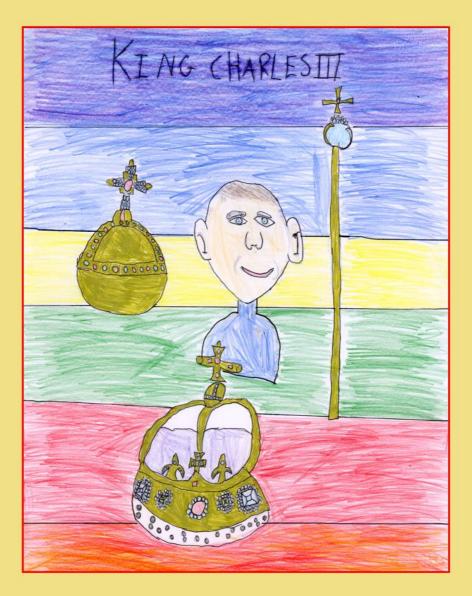
Number 141 April/May 2023
Village Voice
THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



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#### Editor's Notes Jo Halpin Jones

We asked Dersingham VA Nursery and Primary School if the children would like to do some paintings to celebrate the Coronation of HM King Charles III and HM Camilla Queen Consort. We had a wonderful response, with an amazing selection of colourful pictures. We decided to



put one on the cover of *Village Voice* – it was very difficult to choose. We settled on one by Freya Bailey from Year 4, with her incredibly detailed depiction of the crown, sceptre and orb, all of great historic significance at a Coronation. Inside you will find other notable pieces of artwork from the school. King Charles is certainly depicted in many different ways!!

When you receive your copy of VV, the Coronation will still be a while away. However, plans to celebrate the event are going full steam ahead. You will find posters and articles inside about the main activities:

Saturday May 6thDinner and Dance at the Village CentreSunday May 7thService of Thanks and Praise at St NicholasSunday May 7thFamily Fun Sports DayMonday May 8thKings and Queens Fancy Dress Competition for childrenThroughout the three days, the "SeeKING Quiz" will take place – a paper-based quiz

You can also enjoy another Charity Day with a dog show on the Recreational Ground on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>.

We have some articles that we hope will interest you: Elizabeth Fiddick writes about the passing of Queen Victoria and the Coronation of Edward VII; Richard Carter tells us of the diversity of plant life in our churchyard walls; Natural England update us on the work

going on across Dersingham Bog; lots going on at Dersingham Library; in the centre pages you will find a map outlining Dersingham Parish's boundary; and I twisted my husband Dick Jones' arm to reminisce about working as an ornithologist on the Wash back in the 1970s when there was yet another proposal to create freshwater reservoirs.

The next edition of Village Voice marks the beginning of our financial and advertising year. We shall be contacting all our existing advertisers and hope they will continue to support our magazine. We would like to remind them that if they book for all six editions they will get one free!! This is a good opportunity for new advertisers also to take advantage of this offer. So do contact us if you would like to book some space. The magazine goes to every house in Dersingham, and people from surrounding villages come to pick up copies placed around the village, such as the Village Centre, the Post Office and various shops and public places. Contact details on the last page.



### The Electoral Commission

Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk



#### **Borough Council elections**

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#### electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

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Visit west-norfolk.gov.uk/elections, call 01553 616200 if you need help.

#### Need more help?

The borough council has arranged drop-in sessions until 25 April 2023, no appointment necessary:

#### Borough Council office,

King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn Every Tuesday 2pm to 5pm and Every Wednesday 9am to 12noon

#### Hunstanton Library

12 – 14 Valentine Road Every Wednesday 9am to 12noon Downham Market Library 78 Priory Road Every Thursday 2pm to 5pm

#### Parish Council Chairman's Report Coral Shepherd

This is the last edition of Village Voice before two important events – on 4<sup>th</sup> May the local elections for both the Parish and Borough Councils and on 6<sup>th</sup> May the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Consort Camilla.



I mentioned in the last edition the varied work of the Parish Council. I would just like to remind everyone of the achievements of the Parish Council over the last four years. We opened the skatepark, prepared a five-year plan, installed a new basketball hoop and changed the Christmas lights, all at the Recreation Ground. The football goalposts will be replaced in the next few months. We have changed the grass cutting regimes for some areas around the village to allow wildflowers to flourish and increase biodiversity. Despite economic pressures we have continued to maintain services to you, such as maintaining streetlights, providing dog waste bins and litter bins, and continuing to provide this magazine free of charge to every household in the village. Last year we had the enjoyment of Her Majesty The Late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with a tea party for the platinum veterans, a film show for the younger residents and the lighting of the beacon - what a weekend!

We have made changes behind the scenes - following the departure of our long-serving clerk we appointed a Business Manager and we are currently outsourcing our financial services. We are also in the process of introducing some new technology to help both staff and Councillors work more effectively. Last year we had to make a small increase to the precept, and I am pleased to say that this year there has been no increase. The level of the precept remains £20,000 below that set in 2018. Finally, we steered our way through Covid, keeping up with the various rules introduced by the government and maintaining an advice page on our website. We learnt new skills and despite various lockdowns we continued to meet regularly via Zoom – meaning I could chair Parish Council meetings in my slippers!

If you are interested in our work, have ideas for the future of the village and would like to become a Parish Councillor, this year is your opportunity to stand for election. The only qualification is that you live in the Parish and do not have a criminal record. Nominations must be submitted by 4<sup>th</sup> April. If you would like nomination forms please contact our Business Manager.

