

No 138

October/November 2022

# Village Voice

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



Her Majesty The Queen

21st April 1926 ~ 8th September 2022

# Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

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# A tribute to Her Majesty The Queen

Editor

And so we bid farewell to our beloved Queen. She has been there all my life, offering dignity, consistency and the continuation of British history as she carried out her endless duties. Yet we were able to appreciate her warmth, her love for her family and her delightful sense of humour. Images flash through my mind of state occasions, tours of the Commonwealth, visits to countless British institutions and charities, stalwart attendance at Royal Variety performances, iconic appearances on the Buckingham Palace balcony with the Red Arrows streaking overhead, and of the sheer joy on Her Majesty's face when watching her racehorses, especially when they won!!

It has been said that Her Majesty greatly enjoyed her visits to Sandringham, particularly the royal tradition of spending Christmas here. With Dersingham being so close, over the years we may have caught glimpses of Her Majesty, whether that be bundled up in winter woollies, wellies and headscarf whilst watching a shooting party, out for a ride on horseback, attending services at Sandringham Church, or making visits to local groups and institutions. In 2019 we were privileged to witness Her Majesty formally open the new Dersingham Village Centre, when she met with representatives of various village groups. We were charmed by her relaxed attitude, her attentiveness to all she saw, and the friendly way she interacted with those present. Here are a few photographs as a reminder of that memorable day.





## Editor's notes Jo Halpin Jones

Along with the whole nation we express our sadness on the passing of Her Majesty the Queen. What an incredible life she has lived over so many decades, offering a role model of leadership, duty and devotion. It is very touching to see the new King and the younger members of the Royal Family coming out to greet the public whilst they are still so affected by loss of their mother and grandmother. In this edition of *Village Voice* you will find various tributes to The Queen.

You may be noticing that the quality of our printing is not as good as usual. Clanpress, who are always very supportive and helpful to us, have been forced to raise their prices twice this year because of the increased cost of materials and overheads. It is difficult for the Parish Council to absorb these increases and so we are experimenting with a different paper to reduce cost. Let's see what it looks like!!□



## Dear Village Voice



### A Kindness

On Friday August 26<sup>th</sup> I quickly switched off the dinner time news – everyone seemed to be on strike. In fact, the whole world seemed full of unrest.

I needed a few items, so I went to Thaxters and in no time my basket felt heavy. I spotted Louise filling the shelves. (Louise delivers my orders when I put one through.) I asked Louise if she would help me, and she willingly did so and took my basket to the queue for me. I said to Louise that I would be fine now.

There was a young man ahead of me and I asked him if he would mind lifting my basket up to the till, and he was just so pleasant. He made sure my goods were in my two bags and into my trolley. He then offered to run me home. But I said I wanted to go into the Garden Centre. He did wonder if I would have found getting into his vehicle a bit difficult, and it would have been as it was a modified Land Rover. I was a farmer's daughter and Land Rovers were easy to scramble in and out of. But I am certainly not as nimble now and certainly much older.

Once again I thanked the young man for all his kindness and, you know, walking home I had a smile on my face – the world seemed a different place and all because of a kindness.

**Mrs Nancy Newell**

### A Big Thank you

As a family, we would like to thank all those who have taken the time to send us a card, phone us and called into our new funeral home in Dersingham with best wishes and support, we have really appreciated it. All of us at Thornalley Funeral Services strive to offer a high level of service to the bereaved, a family owned and managed business serving the local families of Dersingham and the surrounding areas.

**The Thornalley family and dedicated family team**

## Dersingham Parish Council Coral Shepherd, Chairman



*"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."* Three months ago, we were celebrating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, a time of such joy, and now we are grieving for her passing, a time of unbelievable sorrow. I am sure many of you will have, like me, shed tears for our much-loved Queen. I have known no other monarch and her presence in our lives was a constant and something we always took for granted. It gave immense stability to our lives, as whatever happened in this country or the world, she was always there to represent us and to care for her nation. Our grief, sadness and tremendous sense of loss at this time is shared by people around the world and because of her presence at Sandringham we, in Dersingham, felt that she was always *our* Queen.

Her Majesty had a lifelong association with this area. Traditionally, the Queen and her family spent Christmas at Sandringham House and she could be seen attending church on Christmas Day. We hope that this tradition will continue. She and her beloved husband The Duke of Edinburgh loved spending time at Sandringham as often as their busy schedules allowed, and in their later years spending much time at nearby Wood Farm. Many of us have had the great honour of meeting Her Majesty, and she showed by example the meaning of dedication and service. For anyone who met her, whether they be a commoner or statesman, her genuine interest and enjoyment shone through, sometimes with a mischievous twinkle in her eye.

Her interest and enthusiasm in meeting people remained undiminished and even when having a private holiday at Sandringham and a break from state duties, she always found time to visit the village. We particularly fondly remember several recent visits - the opening of the Carole Brown Health Centre in 2009, a visit to the Infants and Junior school in 2012, the first visit at the beginning of her Diamond Jubilee year, a visit to Phobias in 2015 and in July 2019 to the new Village Centre. Many residents will have



their own memories of meetings with the Queen, whether it be at an official function or a chance encounter. We will always cherish these memories.

If anyone wishes to lay a floral tribute, these may be placed at the Norwich Gates at Sandringham. There are books of condolence for all at St Nicholas Church and also online at [royal.uk](http://royal.uk).

We offer our deepest and sincere condolences to members of the Royal family who have experienced the loss of the head of their family. But we recognise that the basis on which our monarchy is built has ensured that for many centuries the Crown has passed in an unbroken line of succession - we welcome our new monarch, King Charles III.

**God Save the King.**

\*\*\*\*\*

I would like to finish with a brief note to give my thanks to all those who opened their gardens for Dersingham Open Gardens and to those who visited to make the weekend so special. With some trepidation we opened our garden for the first time. Everyone who came enjoyed themselves, despite the steep climb up the hill, and made our hard work worthwhile. As well as village residents we had visitors from as far afield as Canberra and Florida! A truly international day. I would like to give a special thanks to Judy and David Collingham for all their hard work, not only in organising the event but also taking time to visit the gardens. □



## News from Dersingham Village Centre Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

I am writing this following today's very sad news that Queen Elizabeth has passed away, and am reminded of the lovely day in July 2019, when she opened the Centre.

**God Save King Charles III**

### Activities & Events

**Coffee Shop:** We love catching up with our regular customers and also extend a warm welcome to visitors on Thursday mornings. The Tapping House team are in charge on October 6<sup>th</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup>, when proceeds go to support the excellent work carried out by the hospice; DVCA volunteers will be in charge on the other Thursdays.

**Friendship Lunches:** Menu details for October 4<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> will be on the Village Facebook Group and Village Centre updates – have you signed up? Booking is required: call 01485 540644 by noon on the Friday beforehand, and also advise us of any dietary needs.

**Village Cinema:** The October film will be *Elvis*; November's film show – *Downton Abbey: A New Era* – will be a special evening with a Highclere-themed dinner. See Graham Eley's article below.

**Barn Dance & Hot Supper:** Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup>. Tickets (£15) from Dersingham Post Office. For more information, call Judy on 01485 540271.

**Village Centre Lottery** August's winners were 36,42, and 21, winning £24.75, £16.50 & £8.25 respectively. The September winners were 63,16 and 11, winning £24, £16 and £8.

Keep updated by checking notices at the Centre and around Dersingham and visit our website - [www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk](http://www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk) where you can sign up for the regular newsletters. We 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.□

### Dersingham Village Cinema – November Graham Eley

November's Village Cinema film will be *Downton Abbey, A New Era*. When the first film was shown in 2019 a Downton-style tea for filmgoers was organised to accompany it. For the new film, to be shown on 29<sup>th</sup> November, a similar event is being organised. Not a tea this time but a hot two-course meal more fitting for the evening - Beaters' Stew, followed by Lord Carnarvon's Boozy Bramble Pudding. The recipes are taken from *Entertaining at Highclere, the Real Downton Abbey*, by the Countess of Carnarvon. As a special treat, 'Champagne' cocktails will be available from the bar.

Booking for the dinner is essential, made via Graham Eley. Call 07901 896102, or email [grahameley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:grahameley@tiscali.co.uk). There will be a seating plan to ensure everyone can sit with their group. Dinner will be served at 6.30pm and the film starts at 7.45pm. Prices: Dinner & film £14.50, film only £6.00.□



# BARN DANCE & HOT SUPPER

Saturday October 29th

7pm

Dersingham Village Centre

with

## WHIRLIGIG

Norfolk's Premier Ceilidh Band

### TICKETS - £15

From Dersingham Post Office  
or call 01485 540271

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(Numbers limited for your safety and enjoyment.)

For information, call 01485 540271  
Please let us know of any dietary requirements.

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# FUN QUIZ NIGHT

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Visit [www.norfolkhospice.org.uk/fun-quiz-night](http://www.norfolkhospice.org.uk/fun-quiz-night)  
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**Friday 7th October**  
at Dersingham Village Centre  
Questions start at 7pm

Tickets £6 each inc. snacks  
(Maximum team size of 6)

Cash prize for winners  
Raffle prizes on the night

Information & booking through  
Graham Eley on 07901 896102  
or [grahamreley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:grahamreley@tiscali.co.uk)

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## Dick Melton of Sunny Hunny

*For this issue Dick has forwarded an extract transcribed from a booklet written by Holcombe Ingleby and published in 1915. Ingleby was twice mayor of King's Lynn and served as Member of Parliament for King's Lynn from 1910 to 1918. He was also the High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1923. The booklet shows Ingleby's concerns about spies, particularly in relation to the Zeppelin raids. This extract opens with a stand-off between a rector and two soldiers, a sergeant and a major (or men claiming they were). The introductory paragraph explains Ingleby's reasons for writing the booklet. A further extract is promised for a future issue. Ed.*

### Spies and Zeppelins

*Some statements of mine that appeared in certain letters to The Times directly after the raid were unsuccessful in convincing the Home Office that they were founded upon fact. A report subsequently forwarded to the Home Secretary met with no better fate. I have decided, therefore, to publish the evidence upon which those statements were based, so that the public may judge for itself in which direction the truth lies - Holcombe Ingleby MP 1915.*

The sergeant, with a thick stick in his hand, now assumed a threatening attitude, and a fracas seemed imminent. He demanded to know who the rector was and what the devil he was doing there. The reply that he was rector of the parish and a special constable to boot met with nothing but foul and derisive epithets. The sergeant declined to accept the statement that he lived at the rectory and that he himself and his companion were trespassing. The house was dilapidated and untenanted. The rector was a spy and he would arrest him; he was an interloper and a swindler, and he would thrash him. Having now completely turned the tables by sheer effrontery, the sergeant appears to have thought it about time to beat a retreat and began to assume a more conciliatory attitude. Keeping up his military character, he asked the rector if he had seen any flashing thereabouts, and then, with the view no doubt of leading him to suppose that he belonged to one of the Welsh Yeomanry regiments stationed in the district, he asked him to use his influence on behalf of the 'poor old Welsh Church'. He had now fluffed sufficiently for safety, and finally withdrew with his companion, leaving the rector to ponder dubiously over the situation. Once more he requisitioned the services of the constable, and though it was then midnight he made for Wells-next-the-Sea, returning through Titchwell about two o'clock in the morning. The constable was heard to remark subsequently that the sergeant knew the roads a great deal better than he did himself.

A shrewd old party living not a mile from the rectory had kept an eye on the above proceedings and informed me that in her opinion the major was not an officer at all, but a woman. It was a hasty generalisation from the sound of a voice, which was the only thing that could be detected in the dim light, but it satisfactorily accounts for one part of the story of these strange bedfellows. It was noticed too, at the hotel, the sergeant played a more prominent part than the officer, as indeed he had done all through these proceedings. Someday, perhaps, this interesting point may be determined.

Early next morning, the police inspector, not at all pleased with the cool manner in which his officer had been commandeered, made his way to the hotel and knocked at the visitors' bedroom. It was some time before the door was opened, which is not to be wondered at if the occupants were by any chance husband and wife; and in any case it must have been one of those awkward moments in the life of a spy that call for the display of a considerable amount of *savoir faire*. However, our English inspectors are nothing if not considerate, and following the Home Secretary's lead where Germans are concerned, they are nothing if not confiding. The meeting seems to have ended to the mutual satisfaction of all parties, but the *soi-disant*



officers were not long in seeking fresh pastures. They stayed long enough, however, to leave a letter of thanks for the loan of the car, but no name was attached to it.

It is only fair to add that according to the statement received by me, the inspector would have detained the suspects but for instructions from headquarters. On the night of their departure there was a big scare on the East Coast, and troops were under arms all night. It may be presumed that the visit to Hunstanton of these 'gentlemen' in khaki had some serious and definite purpose.

