a glowing fuzzy ball that sometimes follows the path of an electrical conductor, such as a wire or rail before dissipating with the emission of some heat.□

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Breakfast is served! Rev Dave Cossey



I wonder what is the most challenging breakfast you've ever had? For me, it would have to be the full English breakfast I had on the morning of my wedding day some years ago. My friendship group held the tradition that the groom-to-be must eat a large, full English breakfast at a local eatery, dressed in full wedding apparel, without spilling any and ruining



the suit! I confess it was a rather nervous affair, but the challenge was overcome as the plate was polished off without any mess - as my wedding photos give evidence to.

At the time of reading this, Easter will have recently passed, bringing us to a story where Jesus similarly overcame a different kind of breakfast challenge – this time that there was too little to eat! In this story, his disciples failed to catch a single fish all night long, and at the moment of giving up, Jesus appeared after his

resurrection to miraculously instruct them to lower the nets on the other side of the boat, to haul in more than 100 fishes. As they reached the shore, he had a fire going to cook the food and soon a very fresh breakfast was served. I'm sure it tasted wonderful – especially after all that hard work!

As a church we have had some wonderful celebrations of Easter, which included a real live donkey, a walk of witness in the village, a sunrise service, and, of course, several Easter egg hunts.

All of this had its purpose set in reminding us that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection offer a wonderful provision of forgiveness and new life. It also reminds us that, as with the breakfast by the beach, we have a provider who cares for our everyday needs – someone to help us past challenges of all shapes and sizes. There is much to be grateful for at this time of year, in both the big ways and small ones. □

I would like to speak up for the sometimes-maligned medical services in Dersingham. I have lived here thirty-eight years and in all that time my admiration and respect for the Surgery and Boots staff have done nothing but grow.

One recent instance was the urgent need of medication which hadn't been used for three years. It was near closing time when I contacted the Surgery. Boots were officially closed due to staff shortages. Through extraordinary co-operation I was able to receive my pills.

I think this instance shows the medical facilities in Dersingham not only do a good job, but also go the extra mile and co-operate with each other.

Name and address withheld

Dersingham Day Centre Jan Holt

I'm sitting in the garden writing this – the sun is shining, the birds are singing and there are flowers everywhere. I've just got home from Dersingham Day Centre where we've been chatting and indulging in our usual activities of playing cards, dominoes, Triominos, Rummicub and Scrabble. And over the last two months we've celebrated the birthdays of Val Kenny, Chris Munslow and Pat Andrews.

On April 6th we went for our first meal out since lockdown. We went to the United Services Club in Hunstanton and had a delicious roast dinner with a selection of desserts to follow. Everyone agreed we'd had a really delightful day.



We celebrated Easter with an Easter Bonnet Parade – the hats were so pretty, with home-made flowers and chicks! Then in the afternoon we had a really enjoyable “singalong” with Merv who had come to entertain us.

We're all looking forward to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and Dersingham Day Centre will be having a celebratory meal and entertainment from the Purple Angels on June 1st. We will be holding a raffle to support the Fun Day at the Recreation Ground on June 4th.

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

Phobbies - Hobbies club for those with and without physical difficulties

**Thursdays 10am to 2pm
at Dersingham Social Club**

We are open every Thursday except for the Bank Holiday on June 2nd.

Currently we have members who knit, crochet, sew, make rugs, do a variety of paper crafts and paint. On May 26th, and June 9th and 16th there will be extra professional art tuition for our artists.

Everyone is welcome to visit any Thursday and we would love to have a few more regular members and helpers who could help us learn new crafts.

Contact Maggie: 01485 544865 or 07967 799816

We at Phobbies send the Queen our best wishes for her Platinum Jubilee.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS JUNE / JULY 2022

| | |
|--|--|
| THURSDAY 2 nd JUNE | JUBILEE CREAM TEA - ORGANISED BY ANMER W.I. – 2.00 p.m. until 4.00 p.m. in the club house. £3 per head. To book please email Dorothy at anmerchair44@gmail.com by Thursday 26th May |
| SUNDAY 5 th JUNE | JUBILEE B.B.Q – “STREET PARTY” at the club - midday onwards. To book for the B.B.Q. please email Dorothy at anmerchair44@gmail.com by Thursday 26th May or bring your own sandwiches, cakes etc. . |
| MONDAY 13 th JUNE | BINGO NIGHT –Club opens at 7.00p.m. “Eyes Down” at 7.30 p.m. £6.60 for a book of 10 cards & £1.75 for a “Flyer Card”. For further information email events@anmerclub.co.uk |
| FRIDAY 17 th JUNE FILM NIGHT | THE DUKE - 12 - A very amusing comedy starring Helen Mirren and Jim Broadbent Club opens 7.00 p.m. Film starts 7.30 p.m. Admission £4 payable at the door. For full details please visit www.anmerclub.co.uk or email: films@anmerclub.co.uk |
| FRIDAY 24 th JUNE | QUIZ NIGHT - 7.30 p.m. start Club opens 7.00 p.m. Entry £2 per person. For further information & to book email: events@anmerclub.co.uk Fully Licensed bar Raffle |
| SAT. 2 nd JULY | B.B.Q. 3.00 p.m. £10 p.p. incl. Dessert To book please email Dorothy at anmerchair44@gmail.com by Monday 27th June |
| MONDAY 4 th JULY | BINGO NIGHT –Club opens at 7.00p.m. “Eyes Down” at 7.30 p.m. £6.60 for a book of 10 cards & £1.75 for a “Flyer Card”. Fully licensed bar and Raffle. To book email events@anmerclub.co.uk |
| FRIDAY 15 th JULY | MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT EVENING – 7.30 p.m. |
| FRIDAY 29 th JULY | QUIZ NIGHT - 7.30 p.m. start Club opens 7.00 p.m. Entry £2 per person. For further information & to book email: events@anmerclub.co.uk Fully Licensed bar Raffle |
| <i>Opening Times Unless otherwise stated</i> | <i>Fridays - 7.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. – Last Orders 10.00 p.m. Saturdays – 12.30 to 2.30 p.m</i> |

East Anglian Air Ambulance Trek 24

One of the EAAA's Trek 24s for this year is covering the North Norfolk Coast. The 24-mile course starts in Heacham, but for those of a less energetic disposition they can start in Thornham and walk 24 kilometers instead. The finish line is at Holkham Hall.

Each participant signing up will receive a t-shirt, lunch and snacks en route as well as a hot meal, glass of fizz and medal at the finish line.

If just one person signs up, they will have indirectly helped to raise enough funds to fuel one of the EAAA's helicopters for two hours, helping to save more lives!

East Anglian Air Ambulance exists to save lives by delivering highly skilled doctors and critical care paramedics by air or car to seriously ill or injured people in the region. It is a life-saving charity that is only kept airborne thanks to its incredible supporters.

For more information about the event and to sign up, visit www.trek-24.co.uk □

The poster features three participants in blue jackets and yellow lanyards standing on a wooden fence overlooking the sea. The text on the poster includes:

- East Anglian Air Ambulance TREK 24** (with a logo of a person running and a heartbeat line)
- NORFOLK COAST PATH**
- SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2022**
- Trek 24 miles or 24 kilometres and help save lives in East Anglia.**
- Each participant will receive a t-shirt, lunch, finish line meal, medal and glass of bubbly
- Registration & finish line: Holkham Hall, NR23 1AB
- TICKETS FROM £20. SIGN UP TODAY AT WWW.TREK-24.CO.UK**
- Together we save lives
- Registered charity in England and Wales number 1002574
- FR (Financial Regulator) logo

The map shows the route along the Norfolk coast, starting at Heacham and ending at Holkham Hall. Key features include:

- Route Highlights:**
 - Dramatic Landscapes
 - Sandy Beaches
 - Wild Rivers
 - Marshes
- Starts:** 24km start (at Heacham) and 24 mile start (at Thornham).
- Support Stations:** Locations marked with a 'Support Station' icon and '6km' intervals.
- Facilities:** Toilets, Catering, Water station, and Photo Point.
- Logos:** East Anglian Air Ambulance TREK 24 and East Anglian Air Ambulance.
- Other:** A 'GO' sign at the start and a 'FINISH' flag at the end.