### **Coronation Fancy Dress Competition** King Charles Coronation Celebration Event 2023

Hosted by Dersingham Parish Council

Calling all children in Dersingham between the ages of 5 and 10.

You are invited to take part in a Kings and Queens Fancy Dress competition at the Village Centre on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May between 3pm and 5pm.

Free event with refreshments, entertainment and prizes.

Children wishing to take part must bring an adult with them.

Entry forms will be available on the Parish Council website, the Post Office and the Parish Council office (Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 2pm)

#### King Charles Coronation Celebration Event 2023 Hosted by Dersingham Parish Council

#### **Coronation SeeKING Quiz**

The Parish Council wishes to host a village-wide event that will celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on May  $6^{\text{th}}$  2023.

Due to the lack of response to the proposed display and king search trail event, it is now to be replaced with a straightforward quiz with 'King' as the key word. Each answer or question will include the word 'King or Kings', but they will not contain 'King' as part of another word like Kingsley. There will be a cash prize for the SeeKING quiz sheet or sheets returned with the most correct answers.

The Coronation event is a three-day weekend, and it will be over this period that the SeeKING quiz will take place. Quiz release Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May, returns by Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Quiz entry will be free of charge.

Entry forms in paper form can be picked up from the Dersingham Post Office, 8 Lynn Road and will be available to be downloaded from the Parish Council website, <u>www.dersingham.org.uk/royalquiz/</u> from 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Contact Graham Eley on 07901 896102 or  $\underline{grahamreley@tiscali.co.uk}.$  for further information.  $\square$ 



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

#### King Charles III Coronation

Plans are well underway for our Coronation Celebration, which takes place on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Tickets, which are available from Dersingham Post Office, are going quickly. The event includes a sit-down meal and dancing to a live band. For more information, please read the ad in this article and call Judy on 01485 540271 if you have any questions.

#### **Sunday Socials**

These take place on the last Sunday each month. Games and cards are available or you can just come and have a chat over a cuppa. If transport is an issue, please call Judy on 01485 540271.

#### **Coffee Shop**

On Thursday and Friday mornings, we love catching up with our regular customers and extend a warm welcome to visitors. You can enjoy very reasonably priced home-cooked quiche, cake, and hot and cold drinks. Tapping House take over on the first Thursday each month, with a slightly different menu, and the proceeds support the work carried out at the Hospice.

#### **Friendship Lunches**

On the first Tuesday each month, we serve a freshly cooked two-course meal, with tea or coffee, for  $\pounds 7$ . Booking is required, so please call 01485 540644 by noon on the Friday

beforehand and also advise us of any dietary needs.

#### Village Cinema

Our April film is *The Lost King*, May is *Mrs Harris Goes to Paris*.

#### Village Centre Lottery

February's winners are numbers 57, 60 and 49, winning £25.50, £17.50 and £8.50, respectively. March winners are numbers 60,21 and 66, winning £24.75, £16.50 and £8.25

respectively. If you are interested in joining, please check our website for information.

#### Finally, Some Great News!

We have been very fortunate to receive a grant from the Central Region Co-op which has helped us purchase twenty extra chairs. These will mainly be used in the Garden Room but will be very useful when we have events like the Tapping House Quiz.

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

also post on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group. If you have any questions about the Centre, its activities, or bookings, call our landline 01485 543195. An answerphone is in use, so please leave a message with contact details and someone will get back to vou.





#### More Coronation pictures from Dersingham School Artists clockwise from top left: Daisy, Eve, Jenny, and Poppy Walker



#### Dersingham Gardening Tips Jane Jestice

What a strange week this has been weather-wise. We seem to be switching between real spring-like temperatures and biting chills. I can't imagine

spring-like temperatures and biting chills. I can't imagine how the plants are coping!

I love it when I discover something I have never seen before, or even heard of. I was walking at Titchwell RSPB reserve when a tiny flash of bright red nestling amongst the ground cover caught my eye. When I looked closer it was obviously a fungus of some kind, but I had no idea what. It turned out to be an Elf Cup Fungus...what a truly delightful descriptive name. Apparently it is edible, but I have no intention of trying it.

Hopefully, by the time you read this the weather will be warming up and this will increase the soil temperatures ready for planting. As I've said before, be wary of planting too early as late frosts will kill off so many of the precious delicate summer plants.



I have been visiting garden centres to buy plants for my new front garden and I am

staggered at the prices! So I was wondering if there are any people out there who would be interested in a plant swap. If you are, please email me, and providing there is enough interest I will arrange it. janejestice@gmail.com.

Sad to say, I am feeling totally frustrated, upset and out of love with my garden. There is only one factor which has put me in this place, and I have written about this before muntjac! The balance in my garden has changed and the damage they are inflicting on my plants is almost total. I drove home a couple of weeks ago and thought that we had a flock of unusual sheep in the field opposite our house, only to find there was a herd of eight muntiac, and there's only one of me!!! I have just been out into the garden and all the bluebells, tulips, and hyacinths have been eaten to the soil. The only bulb they are not touching is the daffodils (so far). Every shrub has been "pruned" back and any new shoots eaten. The infuriating part is that we are unable to find out how they are entering the garden. Where my garden was my go-to peaceful place, it is now having the opposite effect.

I am going to take a break from writing for the *Village Voice*, mainly because I am in danger of repeating myself! If I ever manage to fill the muntjac entrance and have a garden again I MAY return! So, happy gardening!□



#### **Sandringham News**

Plans are now underway in the Gardens for the redevelopment of the West Lawns.