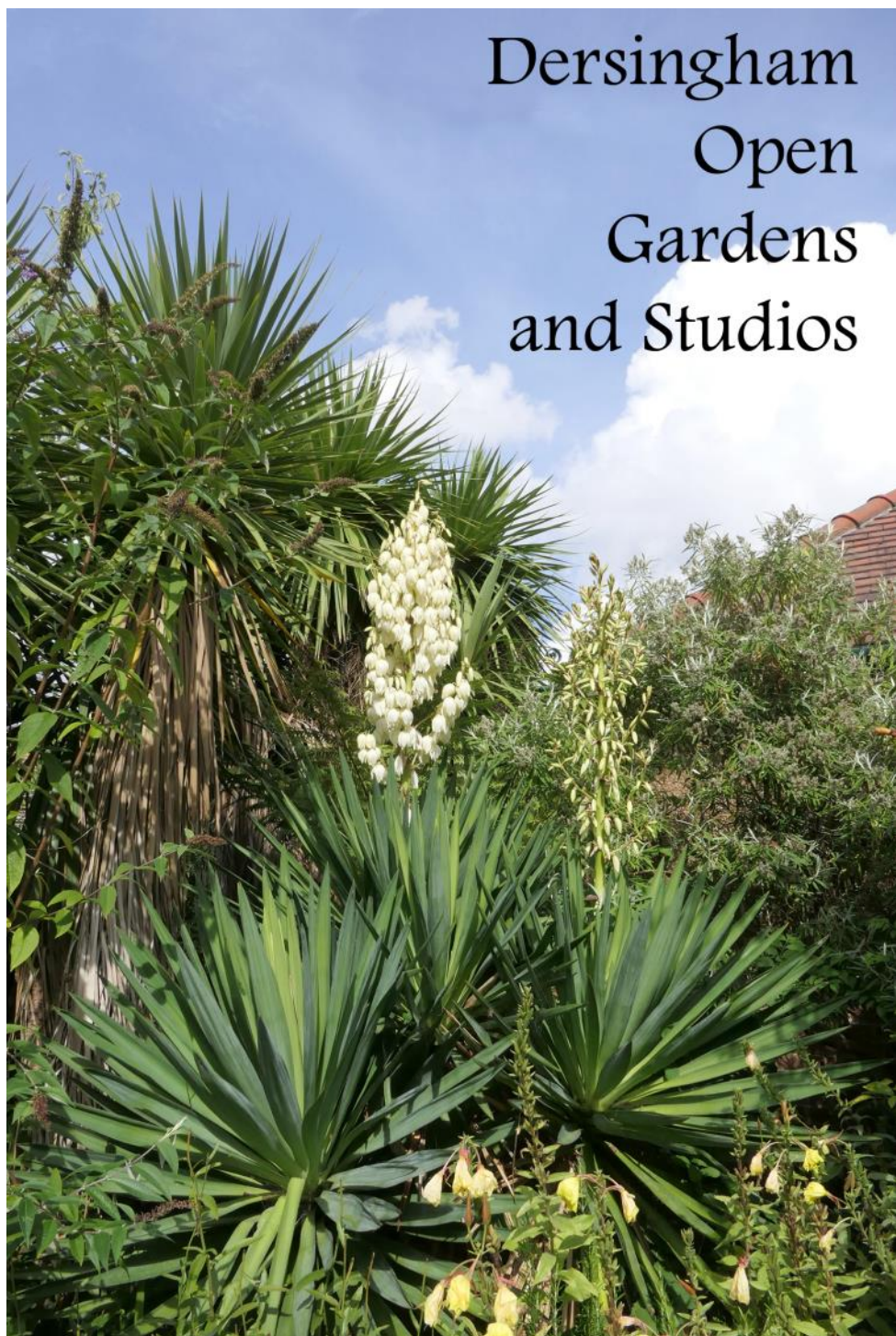
Coming events are said to cast their shadows before, and to this rule the Zeppelin raid was certainly no exception. On or about November 7<sup>th</sup>, two men, professing to be a Staff Officer and his sergeant, were noticed to be inspecting the route subsequently taken by the Zeppelin. Mr Blatchford, in the *Weekly Dispatch*, originally made this statement, and added that suspicion was directed to the men on account of their sleeping in the same bed. I have subsequently learned that they stayed at the Sandringham Hotel, Hunstanton, that they did not appear to be Germans, and that they could be identified if caught. So, at least, Mr H C Barber, Headmaster of Glebe House Preparatory School, Hunstanton, informs me.

The soldiers attracted attention in the dining room that night by their unmannerly behaviour. They came in late and stood for a long time with their caps on. The other guests were indignant; but curiosity seems to have overridden indignation, and later they fell into conversation with the strangers, and particularly with the sergeant. One of them, indeed, offered the use of his car on learning that they had to go out that evening. He suggested it would be better than the 'ramshackle thing' they had been driving. The offer was accepted with one reservation. They would take the chauffeur with them, but could not take the owner, which was 'against regulations'. What follows might for all the world have come straight out of a comic opera. They started off towards Brancaster but, passing a young constable on point duty at Old Hunstanton, they commandeered him and took him along. Arriving at a tiny village called Titchwell, they turned down the short strip of road that leads to the gate of the church and rectory, descended, left the constable and chauffeur to guard the machine and themselves made off past the church, across the rectory lawn and through a clump of small trees, beyond which lie the marsh and the sea. They did not get further than the trees, however. The daughter of the house, from her bedroom window observed as she thought the figure of a man in a mackintosh passing in front of the house. She at once gave the alarm to her father, who let loose his big dog and ran outside to confront the intruder. Seeing the two men the rector shouted to know who they were and what they were doing there, the response to which was a flood of Billingsgate and a peremptory command to call off the dog.

.... to be continued



# Dersingham Open Gardens and Studios



## **Dersingham Open Gardens and Studios**

### **Jo Halpin Jones**

As I write this, Open Gardens and Studios is drawing to a close. Before the weekend, those of us participating were concerned that the ever-changing weather forecast advised of rain on both days. But it turned out that the greater problem was heat. By the end of each day the weary, yet determined, visitors were wilting, particularly making their way up Park Hill to view the model railway at the Shepherds' garden!

It has been quite a summer preparing to open our garden. There has been the revitalising of some of the beds; filling in gaps in the hedge to try to keep out the muntjacs (I think they now just come up the drive, or find some other little hole to squeeze through); constant poo picking of little presents from neighbourhood cats marking their territory (it's a shame you can't get cat owners to act as dog owners do, armed with their little bags).

All work stopped with the worst of the heat as we retreated inside and shut all the doors, windows and curtains and flopped into chairs. After a few days away we came back to scorched plants, and flowers that we normally enjoy in September having produced their blooms and already faded away.

In the final week of frantic activity, magical Maria (who comes here and turns her hand to anything) and two of my grandchildren slaved away with last minute lawnmowing, edging, planting, trimming, weeding and jumping up and down to squish everything in the brown garden recycling bin – the grandchildren, not Maria! We were bitten ferociously by what seems like more mosquitoes than usual, reaching places that I didn't think mosquitoes could get to.

I then had to turn my attention to sorting out my photographic studio, removing the accumulated piles of junk, dislodging the well-established population of spiders, framing up some work, and printing some more cards.

Well, everyone has now departed – it has been a delight to chat with people who have come from all directions. Our visitors have remarked on the great variety in the gardens and have been impressed by the work of all the artists. The refreshments down at the Village Centre have been a hit – huge thanks to the magnificent volunteer chefs making all those delicious quiches and cakes. And our special thanks should also go to Judy Collingham, who has masterminded all the organising with the support of her husband David, and to Jane Jestice for handling publicity.

And so another year goes by. This annual event raises valuable funds for St Nicholas Church and Dersingham Village Centre.

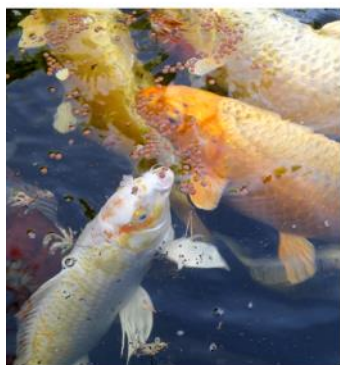
On the following pages you can see more of the gardens and studios that have featured in this year's event.□











## **Dersingham Institute Bowls Club**

### **Jan Rawstron**

At the time of writing this article, we have just two weeks left of our bowling season. Where has the time gone? We have had a very busy season, with our Saturday Roll-Ups being very well attended. It was a challenge at times during the extreme heat, but armed with plenty of cool drinks, and frequent pauses to shelter from the sun (did we ever think we would have to take such steps in our country?), our stalwart members overcame all odds. With only two Saturdays left, we are getting very close to finding out which lady and gentleman have the highest overall score and win the trophy.

Another competition reaching its conclusion is the Dickie Murrell Memorial League (Birds). This has proved to be a closely fought competition and could still be won by one of four teams. The knockout competitions are drawing to a close with just a few outstanding games to be played.

As far as the external leagues are concerned, we have done well in the Countryside League but, with one more match to be played on September 12th, we will not know the final positions until then. Although not reaching the finals of either knockout competition, we did play host to the finals of the Countryside Knockout Cup, and the Eddie Hipkin Cup. In the Albert Victor League, with one match left, we expect to finish mid-table, but did come runners-up against Castle Acre in the Knockout Cup. Not a bad achievement. Thanks to all our members who represented the club in both leagues, and whatever the result, maintained a positive attitude throughout. We are very proud of you.

The second leg of the Ladies v Men Challenge was a great success. The fish and chips, supplied by The Village Fryer, were superb, and the raffle raised £70. Unfortunately (speaking as a lady) the men won the second leg (possibly due to some jiggery pokery), and the best overall score. Never mind ladies, there's always next year.

Finally, we played for the Eddie Roye Pairs Trophy on Bank Holiday Monday. This was won by Peter Cheeseman and Albert Chamberlain in a closely fought final. Peter is one of our newer members, who came to our Open Day back in April, and has been coming to the coaching sessions held by our qualified coach, Gerry. The coaching has obviously paid off. Well done!

Our green closes on Saturday, September 17th when our Roll-Up will be followed by a finger buffet. After that, we look forward to our Presentation Lunch at the Mariner in Old Hunstanton on October 14th, the last chance to meet socially until next season.

The only other date on our calendar this year is our AGM, to be held in the Village Hall on Sunday, November 27th at 2pm. We hope to see most of our members then, to discuss the way forward for our club.

So, until the next issue, we hope you all stay safe and healthy.□





## **Local communities give vulnerable beach nesting birds a helping hand**

### **RSPB Ringed Plover Project**

The support of local communities has given a vital boost to vulnerable beach nesting birds breeding on a stretch of coast from Snettisham to Heacham. With the help of mindful locals and visitors, thirty-six vulnerable ringed plover chicks have taken flight from these shores this year – almost double the number that fledged last year.

The RSPB led project 'Plovers in Peril', delivered in partnership with Wild Ken Hill, aims to halt the worrying decline in breeding numbers of ringed plover and oystercatcher on these two beaches by giving them much needed protection and raising awareness of their plight to visitors. The team of staff and volunteers working on the project want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the local community for supporting these birds by keeping dogs on leads and keeping a safe distance from fenced-off nesting areas during their most vulnerable time of year.



***Ringed plover nest. Photo: Les Bunyan***



***Ringed plover with chick. Photo: Phill Gwilliam***



***Chick stretching wings. Photo: Phill @Gwilliam***

Generous funding from the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, as part of the Habitats Monitoring and Mitigation fund, has enabled the project to continue protecting the vulnerable birds on these two busy beaches for another five years; and with local communities, mindful beach goers and a team of dedicated volunteers and staff all watching over them, a fantastic result has been achieved by the project after only its second season and a timely boost for a bird in global decline.

These two beaches are well loved by both local people and visitors from further afield, who come to enjoy the wild open spaces, stunning scenery, and unique wildlife. For perhaps the most iconic feature of this coast – the birds who make their nests on the sand during our great British summer - the challenges appear to be endless (and with a changing climate, this list is set to grow further still.) Despite the challenges facing them, these charismatic birds are remarkably tenacious - trying again and again when their eggs or chicks are lost too soon, but these birds need the help of their communities if they are to thrive alongside us; and in this case, the support shown by the communities of Snettisham and Heacham has thrown these birds a real lifeline.



***Nest on busy summer beach. Photo: Phill Gwilliam***

Project Officer Wynona Legg shared her thoughts about the support offered by the community: "We have received so many offers of help from people within our communities, moved by

the plight of these birds living on their doorstep, that our volunteer team is always growing! These people are showing up for these birds every day of the week, rain or shine, to chat with visitors, explain restrictions and build support for these birds in the hope of securing them a brighter future. It is truly inspiring."