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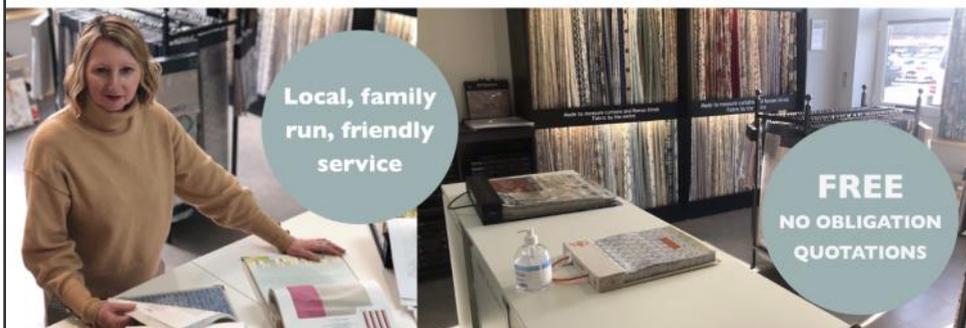
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Dersingham VA Nursery and Primary School

Spring sprung in the Early Year's classroom last half term! The children were excited to plant their vegetable patch and learn about the lifecycles of chicks and frogs. They even had a visit from a real-life Easter bunny in the last week of term!

The savannah proved to be a wonderful place to learn about lions and practise information gathering skills last half term for Year 1. Following the book *One Day on our Blue Planet*, the children fell in love with the lion cub and his exploration of animals, birds, insects and interesting plant life. They learned about the artist Joseph Cornell and made their very own African assemblages. The children had the opportunity to express themselves through African dance and music, working in pairs and small groups to create a dance routine. As Easter approached, the children joined in with a maths-inspired



Easter egg hunt and made Easter cards and baskets, where some chocolate goodies appeared at the end of term!

For Year 2, the highlight of the half term was looking at the work of artist Paul Klee. The children loved exploring colour and creating their very own abstract self-portraits. Along with Year 6, the children have also been preparing for their end of key stage SATs, and developing their reading, writing and mathematics skills.

Year 3 learned all about *The Iron Man* story last term, thinking in character and predicting how dilemmas could be solved. We did a range of fantastic artwork, drawing bodies in different poses, before practising woodwork skills such as sawing to make our own model of *The Iron Man* - using hammer and nails was harder than we thought! We also investigated the forces of magnetism, gravity and friction in science. This term our topic incorporates more science, as we experiment with plant growth and find out about rocks and soils. We hope to make our own chocolate rocks!

Last half term Year 4 learned all about the amazing animals, flora and fauna of the rainforest. We created our own rainforest display in the classroom, learning about the different layers of it. We had a debate discussing the pros and cons of deforestation in the Amazon region. This half term we are learning about Ancient Egypt. We can't wait to see how they discovered the tombs of Pharaohs and find out why they settled around the river Nile.

Year 5 took a journey through space last half term to the final frontier! Taking a trip out of this world to the stars, planets and suns and discovering the amazing wonders of the night sky. The class used information texts to find out about the Solar System and created their own model orrery in design technology to support their scientific investigations about the movement of the planets. Using Lego, electronics and TechCard, we were able to build our own controllable Mars Rover to explore the surface of a planet. We learned about Galileo, the 'father' of modern astronomy and his famous astronomical discoveries. By the end of the topic, we had written our own alien invasion short stories, inspired by our class read for the half term, *Crater Lake* by Jennifer Killick.

Year 6 have spent the last half term studying a children's horror story called *Clockwork*. In this book the evil Dr Kalmenius spends his time creating all kinds of macabre and sinister machines. This served as a stimulus for much of our writing, including poetic, descriptive and instruction pieces. We finished up the term with an in-depth RE inquiry about the Golden Age of Islam and how Islamic beliefs shape the lives of Muslims. Also, with SATs on the horizon, we have been ramping up our revision ready for the beginning of May (if you happen to know a Year 6 pupil, don't forget to wish them 'good luck').



Red Nose Day and World Book Day were both a roaring success, with children and staff dressing up for the occasion, adding to the fun and excitement on the day.



There have been some exciting sporting events since our last entry, with Years 5 and 6 entering the Croydon Cup football tournament and Years 3 and 4 competing at Smithdon.

Year 2 had a Commonwealth football festival, where Dersingham made up the majority of players. Each team represented the school with pride, showing superb sportsmanship. Our dance club children, who have experienced some fantastic choreography from Lucy Rollason, took part in a dance festival at the Corn Exchange, where they showcased their moves to a packed auditorium. Shortly afterwards, the school's music ensemble, led by Miss Amey and Mr Platt, put on an exceptional performance, also to a huge audience at an evening performance in the Corn Exchange. Miss Seaman has been busy running a Bee Netball club and took a Year 6 Netball team to a competition at Smithdon and a Years 3/4 team to a festival at KES, where all players showed wonderful team spirit. With Tri-Golf to look forward to, the children are making the most of the better weather.



The term rounded off with a fabulous Easter service at St Nicholas's Church. It was wonderful to join Rev Mark and celebrate together once again. □

Robert Elwes: Artist, Writer, Explorer and Dersingham Landowner

Elizabeth Fiddick



The 1839 title map and schedule for Dersingham gives us a wonderful picture of all the properties, fields and woods with the names of the landowners and occupants of that time. I have spent hours studying it for various projects and thus became intrigued by one name in particular that frequently occurs. Robert Elwes never lived in the village, but a considerable amount of property here is recorded as being administered by "The Trustees of Robert Elwes." For instance, the Dun Cow Inn (now The Co-op), plus a great deal of the land stretching around and behind it is recorded thus. If you had walked in 1839 from the end of Post Office Road, then known as Middle Road, towards the church, all the buildings on your left plus the land rising up behind them were part of his portfolio. On your right would have been the Great Pasture and then Dersingham Hall itself. Its grounds, plus the meadow and pastureland beyond, all likewise were owned by Robert Elwes. So, who was this man who never lived here but must have wielded considerable influence, being such a substantial landlord? On investigating, a fascinating story emerged.



Robert was born in 1819, the second son of Henry Elwes of Colesbourn in Gloucestershire. His mother was Susan Hamond from Westacre, and it was her family, the Hamonds, who owned much property here. Robert was only thirteen when his mother died, and her properties in Dersingham passed to him, so naturally they were administered by the board of Trustees mentioned before. Susan also brought, as a dowry to her marriage, the estate of Congham, where eventually Robert and his wife would settle.

Robert was an adventurous young man who had an insatiable curiosity which led him in 1848 to set out on a journey around the world of 36,000 miles completed in 2½ years. Robert took with him many letters of introduction, so although he often did stay with quite distinguished company, his desire to see for himself meant he chose to spend many uncomfortable nights in the open or with the local people. As a consequence, he had dangerous encounters with bandits and some unscrupulous guides. All his journeys were conducted at a leisurely pace, subject to trading ships, coastal cruisers, Royal Navy ships and the availability of pack horses and the hospitality of local people. He was a talented artist and sketched vigorously as he travelled. He kept a detailed journal of all he saw and experienced, noting all the varieties of flora and fauna.

He left England on 20th March 1848 aboard *Eclipse* for Madeira, and then from Tenerife spent thirty days on *HMS Linnet* to reach Rio de Janeiro in May 1848. Robert was to spend the next year in South America. After he had explored a little of Brazil, he took a ship to Buenos Aires. From there he crossed 1,000 miles of the Pampas on horseback and crossed over the Andes on the back of a mule to Val Paraiso. During this journey by mule, he recorded that he spent one night sleeping under a massive boulder, and painted a most atmospheric picture of the event. (See [website](#).)

He sailed on to Lima aboard the 36-gun frigate *HMS Constant*. He left Lima in April 1849 for Honolulu. He recorded that the trip of 5,120 miles took thirty-one days, during which he saw no land or indeed a single sail. He wrote that he met the King of Hawaii and explored many volcanoes, after which he made the two-week voyage to Tahiti aboard the schooner *Elizabeth* before continuing on the same ship bound for Hobart. Here his journey took a very dramatic turn, as during a bad storm the schooner was wrecked just off Tasmania close to Swan Island. Robert was rescued by sealers and taken to Hobart

aboard a ship, sharing his accommodation with 500 sheep! In September of 1849 he sailed on to mainland Australia where he explored the areas around Melbourne and Sydney. In January 1850 he left Sydney and, although encountering some severe squalls, he avoided the worst of the monsoon weather as he sailed on to Manila.



Hong Kong

He caused quite a stir among the locals in Manila when he was invited to a fancy-dress ball. He entered the hall dramatically dressed in a full gaucho costume he had bought in South America. He sailed on next to Hong Kong, Canton and Shanghai. In Hong Kong he often gathered a crowd of locals very intrigued whenever he set up his easel to record a street scene. (See [website](#).)

On 1st April he started towards home and sailed to Singapore and then by a P&O steamer to Ceylon. He went on to Bombay, Aden and via the Red Sea to Suez. He had to travel overland to Cairo, there not yet being any Suez Canal. He crossed the 90 miles of desert in just 12¹/₂ hours in a two-horse omnibus with six other passengers. From Alexandria he took a ship for Malta and travelled via Sicily and Naples to Genoa. From there he travelled "Poste" to Milan, finally taking a steamer down the Rhine to Rotterdam and from there to London where he arrived on 20th June 1850. His epic world tour was finally over.