The Garden area to the west side of Sandringham House, kept as a large expanse of lawn in recent years, is to be transformed into a new climate-friendly Topiary Garden. Once the site of a formal 'Parterre' Garden in the 1800s and subsequently used for crops as part of the 'Dig for Victory' campaign in the Second World War, this area of the Garden will now have a decorative aspect and bring increased naturalistic planting to the area to improve biodiversity.



In recent years, with changing weather patterns, the current expanse of lawn has been affected by warm weather and excessive rainfall. The newly developed Garden will introduce new species that are more robust, hardy and better able to withstand the impact of emerging weather patterns. A series of gravel paths will also enable visitors to experience the new Garden and provide maintenance access to the plant beds.

With its aim to create joy for visitors and increase biodiversity in the Gardens, the Topiary Garden will include the introduction of new plants and flowers, a maze of new paths, and the regrading and straightening of sloping banks. The Garden will combine specialist horticultural practices and techniques to ensure the Topiary is maintained with plentiful visual seasonal colour from the flowers. In addition, it will create a rich source for pollinators and the provision of new habitats.

For full information please see the website www.sandringhamestate.co.uk.



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#### **Dersingham Tennis Club**

Dersingham Tennis Club invites new members to join this active, vibrant, inclusive club. Tennis at Dersingham can be played for many reasons - to improve your tennis, get active, improve fitness, meet new players, play social tennis, play league tennis if wanted, or join in the coaching sessions.

Members have access to the courts at all times, except when there are home matches against other teams, but booking a court is easy and there are usually times that would fit in with you.

Last year saw a successful season for the leagues: Ladies A team came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league Division 1 Men's A team came 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division 1 Men's B team won Division 2 so are promoted to Division 1 Mixed A team came 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division 1 and the Mixed B team remained in their Division

For further details about club sessions and membership fees visit <u>https://clubspark.lta.org.uk > dersinghamtc</u>





#### Ingoldisthorpe Village WI Lesley Geer, President

I thought I would start with a reflection of what we did in February. Part of the meeting was spent looking back through history. Ingoldisthorpe Village WI was formed in 1975, previously linked with Snettisham. Photographs, record books and several other items of memorabilia were on display, reminding us of past and present members and numerous events - representing our WI at a Royal Garden Party, attending the National Annual Meeting in the presence of HM Queen Elizabeth II, joining with the village to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday, and providing regular events to bring the community together. And for members, Dabble Days, Health and Wellbeing sessions, outings, and guaranteed laughter from the Inglestars, our in-house entertainers.

There was not a jar of jam, a knitting pattern or a homemade cake in sight in Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Instead, there was something much more heart-warming on the menu when Ingoldisthorpe Village WI once again hosted their Soup and Sandwich lunch. Homemade soups and freshly made sandwiches, washed down with tea and coffee, were enjoyed by all. It was a great opportunity to get together for an informal meal and catch up with friends. These events are open to all local residents and their friends, and those living in surrounding villages. If you haven't attended before, next time you see an advertisement please make a note of it on your calendar, we'd love to see you there.

And here we are in 2023 and still going strong. Coming up – a Coronation Tea on  $29^{th}$  April. Look out for posters detailing the event. There will be audience participation at our April meeting with a Murder Mystery, and supporting the WI Walk the World event with our monthly walk in April.

If you would like to be part of this, give me a call - Lesley on 01485 298645.□

#### **Distributors For Village Voice**

Several of our wonderful band of people who distribute Village Voice are no longer able to continue. Could you spare a few hours every other month to help us out?

Please contact Geri on 01485 541465 on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday between 10am and 2pm, or email her on abm@dersingham.org.uk

We will meet at the Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton at 2.00 pm on Monday 17th April when the speaker will be Georgette Vale, with a theatrical presentation of Edith Cavell.

We will be present at the Town Hall on Wednesday 26th April alongside other local groups.

Our May meeting will be on Monday 13th May and our speaker has yet to be finalised.

You will be most welcome at any of the above. For further information please see our website hunstantonu3a.org

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#### Dersingham Evening WI Katrina Mundy, President



Our evening meet in February was our first Open meet of the year and this was a talk by author Elly Griffith about her new book *The Last* 

Remains. We were so

pleased to have over 100 people attend this, with members coming from all the local WI groups as well as our Federation Chairman, Margaret Collingwood, and Meg and Coral from Norfolk Federation.

We are very lucky that Elly was prepared to travel all the way from Brighton to give this talk. She talked about how she had started writing and how she had the inspiration for Ruth Galloway. Also, how her agent had changed her real name from Domenica De Rosa to Elly Griffith, as this seemed a better name for a crime novelist. She knows the



Norfolk area due to her grandmother living in Norwich, and having a boat on the Broads and Elly's family spending school holidays on this. She teased that this may be the last Ruth Galloway book but never say never, who knows.

This was a most enjoyable evening, and many members and visitors were also able to buy copies of her book from the Holt bookshop table with Elly happy to sign them. Our refreshment team of Jackie and Heather certainly had a busy evening catering for everyone, and many thanks go to them.

February 28<sup>th</sup> saw twelve of us arriving at Sharon's house for a morning coffee and I have to say her husband makes a lovely cup of coffee. (Often the men escape out of the way, mine did, or hide in another room when numbers of women descend on the house, but not Sharon's – a brave man!) February also unfortunately saw the last meeting of our MAD group and we thank Stephanie for all her hard work managing this group for many years.