It's not just volunteers though - local organisations have also been pledging their support for the project, such as Snettisham Beach Sailing Club, who have said, "SBSC are passionate about working closely with the RSPB to help protect the nesting birds here. Our junior sailors and families have enjoyed a tour of the nesting sites, seeing first-hand the impact we have on their survival, and with this knowledge they have helped to design thank you signs to be displayed outside the sailing club. Building links through educating our next generation is paramount and we look forward to continuing to work with the RSPB!"



Whilst there is still a lot to do to ensure beach nesting birds have a future here, the success of this season brings hope for these iconic birds who love Snettisham and Heacham just as much as we do! For more information about the Plovers in Peril project or to register your interest in volunteering in the 2023 season, please contact

[snettisham@rspb.org.uk](mailto:snettisham@rspb.org.uk) □

**DERSINGHAM CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**SUN 20th NOV**

**12 - 5PM**

Free Parking & Free Entry

Run by Fade to Grey & the Dersingham Village Centre Association

**DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE**

**CRAFT STALLS, LOCAL BUSINESSES & CAFE**

## St. Nicholas Friendship Group, Dersingham

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am at Orchard Close Meeting Room. This month we have a presentation by Mr Alan Polaine, to hear about his travels in South America (Machu Picchu).

At our annual AGM Meeting it was agreed that we would welcome guests or non-members for a small charge (£4) for anyone who would like to hear a particular speaker or join a group activity. So please feel welcome to join us.

### Advance Notices

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> November: Sovereign Service (Origins of SASRA)

Wed 14<sup>th</sup> December: Tales from a Grocer's Son – Mr Chris Boxall.

Please contact any of the Committee for further information:

Chair: John Oughtibridge - 01485 543951

Secretary: Erich Dreibholz - 01485 541278

Treasurer: Rob Churchill - 01485 543229

### Craft Group at Dersingham Library

#### Fortnightly, Mondays at 2.30 - 4.30pm

Make new friends, share tricks and tips, and learn new skills. No need to book; just turn up with the craft of your choice. *No obligation to turn up to all the dates - just come when you can. You will always be welcome.*

**Save the Dates:**      October: 3rd, 17th and 31<sup>st</sup>  
                                 November: 14th and 28th  
                                 December: 12th



The craft group will alternate with Just a Cuppa.

### Just a Cuppa at Dersingham Library

#### Fortnightly, Mondays at 2.30 - 3.30pm

Drop in for a chat and a cuppa. No need to book, just turn up. Refreshments will be provided.

**Save the Dates:**      September 26th  
                                 October: 10th and 24th  
                                 November: 7th and 21st  
                                 December: 5th and 19th

### Crime Book Club

#### Last Monday of the month at 5.45-6.45pm

Calling all armchair detectives! Join us at Dersingham Library and chat about the monthly read and any other good books you have read. No need to book and all welcome.

**Save the Dates:**      September 26<sup>th</sup>  
                                 October 31<sup>st</sup>  
                                 November 28<sup>th</sup>  
                                 December 19<sup>th</sup>





## Boots, Boots and more Boots Ward Councillors



Organised by Margaret Mann, Judy Collingham attended a meeting with the Norfolk Area Manager of Boots to discuss ongoing issues around provision of the community pharmacy in Dersingham. It will give you no comfort to know that the Manager covers an area extending from Swaffham to Holt

and that every one of the pharmacies in that area is affected by the problem of lack of a regular, reliable service.

To be clear:

- a) Under the terms of their agreement with Government, Boots are not allowed to open unless a pharmacist is present; nor can they advertise closures in advance. They can only close on an emergency basis, i.e., when they have no pharmacists. Which is, of course, quite often. They would love to have advertised opening times but cannot do so.
- b) There is a chronic lack of pharmacists – in a major conurbation, such as Leicester, pharmacists command a salary which equates to £25 per hour. In this area, Boots are offering £45 per hour – still no takers.
- c) Boots and other chemists are competing against in-surgery provision of dispensing. To do this the practice must have a pharmacist to oversee the prescription but critically do not have to have a pharmacist present when the medication is dispensed. The argument is that a doctor is present, but Boots must have a pharmacist on site at the time of dispensing. If this seems complicated and illogical, don't worry, it is. Boots even must have a pharmacist present when they take delivery of medicines. Oh, and by the way, the local CCG pay pharmacists well – a legacy of the Covid vaccine programme – so much so that many only work three days a week. So, community pharmacies are competing on remuneration and on working hours. Guess who loses out?

It is true that independent pharmacies appear to fare better, but they can be selective about the numbers of clients they take on and many pharmacists in such businesses have not had leave in a year or more; such is the pressure on locum pharmacists. On a positive note, Boots are to have a recruitment drive at their store on the Hardwick on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

So, a perfect storm – what is to be done? Well, the Area Manager said that the Chief Executive of Boots and other large pharmaceutical chains such as Lloyds are seeking a meeting with Government to overturn some of these anomalies. Meanwhile, your Borough Councillor will write to local MP, James Wild, to ascertain what he can do to progress change. Don't hold your breath as of course Westminster is in a state of flux with the change of Leader and hence PM. The next course of action is to get the matter out in the public domain and to do that we need the press and TV involved. This situation cannot continue into autumn and winter and Judy would urge each and every one of you who is adversely affected to write to your MP, local paper, or whatever media outlet you are comfortable with, and protest about the poor provision of pharmaceutical services in this area. The email address for James Wild is [james.wild.mp.uk@parliament.uk](mailto:james.wild.mp.uk@parliament.uk) or by post, House of Commons, LONDON, SW1 0AA.

Most Borough Councillors' activity is put on hold for August, but we did meet to award the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) to the highest scoring applicants. CIL is money from developers for use on suitable projects within the borough to provide infrastructure. This time, locally, Ingoldisthorpe Parish Council were awarded £10,000 for playground improvements. These grants are open to all local groups to apply for, but you do need to make a good case to be successful. Now autumn is upon us we get back to the normal range of meetings and work.□

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## Sandringham News

*(Sent in before the announcement of the passing of Her Majesty The Queen)*



The spring and summer months have been extremely busy at Sandringham, as many events were hosted in the Royal Parkland over the central weekend to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. The main season of visitors to the House and Gardens is now coming to a close (on 14<sup>th</sup> October) with the exhibition in the Ballroom inside Sandringham House: *Her Majesty The Queen at Sandringham: an exemplary reign and a unique country house*, proving to have been very popular.



In the Gardens, as well as dealing with the extreme heat, we welcomed a collaborative project with The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House and a local blacksmith. The project saw 2,500 steel butterflies placed as an installation in an area of the Gardens, as a way to remember someone and commemorate their life (whether they were cared for by the Norfolk Hospice or by someone else.) We are delighted that currently donations for the Butterflies as keepsakes has currently raised over £100k, with 100 percent of the proceeds supporting The Norfolk Hospice.

From October the Sandringham Restaurant will offer a new seasonal winter menu for lunches and afternoon tea.

Looking further ahead into the autumn and winter months, Luminate Sandringham Winter Light Trail will once again return to the Royal Parkland from 11th November to 18th December. With captivating new installations, we hope it will be an exciting addition to the winter months. The

Christmas Fair will return on 18th, 19th and 20th November, and Sandringham Shop will be filled with a range of exclusive Christmas decorations and festive items, from locally distilled gin to preserves and chutneys perfect for celebrations.

Tickets for Luminate and the Christmas Fair are available to book online via the website [www.sandringhamestate.co.uk](http://www.sandringhamestate.co.uk) □







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## Responding to hidden need

Rev Dave Cossey

In 2005 my worldview and perspective would be changed forever. At seventeen years old, I embarked on my first international journey to South Africa with a Christian charity to partner with a series of local churches, giving special focus to help the needs of the poor.

On arrival, I soon travelled out to visit the poverty-stricken township that surrounded the more prosperous city we operated out from. The township wasn't immediately visible but required an intentional journey away from the hustle and bustle of city life. This area of shanty homes was the epicentre to the country's HIV/AIDS epidemic, where more than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of people tested positive. The needs here were complex and wide-ranging in nature. When first seeing the vast expanse of this area, stretching out beyond my field of vision, I felt a helplessness I had never before experienced. What could anyone really do to help in the face of such need?

Fast forward to a few weeks later, and I was volunteering at a local HIV/AIDS orphanage. This place, full of love and compassion, was truly a light in the lives of the children living there who were all either affected or infected by HIV/AIDS. All had lost their parents and lived in the hope that one day soon they might be adopted into a new family.



Alongside other volunteers, we taught, played, and prepared food for the children, both there and in the local partner school. What we gave felt small in comparison to what had been taken from the lives of these children – but the impact was great. The impact on myself has also never faded. From that day forwards I have always learned to 'look beyond' the immediate image of content, living to see hidden need and poverty. I still remember the heartfelt 'thank you' that one orphan, Skhumbuzo, shared at our group's teary departure six months later. The truth I discovered is that we really *can* make a difference in the face of great need.

At St Nicholas in Dersingham, we have supported a vital service to a need often unseen but growing steadily in the background. While much of this country lives in relative prosperity, the cost of living crisis is exacerbating already stretched resources for many.

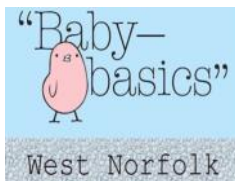
Local Christian charity Baby Basics West Norfolk seeks to provide for one of these very important growing areas of need. Do read the article following this by Maggie Anderson, describing the work they do and inviting you to join with us at St Nicholas Church in Dersingham to help raise funds on **13<sup>th</sup> October at 12.30pm** with '*Ballads for Baby Basics*'. Please bring yourself a bite to eat, enjoy some music, and hear a little more about the work behind this important local charity. See how you too can make a difference in the face of growing need. □



### **Pilates Classes on Tuesdays at Dersingham Methodist Church Hall**

10.15am Gentle Pilates (seated)  
& Exercise Class  
6.15pm Mat Pilates Class

For more details contact Anne on  
07717 333234 or [activehealthpam@gmail.com](mailto:activehealthpam@gmail.com)



**Baby Basics**  
**Maggie Anderson**  
**Baby Basics West Norfolk Centre Leader**

North West Norfolk MP James Wild met with Baby Basics West Norfolk to learn about the essential work they do to support vulnerable mums by providing a safe bed, and other essentials for their newborn babies.

A volunteer-led project, the team meets once a week at St Nicholas Church to prepare starter packs to help mums and families struggling to meet the financial and practical needs of looking after a new baby. These new Moses baskets, which provide a safe bed for the babies to sleep in, are packed full of essentials such as nappies, wipes, toiletries, blankets, baby towels, and baby clothes from newborn to three months. For some mothers, these are the only items they may have for their baby. As well as these, essentials such as maternity pads, breast pads and toiletries are provided for the mum.



Mums are referred to Baby Basics by midwives, health visitors, social workers, Leeway, Early Years, Ask Lily, The Borough Council, the Purfleet Trust, and many other professionals. Help is given to vulnerable groups including, but not limited to, those facing poverty, homelessness, families in crisis, teenage mums and women fleeing domestic violence

Demand for the service continues to grow. Since 2019 there has been an increase from 57 referrals received and completed to 216 in 2021. So far this year 186 referrals have been completed. I am sure the pandemic has had an impact on the increase as more health and other professionals have become aware of our charity, but there has also been an increase in domestic violence during lockdown, which saw more people seeking help. Whilst it is a privilege to provide these Moses basket bundles to those who need them most, it's a sad reflection on the need locally. It takes courage for these mums to accept or agree to help, so when they are referred to us by the professionals, we know they will get ongoing signposting for further support. Our ethos is to try to give these mums dignity, to feel worthy, because they are. Having to ask for help is hard.

Any donations, large or small are gratefully received. Just £2 will buy a packet of maternity pads. All the Moses baskets are new. Fundraising and donations enable us to ensure each baby has a new bed to sleep in.

Do join us at the upcoming fundraiser!

**13<sup>th</sup> October 12.30-2.00pm** *Ballads for Baby Basics.* Why not spend your lunchtime enjoying a mix of live music at St Nicholas Church. Bring your own sandwiches! Hot and cold drinks will be served.

At this event, donations of money or new baby items, including newborn and 0–3-month clothing, can be given.

Thank you all.

Email: [babybasicswestnorfolk@gmail.com](mailto:babybasicswestnorfolk@gmail.com)

Web: [www.baby-basics.org.uk](http://www.baby-basics.org.uk)

Tel: 07708173567 or 07876034281

Facebook: Baby Basics West Norfolk

Registered Charity number 1168099



## **The Changing Face of Dersingham: The Cyclists' Rest Elizabeth Fiddick**

This photo was sent to me recently by a friend who is an avid postcard collector.