Shortly after he returned home, he married Mary Lucas, daughter of the Rector of Edith Weston in Rutland. They lived first in Twyford, another Hamond house, with their three eldest children, while Robert built a fine house in Congham – Congham High House - to which they moved in the 1850s. It was from there in 1854 that he published his journal *A Sketcher's Tour Around the World*. Robert and Mary had ten children - five sons and five daughters - and they spent time both in Congham and on their estates in Gloucestershire.

Robert's thirst for travel had not diminished and was shared by his wife. In 1865 they both embarked on a tour of the West Indies, Panama, Jamaica, Dominica and Trinidad, which resulted in a further journal being published the following year.

His eldest son Robert, a young lieutenant, died leading a charge at the battle of Laing's Nek, South Africa. It is commemorated in a painting held by the Royal Academy. His other sons reveal the source of the family's wealth, as Gervase took over the family tea and coffee plantations in the Far East, while Richard ran the family tea estate in Ceylon. His five daughters were all talented watercolour artists and he frequently took them travelling throughout Europe. Violet, the youngest, inherited her father's insatiable curiosity and travelled broadly in Ceylon, Malaya and Burma. She was apparently the first white woman to visit Lombok in Indonesia and, like her father, recorded everything in sketch books and diaries which were published. Daughter Milly married Sir William folkes of Hillington Hall.

Robert explored the local area extensively and always took his sketch book with him. It seems his wife Mary was also an accomplished artist and often joined him on his expeditions. There are countless paintings of the local area - King's Lynn, Hunstanton, Castle Rising, Congham, Knight's Hill, Roydon, Norwich and Methwold. He would have been a very familiar figure with his sketch book and pencil. He must have visited Dersingham many times as his name features in many documents relating to the transfer and sale of his property here. There seems to be only one painting of the village that still exists, but I feel sure there were probably many more.



Hunstanton Cliffs
Courtesy Elwes Family Archive



Summer House Sandringham
Courtesy Elwes Family Archive



**St. Nicholas Church,
Dersingham**
Courtesy Elwes Family
Archive



The Almshouses, Castle Rising
Courtesy Elwes Family Archive

The drawing of the rood screen in the church is particularly interesting as there is the suggestion of wall paintings on either side.

Robert seldom signed his work, just using his initials RE. He was apparently known affectionately as RE in the family. The present family always refer to him as The Painter. When he could no longer travel, he painted his favourite scenes onto china plates. Robert died in 1878 and his son Arthur inherited the Congham estate. His youngest son Hugh died in 1882 while at school in Hunstanton.

Unfortunately, there was a devastating fire at Congham High House in 1939, started by an electrical fault in one of the bedrooms of the house, and with the Second World War in its early stages there were no fire engines available. The house was almost completely destroyed and even the one wing that did survive was eventually demolished. A great many of Robert's paintings were lost in the blaze, but fortunately one of his daughters had already removed a large number. Robert's daughter Evelyn, who never married, died in 1940 aged sixty, so would have been only too aware of the tragic loss of her Norfolk home. One of the surviving paintings of the house allows us a small glimpse into a room in Robert and Mary's home. (See [website](#).)

High House gardens are now owned by the Clifton Brown family, and they have converted many of the old buildings like the coach house and stables into luxury holiday cottages. The lovely Victorian walled garden has been carefully rebuilt and the Congham Food Fayre is now held there. So, it is possible for us to walk in Robert's footsteps in the garden but not, alas, to see his fine house.



High House gardens today, with old buildings converted into holiday cottages.

To view more of Robert's work, including many local scenes and the paintings referred to in the text (which cannot be shown due to copyright), go to www.watercolourworld.org/artist/robert-elwes

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Old Cookery Class photo

On page 52 of the last edition of Village Voice we published a photograph, taken about 1925, of a cookery class in Dersingham. We have received information via Elizabeth Fiddick of the names of most of those attending, which she was sent some years ago. She also reports that the class was held in the chapel opposite the school.

It is assumed that the names run from front to back, although this was not made clear at the time.

Left: Cissie Lines, Edie Reynolds, May Clayton, Sylvia Shepherd, Ethel Bird, Nancy Haslow

Middle: Eva, ? Irene, ? Doris Johnston, Annie Biggs, Nellie Welhams, Phyllis Grief

Right: Mary Lee, Phyllis Green, Ada Jakeman, Betty Bird, Lorna Nurse, Audrey Meech

It would be helpful to have these names confirmed, so if any of you know of the ladies in the photo it would be wonderful if you could let us know. □

Pillboxes Barry Beales

Reading Dick Melton's piece about wartime pillboxes, I thought the following might be of interest. Around twenty-five years ago I was on a regular walk, starting in Dersingham and taking in Mill Hill, Shernborne, Ling Farm Road, Anmer Road, Sandringham and then back to Dersingham. Leaving Shernborne, I took the lane that leads to Ling Farm Road; around half-way down the lane I met a man in his car reading a paper. Being inquisitive (or just plain nosy) I asked why he was there. He said he was on his own "Memory Lane", as in the war he was part of a detachment which was guarding a searchlight and a pillbox in a field just off the lane. He also said that his girlfriend (later to be his wife) lodged in a cottage in Shernborne and she used to walk up to the entrance to the field to meet him.

One day she was waiting for him when his commanding officer arrived and asked her what she was doing there. She told him she was waiting for her boyfriend. After asking who her boyfriend was, he drove off, only to return to tell her that he had arranged for them to stay overnight at an hotel in King's Lynn.

He then told me his wife had just died and he had been up to the pillbox and, using a hammer and chisel, had removed a piece of concrete into which, when the pillbox was constructed, he had put a heart and their initials in the wet concrete. He also told me he used to walk down to Dersingham for a bath at the Westdene Guest House. To add to the story, later, when I was in the same lane, I got talking to a tractor driver and told him what had happened. He said that one of the fields in that area was called Searchlight!

PS: The pill box can be found on Google maps.

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The Daily Doings of Mrs Dolittle



I was pushing a trolley in the local supermarket the other day and was bombarded by an excess of cacophony. Shelves were being stacked. Thump, bang and wallop! Those high cage container things they push the boxes around in were impeding progress at every turn. People were everywhere, shoppers and staff alike, shouting, voices raised. It was awful. I began to get panicky. Since lockdown I have got nervous of leaving the house, and suddenly to be surrounded by all this horrendous noise was making me feel sick. I pushed the trolley up and down, weaving my way through people and boxes, but felt I just had to get out. It was beginning to feel like a nightmare, so I headed for the door.

But then, I remembered. The previous day, my hearing aids had been recalibrated at the QE after a test that showed my limited hearing had reduced. Ah, of course! Maybe the new aids were improved. I wondered if pressing the little button to 'background noise' would make a difference. I pressed it, and voila! Soft, muted background noises instantly occurred, and the nightmare disappeared as if it had never been. My heart stopped beating rapidly, my breath slowly returned to normal. Silly me. But, good to know the new aids were working!

The past weekend brought lovely weather, so I spent it in the front garden, chucking old pots and rubbish into the almost filled skip after severe cropping of all the rubbish in my sheds. I had the door of the shepherd's hut open but was enjoying myself too much in the fresh air that I didn't feel the need to sit in there to rest. I got Remote Control Man to put up a bit of trellis for a purple clematis and found a pot of lurid pink paint in the shed, which I duly applied. RCM found it disgusting. He doesn't like pink. I said, "wait 'til the green leaves and purple blooms appear. It will look lovely". His grimace told the story. I have a garden table and chairs the same colour, so, as you know by now, I like a bit of colour co-ordination and this little extra pink balanced the equation. It **IS** lurid though. I might change it, but will give it a little chance to blend in before a decision.

A couple of weeks ago, my handsome gardener was given the task of painting the new fence panels lime green. "It's a bit bright, isn't it?" he queried with an incredulous look. "Yes, lovely, isn't it?" I replied. I have vague plans for dib-dobbing other colours over it all arty-farty, but too many other tasks to do yet so probably never will.

My spring bulbs have been looking delicious in the planters, and the peonies, columbines, delphiniums and other perennials are all growing strongly. I do hope the recent frosts haven't damaged them too much. The flowers all seem ahead of their time, but I am so pleased with the results.

Belinda – the recently mauled but recovered hen – has a new home outside our patio doors. The other hens have rejected her, so she is compensated with an ultra-modern penthouse suite, aptly named "Peckingham Palace, West Wing". She really does love it. I have been trying to catch her sister, Beatrice, from the big coop, as I think that if I can get them reacquainted, it will then be two against two, and they might all integrate again. In the meantime, she is a very happy hen, insisting on coming indoors and sitting on the sofa, much against the inclinations of Florence and Rosie, my lurchers, who up to now have had sole ownership of those particular items of furniture.