Our book club continues, and they are reading *Exit* by Belinda Bauer, as does our Dining group with another lunch due in April, again at the Feathers.

I would also like to say a big thank you to Babs who has for many years organised walks for members during the nicer months, usually ending in a stop for coffee and cake, but who has now decided to hang up her walking shoes as organiser of these.

At the time of reading this we will have held our Annual meeting in March when members got to vote in a new committee for 2023. This is an opportunity for members who feel they could help run our WI group to become involved and join the committee, although we also stress that they don't have to be a committee member to help.

We will also have had a short talk from a Norfolk Funeral Celebrant talking about making funeral arrangements, the law and payment plans - something we all have to think about at some time in our lives.

At the end of March, we will also have had our Sandringham Group meeting at South Wootton and will have been entertained by a lovely singer, Joan Hocking. I was lucky

enough to be at this lady's audition in Norwich and the mixture of classic film and show tunes had us all singing along, so this should be a very good evening. This will have been attended by members from the other WIs that make up our group – King's Lynn, New Hunstanton, Anmer, Ingoldsthorpe, Snettisham and North Wootton.

April is our Birthday meet and the committee are already planning for this. Music will be provided by the Heacham Songsters, so it will be another evening of singing with food and wine. We do love a sing song.

We then look forward to May and the celebrations for the King's Coronation. It still seems strange to say it. May is our Resolution meet when we will discuss which Resolution we want to take forward to our National meet. We are also hoping to hold a Coffee Morning on Monday May 8<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the Coronation, which will be open to the village. (This depends on how many helpers we can muster.) Hopefully this will be a chance to come and chat with a drink and cake and see what our WI is about and the things we get up to. I am sure the main topic of conversation will be the events of Saturday, an event some of us have only seen through old films on television. So please keep an eye out for the posters that will go up in the village. The following Saturday we will be having a tombola stall at the Fun Day in the Village.

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month in St Cecilia's Church, Dersingham at 7.15pm and are open to all ladies. Posters advertising these are usually up around the village. If you would like to know more about Dersingham Evening WI please contact Katrina on 01485 544773 or Ann on 01485 542847.□



For an application form for tickets please contact Addie on <u>addie1roger2@gmail.com</u> or telephone 01485 544754

Closing date 8th April 2023

#### **Dersingham Choir**

We are very pleased to say that after our first full year, which included a well-received concert at Christmas, we have started our new term.



We're a friendly, enthusiastic group of people who will

ensure you receive a warm welcome and have fun. It's never too late to try a new skill and there are no auditions, so come along and see what we do. The first week's rehearsal is free and after that it's  $\pounds 5$  a week.

We now have our own website and Facebook pages, so please have a look to see more information and contact details. The website is <u>www.dersinghamchoir.com</u>.

This year, we aim to have a couple of free concerts and further details of these will appear in local publications, on our website and on Facebook pages.

We're guided by Simon (Musical Director) and Matthew (Accompanist), who help us put the right notes in the right place at the right time... quite a feat sometimes!!

We meet every Thursday at St Cecilia's Church Hall, Dersingham from 7pm to 9pm. Light refreshments are provided during a short break, which enables everyone to chat and catch up.

We look forward to seeing you.



#### **Snettisham Gardening Club**

We will be welcoming back Michael Croot of MCK Plants on Wednesday April 26th at 7.30pm to update us on preparing hanging baskets and planters for the summer months. He will also be bringing a selection of his plants for us to purchase for our own use.

We have not yet finalised our speaker for our meeting on 31st May, but you will of course be welcome - 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham. Contact Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754 for further details...

#### Sandringham Parish Council

Sandringham Parish Council met on 8th February at the Wolferton Social Club. All four Councillors were present, as was a representative from Norfolk Police and a member of the public.

The Council discussed the potential for an application to the Borough Council for funds from its Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) account. CIL is collected from the builders of large new developments, such as the two different areas in South Wootton which, when built, will add nearly 1200 new homes there, generating a lot of new traffic on local roads. In order to bid for CIL funds, the Parish Council will first need to have a scheme that meets the criteria for funding and be able to show support for it. The Chairman is investigating whether the parish may have a suitable scheme to be able to apply.

The Chairman reported on progress with refurbishing Butlers Cross, the ancient monument at Babingley, at the junction of the main A149 and the B1439 road to West Newton. This is now with Norfolk County Council Highways Department to advise what specifically should be done and the Parish Council is awaiting their response.

There was a discussion on a possible permanent project to commemorate the life of Her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

In his report, the Borough Councillor advised that Sandringham Estate has applied to vary its events licence to increase the maximum number of people attending from just under 10,000 to just under 30,000. This is a significant increase and there was discussion on the impact of traffic on local roads and whether the road system could ever realistically accommodate such volumes.

The member of the public present raised the issue of the increasing amount of litter alongside the A149 in the parish and more generally. The Borough Councillor explained that they carry out the work on behalf of the County Council. Elsewhere there had been a fatality to a workman litter picking when they were struck by a vehicle, as a result of which the County has stopped all such work whilst they consider safer working practices. Whilst the need for this was understood, the point was made that with the Coronation pending there will be a lot more visitors in the area and it will not create a good impression.

The Police representative updated the Council on local thefts and crimes and what to keep a particular eye out for. He urged all in the area to report anything they see which is suspicious or just out of the ordinary. It may not seem much but could be the last bit of the jigsaw they need to apprehend someone or charge them. He also highlighted more widely the ongoing issue of phone and internet scams and asked everybody to spread the word, especially to vulnerable people, never to give bank account details over the phone or on the internet. If the caller claims they are from their bank, never accept that but instead ring the bank (using a different phone whenever possible.)