On the back it records that this is The Cyclists' Rest, Dersingham. My friend was puzzled as he did not recognise the house and asked if I could help. Like my friend, anyone who came to live here after 1990 would also not recognise this house, as it has been demolished. At the time of the photo – taken in the 1920s/30s – it was the last house on the Main Road (now known as Hunstanton Road) as you left Dersingham for Hunstanton. In the distance on the right you can see Life Wood, as the housing and Woodside Avenue have yet to be built.



If we look a little further back to a time before this house was built, we will see just how much this area has changed. In the mid- nineteenth century, if you had walked from Middle Road (Post Office Road) towards Hunstanton you would have passed The White Horse Inn and farm on your left (Jubilee Court) and then on both your left and right was not housing as today but open common land with heather and gorse in profusion right through to the crossroads. There being no other buildings, you would have had a clear view over the marshes to The Wash. From the crossroads the common land continued on your right, whilst on your left was open glebe land owned by the church but rented out as arable allotments farmed by George Chadwick. Then you would have reached the only other buildings here, the house, barn and garden owned and occupied by Thomas Scott. The rest of the land up to Life Wood was divided into two small arable fields, pightles, used by Thomas.

It was the building of the Lynn to Hunstanton railway in 1862 that hastened the changes in this part of the village, for with the building of the station, The Alexandra Station Hotel and the railway cottages the focus of the village shifted to the west. From that time the cottages and houses that now line the Main Road and Station Road began to be built. The names of Glebe Road and Glebe Close remind us of the original use of that area. In the very early twentieth century Rowland Linford built his grocery store on the corner of the crossroads, forever to be known as Linford's Corner. In 1921 the Charity Trustees arranged that the common land on the opposite corner should be taken over by the Parish Council, and the recreation ground, War Memorial and allotments we know today gradually came into being.

At the time of our picture of The Cyclists' Rest most of this had already happened. The shop was run by a Mrs Agnes Middleton, who apparently would usually be seen sitting in the front window. A traveller could stop there for refreshments and confectionery, whilst in an outbuilding hardware goods and bicycle spares were available for purchase. Children would stop there on Whit Sundays to buy their sweets before crossing the road for an annual picnic on the open common land and area known as The Park. And surely that must be Agnes standing there in front of her shop.

Agnes had been married to Thomas Henry Middleton, and we first meet him in the 1896 Directory where he is recorded as a shopkeeper. The 1901 census give us more detail and we discover Thomas as a general dealer living on Shernbourne Road, so obviously not yet in this house. He was forty-four years old and Agnes, who was born in Yorkshire,



was forty-three. Living with them was Emma Thomas, an adopted daughter. The 1911 census records the family with a house and shop on Snettisham Road and the 1914 Polling District records have Thomas with a freehold house on the Lynn Road. This would seem to indicate they had moved to the house in the picture. Sometime after 1916 Thomas died and so by 1922 Agnes Middleton, widow, was running The Cyclists' Rest.

The early twentieth century heralded the age of the bicycle. There had been rapid development from the "Dandy Horse", the first means of transport on two wheels.



Innovations like the pneumatic tyre had increased the comfort and ease of riding. Bicycles were designed with a step through for ladies to allow them to mount and dismount in a dignified way while wearing the long skirts of the times. It was considered very unladylike for a woman to open her legs to mount or dismount a bicycle. As it gained in popularity there was a demand for more rational dress for ladies, thus liberating women from corsets and ankle length skirts. However, many were utterly scandalised by the bloomers that became the fashion for ladies to wear.

So, the cycling craze swept the country, and it was certainly here in Dersingham for, in the 1896 Directory, we find John Henry Chambers recorded as an agent for Coventry, Quinton, Globe and other cycles, and Albert Jackson set up as a cycle repairer in 1900. John Tomas Twaite was the cycle agent in 1922 and for many years after that Walter Senter had a cycle business here and was no doubt known to Agnes. The bicycle allowed the ordinary villager to travel for leisure. Travel had previously been an expensive activity mainly reserved for the better off. But now, with the cycle and parliamentary fares on the railways, the ordinary villager could enjoy a day out by the sea or in the country. Agnes obviously had a good business sense and realised the potential the craze offered. Thus, The Cyclists' Rest became a very popular stopping off point for the members of the many cycling clubs that were formed in this area. Agnes would provide refreshments for the weary travellers. They would also be grateful, I am sure, that she carried a stock of much needed bicycle spares as punctures and breakdowns were not exactly unknown.

I am not sure exactly when Agnes stopped trading, but she died, aged eighty-two, on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1940.

When I first came to Dersingham this was the scene on the Hunstanton Road.



The first shop was Thaxter's shop, whilst in the distance is clearly the former Cyclist's Rest, but at this time it was Rankin's store. Dick Melton recalled in his last article that before it was taken over by the Rankins it had been a haberdashery shop run by Mrs. Connie Wiyers with her husband and two sons. He recalls she was a very cheerful lady, always smiling and with a good word for everyone.

Rankin's and Thaxter's operated successfully side by side for many years, although they always kept a close eye on each other's prices! Then Thaxter's took over the Rankin store and ran the two businesses side by side for a while using Rankin's as the Garden Centre and an off licence



It was in the early eighties, I think, that Thaxter's rebuilt their old shop to become the one we know today. The old Cyclists' Rest was demolished and the present-day car park and garden centre were constructed.

And so The Cyclists' Rest is no more, but thanks to our old friend, photographer Walter Ralph and his trusty camera, it will now never be entirely forgotten. Because of that old photo Agnes can still stand proudly in front of her shop and stare into the future at us. □



## Dersingham Carpet Bowls

The club continues to be well attended at our weekly Tuesday afternoon meetings, although we do take a break during August due to the number of members being away on holiday or on granny and grandad duties.

Social activities have also continued to happen, including meals out and a successful afternoon tea at Norfolk Lavender. A team attended the first interclub competition since the pandemic. Reepham club organised a mini competition at Cawston Village Hall. A team of four - Ulla, Eileen, Ray and Jenny O - attended and, to our genuine surprise, were runners-up, missing the top spot by one shot. As the contest was followed by a raffle and a very generous buffet tea, it was a very pleasant afternoon and great to return to something like normality.

Lynnsport are also starting the League matches this autumn/winter and we hope to enter some teams for that. Watch this space. □



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## Dersingham Library

### Library opening hours

- Monday: 2pm to 7pm (8am to 2pm Open Library access only)
- Tuesday: 8am to 7pm (Open Library access only)
- Wednesday: 10am to 7pm (8am to 10am Open Library access only)
- Thursday: 10am to 7pm (8am to 10am Open Library access only)
- Friday: 8am to 7pm (Open Library access only)
- Saturday: 10am to 4pm (8am to 10am Open Library access only)
- Sunday: 10am to 4pm (Open Library access only)

Open Library gives you access to your local library even when it is unstaffed. To find out more about Open Library go to <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/your-local-library/open-library>.

You can return items when the library is closed using the letterbox to the right of the main entrance. Please make sure that books drop into the box completely and are not left sticking out.

### Weekly Events

To book your place at any of these events, call 01485 540181

**Thursday - Knit & Knatter:** 10am - 12pm

A friendly drop-in session for those who knit, sew or crochet.

**Thursday - Bounce & Rhyme:** 10.30 - 11am

Come and join us for a sing-along! Suitable for ages 0-5. No need to book, just turn up.

**Friday - Lego Club:** 5.00 - 6.30pm

Let your imagination run free and see what you can create with Lego bricks. This group is for our junior and teen members. Please note that children under eight must be accompanied by an adult.

**Saturday - Games Time:** 1.30 - 3.30pm

Scrabble, Monopoly, Pop Up Pirate - just a few of the games you can play with new friends in this weekly group! Feel free to bring your own refreshments. This group is for our junior and teen members.

You can also find a directory of events where you can book on our website - search 'Dersingham library events.' □

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## Making Gardening Easier May Davey



Making Gardening Easier is looking forward to our 16<sup>th</sup> September outing to Barnsdale Gardens at Oakham, made famous by Geoff Hamilton. We have more than thirty members and friends joining us for the day's adventure. Many thanks to our Secretary Gloria Pantling for doing all the paperwork and Sue Neil for arranging the visit.

Our 15<sup>th</sup> July meeting was a private outing for members to a member's garden. It happened to be Di Chaplin's birthday too. We had a lovely afternoon in bright sunshine and enjoyed seeing her productive vegetable garden and borders full of unusual flowers.



**Jo Munson**



On 19<sup>th</sup> August Jo Munson talked about tulips. Jo is part of a family firm, Smith and Munson, who grow tulips, ranunculi and lilies in their glasshouses at Gedney. She explained in detail how the tulips are grown hydroponically, from sourcing of the bulbs from Holland to the final cutting and wrapping. After the tulip season is over, ranunculi, then lilies are grown. She generously gave everyone some flowers.

For our October meeting a landscape specialist has been invited. And in November we have Bamboo expert, Lou Dyer.

New members are always welcome. We meet at 2.00pm on the third Friday of the month at Dersingham Village Centre, unless an outing has been arranged. Entrance costs



## Wolferton Village News

### Social Club

The Club continues to hold its Cash Bingo and Prize Bingo evenings. All are welcome to attend a good evening of fun and entertainment – as well as the chance to win!

Cash Bingo                      Sunday October 2nd. Doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 8.00pm  
Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup>. Doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 8.00pm

Prize Bingo                      Tuesday 18th October. Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm  
Tuesday 15th November. Doors open 6.30pm eyes down 7.30pm

### St Peter's Church

The Bishop of Norwich visited St Peter's for the induction & installation service of The Reverend Canon Dr Paul Williams on 11th September. Thanks to all involved in the preparations, for helping clean and tidy the church and for doing refreshments.

Harvest Festival will take place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 09.30am, all welcome.

The long-established Harvest Quiz is returning this year after a break resulting from the Covid pandemic. Funds raised will be split between churches in the Sandringham Group.



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## Sandringham Parish Council News

The Parish Council met at Wolferton Social Club on 10<sup>th</sup> August. All four Parish Councillors were present. A declaration of interest was made by one Councillor in respect of a planning application to be discussed at the meeting.

The Chairman reported that there had been no expressions of interest in either the role of Councillor or Clerk to the Council. For Council meetings to go ahead, four Councillors have to be present and, with there now being only four serving the parish, it means that if one is unwell or otherwise engaged the meeting cannot proceed. This is not good for the furtherance of Council business. If there is any interest in becoming a Parish Councillor, then the Chairman would be pleased to hear from you (contact details are on the website). The same applies for the position of Clerk, although meetings can proceed without a Clerk being present. No prior experience is required for either role.

Councillor Bubb reported that the Borough could make grants available of up to £10,000 for community schemes, the funding coming from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), a fund paid by developers to the Borough Council specifically for community-based schemes as part of their planning approval process. In short, the more housing development is approved, the greater the CIL fund grows, to the benefit of the wider community. Councillors asked Councillor Bubb to gather more information so that the Parish Council can make an informed decision whether to apply for a grant and if so, for what purpose.

The Chairman updated the meeting on correspondence regarding Butlers Cross. Historic England have confirmed no objection to the design of the proposed replacement railings but advised they had no available funding. The cost estimate is £2,000 and, without any funds, the Parish Council will need to seek financial support for the project from elsewhere, such as Norfolk County Highways, which is being pursued.

The Chairman advised that he had received a complaint concerning the smell of sewage in the vicinity of the junction of Station Road and Steer Road, opposite Wolferton Social Club. Councillor Hickling advised that the Sandringham Estate is investigating.

The Chairman informed that a planning application had been received in respect of a wooden construction to be built at the Sandringham Visitor Centre. The Parish Council will support the application.

There were no reports from either the County or Borough Council and the County Councillor was not present at the meeting. This may be as a result of reducing the frequency of meetings, with the result that one is held in August, traditionally a month when such meetings are not held.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November in the Wolferton Social Club, and all members of the public are welcome to attend.□



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## Dersingham Brownies and Guides take over Holkham

Lynne Wheeler

Just before they broke up for the summer holidays, the 1st and 2nd Dersingham Brownies and the 1st Dersingham Guides descended upon Holkham Hall for a day of excitement and adventure.

The Brownies spent their day discovering more about Holkham and the people who have lived and worked there over time by exploring the interactive Holkham Stories experience. They had many different activities to complete as well as having the opportunity to try on different costumes worn by the estate workers. These activities enabled many of the Brownies to complete their Local History badge. In the afternoon, they explored the estate onboard a tractor trailer ride, discovering many interesting facts about the estate. Did you know that the bowler hat was first created at Holkham for the gamekeepers to wear to protect their heads! There was also time for a picnic lunch, an ice cream, a visit to the gift shop and multiple visits to the adventure playground.