Now, here is the dreadful rub. In one week's time, a dog assessor from a lurcher rescue charity is coming to assess the two girls. I am feeling like Cruella Deville, sending them off to scary kennels in order to find them new, and hopefully, lovely homes and owners.

Unfortunately, I just cannot cope with them anymore. I had hoped that in time I would get strong enough to walk and deal with them, but this hasn't happened. We both agreed the girls were not having a proper life, and as we age, it isn't going to get better. I have not been sleeping, worrying about all the negative aspects, but the lady from the charity told me that as they are so pretty, there will be many people wanting them, so they can choose the best home for them. Maybe she says that to everyone, but I am clinging on to that thought. Jess and Maisy, who have been walking them since November, are upset, of course, and I will miss their cheery faces – as will the dogs. However, if they don't pass the assessment, they will still be here. I wondered what tests they would have to pass. I remembered seeing on TV that they have a dummy hand on a stick to poke in their bowls while they are eating. I shall go and grab an arm off my mannequin currently residing naked and abandoned in the shed and see what the dogs have to say about that! That is the only thing I think they might fail on, as I've not interfered with their food in any way over the years. In retrospect, I should have done.

Anyway, enough of that – I am trying not to dwell on it too much and must stop this and go feed the chickens.

HOT OFF THE PRESS: I have just had an e-mailed contract from a well-known publisher in London for the book I wrote a few years ago that I have mentioned from time to time in my pieces – a historical novel set in King's Lynn in the times of Matthew Hopkins, the Witchfinder General. I can't yet believe it. I am so excited. My dream come true! Naturally, I will be going on about it in future Village Voices if it really does come to fruition. Be still, my beating heart.

A very excited Mrs Dolittle.□

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Snettisham Salvation Army Mavis Jones



Celebrations – most of us like a celebration. There always seems to be something to celebrate, anniversaries, weddings, passing exams, passing driving tests, births. If there is an occasion, we celebrate it.

At the Salvation Army we have been celebrating during the month of April. Now that restrictions have been lifted, we have been able to start up our programme of regular events. This commenced on the first Thursday of April with our Craft Club. Twelve of us gathered on Thursday 7th April from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. We had a really good natter and caught up with all the news. There were various crafts, personal items being made. But there were also patterns and wool for people to make little knitted teddy bears for stillborn babies and their mums. If you like crafts, you are welcome to come and join us on the first Thursday in the month at 2.00pm.

Also commencing in April were our coffee mornings. These are held on the second and fourth Thursday of the month from 10.00 am to 12 noon. Everyone is welcome to come and sample the homemade cakes and scones.

Our Men's Fellowship meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm. They have tea and coffee and a natter. They say women can talk but if you come to Men's Fellowship you will realise that men can talk just as well as women.

The biggest celebration this year is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. I can remember as a girl being called into the school hall to be told that the King had died and Princess Elizabeth was now Queen. We all rushed home to tell our parents. It doesn't seem possible that it is so long ago. We all celebrate this special occasion with Her Majesty.

For Christians during April, we celebrated Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus. He died for each of us, but he rose from the grave. As it says in Luke, 24:6, *He is not here, he is risen.*

Enjoy all your celebrations this year and always.□



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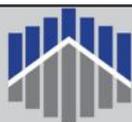
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Dersingham Gardening Tips

Jane Jestice

I'm writing this from Florida again, as I am here for three weeks. We should have been on our way home on a "once in a lifetime" cruise across the Atlantic on the *Queen Mary*. But once again, Covid has struck - this time on the ship! Due to a family situation a few years back, we adopted the motto "make no plans" as our lives were so uncertain then; it seems this still is true!



So first, a little quiz. What is the unusual plant in the photo? Answer on page 65. I picked it growing here in Florida.

Back to Dersingham. I would not plan to be away at this time of year again, as it's meant I haven't grown anything from seed because of the daily care they need until they are planted out and quite well established. Make sure you pinch out the tips of sweet peas and cosmos and other annuals to get bushier plants with more flowers.

As most slug pellets are not available anymore, the suggested method of removal is pots of beer sunk in the ground - at least they may die happy! My only issue will be putting them out late enough and bringing them in early enough so my puppy doesn't think it's the best treat ever!

My angel trumpet has happily survived being outside all winter tucked up against the wall of the house and wrapped in bubble wrap, and new leaves are beginning to appear. If you have one and it looks dead, don't be in too much of a hurry to get rid of it as sometimes they die right back to the soil and then shoot from there.

Now is the time to start planting winter and spring bedding for next year, such as pansies, wallflowers, and daisies. This is also the time to put in supports for herbaceous plants, such a peonies and delphiniums, before they get too tall. This is the first year that I remembered to do it! Start to harden off your seeds and cuttings and any greenhouse plants. Don't give them too much of a shock!

Before I went away, I started the daily task of taking duckweed out of my pond as it appeared. I think I was winning, but I expect it's way ahead of me now I've been away. I didn't realise that the individual leaves sink as the temperature drops and rise as it gets warmer! Also, I suspect the blanket weed will be in full flourish. Getting it out is very satisfying but NEVER ending. Does anyone have an answer to it?

I am going to suggest that as many of you who would like to should plant sunflowers this year. They are easy to grow, joyful and if planted in succession will still be flowering in September for our Open Gardens. An added bonus is children love watching them grow and the seed heads feed the birds in autumn. So, if anyone has any spare seeds, if you pop them through my front door (2 Sandringham Road, opposite Petals Tearoom) I'll divide them into little envelopes and leave them out to be picked up. I can't think of a more cheerful way to enjoy our village and gardens.

Happy gardening.□

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Dersingham Walking Group Tony Bubb

The weather has been largely kind to us recently, although we did get a bit of a soaking near Fring the other week. Sadly, I cannot promise fine and dry, but then that adds to the fun. As you see below, we have a good variety of walks to enjoy in the coming weeks. Walks usually last for about two hours including a short break.

Wednesday May 25th 2.00pm A four-mile circular trip around Hudson's Fen and Pott Row, including a bit of the old railway track for extra interest. Start point is the Hudson's Fen car park, TF701228. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638

Wednesday June 8th 6.00pm During the summer we have occasional evening walks, and this is one of them. A tour of our own village, exploring both streets and footpaths. Starting from the bottom of Station Road, by the old railway station buildings, TF 680308. About 4 miles. Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333

Wednesday June 22nd 2.00pm A circular walk around Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham, including a visit to the River Ingol wetlands, which are normally off limits to the public. About four and a half miles. Meet at the big layby near Ingoldisthorpe crossroads, TF683324. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638

Wednesday July 13th 2.00pm To the woods! We are lucky having them on our doorstep, so we shall explore some of them and Dersingham Fen on this four miler. Meet at the village sign, TF 685297. Leader Brian Eldridge 01485 540862

Wednesday July 27th 2.00pm A walk by the Great Ouse and through some of the surprisingly remote countryside north of Lynn. About four miles. Start point on Cross Bank Road, TF614210. 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.

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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Spring has finally arrived on Dersingham Bog, meaning that much of our time is now spent monitoring the species that call it home. Alongside this we continue to carry out the infrastructure checks across the reserve to make sure that this is up to standard and safe for the public. We have repaired parts of the rails that border the steps down from the main car park, as well as some of the perimeter fence posts that had rotted over the winter, to ensure that the fence remains cattle proof. The cattle are enjoying the new greenery that is sprouting up across the reserve and they have been ranging widely all over the bog, hoovering this up, as we start to stop the winter feed.

Since the last article we have had mainly a run of several weeks or so of quite warm and sunny weather in which spring migrants continued to arrive, up until close to the end of March. Cold northerly winds then put a stop to this until April 12th when south-easterly winds and high pressure signalled a major arrival of birds that have come from north and west Africa.

During the sunny and warm period at the end of March, we started to conduct our first butterfly and bee surveys of the year. There was a big first hatch of brimstone butterflies in the woods around the reserve as the weather warmed up, as well as peacocks, painted ladies and small tortoiseshells. We also carry out monthly bee surveys on the reserve and noted a garden bumblebee (*Bombus hortorum*), as well as white-tailed and buff-tailed.