The Chairman advised that there remain vacancies for Parish Councillors and also a Clerk to the Council. Anybody interested should contact him on 07956 638313 or attend the Annual General Meeting and speak to Councillors there.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on 10th May at 7pm at Wolferton Social Club. It will also be the Annual General Meeting of the Council and Annual Parish Assembly, giving all residents in the parish a unique opportunity to see the work of the council first hand, to ask questions of the Council, and to think about themselves joining as a Councillor.

#### Laser Treatment for the Skin Neen Riseborough, Sandringham Laser and Cosmetic Clinic

Anyone contemplating laser treatment should ensure that there is a thorough consultation upon arrival (free at SLCC), and a patch test to establish suitability. Treatment is very safe when carried out by experienced professionals - we have been in the business for some thirty-two years.

There are many options available to improve one's appearance, but we are not in the market for cosmetic overkill – I would say that less is always more in this field!

I am here going to address Skin Rejuvenation and how it works. An inclusive laser treatment takes into consideration damaged skin, small red marks, pigmented lesions (brown spots), old scar tissue such as acne, as well as the overall appearance of the skin,

including tightening.

It is possible to treat any age, usually starting in one's thirties right through to nineties, the point being it is never too late to hold back the years.

As we are all too painfully aware, collagen that feeds into the skin cells begins to deplete in our early twenties, therefore it is vital to eat well, including healthy proteins, as well as a daily routine of good skincare. Damage from ultraviolet light creating free radicals, lifestyle, smoking, alcohol, etc. can all have an ageing effect on this major organ - our skin - that we tend to take for granted.

So how does it work? Not to bore the reader with laser physics, perhaps it is best to explain how the skin reacts and how results occur.

Replenishing, lifting and tightening happen by the appliance simply heating up the fibre blasts in the epidermis, which in turn forces the Langerhans cells to respond - our "collagen police". Langerhans cells are a type of immune system cell found primarily in the epidermis that have important roles in the stimulation and suppression of the adaptive immune response. They are members of the dendritic cell family and function as antigen-presenting cells. When a Langerhans cell encounters a pathogen, it engulfs the infectious agent and breaks it down into protein fragments. As we age and collagen is depleting, these cells, for want of a better word, become sleepy.

The combination of individually prescribed light therapy heat awakens them and heats the fibroblast tissue. This results in a plumping and tightening in sagging and drooping areas. With ongoing treatment this expansion remains in place, hence a new appearance is born. The skin takes on a healthier appearance - no blemishes and a brighter overall glow, which in turn also reduces lines and years.

This is no rocket science really; it's pretty straight forward with the assistance of incredible non-invasive, up to date technology. Our job here at SLCC is to help in every step of this process. Our aim is always to create perfect skin, our strength is that we care. We make all of our clients feel welcome and comfortable from the outset. We offer complete privacy to every client in the hands of professional medical aestheticians.

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#### HUNSTANTON

#### **Hunstanton Croquet Club**



As I write this in early February, anticipation is building for the start of the 2023 season. By the time you read this there will have been working parties carrying out preparations for the season: black tubing will have been put back out round the lawns, the slabs swept, the clubroom spring cleaned, and all the little odd jobs done.

By the end of March, weather permitting, the hoops will have been set. This involves lots of very long lengths of string criss-crossing the lawns, white marker spray, pegs, mallets, strange looking metal measuring contraptions, a few

people who actually know what they are doing, and several more anxiously trying to follow instructions. At the end of this process each lawn will have two sets of six hoop holes - one for our club afternoons and social play and one reserved for tournaments.

The first club afternoon will be Monday 27th March. Fingers crossed that the weather will be kind - last year a mad group played their first game of the season in freezing sleet!

Our annual 'Come and Try' day will be on 22nd April, 1.30 – 3.30pm. It includes tuition and use of equipment, and refreshments. No experience necessary. Please wear flat-sold shoes/trainers.



To reserve a place or for more information, please contact <u>secretary@hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk.</u>

http://hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk https://www.facebook.com/hunstantoncroquetclub

#### Community oil buying

The KL&WN Borough Council would like to highlight community oil buying: more members equals more savings.

Thinking Fuel is a community oil buying scheme offered by Community Action Norfolk (CAN), which is a charity working across Norfolk. Following an advertising campaign last year, they now have nearly 550 members in West Norfolk. The more members they have, the more members can save when buying oil.

We understand that people signed up for Thinking Fuel are currently saving around 20p per litre on oil purchases compared to some other commercial providers. It's free to join and there is no obligation to buy. As the Borough Council we don't recommend one supplier over another, but we are sharing this information to give borough residents the opportunity to think about the options available to them.

You need to register with CAN to join the scheme. Go to their website <u>www.communityactionnorfolk.org.uk</u> and follow the link for "Oil Buying", or for further questions call 01362 698216 or email office@communityactionnorfolk.org.uk.

### **Charity Afternoon**

#### Saturday 13th May 2023

#### on Dersingham Recreation Ground

#### 12 noon until 5:00pm

If you enjoyed the **Dog Show** last year, we are holding another one on the same date. Like last year, prizes will be awarded, so why not come and enjoy yourselves again.

For those who have classic bikes, cars, steam items and tractors, please contact either Kurtis at Tropics, or Valerie on 01485 541895.