The Guides had an even more adventurous day as they spent the morning exploring the estate on two wheels! They cycled around six miles across the estate on road, gravel, grass and woodland, as well going up and down hill. They cycled past many of the different sites found across the estate, from the obelisk to the Great Barn, and around the lake and past the church. Following a picnic lunch, the Guides moved up into the trees to complete the high ropes course. It was great to see the Guides working together to support each other as they tackled the different obstacles before cheering as everyone completed the final zipwire to descend from the treetops. The day ended with a well-deserved ice cream!



## NHS Norfolk and Waveney ICS update

### Planning for the autumn COVID-19 vaccination booster and flu campaign

NHS staff are working hard to prepare for the rollout of the COVID-19 autumn booster programme and the annual flu vaccine.

Just as with previous rounds of the Covid vaccination programme, the autumn booster will be offered first to the most vulnerable and/or the oldest members of our population and will then be rolled out to the rest of the eligible population between mid-September and December.

Vaccinations will be offered at a range of sites, including GP practices, local pharmacies, hospital hubs, and large vaccination centres, with sites currently being finalised and confirmed.

We will also be holding pop-up clinics and roving vaccination teams which will help make access to vaccinations easier and more convenient for local people.

The NHS will contact people when it is their turn to book in for the vaccine – you do not need to contact the NHS. We urge all those invited for both a flu and COVID-19 booster vaccine to take up the offer as quickly as possible – it will give you maximum protection this winter.□

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## Dersingham Choir

**Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7.00pm to 9.00pm at St Cecilia's Church, Mountbatten Road. Everyone is welcome. Come along and see what we do.**

In part two of our interviews, we chat to Simon (Musical Director) and Matthew (Accompanist).

### Matthew, what is your role within the choir?

My primary role within the choir is piano accompanist, helping out members with any queries about the music they are singing - whether that be about the squiggles and dots on the page or trying to pitch a certain note.

### What do you enjoy about the choir?

It's the welcoming feeling that you receive from all its members. The choir is open to new ideas and is constantly listening to its members to create a diverse experience. It's exciting to hear a blend of sounds from the different voices - especially when the individual parts are sung together for the first time.

### What are the benefits of being in a choir?

Singing is a feel-good exercise, and you always walk away from rehearsals with a smile on your face. The choir has created friendships, and many social connections in and out of rehearsals. Singing is proven to stimulate all parts of the brain simultaneously, which helps to relieve stress, improve memory and develop a sense of connection with people. I would certainly recommend joining the Choir, as a new hobby, or to further challenge yourself as an experienced singer.

### Simon, what is a Musical Director?

My main jobs are to keep everyone singing the right notes and doing so at the right time! This is relatively straightforward if we are all singing the same thing, but the best music (of all types) has several parts working together, so that is a little harder. I also want to instil confidence – everyone needs to know that they are making a positive contribution and are able to sing and enjoy things.

I'm always amazed at how choir members rise to a challenge, so I like to push them to achieve far more than they think they can. It is very clear that the pieces they enjoy most are nearly always the ones where they have had to work hardest. A little like life – satisfaction comes from a real sense of achievement.

Notes are not all there is to music. It is about making it mean something, reflecting the mood, involving everyone.

### What if I can't read music?

It isn't really that important. Like reading a map – you look at it to get an idea of where you are going, but only really refer to it if you get lost. If the notes go up you sing a higher note, and, if they have more black, they are faster. As with map reading the more you do it, the better you get at it, and the more detail you can absorb. I interject interesting points along the way to help you familiarise yourself with it, but we practise so that it is an aide-memoire, rather than something to keep your attention fixed on; after all, you should be watching me!

### Benefits of being in a choir?

There are too many to list, but I would always start with the sense of belonging. It is an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. There is always a great sense of camaraderie in doing something as a group.□

## Phobbies - hobbies club for those with and without physical difficulties

Every Thursday 10am to 2pm at Dersingham Social Club

We are still very active and are happy to report that we have gained two new members over the summer.

Everyone is welcome to visit any Thursday and we would still love to have a few more regular members and helpers who could help us learn new crafts. We currently have painting and card making, knitting, sewing and rug making. Mostly we enjoy cups of tea and good company.

Contact Maggie: 01485 544865 or 07967799816 □

# u3a

Will meet at the Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton at 2.00pm on Monday 17th October for our AGM and a Quiz. The next meeting will be on Monday 21st November when we will be entertained by *Three's Company*. For further information see our website [u3asites.org.uk/hunstanton](http://u3asites.org.uk/hunstanton)

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## Dersingham Evening W.I. Katrina Mundy

In August we held our Afternoon Tea in St Cecilia's, as that day the weather had decided to turn rather inclement after all the lovely days we had had up until

then. Thirty members enjoyed a lovely tea - many thanks to the members of the committee who had baked cakes for it. We had hoped to play some outdoor garden games, but rain stopped play, as they say.

September was the return of our evening meetings, and the speaker was Susan Barnett on the secrets and scandals of Hollywood Royalty. Susan was speaking about the era when the actors of Hollywood were stars and everyone was interested in what they did, who they were with and how they lived. The competition was a "Piece of Bling".



It was my turn to host a coffee afternoon and many thanks to those who came (my husband departed the house, plus dog, muttering something about not staying as it was bound to be noisy - not sure what he meant.) As I have stated before, these are great times to catch up with members without the formalities of the evening meet, especially those members who may not have managed to get to the meet. We will be having another coffee afternoon in October which will be hosted by Ann Mason and then in November revert back to a morning at Pat's.

On September 18<sup>th</sup> a few members were going to have a go at Axe Throwing, but unfortunately this had to be postponed until a later date, so more on that when it occurs.

Our book club restarted in September and their reading matter was *The Silk Merchant's Daughter* by Dinah Jeffries. They are certainly reading a varied genre of books and enjoying them, by remarks I hear.

In September our Craft group returned and I imagine Babs will soon have us making Christmas cards/gifts, as I was informed some days ago that it's about eighteen weeks away (frightening thought.)

Our MAD group restarted knitting/crocheting items for local charities and possibly for our own Autumn Fair to be held on October 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be held in St Cecilia's and I am sure will be enjoyed by all who attend. The raffle will be raising funds for Cancer UK – this was chosen in remembrance of our member Ann Saunders.

We have been chosen by Norfolk Federation to host their Autumn Norfolk Federation meet at St Cecilia's on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Many events organised by Norfolk Federation are held near or in Norwich, so this is an event to have it in the west of the county and it is to be hoped that many local W.I.s will support it (more about this in a later piece as I am writing this in September.)

Also in October, we have arranged a coach trip for members, plus members from four



local W.I. groups, to Blickling Hall (again, hopefully pictures in the December issue – if we remember to take some.)

Three of us will also be undertaking a Treasure Hunt round Norwich organised by Federation. This is bound to be an interesting day, and will, I think, show just how much we know or most likely don't know about Norwich.

October sees the return of the Dining group and they will be enjoying a meal at the White Swan in South Wootton and many thanks to Diann for organising this.

At our November evening meet the speaker is Jenny Beake who is a comedienne in the style of Victoria Wood, and this is planned to be our second Open meet of the year. We also have a trip to the Christmas Market at Ely Cathedral planned for November 18<sup>th</sup> - a chance to buy some early Christmas presents and perhaps to start to get into the Christmas spirit.

The committee are now starting to plan the 2023 calendar of evening meets and have some ideas of events. It is hoped to hold an open morning in November for our members one Saturday to ask for their ideas re outings, events and workshops they would like to do.

Our monthly meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month in St Cecilia's Church, Dersingham at 7.15pm and are open to all ladies. Posters advertising these meetings are usually up around the village. If you would like to know more about Dersingham Evening W.I. please contact Katrina on 01485 544773 or Lyn on 01485 541257 □

  
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## **Big brother really will be watching you** **Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton**

One of the consequences of the increasing digitisation of practically everything is that it is becoming easier for governments to keep tabs on who owns what and, as time goes on (and the threat of money laundering grows), there is a move to make that knowledge even more comprehensive.

This is becoming apparent in Income Tax with the "Making Tax Digital" initiative, which will require most businesses and many landlords to file electronic accounts on a quarterly basis from April 2024. For trustees, the problem is slightly more pressing. The Trust Registration Service, which was launched in 2017 after a troubled start and a couple of deferrals, required registration of both taxable and non-taxable existing trusts by 1<sup>st</sup> September this year. By such date, all trusts should have registered with the service, giving details of assets, settlors, beneficiaries and trustees. Any new trusts established since 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022 are required to register within 90 days.

It would appear likely that there will be a fair degree of non-compliance. No one knows how many trusts exist within the UK but estimates range between 1-2 million. Less than 200,000 trusts were registered with HMRC under previous rules. The new registration regime catches all trusts except a few small exceptions such as pensions, charities, will trusts wound up within two years and some insurance policy trusts, but includes, for example, trusts with a life interest, property trusts where the trustees and beneficiaries are not identical and even most bare trusts (typically where investments are held on behalf of a minor). The number of trusts currently on the register is not disclosed, but almost certainly there will be huge numbers of trustees who hold assets producing no income and who have simply not heard of the new rules.

Potentially such trustees will be liable for fines, starting at £100 and ranging up to £5,000. However, HMRC have indicated that they will initially adopt a "soft landing" approach starting with a "nudge letter" encouraging trustees to register, before raising a fine. Given the degree of information available to HMRC from their many databases, such nudges will probably emerge at some scale.

There are without a doubt hundreds of cases locally where registration will be required. Our existing trust clients were mostly registered by the deadline and a handful more have come forward in recent months, but this is probably the tip of the iceberg. Anyone who is holding property, investments, land or other assets on behalf of others, should act as soon as possible to bring matters up to date.

**Please contact either myself or my partner Nicola Tarry FCA on 01485 534800 or email [kate@kathryngigg.co.uk](mailto:kate@kathryngigg.co.uk) if you require advice regarding the tax implications of the Sponsorship payments.**

**Mrs K H Gigg FCA**

**N.B. Article written in August 2022**

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

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## Dersingham Walking Group

### Tony Bubb

Phew! By the time we get to the walks listed below we should be into more walking friendly temperatures, although our recent walks were still enjoyable in the heat. Autumn is possibly the best season for walking, with the colours and the fruits to view along the way and the vistas opening up as leaves fall; so do come and join us.

Our next walks are:

#### **Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2.00pm**

One of our fairly regular visits to the delightful and extensive field-edge footpaths of Courtyard Farm, Ringstead, postponed from earlier in the year as it was raining. Start from the car park on the left of the Ringstead to Burnham road about 0.7 miles east of Ringstead. TF722405. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

#### **Wednesday October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2.00pm**

A coastal walk along the beach from Heacham towards Snettisham and back along the sea bank. Around four miles. Meet at Brays Pit duckpond, Heacham. Start point TF673373. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

#### **Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2.00pm**

To the woods! One of our explorations of Sandringham Woods led by our resident expert. Start at the village sign. TF685297. Leader: Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.

#### **Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1.30pm (the clocks have gone back)**

Explore the streets, lanes and footpaths of Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham. Four and a half miles. Meet at the big layby near Ingoldisthorpe crossroads. Start point TF 683324. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

#### **Wednesday November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1.30pm**

An orbit around Great Bircham on footpaths and lanes, but sadly the windmill tearoom will be closed. About four miles. Start at the windmill car park. TF771327. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

#### **Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1.30pm**

Hudson's Fen, Roydon Common and more. About four miles. Start at the car park, Chapel Road, Pott Row. TF702223. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.



All our planned walks will appear here in Village Voice and can also be found on our page on the Parish Council website and in the Calendar on that website. Our page is at [www.dersingham.org.uk/walkinggroup](http://www.dersingham.org.uk/walkinggroup). Joining the walking group is a great way to meet some of your fellow villagers and to explore the local area. You'll probably discover footpaths that you never knew existed and maybe views that will give you a fresh appreciation of the local landscape. So, if you haven't walked with the group before, why not join us for an amble through our wonderful countryside. Most of our walks are between four and five miles long and take around two hours, with a rest stop at some point. There is no cost involved, just turn up with your boots on. Dogs are welcome on most walks, provided they are well behaved and tolerant of other dogs. The leader of the walk will do their best to look after you.