The common bird census on Dersingham Bog has also started, with territory mapping recorded for all the breeding birds across the reserve, allowing us to accurately record the numbers and distributions of each species, which can help shape our management of these areas. Some of our winter visitors are still around and have started to test their vocal cords with regular singing - brambling especially - along the old railway line, practising before heading up to Scandinavia to breed. Blackcaps moved in on April 12th, with at least nine singing birds on the reserve as well as at least twenty chiffchaffs. Many of these will stay to breed but some may well be using the site to feed up before travelling further north to breed. Two willow warblers were also singing on April 12th. The situation for these is like that of the chiffchaff and blackcap, as a few pairs breed each year on the reserve. Also on the 12th a super male ring ouzel was around the boardwalk area. This will also be a migrant, with its closest breeding range being the Peak District. Ring ouzel (or mountain blackbirds, as they are known) are very similar to our Eurasian blackbirds but have a large white crescent and are a lot scallier in appearance. Thrushes continued their northbound migration using the northerly headwinds to their advantage. On April 4th 1200+ went northwest through the Bog, with hundreds passing through daily in the previous ten days. A few fieldfares were also on the move with the redwing but with numbers greatly reduced to those of the redwing. A merlin was noted on March 24th, being chased by a raven - that was quite an experience for the lucky observers. Other new species that have been noted on the reserve included mute swan, greater black-backed gull, Mediterranean gull and grey heron. A woodcock was displaying in the middle of the road that runs down to Wolferton village on March 31st. A common crane was seen over the A149 north of Dersingham village on April 10th. This bird could have been on the Bog throughout the day, as it was seen to go south over Snettisham coastal park mid-morning. In the last week up to April 22nd, more spring migrants such as tree pipit and grasshopper warblers have been heard singing on the reserve.

Here at Dersingham Bog we are currently looking for more volunteers to join our team in carrying out a variety of tasks across the site helping to monitor and protect this vital landscape. For more information or to register your interest, please contact Senior Reserve Manager, Thomas Bolderstone at thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk □



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**From your Ward Councillors
Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb**



What wonderful Easter weather we had; we hope you all had a great time with your friends and families over the holiday period.

We are approaching Jubilee weekend so do look out for and join in all the events that the Parish Council and the Village Centre are planning in celebration of HM The Queen's 70th year of Accession. As mentioned in this publication, the Open Gardens team is seeking to have a Royal Front Gardens scheme. Look out for details!

As last year, your Ward Councillors have a sum of £1000 each to contribute to projects or items required by a group within our Ward. This group must be properly set up with a constitution, etc., but we are happy to look at anything where the funds might be used appropriately. It is easy to apply for and we are of course happy to help with that process. Look for "Councillors' Community Grant Scheme" on the Borough Council website.

Work continues on planning around projects connected with the money Government have disbursed to towns such as King's Lynn. As you may have seen on the façade of the former Argos Building, a number of initiatives are envisaged, notably the refurbishment of the Guildhall, funds for Active Travel (that's walking and cycling) and Town Repurposing – looking to see how we can use vacant properties to enhance the town experience.

One project now completed is the School of Nursing at the college. We had a tour of it recently and found it really impressive - as it should be, having cost nearly a million pounds! Now that students do not have to travel to Norwich or further, our hospital should be able to retain the apprentice nurses that start there when they are qualified, as they will still be living locally. □

Wishing you all a happy early summer and hoping to see you at the many events over Jubilee Weekend. □



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Dersingham Brownies go "Beartastic"

Lynne Wheeler

The beginning of the Easter holiday saw twenty-six Dersingham Brownies from the 1st & 2nd units and five leaders enjoy their first residential pack holiday since 2019. (The 2020 & 2021 events had been cancelled due to the pandemic.) The three-day pack holiday took place at The Stibbington Centre near Peterborough. The theme this year was "Bears" with the sixes named after types of bear: Black, Grizzly, Honey, Koala, Panda and Polar; whilst the leaders were named after fictional characters: Winnie the Pooh, Paddington, Yogi, Baloo and Care Bear.

After settling in, the Brownies had plenty of craft activities to enjoy, including decorating craft bags, painting teddy money boxes, making a teddy pom-pom, designing a Hama bead coaster, colouring an Easter card, completing a stained glass kite-shaped decoration and much more. They also made beaded bubble wands which they then tested outside - they worked! The grounds around the centre contained play equipment, trees to climb and explore, as well as lots of grass to run around on.



The Brownies had great fun exploring and playing in the grounds each day as the weather was bright and sunny for the entire holiday.



The Brownies also helped around the holiday home with different duties, including keeping their bedrooms tidy, helping prepare meals, setting the table, washing up (everyone had a turn) and tidying the washrooms.

The first evening saw the girls sewing badges onto their badge blankets and having a pyjama parade with prizes awarded for the nicest pyjamas, cuddliest toy, best slippers and nicest dressing gown. After a bedtime story and hot drink, the girls went off to bed to sleep for the next busy day. (The Brownies slept fantastically well in bunk beds.)

On the Sunday, there was Inspection, a Brownies' own short service and a quiz walk around the village of Stibbington. The girls also enjoyed a survival game - what five items would they rescue to survive on a desert island, and could they then find their chosen items which had been hidden within the holiday home. As it was Sunday, there was a roast dinner and ice cream sundaes, whilst in the evening we had a teddy bears' picnic - complete with teddy bears and a wide variety of other cuddly friends. That evening, the girls enjoyed friendly bingo games, toasting marshmallows over tea-lights and a campfire around a "real" fire outside in the grounds.

The final morning included one last inspection to see which Six would win the Six prize - the Grizzly bear six won the Inspection points, but it was the Honey bears who gained the most points overall. There was also an Easter egg hunt and presentation of badges, including the Norfolk Spring Sleepover challenge, Anglia Nights Away and Pack Holiday Badges.

The event ended with three of the oldest Brownies "Jumping over the toadstool to Guides", which they will begin after the Easter holiday.

It was a really happy and successful event, particularly as we had missed the last two years and we have already begun plans for next year. □

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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club by Jan Rawstron

Spring is finally here, and we can enjoy the sunshine and blue skies, albeit tempered with a rather chilly wind. Nevertheless, our intrepid members turned out for our green opening day on April 9th, when our Club President, Bob Meredith bowled the first two woods. Three games were bowled, followed by a wonderful finger buffet provided by the participants. All in all, a good start. The following Wednesday we held another roll-up, begun in bright sunshine, but cut short after two games by a sudden hailstorm. The green became white, covered in hailstones, and we had to abandon the afternoon. Fortunately, the weather has improved a bit since.

April 23rd saw our Albert Victor team winning the first round of the Knockout Cup away to Runciton Holme, and we will have played our first league game on April 29th at Swaffham. The Countryside League began with an away match at Houghton on May 17th. On Bank Holiday Monday, May 2nd, we played for the Centenary Institute Cup at the club, a closely fought event, played in our usual spirit of friendly competitiveness.

Coaching sessions take place each Thursday between 10am and noon, under the guidance of our resident coach, Gerry Bhagat. This not only caters for beginners, but also for more experienced players who may need help with some aspect of their game.

The draw for teams in our internal league, fondly known as 'The Birds League', took place on April 23rd, and we started this on May 4th.

Finally, to our Open Day. On a lovely sunny but breezy day we welcomed a dozen potential new bowlers to the club. All seemed to enjoy their introduction to lawn bowls under the watchful eye of our coach, Gerry, and we hope to see them again at our coaching sessions on Thursday mornings. I would like to thank those club members who could come along and help, and particularly the ladies who baked the lovely cakes. A very good day, which, if nothing else, reminds people we are still here and thriving. □



Bob Meredith

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Dersingham Choir Bring a Friend Event

Following a successful first term, the Dersingham Choir has got off to a flying start. It is clear that Dersingham welcomes the opportunity to have a choir and there is still room for more people to come along and enjoy singing together. The first two sessions are free!

On Thursday 26th May at our rehearsal, to help us reach out to more people we are having a 'Bring your Friend' event where choir members can bring a friend or two, or their relatives, to listen in to the rehearsal and maybe feel inspired to join the choir. You are welcome to come along even if you don't know anyone in the choir. This will be a chance to enjoy some relaxed singing and perhaps a challenge or two, although nothing too difficult.

There is no charge for guests and refreshments will be provided.

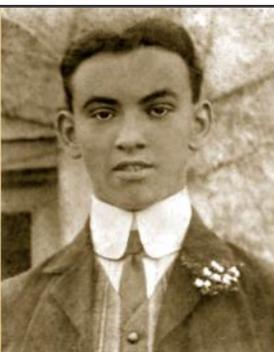
In addition to some choral work, the choir's repertoire is extending to include popular show medleys such as *All I ask of you* and *Wishing you were somehow here again* from *Phantom of the Opera*, and songs of Irving Berlin such as *Putting on the Ritz* and *Let's face the music and dance*.

There are no auditions and you don't need to be able to read music. Our venue is fully accessible and there is a large car park next to the church, with a bus stop outside.

We are a friendly group and you would be most welcome to join us. Thursday night is choir night!

Thursdays 7-9pm at St Cecilia's Catholic Church, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham.