Refreshments will be available.



### 22

### **New Office** 1 King Street, King's Lynn

Also find us at: 6 St Nicholas Court, Dersingham 01485 541998

2 Oak Street, Fakenham 01328 854706

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#### Walking in Norfolk John Harris

With spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Norfolk https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/norfolk has loads of walks to download and print, free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said, 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Norfolk

(part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place, so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.'

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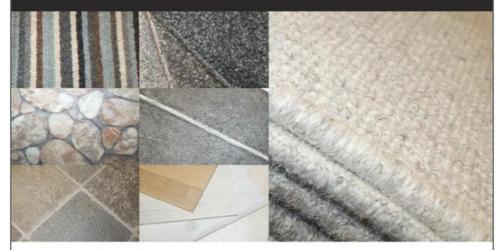
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#### Dersingham Institute Bowls Club Jan Rawstron

By the time you read this, we will only be a couple of weeks away from the new bowling season, which will begin on Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>, when our President, Keith Richardson, will open the green by bowling the first woods of the season. This will be followed, weather permitting, by a roll-up and finger buffet. Fingers crossed for a nice day. It will be great to see our fellow members again. I'm sure there will be lots of catching-up to do.

The following Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup> sees our Open Day between 10am and 4pm, when we encourage anyone who would like to have a go at lawn bowls, perhaps for the first time, to come along. We are a friendly group and will make you feel most welcome. Our qualified coach and experienced members will be there to give guidance, and all equipment will be provided. All you need is a pair of flat-soled shoes, to avoid damage to our green. If you have bowled before, but would like to meet us, you also would be very

welcome. There is no charge and complementary tea/coffee/soft drinks and cake will be available. Contrary to popular belief, bowls is not just a sport for oldies, but for all ages, although we would recommend that any children are accompanied by a responsible adult.

On the same day we hope to have the table-top sale which was planned for November, but unfortunately had to be postponed.

As the weather warms up, work will continue on the green by our dedicated team, to get ready for the coming season. During the colder weather general maintenance has been ongoing, and the club area looks tidy and inviting. Once the season is under way, we have lots planned. The first friendly game against Cliff Parade Bowls Club will be held on Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup> at Dersingham, and our internal 'Birds' League starts on Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup>. On the Spring Bank Holiday Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> we will hold our Centenary Cup Match. In between all these events we have roll-ups every Saturday at 2pm, and on Wednesdays, also at 2pm, before the Birds League starts. So, lots to look forward to.□



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#### Upcoming in Wolferton Ben Colson

#### St Peter's Church, Wolferton

Thank you to Norfolk Wildlife Trust for the report from the survey of our churchyard. This is a quite wonderful read with numerous different plant, shrub and tree species identified, together with many different species of birds, insects and small mammals seen and documented during their visits. The full report is available for all to view in the back of the church.

Looking ahead to Easter week: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April - 7pm Holy Communion Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April - 09.30am Holy Communion

For information on all our services please visit our website www.sandringhamchurches.org.uk

#### **Wolferton Social Club**

*Bingo dates*: Cash Bingo Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 8.00pm Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup>- Doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 8.00pm Prize Bingo Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup> - Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup> - Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

For information about any other events being held at the Social Club please visit the website <u>www.wolfertonsocialclub.co.uk</u> where you can also find details of groups that use the Club for Darts and Dominoes, Cribbage and Bowls.□



#### THE ARTS SOCIETY - ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS Lectures held at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2pm

Monday 17 April 2023 When the MGM Lion Roared: the Hollywood Studios Lecturer: Colin Schindler

There were eight studios in Hollywood during its Golden Age. In this lecture Colin provides a helpful history from their early, tentative beginnings through their full glory in the 1930s and 1940s to their decline and dissolution in the 1950s and 1960s with the deaths of the founding movie moguls.

#### Monday 8 May 2023

Bringing India to Britain: Queen Victoria's Portraits and the Durbar Hall Lecturer: Helen Rufus-Ward

Helen's lecture focuses on Victorian encounters with India and begins by looking at the Indian portraits decorating the corridors of Queen Victoria's favourite palace, Osborne House on the Isle of Wight.

Would you like to join our Arts Society? There are many benefits apart from our interesting and varied lectures: Trips and tours in the UK and abroad, Special Interest Days, New Year members' lunch, regular newsletters, support for local Young Arts, and a social event with a warm welcome.





For more info and how to join, visit our website: www.theartssocietynwnorfolk.org.uk or email: info@theartssocietynwnorfolk.org.uk Registered Charity No. 1105490

#### News from Dersingham Bog Natural England



Spring is beginning on Dersingham Bog. As the days are getting longer the signs of impending better weather are beginning to become apparent. The first signs of spring in all the ecosystem are beginning to peak out from behind the cold winter weather and show themselves.

We have continued to carry out and finish off the last of our winter work on the bog. This has included removing large amounts of the Rhododendron from around the pond and removing the mulch, as well as thinning out the pine trees to allow more light to reach the pond and the ground surface so that some scrub, and even potentially heathland, may regenerate in this area. It should also make the pond - which is already brilliant for dragonflies such as keeled skimmers and black darters - even better come the summer. We also collected and chipped the last remaining areas of cut scrub from the bog, but this did unfortunately result in us getting the softrack stuck in one of the wetter areas. This wasn't ideal, but fortunately not fatal!