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

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

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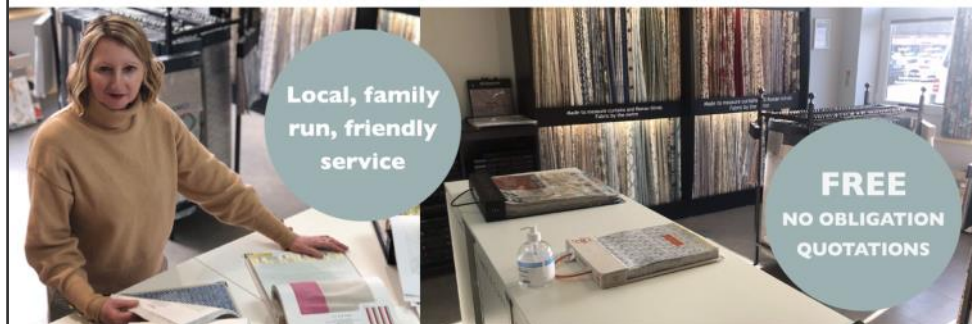
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## The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle



Periodically, I go to the hospital for a CAT scan to see whether the cancer has returned. I get edgy, short-tempered and worried a few weeks beforehand. The sword of Damocles is ever over my head in this respect, but I mainly manage to forget the possibility, but as the time comes for another scan, that possibility becomes a 'could be'. So, yesterday, when the heavens opened and the rain came down, and thunder blasted the skies and lightening flashed and forked and the earth was sucking up the water like a glutton and the cats were going bonkers running in and out of the house in great glee, I wanted to strip naked and run outside with them and cavort in the downpour and laugh with Nature. But no, I had to drink a gallon of water and drive to the hospital. Only I didn't drive, my Remote Control Man is always very good to me and takes time off work to take me to my hospital appointments.

Rushing rivers raced downhill or swirled in huge pools that caused confusion to motorists, slowing progress to almost nothing, and I wondered if I would make my appointment. I finally gasped my way into the waiting room (I can't hurry easily along all those corridors) and declared, "I am late!" The receptionist looked at me, paused, and said, "but you're not late-late." Unusually, there were quite a few people waiting – up to now, during and after Covid, there have been no others waiting, and very nice too. But, still wary of the dreaded Covid, I wondered where to sit. Some men were coughing their lungs out, so I went around the corner to wait. Another bloke eyed me above his mask and proceeded to tell me why he was there.... all I wanted to do was relax and stop being nervous. I had forgotten my hearing aids (the usual thing) and I could barely hear a word he said. "I can't hear a word you are saying," I said. "I've forgotten my hearing aids." But he carried on talking regardless, in the same tone, about his garden. I'm not anti-social, but hospitals and dentists always make me nervous, and I try to shut off and do deep breathing. So I closed my eyes. Surely he wouldn't talk to someone trying to have a little doze. But he did; he went on and on.... Since writing the above, the results are good – I am still in remission!

\*\*\*

I've begun to write another book – this time about past life regressions. I have enough clients' experiences to write some interesting stuff but had forgotten most of their stories. What an interesting time I have had, going through all the notes I took during their regressions. Quite a few people have found themselves in medieval warfare. What has struck me is that these people have all said, "The noise is so terrible". The noise of men shouting, screeching in pain, horses screaming, the clash of swords, and so on. And the smell of blood and getting stuck in the mud and gore.

Other people regress as daughters of wealthy parents who have no say in their lives. They are not allowed to leave the house and cannot choose whom they wish to marry. Husbands are selected for them – usually much older men. When I ask them if they mind, they tell me that this is the way it is, and they accept. Some say they hate their husbands; some say they turned out to be kind, and two have told me they poisoned their spouses! (Two different ladies on different occasions.) They said they were very pleased they had done so and, even after the regression, have told me with glee that they were so glad they had done it!

Some people regress as homeless and poor – many regress as young children trying to survive. They describe themselves as ragged and cold with itching heads and no shoes. Some survive and manage to do something with their lives, but each and every person gives me such a vivid look into their past lives with always something that makes me think, "they couldn't have made that up!" All the regressions are so fascinating, and I

really don't think they are 'made up', or 'memories of a film seen', especially as there are always certain surprising comments that convince me they really are bona fide.

\*\*\*

Remote Control Man took me to the shops the other day. After the butcher, and at the next shop, I put the meat on the dashboard while I left. When I came back it was in the well of the car. I picked it up and said, "I didn't want it there." "It's clean," he said. "Yes, but my feet are all chickeny," I replied. He laughed, and said, "Chickeny? No wonder we don't have conversations." And so I retorted, as one has to retort to have the last word, "Well, because we don't talk, I have lost the power of speech."

Which reminded me of an old couple I had noted in The Rose and Crown at Snettisham about forty years ago, the memory of which has never faded. During the whole time we had been in there eating a three-course meal, they hadn't spoken a word to each other. Finally, the old girl said in a monotone voice, "The carpet's showing signs of wear." He grunted, and that was their conversation for the entire evening. Maybe we all get like that in the end.

It's the Open Gardens and Studios weekend soon (we have to write our bits for *Village Voice* some time in advance) and I am trying to address the ravages of drought and weeds in my own garden, ready for the event. I could not work in that hot weather, so there is a lot for me to do. I have to say, I do love pottering in the garden and don't regard it as work at all. I leave Remote Control Man watching motor bike racing on the TV - which sound like wasps in bottles - while I get lost in my reveries of what to do next to improve it. I designed the new layout a year ago, and it's not yet finished. Thank you to all the lovely people who compliment me on how it's shaping up, as they pass by. I like to think that as well as enjoying it myself, I am also providing some visual pleasure to others as well. I have a new greenhouse, which was late being put up, so while I grew some plants, which was exciting, the seeds were sown about three months too late, and the lateness and the heat and lack of water made my prowess in plant production a bit iffy. However, I did manage to plant out a lot.□



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## Ingoldisthorpe Village WI

Lesley Geer, President

Where does the time go? As I write, autumn is fast approaching, and I am looking out at some much needed rain after a summer of hot, dry weather.

So, what have the past few months held for Ingoldisthorpe Village WI? After 'minding' the Trauma Teddies, knitted by members some time ago, it was a good day when three of us were able to hand them over to a King's Lynn based charity who work with Ukrainian families, settling them into a new lifestyle.


It's so nice to catch up with friends, fellow WI members, which we did at the WI group evening in June. We listened to sea shanties and enjoyed a buffet supper with lots of chat, all making for a lovely evening.

As I mentioned last time, at our open meeting in July we hosted around thirty visitors from other local WIs and Federation Office for an evening in the presence of our 'royal' guest speaker, Queen Victoria. It was a very successful evening and enjoyed by all.

Our recent walks have included a coastal stroll - Morston to Blakeney - a King's Lynn Heritage Walk and then a fascinating morning spent at Binham Priory. All very much enjoyed and well worth return visits. At long last we were able to re-awaken our golfing skills when six members spent a morning playing Pitch and Putt. Despite the break there was no lack of competition. For those less physically energetic, the Knit and Natter group continue to meet once a fortnight. I believe the Natter far outweighs the Knit, but company and enjoyment are what matters and they certainly feature. And for our avid readers, our book club continues to meet once a month discussing their chosen book titles.

The events I've mentioned above are only a snippet of what we do; visit the website <https://norfolk.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/ingoldisthorpe-village> to see all that's on offer.

With a guarantee of a warm welcome, come and see us. We meet the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call Lesley on 01485 298645 or Jean on 01485 541462. □



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This could be the most valuable 2 hours of learning you have ever spent. Choking, head injury and fracture all are medical emergencies that children may experience. Do you know how to respond? This fantastic **FREE** paediatric first aid workshop will give you the knowledge and skills to make a difference and potentially save a life. Find out about how to carry out an assessment of a patient, the recovery position, dealing with burns and bleeding and CPR.

**Date:** 17th October 2022  
**Time:** 10:00 - 12:00  
**Venue:** Dersingham Library  
**Cost:** FREE **Duration:** 1 session

To find out more and book your place:  
[www.norfolk.gov.uk/familylearning](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/familylearning)  
0344 800 8020 (option 5)





## Ringstead Open Studios - 24<sup>TH</sup> Sept to 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2022

The Ringstead village hall in west Norfolk will host a group show of four prominent artists as part of the county-wide Norfolk Open Studios.



Jane Brun



David Lendrum



Barbara King



Helga Joergens

Individual yet complimentary, united in their love of bold forms, colour and texture, these artists' collective works will range from figurative to abstract and encompass oil, acrylic, wax crayon and other media.

Throughout the exhibition all four artists will be at the hall to meet and greet visitors and each will have a 'pop up' studio space in which they will be creating new works. 10am to 5pm Ringstead Village Hall, West Norfolk, PE36 5JU.

Free entry.

Further information [bek@barbaraking.co.uk](mailto:bek@barbaraking.co.uk) □



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The retreat day of recollection in July with Fr Bob Eccles was very well attended. We hope to run some others during the year. Details will be on the parish website and weekly bulletins.

Fifty people from the parish, including volunteers, attended the parish BBQ on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August. It was lovely to be able to get together for a social event, with good weather and lots of delicious food and refreshments.

We have regular Rosary prayer meetings at St Cecilia's every Monday from 2pm. And there is also a Mothers' Prayers group which meet at 2.30pm on Mondays fortnightly at OLSE. There is a fair-trade stall at St Cecilia's on the first Sunday of each month.

The Pope's prayer intention for October: **A Church Open to Everyone**. We pray for the Church, ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

The Pope's prayer intention for November: **Children who Suffer**. We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans and victims of war. May they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

A few members of the parish have been getting together 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 are published on the website and in the weekly church bulletins, and anyone interested in contributing in any way is more than welcome to attend or pass on ideas.

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. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come along to any of the meetings 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 at [www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org](http://www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org)

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 OLSE Sandringham Road, Hunstanton.**

Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and 10.15am at Dersingham on Wednesdays.

**Website:** [www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org](http://www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org) **Email:** [hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk) (please note that this is a new email address, please add it to your address list)

**The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.** If you require a Priest urgently, please telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220 or email [parishpriest763@gmail.com](mailto:parishpriest763@gmail.com)

## A bit of nostalgia

For those who have lived in the village since the 1980s you will remember that there used to be an annual Dersingham Carnival. The children dressed up in colourful costumes representing various themes and travelled on floats that toured around the village. Accompanied by rousing music the parade made its way to the recreation ground where various activities took place.

Sadly, the Carnival stopped taking place when the cost of insurance proved too great after somewhere else in the country a child fell off a trailer and was injured.

We have been sent a batch of photos from that era, though I'm not sure of the exact year. Do you recognise yourself or others that you knew?!!!□



## Snettisham Gardening Club

We shall be meeting in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road in Snettisham on October 26th at 7.30pm, when Barry Gayton will be telling us all about "Painful and Poisonous Plants".

We shall be holding our Hog Roast on 30th November, also at 7.30pm. Reservations have to be made prior to Friday 25th November. □



## Operation Mincemeat

### Brian Anderson



At the close of Operation Torch in November 1942 the Axis forces were finally defeated in North Africa leaving the Allies in complete control. The next task was to take the war to Europe. The obvious choice was Sicily - its strategic position in the Mediterranean gave the Axis forces (largely German at this point) a base from which to attack Allied shipping with both naval and air forces. Taking Sicily would knock out this threat and also destabilise the Fascist government of Italy. It seemed obvious. So obvious that the Germans would come to the same conclusion. Could the Germans be persuaded that the attack was actually going to come somewhere else? The deception would have to be very convincing. The problem was turned over to Section 17M of the Naval Intelligence Department.

Charles Cholmondeley, an RAF flight lieutenant seconded to MI6, recalled a proposal written by Admiral John Godfrey, Director of Naval Intelligence at the Admiralty and known as the "Trout memo". In fact it was probably written by another officer, Lieutenant Commander Ian Fleming, who later became the author of the James Bond novels. It proposed using a dead body with false (and supposedly secret) documents in the pocket. Cholmondeley proposed dropping a corpse carrying such documents from an aircraft into the sea off the coast of Spain in the expectation that the Spanish authorities would pass the information to the Germans. Spain was officially neutral but there were many (but by no means all) in its Fascist Government who were sympathetic to the Nazi cause. The idea was mulled over and then rejected. The aircraft would have to come close to the coast to ensure that the body would drift inshore. It would have to be done in daylight to provide certainty about the dropping point. There was a considerable risk that the aircraft would be seen, and the operation would be at serious risk.

But it was an idea that wouldn't go away. It was worked on by Cholmondeley and another officer, Lieutenant Commander Ewen Montagu, who had been promoted within Section 17M to devise and promote counterespionage. The method of delivery of the body was the most important change - it could be placed inshore at night by a submarine.