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Preparations are well underway for this year's flower festival. Entitled *Bill & Ben to Cybermen*, we will be celebrating 100 years of the BBC through Radio and Television programmes we have all known and loved over the years.

We would like as many people as possible to be involved in the festival:

- * If you enjoy arranging flowers, we would love you to join us in decorating the church.
- * If you have an artistic flare, why not come along and give it a try?
- * Perhaps you have always wanted to try arranging flowers but don't know where to start?
- * Well, how about coming along to one of the workshop sessions we have planned?



Workshops will be held in church on the following dates and are open to all:

- * Wednesday 25th May, 7pm and Thursday 26th May, 10am
- * Wednesday 8th June, 7pm and Thursday 9th June, 10am

Each session will include a demonstration, with an opportunity to ask questions and garner tips and hints from those with experience. Come along to any one, or all of the workshops. You will be made very welcome.

Remember your loved ones by making a donation towards the cost of the flowers included in the displays and have the name of your loved one included in a Book of Remembrance which will be placed in the Lady Chapel. Donations, in a sealed envelope please, showing the name of the person to be remembered, should be addressed to The Flower Festival and taken to the Post Office in Dersingham.

If you would like to take part or would like more information please contact: Yvonne Fuller - 07971 896653, Val Coleby – 07787 360809 or Anne Hynde - 07885 956321..□

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21st - 24th
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English is not an easy language to learn

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full it had to refuse refuse.
4. We polish Polish furniture.
5. While they are at the play, I'm going to play with the dog.
6. The man decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8. A bass was painted on the bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object.
11. The insurance for the invalid was invalid.
12. There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
13. They were too close to the door to close it.
14. He was not fine with the amount of the speeding fine.
15. There were some novel ideas in her new novel.
16. The idea was mine – to go down the disused tin mine.
17. There was much interest in the raised interest rates.
18. He was glad to leave work to go on annual leave.
19. It was difficult to park near to the town's park.
20. She turned right, but it was not the right route.

Snettisham Gardening Club

We will be holding a meeting on Wednesday 25th May when Mrs. Robyn McDonald will be talking about orchids and other house plants.

Our meeting on Wednesday 29th June will be an update from Dominic Buscall on happenings at Wild Ken Hill.

Meetings start at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham. For further information please call Addie on 01485 544754 or Gail on 01485 541279. □



Monday 20th June: Charlotte Paton will be telling us twenty-five things you may not know about King's Lynn.

Monday 18th July: The Miracle of Migration will be explained by Steve Lovell.

Meetings start at 2.00 pm and are held in the Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton. You can be sure of a warm welcome. For further details see our website: u3asites.org.uk/Hunstanton or e mail publicity.u3ah@gmail.com □



Our parish events are now restarting and the first will be the Strawberry Tea on the afternoon of 18th June at St Cecilia's, Dersingham. There will also be bric-a-brac and plant stalls. There will then be the parish BBQ at OLSE, Hunstanton on 20th August, all are welcome. Tickets will be available for both events - see the weekly bulletins or website for more details.

The Pope's prayer intention for May 2022: **Faith-Filled Young People**. We pray for all young people called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depths of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service. Prayer intention for June: **Families**. We pray for Christian families around the world; may they embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives. Prayer intention for July: **Elderly**. We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

A few members of the parish have been getting together, originally to discuss the Synodal consultation, but have carried on with the meetings to discuss ways to enliven the life of the parish following the drop in attendance due to the pandemic of the last couple of years. The dates of the meetings will be published on the website and in the weekly church bulletins, and anyone interested in contributing in any way is more than welcome to take part.

Sr Danuta is guiding a regular parish study/discussion group at the Convent every Tuesday, 4.00-5.00pm, looking in more depth at the readings for the following Sundays. All are welcome to come and take part.

The Sisters at St Theresa's Convent, Sandringham Road, 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. 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 **Email:** parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org

The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675. If you require a Priest urgently, please telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220 or email parishpriest763@gmail.com □

VILLAGE CINEMA

at **Dersingham Village Centre**

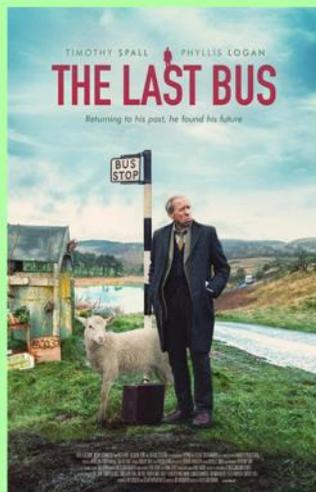
Presents on
Tuesday July 26th at 7:30pm

THE LAST BUS (12)

Starring: Timothy Spall, Phyllis Logan

An old man whose wife has just passed away uses his free local bus pass to travel to the other end of the UK, to where they originally moved from, on a nostalgic trip carrying his wife's ashes in a small suitcase - "taking her back".

In doing so he meets local people and by the end of his trip he's a celebrity.



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Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny



Shut-up Common

I am told by my friends in Dersingham that work has started on cleaning up the Shut-up Common, work that should have been done many years ago. The Shut-up Common was a very pretty place to walk and play with a lovely small stream that runs down to Boat House Creek. If they cut most of the silver birch trees down and cut the brakes (bracken), then we might get the skylarks back on the Common, just like they used to be. The gorse bushes near to the old A149 need to be saved, as a lot of small birds like linnets, whitethroat and maybe the odd shrike will nest in these bushes.

I do not know if there are many people who know this, but if you enter the Shut-up Common through the five-bar gate from Heath Road, then turn to your right, after about thirty yards you are walking on the old Council rubbish tip where all the household rubbish from Dersingham was deposited. This dump was closed about 1948-50 as it was spreading out, and a new dump was opened up on the first hill on the Dersingham fen. You got to it through the five-bar gate just past the George Pratt roundabout, taking the track to the right to get to the dump. It was closed down many years ago. If you take the track to your left it takes you past the sand pit, the duck decoy and through Wolferton fen or warren as far as Wolferton Cutting. This track was made so the fire engine could get access to fight the many fires that broke out there.

Fire brigades

There have been many fires on the fen over the years and some on the Shut-up and Open Commons. Years ago the main reason for the fen fires was the steam trains on the King's Lynn to Hunstanton line at the western edge of the fen. The fires were caused by sparks from the engines. The largest fire I can remember started on the fen and spread right across the Open Common before it was brought under control. One fire spread right up to the Pleasant Place cottages before it was put out. We were very lucky as the fire engine at Dersingham was kept in Miss Mann's barn at the top of Heath Road right next to the Common. In those days there was a fire engine and crew at Sandringham House. After the steam trains stopped running about 1960, diesel rail cars were used that sent out no sparks. The line was closed in 1969.

Dersingham had a fire station for many years, as had Sandringham. Then, in later years, the Sandringham brigade closed down and amalgamated with the Dersingham brigade at the old Drill Hall. As far as I know, Snettisham never had a fire brigade. Heacham had one and, during the Second World War, Hunstanton had two brigades, one in Old Hunstanton and one in New Hunstanton.

Doodlebugs

I was asked the other day what a doodlebug was. Well, a doodlebug was the slang for an unmanned German flying bomb, otherwise known as the V2. These were made in Germany about 1944 and were sent into the air by a launching pad that was towed by a tractor unit. They could be towed anywhere and could soon fly across the North Sea and land on London. When the Germans started retreating from France and Holland, their main target was London. During the war I was living with my grandmother in East Winch, and one of these V2s landed in Middleton, the next village, but no one was killed or hurt.

Fishing

During the war, when I got to the age of five, my uncle took me fishing in a large pit over the Common. My granny did not like me going as she said the pit was very deep and that, many years ago, a man driving a horse and cart slipped into the pit from the very

narrow track and nothing was ever found of them. But my uncle looked after me and I used to sit next to him with a bent stick, some string as a line and a bent pin as a hook with a crust of bread attached. After the war my father bought me a fishing set; we would go and stay with my aunty, uncle and cousin Brian at Brandon; and we would all go fishing in the Little Ouse that ran through the town. We only caught small roach, but it was good fun.

When I got older, I would go down the marshes on my bike with the other lads and we would fish in the drains and off the bridge next to the pumping station, where we would catch a lot of good-sized eels. After the 1953 floods the salt water got in the drains and killed all the freshwater fish, but we would still go fishing in the Shingle Pits for flat fish. We would also go butt pricking in the creek that passed by the pier. We used a butt prick which consisted of a broom stick and a small length of wood with very sharp nails attached horizontally to it. We would walk up and down the creek when the water was low and the tide was out. We kept pushing the butt prick into the water hoping to make contact with a fish like a flounder or a dab. Another thing we used was called a butt drag. This was four to six feet long with about twenty-five large cod hooks bolted to a bar. A rope would be attached and then you would pull it up and down the creek hoping to catch a fish or two. I know it was a cruel way to catch fish, but many people did it, however butt pricks and butt drags have now been banned for many years.