Snowdrops are currently covering the woodland floor around the tracks and trails, as well as daffodils about to burst into their summer splendour. The birds are beginning to sing, with some already stopped and down on their first broods of eggs, such as woodlarks. On the crisp, clear February mornings woodlark song could be heard ringing across Dersingham bog but by March most have now paired up and are currently on eggs, keeping a much lower profile. During the winter, using a piece of machinery called a Ryetec, we cut some areas of heather on the heaths to open these up for feeding areas for the woodlarks and we hope this will potentially improve their success in raising young, as they are one of our designated species.



One of Dersingham's other signature species, the stonechat, has also returned in pairs to take up territory. Seventeen birds seen in one day is the best so far (including four colour-ringed birds) and many of these are singing away in the early morning or evenings. However, we still await the arrival of many of our other migrant species that will currently be making their way up from warmer climes in time to call Dersingham Bog their home in the summer months.

We have started to see the first invertebrates with the cool but sunny

days, with Peacock, Brimstone and Red Admiral Butterflies noted, as well as the first Buff-tailed Bumblebees taking advantage of the sun. However, with colder periods of weather following on from these sightings, unfortunately those pioneers' days are more than likely numbered.

Some winter species are still hanging on, including an ermine stoat that has been seen on a few occasions, something you'd be more likely to see in the Highlands of Scotland than the heaths of Norfolk. It was especially surprising with the almost complete lack of snow in Norfolk this year.  $\square$ 

#### The Wash "Barrage" Dick Jones

Dick Melton's piece in the last edition brought back memories. In the early 1970s I was working on a contract as one of the ornithologists from the Coastal Ecology Research Station in Norwich. We were to research aspects of a feasibility study concerning the proposal to construct two immense freshwater reservoirs on The Wash mudflats. My job consisted of walking most of The Wash at low tide on the inner and outer mud banks to count the birds, see what they fed on, and their distribution.

There are two circular "trial banks", one at Terrington, which I have visited, and one out in The Wash which I have not. They were built to assess the effects of the sea on the proposed reservoirs.

Nowadays, to do my job would mean a detailed risk assessment before I could start and there would probably be two of us at any one time. Back in the seventies I was told where to go and that was that. I roamed, usually alone, everywhere from Wainfleet to Frampton Marsh, from Holbeach Marsh to Terrington Marsh, and all of the outer banks. You had to know your tides like the back of your hand. I used



Outer Trial Bank.

to stop occasionally and look behind me, my boot prints always showing a winding trail even though I thought I had made a beeline to my next location.

Black Buoy Sand and Mare Tail were reachable on foot, whereas Toft Sand and Roger Sand were only visited by boat. I used to go to the Fisher Fleet in King's Lynn and get a lift to some of the mud banks from the cockle boats. One day a colleague and I took our rubber boat and sailed down the River Nene from Wisbech out to Thief Sand and Seal Sand. We counted the birds and the seals and took various samples for later. We set off back to Wisbech when the outboard suddenly stopped. This was not unusual, but this time we could not get it started again. We started rowing, but rowing a rubber rib is not recommended. When we reached the mouth of the river we just could not go against the current. We were exhausted. We dropped anchor and discussed our predicament. Luckily we had packed a couple of flares in our gear. It was getting dark and the cocklers were returning to port. But we didn't want to be humiliated by our situation and use the flares! We hailed a couple, but they could not, or did not hear us. We had to let off the flares. The ribald comments when we were hauled aboard will not be repeated but we were the subject of jokes for some time.

I always carried out these walks in thigh waders because the mud could often be too deep for wellingtons. As I mentioned before, the state of the tide had to be constantly noted. One day I forgot. I had been out on Peter Black Sand and had become interested in the birds there. Suddenly I realised the time. I set off back to my car, but I had forgotten Wolferton Creek. It is deep, as it carries the Ingol and Boathouse Creek. When I reached it, it was waist deep and rapidly filling up. I had to think fast. I could walk several miles and remain dry, or I could cross the creek. I chose the latter course. I scrambled down the side of the creek - the water was very deep - and I crossed to the other side. But here came a catch, I sank into the mud. There followed a lot of splashing and crawling until I finally got out of the deep creek. I had crossed, but my waders were full of very, very cold water. It was February, after all. It was so cold that I kicked off my waders and danced around in bare feet. I never forgot the tide tables again.

The way we watched the birds feeding was as follows: When we started the study we had no idea how much a bird ate. We shot a small sample, but whatever had been in the birds' stomachs had already been digested by the time we could open it up. Our kit was a telescope and tripod, a small tape recorder and a "clicker" to count numbers. With this we observed a bird for one minute, watched it through the telescope, counted the prey items and if possible recorded the species of the prey. All quite simple? I never seemed to have enough hands. In addition, we were wrapped up against the cold. My clothing included a pair of ladies' tights, two pullovers, a coat, a balaclava, and over the lot an old fur coat. We still got cold. I used to finish a morning of bird counting deciding to resign because I was so cold. Then after I had walked back over the mud, up onto the beach and finally returned to the car, I was so hot with all those clothes that I flung them off and decided not to resign after all.

To study the invertebrates we erected small cages which kept the birds out but did not interfere with the normal everyday life of the invertebrates. They included cockles, *Macoma*, shrimplike *Corophium*, ragworm and small fish. They were regularly sampled both inside the cages and outside as well. Back at the lab we spent hours and hours identifying and counting the species. They were kept in formaldehyde and the smell of it seemed to permeate everything. Probably not good for our health.