**Ewen Montagu**

The problem of obtaining a body was the next to be examined. Although it was wartime and bodies were plentiful, it was no easy task. Everybody has connections and a history and could not be snatched to be used without regard to friends, family and the law. And it had to be a specific type of body. It had to be male, of an age to be in the services and must have every appearance of having drowned after an air crash. Montagu contacted the St Pancras coroner Bentley Purchase and, under the cover of the Official Secrets Act, explained his problem. It was not long before Purchase came up with a likely candidate: Glyndwr Michael was a 34-year-old vagrant who had come to London and, either by accident or design, had died from eating rat poison. His body was in St Pancras mortuary. Montagu immediately contacted Sir Bernard Spillsbury, a well-known forensic pathologist who appeared for the Crown in many pre-war murder trials, and asked if it might be mistaken for a drowning victim. Spillsbury said it probably would, especially if the body had been in the water for a few days. It was unlikely that the phosphorus in the rat poison would be looked for. For the time being, the body was kept in cold storage.

What documents should the body carry? An official breakdown of objectives, timetable

and order of battle would not do as the Germans would conclude (quite rightly) that this kind of information would be sent by cipher. A letter or two from senior officers to others containing personal information as well as slightly obscure references to the campaign might do the trick.

Who should the body be? It was decided, for various reasons, not to use a false identity in the Army, nor to make the body a naval officer, but to make him a Royal Marine. An identity had to be constructed. Various personal items were collected, and a life history outlined by adding ticket stubs from a show, bus tickets, bills from his tailor, a jeweller, his tailor, a letter from his "father", a rather sniffy one from his bank manager about his overdraft and, most convincingly, a touching letter from his fiancée "Pam" with a photograph. Some of the letters were confected; others were "real", for example the letter from the bank was written by a senior official at Lloyd's Bank under Montagu's guidance. "Pam" was Jean Leslie, an MI5 operative who had crossed the path of Montagu and was asked if she would write a love letter to the person who was now known as Captain (acting Major) William "Bill" Martin of the Royal Marines. An identity card was issued - this was a bit tricky as Royal Marine officers had a photograph on the card. Montagu spent some considerable time finding a live lookalike to Glyndwr Michael.

Attention now turned to the operation documents. A letter was written by General Sir Archibald Nye, Vice-Chief of the Imperial General Staff, to General the Hon. Sir Harold R L G Alexander explaining some difficulties with the Americans over cover plans and other issues. It made it clear that Sicily was to be a feint attack to hide the real objective, which was the Dodecanese in the Eastern Mediterranean. Another letter was written by Louis Mountbatten, Chief of Combined Operations, to Admiral of the Fleet, Sir A B Cunningham, asking that William Martin be given all assistance to deliver the letter to Alexander and hinting that an attack would be made on Sardinia. A further letter was written to General Eisenhower containing no deception information but adding weight to Martin's mission. Great care was taken over all items. The official letters were folded once and sealed in envelopes with a wax seal. With regard to the personal letters, similar letters were written in fountain pen, allowed to dry and folded and immersed in sea water for some days to see if they were still legible - they were. "Pam's" letter was carried in Montagu's wallet for days and unfolded and refolded many times to give the impression of constant rereading.

It was decided that Major Martin would be taken to the release site by submarine, the body placed inside a concentric steel cylinder with an air-tight lid at the end. The vessel would be filled with solid carbon dioxide to delay decomposition.

Everything now depended on timing. The invasion of Sicily (Operation Husky) was scheduled for 10th July 1943. The deception documents needed to be in German hands well before that so that they had an opportunity (if they swallowed the bait) to reposition their forces to meet assaults on Sardinia and the Dodecanese. Major Martin would be placed in the ocean on 30th April. Three visits were made to the mortuary, the last being on the 16th, when Montagu's team prepared the body for the trip. The body was removed from cold storage and dressed in the underwear and uniform. All went well until they came to the boots. The chilled body was too stiff to get them on and an electric fire was used to thaw the feet, boots put on and the body returned to cold storage. The body was then placed in the cylinder, with a briefcase containing the all-important letters, more dry ice was added, and then Major Martin started the long road journey to Greenock in Scotland.



***Glyndwr Michael's  
body dressed as  
Martin.***

At Greenock the cylinder was transferred to the submarine HMS *Seraph*, under the command of Lieutenant Jewell. *Seraph* set sail destined for Huelva, a small Spanish fishing village on the Atlantic coast. At 0430 on the morning of 30th April, Major Martin was released to the sea, the briefcase chained to his trench coat belt loops. A Spanish fisherman found the body the same day.

This was the time of maximum anxiety in London. Would the Spanish authorities return all Major Martin's effects to the British Embassy, as they were obliged to do as a neutral country, or would they allow German access before returning them? Britain *wanted* the Spanish to violate their neutrality obligations.

By a series of Byzantine twists, the *Abwehr* (the German secret service) did get to see the documents and went through a meticulous examination of the body and all the items recovered. Most of the analysts believed the documents were true. One *Abwehr* officer, Lieutenant Colonel Alexis Baron von Roenne, wrote a report describing the documents as "absolutely convincing". Von Roenne was normally a very careful analyst - it is very possible that he deliberately came to this view because he was a fervent anti-Nazi and wished to see the downfall of Hitler.



**Cholmondeley & Montagu en route with Martin**



The documents were accepted as genuine. The Germans moved substantial air, land and naval forces away from Sicily to Sardinia and the Balkans. The evidence that they had taken the bait was provided by Ultra's code-breaking activities at Bletchley Park. The invasion of Sicily was successful and accomplished with fewer than expected casualties and with the loss of far fewer ships than anticipated. On 26th July the Italian Fascist government fell.

There are often unintended consequences. One action taken by Montagu during the London phase was to get the War Office to post the death of Major Martin in the official casualty list published in *The Times*. Montagu was surprised to be contacted by the Naval Wills Department asking if Major Martin had a will and if so, where was it? Eventually, that got smoothed over.

"William Martin" was buried in Huelva with a suitable tombstone. It was many years before Glyndwr Michael's name was added. □

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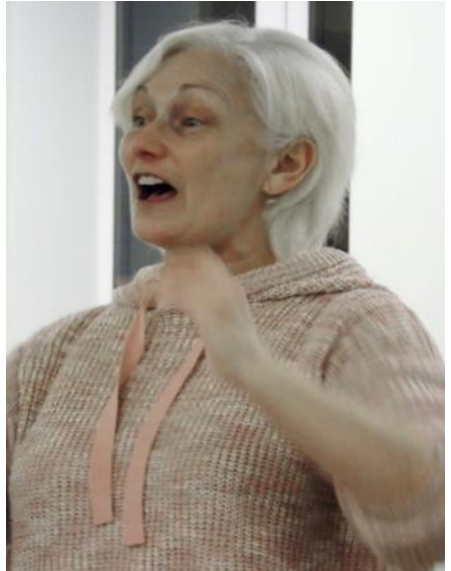
## Hunstanton & District Community Voices

The re-branding of our choir was effective as we began our autumn meetings. We are now singing again, including, of course, our Christmas repertoire, which will naturally cover many seasonal pieces familiar to many.

Our autumn term began on 5<sup>th</sup> September, but we are very flexible, so if you are interested, don't worry that you may have missed too much – you won't have – and our Musical Director, Liz, will be keeping us in order and encouraging us, as always!

All lyrics are provided, the weekly subscriptions are modest, your first week will be a free 'taster' evening, and no auditions are required. We also arranged a "Singalong with us" evening on 26<sup>th</sup> September, at which visitors could either just listen, or join in with the singing. However, we will still continue to welcome and involve visitors and new members at any of our meetings, so if you think you'd like to get a flavour of our choir, just come along on any Monday!

We meet in the Christian Way Fellowship Hall, Downs Close, Hunstanton PE36 5HU at 7.00pm on Monday evenings. Parking is available. For more information please contact [lesley.trebbick@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.trebbick@btinternet.com) or ring on 07802 879976.□



## St Nicholas Church Flower Festival

### Didn't we do well!!

One of the highlights of the summer happened in July when St Nicholas Church celebrated 100 years of the BBC with their flower festival, entitled **Bill&Ben to Cybermen**. The church offered a warm welcome to local residents and visitors from far and near who all shared in their enjoyment of the beautifully decorated church.

The theme of the Flower Festival proved very popular and triggered many memories, especially when accompanied by the theme tunes to many of the TV programmes represented played over the church sound system. The variety and



imagination in

floral displays was truly amazing, and much appreciated by all visiting the church. Children of all ages were captivated by the "iSpy" sheet that provided an added layer of interest.

There was time to sit and enjoy the flowers over a welcoming cup of tea or coffee, accompanied by a piece of lovely homemade cake. There was live music supplied by local musicians. The stalls, raffle and Tombola outside the south door were also popular. The festival was rounded off with a very well attended "Hymns with Pimms" on Sunday evening, great fun and a great sing.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the festival so successful. Special thanks must go to those who made donations towards the cost of the flowers included in the displays in memory of their loved ones. Your generosity was sincerely appreciated.

If you are interested in flower arranging and would like to help or take part in arranging flowers in church, or would like more information, please contact Yvonne Fuller - 07971 896653, Val Coleby - 07787 360809 or Anne Hynde - 07885 956321.□

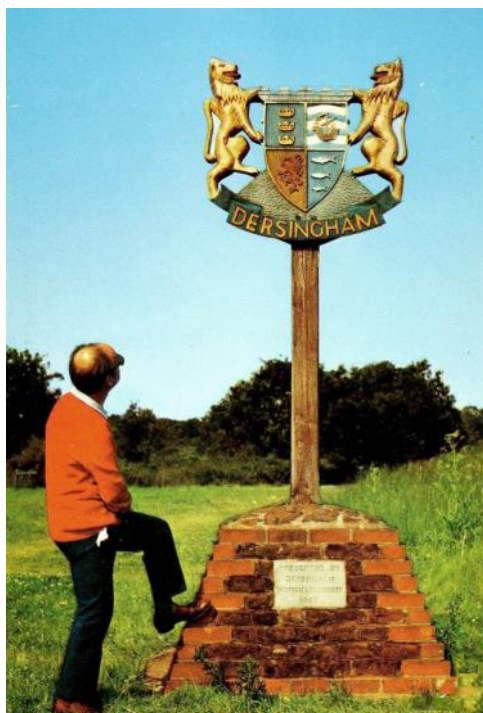


## Dersingham Questcards or Postions Tony Bubb

For some of you this may not be a picture that you have seen before. Taken after 1967, but probably not long after, it shows our "new" village sign.

There have been two more incarnations of it since then, but they all follow the same basic design. The back of the card gives little (nothing) away, so that is no use. So, the question is, who is the man? Was he a resident, a passer by, someone brought along with the photographer?

The possibilities are endless. If local, he might still have relatives here. It is just possible that he is still alive, though he must be around a hundred and five at least. It would be good to give him a name.□



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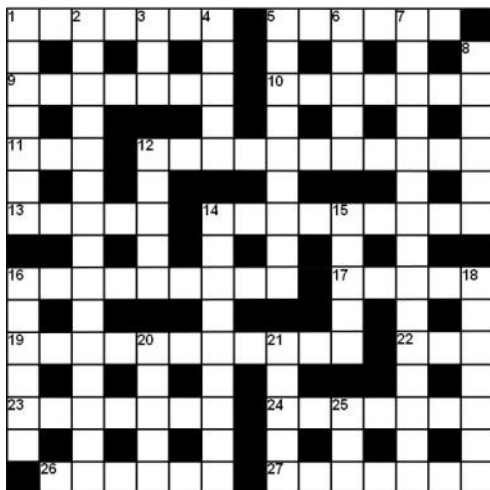
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### Across

- 1 Waders distort octaves on the black and whites (7)  
 5 Comical Col. Ben in the altogether (2,4)  
 9 Composed article for performance (7)  
 10 Remains of books about daughters' boyfriends (7)  
 11 Transport – air for example but born in America (3)  
 12 Where fliers rock while held in suspense (6,5)  
 13 Canter around oxbow to catch fish (5)  
 14 Explosive firearm baled? (3,6)  
 16 Sand bouncer found on the rocking Bach label (5,4)  
 17 Wooded valley located in Greek system pending (5)  
 19 Relatively speaking she stays longer than that Hitler woman in disguise (6,2,3)  
 22 Pull back for racquet (3)  
 23 Citizen maths (7)  
 24 Game played by Mother John on 3<sup>rd</sup> August (3,4)  
 26 Improving races in the drink (6)  
 27 Per dose stirred and rested (7)



### Down

- 1 Cat and boar trained to be a gymnast (7)  
 2 Infrequently used but not taught at school (10,5)  
 3 Consume blend of tea (3)  
 4 Also distorted radius of the sun (5)  
 5 Coach a lemon dancer to be strictly passionate (9)  
 6 Wet newsman caught in network going north (5)  
 7 Six balls at Tate mission ground cause inflations (15)  
 8 Hot gun controlled old pound (6)  
 12 Collect and so on within Finnish borders (5)  
 14 Crowe starred – wearing fancy gold tiara? (9)  
 15 Road warning – wot no reversing? (22 might help) (2,3)  
 16 Baffle confused member with employment (6)  
 18 Not free to wed? (7)  
 20 Choose local enterprise co. included in employment training (5)  
 21 Arboreal creature hiding another inside both directions (5)  
 25 Climbing plant always in the shops (3)

### Answers on page 69

### Sudoku

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



## Dersingham Methodist Church

Elizabeth Batstone

Happy New Year! If you think that's a bit early or rather late, it's because the Methodist year runs from 1st September to 31st August. Ministers and deacons moving to new Circuits do so during August.