Later I only did rod and line fishing. One of the places we would go was Wolferton, along the track past Wood Farm, and fish in the river. When I was fifteen I left school and went to work at Lamberts the ironmongers at Snettisham. While I was there I met an old boy who was very keen on fishing at Stradsett Lake near Downham Market. He would take me there and we had some good days, though once again I only caught roach. Although there were other fish in the lake they never came near my hook. In 1960 I went in the army (National Service) and never did any more fishing until I moved to Hunstanton, and that's another story.

Floods and hamlets

As many of you might already know, many years ago, when the sea came in a lot further, Dersingham was a fishing village. The fishermen and their families lived in the cottages in Chapel Road. The sea came in as far as the bottom of Station Hill. Then, about three hundred years ago, there was a great flood and the water came up as far as the church. It then went back to where it is today and stayed there.

Most of the people who lived in Manor Road worked on the land, so the village was more or less split into two. Dodds Hill has always been called a hamlet and, until 1950/60 there were only twenty-eight cottages up there. If you look in the Eastern Daily Press book, *The 700 Villages of Norfolk*, it is still classed as a hamlet, like Babingley and Choseley. There are still many hamlets right across Norfolk. Snettisham at one time was split into two: the southern end was the Station Road area and called South Gate; and the northern end was called Fisher End, as that was where the fisher folk lived, and some of the old boys still call it Fisher End, though I don't think any fishermen live there.

Allotments

I was listening to Radio Norfolk, as I do most days, and they were talking about allotments and the shortage of them. Well, a lot of allotments in the village have been built on. When my father came out of the army in late 1947, he asked the village council for an allotment and was told he could have one right up the top of Fern Hill. Considering we lived one mile away near the common, he turned it down and, after a while, got an allotment behind the Police station. Then all of that land was built on and father was given an allotment between Sandringham and Shut-up Common. There was a large allotment area up Fern Hill which Sandringham estate rented out. The allotment holders had to get

off when the estate got planning permission for it, but it hasn't been built on. So now there are only the Station Road allotments in Dersingham, when at one time there were five. A lot of people look at an allotment and think it's an easy way to grow vegetables, but then they find it hard work and give up. I had an allotment up Sandringham Hill till I got called up, so I know a little bit about keeping an allotment neat and tidy.

Well, that's just about all for now. Just one more thing. A month or two back I did a bit about all the shops that were in Manor Road sixty to seventy years ago. I have been asked to do the same about Lynn Road, so I will do so next time.

Keep well all of you and keep a troshin'. There are some nice crabs about and they make a change from mussels. All the best, the boy Dick, Sunny Hunny ☐

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Lectures held at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2pm

Monday 13th June 2022
Banksy and Basquiat: Superstars of Street Art Lecturer: Ray Warburton

What binds these two together is 'street' or 'graffiti' art. Banksy, from Bristol, emerged in the 1990s with a stencil-based approach to street art. Most memorable are large rodents, girls with balloons and flower-throwing freedom fighters. Some see Banksy as a prankster but with increasingly serious cultural or socio-political points to make. Banksy remains anonymous, despite his popularity.

Basquiat was born in Brooklyn in 1960. On the streets, he made graffiti; but off the streets, he gained a reputation for studio-based neo-expressionist art full of graffiti-like logos and images, with historical and political overtones. He died aged 27 of a heroin overdose. The lecture will make connections between them and attempts to evaluate their contribution to contemporary art and their status as art Superstars.

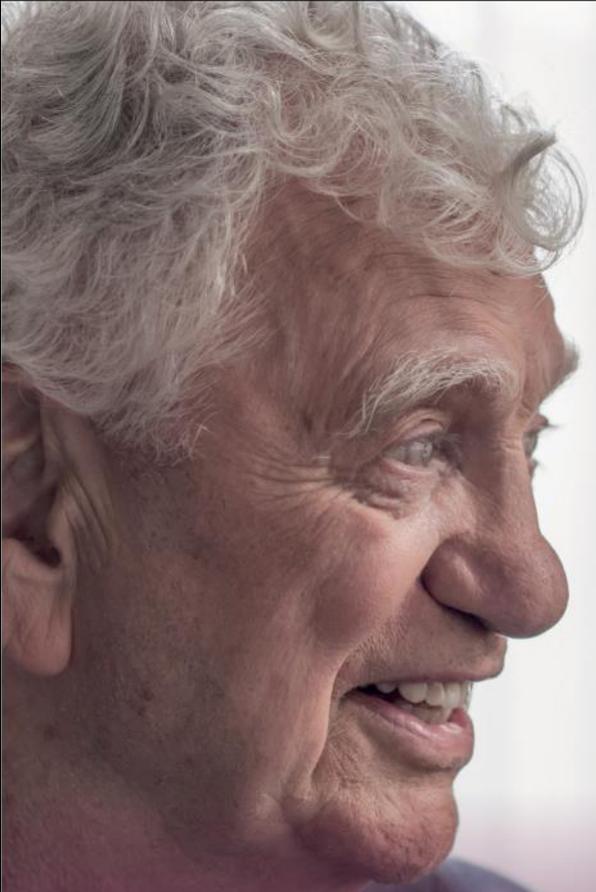
Monday 11th July 2022
Peggy Guggenheim Lecturer: Alexandra Epps

The 'poor little rich girl' who changed the face of twentieth century art. Not only was Peggy Guggenheim ahead of her time but she was the woman who helped define it. She discovered and nurtured a new generation of artists producing a new kind of art. Through collecting not only art but the artists themselves, her life was as radical as her collection.




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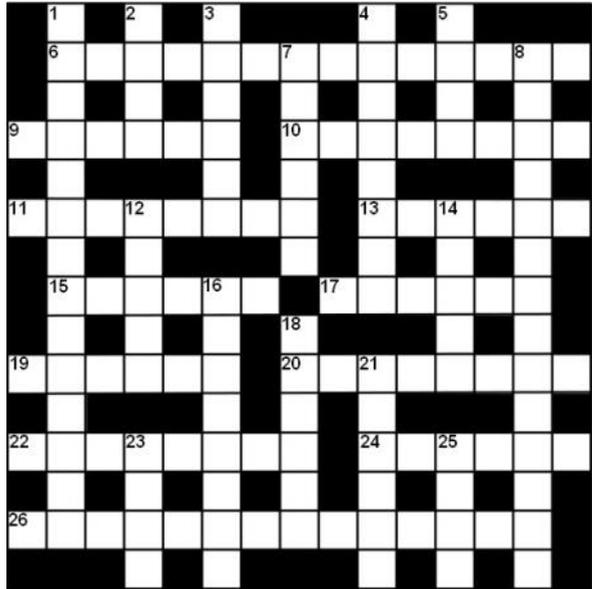


PUZZLE CORNER

Crossword by
Philip Neal

Across

- 6 Doctor large cooked supper for one but nothing special (7,7)
 9 Sellers for example lodged beside Los Angeles pond (6)
 10 Warships all gone south and refitted (8)
 11 Supporter placed poster here on behalf of National Trust (8)
 13 Discards as only worth about a shilling (6)
 15 She joins parent's plain in Argentina (6)
 17 Col. Ben trained all together (2,4)
 19 Pamper direction in bed (6)
 20 Londoners face cooked cobra in tea contest (4,4)
 22 Tarragon can turn contemptuous (8)
 24 Accountant in a coach? You can count on it! (6)
 26 Comments varied comically about speech (8,6)



Answers on page 65

Sudoku

Down

- 1 Nagged pronouns improperly on the school dash (3,3,5,3)
 2 Loose cocktail ingredient (4)
 3 Start call in church (6)
 4 Ammo in report (8)
 5 We hear record cutter (4)
 7 Smoothly sign and enclose return ticket (6)
 8 Hungry for alternating periods of golf? (8,6)
 12 Sounds like trophies for Maine T.V. (5)
 14 Measure taken when the French play rugby against royals (5)
 16 Pulls article confronting races at motor club in back street (8)
 18 Harry ate dab and relaxed (6)
 21 Big flower (6)
 23 Cast would make cloudy deliveries (4)
 25 All latent monetary savings initially used for charitable donations (4)

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



Dersingham Evening W.I. Katrina Mundy

We are **sixty years old**, not me, but our W.I. group. In 1962 a group of ladies decided to have an evening W.I. group. This meant that Dersingham had two W.I. groups, but unfortunately the afternoon group closed some years ago.

The first Dersingham W.I. started in 1944 and was still meeting in the afternoon, thus the new group put Evening into their title. It was officially formed by Mrs Allwood of Scarning and the new President was Mrs Womack, the Secretary was Mrs Cable and the Treasurer was Mrs Elderkin. It started with thirty-six members and this has fluctuated over the years, going up to seventy members in the 1980s. We now have forty-nine members who meet on the third Wednesday of every month (bar August).