Our plan for this 'New Year' is to continue to support our Church family and the community as best as we can and

sharing God's love. As the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, said, 'The best of all is that God is with us.'

Morning services are at 10.30am, followed by a chat over coffee or tea in the hall.

The **Bowls Club** meets weekly on Wednesdays at 2.00pm; the **Jigsaw Club** meets monthly on the third Thursday 9.30am – 10.30am. You are very welcome to come and join us at any of our services and events.

Our harvest festival service, led by Revd Dr Richman Ncube, is on **25th September**, 10.30am and we will be collecting items for the Hunstanton Food Bank.

**Coffee mornings** with the usual stalls of books, cards, cakes, bric-a-brac, and serving coffee, tea, cakes, sausage rolls, scones.

**Saturday 22nd October:** 10.00am.

**Saturday 26th November: Christmas Fair** 10.00am with Christmas stalls, coffee and cakes.

For further information on any of our activities contact me on 01485 541068 or [stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com](mailto:stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com). □



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**Lecturer: Sophie Oosterwijk**

A portrait can be much more than a straightforward likeness of a person. A 'crypto-portrait' may at first sight not look like a portrait at all, because it can be 'disguised': for example, as an Adoration of the Magi with real people playing the parts of the Magi, or as a statue of a prophet or saint with the features of a patron, or the artist's self-portrait may be hidden amongst a host of other faces.

Throughout Western art we may discover such concealed portraits if we look carefully and are prepared to recognise these games that artists and patrons chose to play with the beholder.



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# 1st Dersingham Guides Summer Camp 2022

Elizabeth Wheeler

This summer, the 1st Dersingham Guides were finally able to enjoy a Summer Camp together at the Eaton Vale Scout and Guide Activity Centre. Since last September, the Guides have been on sleepovers, but this was the first multi-night residential since 2019.

The Guides enjoyed a mixture of traditional Guide camping skills combined with glamping, as well as enjoyed crafts, adventurous activities and a campfire.



The Guides camped in the Tented Village at Eaton Vale - a mixture of giant tents and cabins with bunk beds inside - but these still needed to be kept tidy with Inspection every morning (and sometimes at other times throughout the day as well) for Patrol Points. The first activity was building a washing up stand from eight poles, bamboo canes, string and teamwork. The guides did a fantastic job as nobody got wet at any point because their washing up bowl fell out as the stand collapsed. Throughout the camp, each patrol had different duties to perform: helping to prepare the meals, checking the water carriers were filled or providing a colour party to

raise and lower the flag.

Camp always has a theme which links to the patrol names, activities and badges. This year we were, "Under the Sea" and everyone gained the Crab Challenge badge. Did you know there is a Mosaic Crab? So, we made mosaic coasters. To honour the Strawberry Hermit Crab, we had Strawberry Pavlovas for pudding one evening, and as crabs communicate by drumming, the guides were challenged to create music with Boom whackers, plus other crafts.



Eaton Vale provides the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of adventurous activities. The Guides enjoyed archery, climbing, crate stacking and canoeing. On the second evening, they built giant buggies using poles and barrels - they looked and worked like the Flintstones' car - although steering was a bit of problem. On the final morning, after the rain had stopped, the Guides raced around on the pedal go-karts and completed the



new obstacle course.

On the final evening, we held a campfire with plenty of singing and the toasting of marshmallows. Following other games before bed, the Guides enjoyed many rounds of Bingo which became very competitive! There was also the thrill at the final bedtime when one of the Guides spotted the ground moving. We all crowded around and eventually a mole appeared before turning around and disappearing under the ground again!



It was fantastic to enjoy Guide camp again. We are already looking to the next one! □



## Dersingham Day Club

Jan Holt

By the time you read this our newly named Dersingham Day Club will have resumed meetings after our summer break. (We decided we're more a Club than a Centre!)

For those who don't know about us, we meet on a Wednesday from 10am to 2.30pm. Our members are served with hot drinks and biscuits when they arrive and there are activities such as cards, dominoes, Scrabble, etc. – and plenty of chatting! A freshly prepared two course meal is served at 12pm. We either carry on with our activities in the afternoon, have a quiz, play bingo or have entertainments. For example, at the beginning of July we had a very enjoyable afternoon when Sean Moyes (Banjo Man) came and played several different banjos, sang, and amused us with anecdotes from his musical career



We also go out for the occasional lunch and our next outing will be on 12<sup>th</sup> October to the United Services Club in Hunstanton. Members have a hot drink in the

afternoon, and sometimes a slice of cake if a member has celebrated a birthday.

And talking of birthdays, one of our ex-members, John Bacon, has just celebrated his century. Sadly, John isn't able to join us these days and we do miss him. He kindly invited us to afternoon tea which his daughter had arranged for friends. Many thanks from all who had a very enjoyable afternoon.

If you would like to know more about joining Dersingham Day Club, then please contact Maggie Langridge on 01485 543264 or Wendy Raby on 01485 544975.

On a personal note, my daughter and I will be walking thirty miles for Dementia Research through September in memory of my late husband. If this cause is close to your heart and you would like to donate, then please follow the link: [https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jan-holt?utm\\_source=whatsapp](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jan-holt?utm_source=whatsapp) □



*John Bacon celebrates 100 years*



## Events in October and November

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October: Fancy dress retro night.** Entertainment with The Dukes Ukulele Band. Admission £10, to include vol-au-vents, cheese & pineapple on sticks, Black Forest gateau. Prize for the best costume. To book please contact Dorothy on 01553 631349 or email [anmerchair44@gmail.com](mailto:anmerchair44@gmail.com) by Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September. Fully licensed bar and raffle - Donation of prizes welcome.

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October: Bingo night.** Club opens at 7.00pm. "Eyes Down" at 7.30pm. £6.60 for a book of 10 cards & £1.75 for a "Flyer Card". Fully licensed bar and raffle - Donation of prizes welcome. For further information email [events@anmerclub.co.uk](mailto:events@anmerclub.co.uk)

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October: Charity bingo night in aid of Anmer W.I.** Club opens at 7.00pm. "Eyes Down" at 7.30pm. £6.60 for a book of 10 cards & £1.75 for a "Flyer Card". Fully licensed bar and raffle – Donations of prizes welcome. For further information email [events@anmerclub.co.uk](mailto:events@anmerclub.co.uk)

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October: Quiz night.** Club opens 7.00pm. 7.30pm start. Entry £2 per person. For further information email [events@anmerclub.co.uk](mailto:events@anmerclub.co.uk). Raffle - Donation of prizes welcome.

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October: Halloween party.** 7.00pm. Entertainment by Roger Williams. Jacket potato + various toppings £5. Prize for the best fancy dress costume. Raffle - Donations welcome. To book please email Dorothy at [anmerchair44@gmail.com](mailto:anmerchair44@gmail.com) by Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November: Guy Fawkes night bonfire party.** 6.00pm onwards. Hot dogs, soup and rolls £5 per head. To book please email Dorothy at [anmerchair44@gmail.com](mailto:anmerchair44@gmail.com) by Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October.

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November: Bingo night.** Club opens at 7.00pm. "Eyes Down" at 7.30pm. £6.60 for a book of 10 cards & £1.75 for a "Flyer Card". Fully licensed bar and raffle - Donations of prizes welcome. For further information email [events@anmerclub.co.uk](mailto:events@anmerclub.co.uk).

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November: Film night. Elvis - 12A.** Starts 7.30 p.m. Admission £4 payable at the door. Fully licensed bar from 7.00pm. For further details please email [films@anmerclub.co.uk](mailto:films@anmerclub.co.uk)

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November: Race night with pig racing, plus fish & chips supper.** Club opens 7.00pm. Fish & chips supper served at 7.15pm. £10 per head. Fully licensed bar and raffle - Donation of prizes welcome. To book please email Dorothy at [anmerchair44@gmail.com](mailto:anmerchair44@gmail.com) by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November.

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November: Christmas bazaar.** 1.00pm - 4.00pm. Stalls £5. To book a stall please email Dorothy at [anmerchair44@gmail.com](mailto:anmerchair44@gmail.com) by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November. Refreshments and licensed bar.□



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### Word Wall by Philip Neal

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

NUBIAN	TENDERNESS	RALLY	WARMTH
FEELING	REFINED	KALAHARI	GOBI
VOLLEY	LOVE	PALM	LET
WHITE	MOHAVE	ATTACHMENT	MAPLE

## News from Dersingham Bog

### Tom Parkes, Natural England

I write this as the weather has finally turned from boiling hot, muggy summer days to something more autumnal; torrential rain and a drop in temperature have arrived as we head towards the autumn season on Dersingham Bog, though many of the birds have already been on the move for the last month or so.

After the breeding season had come to an end, we carried out the analysis and territory mapping of our breeding bird species on Dersingham Bog. We have recorded 62 species as holding territory/breeding on the reserve this year, with a couple of additional extras on land nearby. The numbers have included 30 churring nightjars (a reserve record, up from the 28 recorded last year), 9 singing grasshopper warblers, 9 singing tree pipits, 8 woodlarks, 7 willow warblers and 2 garden warblers.

In addition to these we had breeding marsh harrier on the Bog again for the second year in a row within the small section of reedbed at the village end which fledged 3 young. Lapwings also bred on the Bog for the first time in 12 years, fledging one young which made some of the reserve wardens very happy! All three barn owl boxes were also occupied, fledging at least 5 young, but we were unable to access one, so we are unsure on a figure from that.

Invertebrates have also been out in force during this persistently hot and sunny weather. These have included black darters, scarce blue-tailed damsels, emperor dragonflies and keeled skimmers. We had 105 individual butterflies recorded on July 17<sup>th</sup>, which included large skipper and small heath. More recently we have recorded brown argus and dark green fritillaries.

Every 4 years, long-term vegetation monitoring plots are surveyed across the Bog. This is carried out in 50 2x2m transects in which every moss, lichen and plant is recorded to help us further understand vegetation change on the Bog and what this could be an indicator of. A crack team of over 40 volunteers and staff from across the organisation spent a week recording this. This information can be crucial in helping us plan management on the reserve.

As many of you may have seen, due to the dry and sunny weather the water levels across Dersingham Bog are in places 5 inches lower than last year. This has resulted in the drying out of the long pond. We have tried to take advantage of this, planting up these areas with species such as bottle sedge and millennia tussocks, as well as laying down coir roll matts to be installed late in the year to reduce wave action and erosion on the edges of the pond. The dry weather has hopefully given us a good opportunity to get on top of this project and stop the expansion of the long pond into the bog.

As a final note, included are images of the three heather species present on the reserve: ling heather, bell heather and cross-leaved heath. Hopefully these will help highlight the variety of plants here and maybe even help you spot and identify them should you plan to visit in the following summer!□





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## Crossword Answers

### Across

1 Avocets. 5 En bloc. 9 Recital. 10 Oddment. 11 Bus. 12 Ferris wheel. 13 Trout.  
14 Gun cotton. 16 Beach ball. 17 Tempe. 19 Mother-in-law. 22 Tug. 23 Subject. 24 Mah Jong.  
26 Better. 27 Reposed.

### Down

1 Acobat. 2 Occasional table. 3 Eat. 4 Solar.  
5 Emotional. 6 Bedew. 7 Overestimations.  
8 Stolen. 12 Fetch. 14 Gladiator. 15 On tow.  
16 Bemuse. 18 Engaged. 20 Elect.  
21 Lemur. 25 Hop.

## Word Wall Answers

**Sugars:** Refined, Maple, Palm, White

**Tennis terms:** Love, Rally, Let, Volley

**Terms of affection:** Warmth, Feeling,  
Attachment, Tenderness

**Deserts:** Gobi, Mohave, Nubian, Kalahari

## Sudoku Answers

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

### 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. 139 (Dec 22/Jan 23)	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2022	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov
No. 140 (Feb/March 23)	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2023	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan
No. 141 (Apr/May 23)	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2023	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar

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Obtain booking form and full technical details for advertisements by emailing [villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk](mailto:villagevoice@dersingham.org.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.

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**Dersingham Parish Council Office, Dersingham Village Centre  
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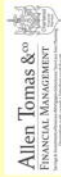
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