In the early days the W.I. was involved in most of the activities that took place in the village, and this continued over many years. Talks have been on wide ranging topics such as the First Firewoman, Dogs for the Blind, the History of Lingerie and even a "visit" from Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria showing the clothing of the era, a far cry from the early days when a directive from Federation stated that a talk on Oral Contraception was not suitable for a W.I. talk.

We started our latest evening meet singing Jerusalem and welcomed four new members and two guests for the night. Then our members enjoyed a meal of quiche, potatoes and salad, with birthday cakes made by Pat and Diann - delicious. A toast was made to both the last sixty years and to the next sixty years, which of course involved alcohol (not always tea and coffee). The competition was to bring a picture of yourself (any age) at a party or celebration. It was fun trying to marry the photos with some of the members as they are today. Members were also able to look through a few of our scrapbooks to see if they could perhaps see a picture of themselves in younger days. All members were then presented with a gift to commemorate our sixtieth birthday – a scarf with our logo embroidered on it. Many thanks must go to Peg for organising this, as I know from emails that it was not as simple as we thought it was going to be.



- Our book club had a reader's choice but will then move on to *Magpie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz for May and June.
- Friday April 29th saw a group enjoy a visit to the Corn Exchange for *The Bee Gees' Story*; I am sure they were all singing along.
- Joan hosted our April coffee morning and Heather, a new member, opened her home for our coffee afternoon in May. Further ones are planned for June and

July. It is hoped to have an afternoon tea in August for all our members.

- On April 30th Wendy organised one of her interesting walks around the village in aid of Women Walk the World.
- Our MAD group continues knitting and crocheting, with many of their wares going to Norfolk Knitters. The craft group run by Babs continues monthly and we have made cards for men.
- We will be supporting the Dersingham Fun Day on June 4th and will have a tombola stall and hopefully a stall selling goods.
- We will also be taking part in the Flower Festival in St Nicholas Church in July.
- The committee are now busy planning some trips for members - to Houghton Hall and Blickling Hall; to What a Hoot gin distillery (this one had most names on it – I wonder what that says about us !!) and also hope to have some workshops and day activities planned. These range from Macrame and marbling scarves to croquet, archery and axe throwing - which will not be taking place in the village, so you are safe.

Our Evening meet is 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 01485 541257 or Katrina 01485 544773.□



Quiz answers:

Queens:

- 1 Boadicea
- 2 In a chariot
- 3 The Iceni
- 4 London, opposite Big Ben
- 5 Queen of Hearts
- 6 Chess Queen
- 7 Queen Alexandra
- 8 Queen Victoria
- 9 Queen Bee
- 10 Queensland
- 11 Queen Elizabeth I
- 12 Queen post

Kings:

- 1 Richard I
- 2 John
- 3 Henry VIII
- 4 William II
- 5 Richard II
- 6 James I



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What help is available? – Insulation measures including loft and cavity wall/external wall insulation are available under this scheme. If your property is deemed as suitable, then we can also help you benefit from low carbon energy by replacing an inefficient heating system with a renewable air source heat pump.

How do I qualify? – Eligible properties will have an energy performance rating (EPC) of E, F or G and a gross household income of £30,000 or less or have a member of the household receiving an eligible benefit.

What if I'm a landlord? – As a landlord, you could get a two thirds subsidy for works to improve the energy efficiency of your property if your tenants are on low income. We particularly want to hear from landlords who have properties with a low energy rating (band E, F or G).

Who carries out the work? – The works will be completed by a preapproved contractor who has passed the rigorous process of selection.

What are the benefits? – We want to help you live in a warmer home and reduce energy usage. Less energy used means smaller energy bills for you and it also reduces the county's carbon footprint, helping to achieve the UK's commitment to net zero by 2050.

How do I apply? – You can apply through Norfolk Warm Homes, but if you have any questions then please feel free to contact the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.

For more information: Enquire today to find out if you are eligible! To make an application please contact Norfolk Warm Homes on 01603 430103 or alternatively visit www.norfolkwarmhomes.org.uk

The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk are working closely with Norfolk Warm Homes and our aim is to support low-income residents make their homes more energy efficient. □



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Word Wall by Philip Neal

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

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| DOUGLAS | AGINCOURT | SCORPION | SUNBEAM |
| CRAB | AUSTIN | RAMSEY | KRILL |
| UNION MILLS | GETTYSBURG | ALAMO | CULLODEN |
| TRIUMPH | KIRK MICHAEL | BARNACLE | MORRIS |

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7:30pm
2nd Tuesday Each Month



For more information -

- Check notices and leaflets in the Centre and around the area
- Visit www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk and sign up for the weekly updates
- Check our Facebook page
- Telephone 01485 543195



LAVENDER LACE DAY

ARE YOU CRAFTY?



Lavender lace makers are having a
lace and craft day

Saturday 28th May 2022 10am - 4pm
at

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Bring your own craft making, to show and
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PE31 6HP

FLOWER FESTIVAL

THEME: MIRACLES – GOD AT
WORK

26th, 27th, 28th May
10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Books + Cakes + Cards
+ Gifts + Plants

Coffee + Light Refreshments + Teas

Free admission

Sunday Service 10.30 a.m.
Songs of Praise 4.00 p.m.

Dersingham Gardening Quiz Answer— Loofah

Crossword Answers

Across

6 General Purpose. 9 Lagoon. 10 Galleons.
11 Adherent. 13 Throws. 15 Pampas.
17 Enbloc. 19 Cosset. 20 Boat race.
22 Arrogant. 24 Abacus. 26 Inverted commas.

Down

1 Egg and spoon run. 2 Undo. 3 Cringe.
4 Bulletin. 5 Epee. 7 Legato. 8 Sandwich
course. 12 Emmys. 14 Ruler. 16 Attracts.
18 Abated. 21 Amazon. 23 Over. 25 Alms.

Word Wall Answers

Places on the Isle of Man: Douglas,
Ramsey, Kirk Michael, Union Mills

Famous battles: Agincourt (1415), Alamo
(1836), Culloden (1746), Gettysburg (1863)

Crustaceans: Crab, Barnacle, Scorpion,
Krill

Obsolete UK cars: Austin, Morris,
Sunbeam, Triumph

Sudoku Answers

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

Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

For articles, reports of events, meetings and details of upcoming attractions:

| Issue | Copy deadline midday on | Publication date |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| No. 137 (Aug/Sept 22) | Monday 4 th July 2022 | Monday 25 th July |
| No. 138 (Oct/Nov 22) | Monday 5 th Sept 2022 | Monday 26 th Sept |
| No. 139 (Dec 22/Jan 23) | Monday 7 th Nov 2022 | Monday 28 th Nov |
| No. 140 (Feb/March 23) | Monday 9 th Jan 2023 | Monday 30 th Jan |
| No. 141 (Apr/May 23) | Monday 6 th Mar 2023 | Monday 27 th Mar |

Advertising rates and sizes – VAT included

| | | |
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| Eighth page | 6.4cm wide x 4.7cm high | £22.50 |
| Quarter page (Landscape) | 12.8cm wide x 4.7cm high | £34.20 |
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Village Voice is published every two months. Discounts are available for block bookings: if you book in advance for all six issues in the year, you get one free entry. There is a 10% discount for four or five bookings in the year.

Obtain booking form and full technical details for advertisements by emailing villagevoice@dersingham.co.uk or from the Parish Council office (see below). An invoice will be sent on receipt of the booking form.

Articles

Please send as Word documents. Any photographs need to be sent as separate files, not in the body of an article or email, and they need to be high resolution (large) images so that they reproduce well.

Distribution

Village Voice goes to all 2,500+ residential and business properties in Dersingham, West Newton, Wolferton and Sandringham, with another 600 available to subscribers, shop counters, the Village Centre and other public places. Please support our advertisers and also let them know you heard about them in Village Voice!!

The editor reserves the right to amend and edit as necessary. Published material also appears on the Parish Council website. Copyright of all articles remains with the author. The editor and the Parish Council do not necessarily agree with any opinions expressed, or the accuracy of statements made by contributors .□

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

Tuesday June 14th

HOLLYWOOD ROYALTY

**A talk by
Susan Barnett**

HOLLYWOOD



Dersingham Village Centre, Manor Road,
Dersingham 7.30 pm Admission £8.00
Includes refreshments & raffle



VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday July 12th

THE PORT OF KING'S LYNN THEN & NOW

WITH DR PAUL RICHARDS



Dersingham Village Centre, Manor Road,
Dersingham 7.30 pm Admission £6.00
Includes refreshments & raffle