Eventually everything was written up and published in scientific journals and the National Archive. It was acknowledged that The Wash was extremely important for wildlife and was one of the factors in the abandonment of the scheme. However, the main reasons were the immense cost and the problem of salinity seeping into the proposed freshwater reservoirs. Every time I see a new proposal for a barrage or a road or something similar, I shudder. Not again. □



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#### Newly refurbished Same Day Emergency Care Unit opens to patients at Queen Elizabeth Hospital

At the end of January the newly refurbished Same Day Emergency Care Unit (SDEC) at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (QEH) opened its doors to welcome patients.

The newly extended department, which is a £2 million investment funded through the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System, will allow for more patients needing urgent and emergency care to be treated on the same day. It will also reduce pressure on the Trust's Emergency Department and improve ambulance handover times.

The role of SDEC is to provide same day emergency care for patients who would otherwise be admitted to hospital. This modern clinical facility will provide:

- Refurbished clinical space with capacity to see and treat up to 50 patients daily
- Direct referrals from GPs and ambulances, therefore reducing attendances in the Emergency Department
- Dedicated reception area and entrance as well as a waiting area

The new unit will be open daily: 8.30am to midnight Monday to Friday and 9am to 7pm at weekends.

SDEC is located on the ground floor of the hospital near to the Emergency Department.  $\hfill\square$ 



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#### 'Grave Concern' Rev Mark Capron Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne and leader of the Café Church at The Well, Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall

To avoid beating around the bush, there are nine spaces left in St Nicholas' churchyard in Dersingham. It is important for residents to be aware that once these nine places are used, future burials for Dersingham residents will then need to be at King's Lynn Cemetery.

After starting the search seven years ago in co-ordination with Neil Adams, the churchwarden, there has been no land availability brought to our attention after much consultation with landowners, tenant farmers, the Diocese of Norwich and the Sandringham Estate. Much time has been given voluntarily on behalf of the village by Neil and myself in this endeavour. Sadly, there was also no response to the article in the November issue of Village Voice, either in ideas of possible land or offers of assistance in liaising and acquiring suitable burial space locally.

The Parish Council and District Council are fully aware of the 'grave' situation. I am sure local villagers will be disappointed if a loved one can't be buried in the village. Even if land was acquired today, the time taken for both legal and land preparation can take a couple of years. This therefore means residents now need to be aware to expect burials of Dersingham loved ones to be in King's Lynn.

#### **Easter Services**

At Easter we celebrate that the grave could not hold Jesus; Jesus defeated death and rose in Glory to new life – in the power of the Resurrection.

On Palm Sunday, fondly known as Donkey Sunday here, I am pleased to say that we have 'Pebbles' the Donkey with us again! Pebbles will be in St Nicholas Court from 9:30am on April 2<sup>nd</sup> before leading us into church for a special combined service starting at 10am. Do come and meet Pebbles and feed her - she likes carrots! There will also be an 11am Holy Communion service at Anmer on Palm Sunday.

On Good Friday (April 8<sup>th</sup>) there will be a 'Walk of Witness' around Dersingham, starting at St Nicholas at 9am with a short service before walking around the village, stopping at the Methodist Church and Catholic Church before finishing back at St Nicholas for hot cross buns and a coffee. At 2pm there will be reflective Bible-based 'Hour at the Cross', including hymns and songs, as we consider the impact of the cross and what it means for us.





Easter Day (April 9<sup>th</sup>) begins with the sunrise Holy Communion service outside at Shernborne Church. Last year was a real treat as the sun came up as we had the Gospel reading, along with the birds singing. This is not to be missed, but do set your alarms, as it starts at 6am, well worth getting up for! Many find this service a highlight of the year. We enjoy hot drinks and refreshments afterwards in church. If the weather is not favourable, we will be inside.

Later, at Dersingham on Easter Sunday there will be 'The Gathering' at 9:30am -Contemporary Worship Holy Communion led by the Blaze Band, followed by an 11am Easter Sung Eucharist with organ and church choir.

Further ahead there will be a special 'King and Crown' evening service on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm as we join together in the celebration of King Charles' Coronation.

www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk YouTube Channel: 'Dersingham Online Worship'



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

As we move into spring it is exciting to read of the many initiatives to improve our towns, all made possible by the Levelling Up funding from the Government. We can look forward to a new King's Lynn Library, now styled a Multi-User Hub, on the old Argos site, which will offer IT services and



education options, as well as, of course, offering a lending library service.

Hunstanton is also in line for a similar service on the old bus station site.

The Guildhall project is at an early stage of planning, but very much under way; the School of Nursing in the College of West Anglia is up and running, and plans are afoot to improve the

waterfront. Once completed, these projects will benefit from local people using and enjoying them.

Locally, we are pleased that our Councillor Community Fund has enabled us to support the Village Centre and the Sports Field (tractor repairs this time!) If you have any project within the Ward (Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe, Shernborne and Anmer) that would benefit from a small cash injection, then do approach us and we will ascertain if your scheme fits into the parameters of the Fund.

We have been approached by several Ward members complaining/commenting on the wayside rubbish which seems particularly bad this year. We are making a case to the appropriate bodies to see what can be done to clear up the verges, especially around Sandringham. The problem to be solved by County Highways is how to litter pick safely following the fatality of a picker about a year ago. It's a pity that folk feel the only thing to be done with their empty packaging is to toss it out of the car window.

Post March 21st we are effectively in purdah due to the forthcoming elections, which means that we have to keep a low profile; but we are still available to help and support our Ward members, and rest assured the work of the Council will continue unabated. 
□

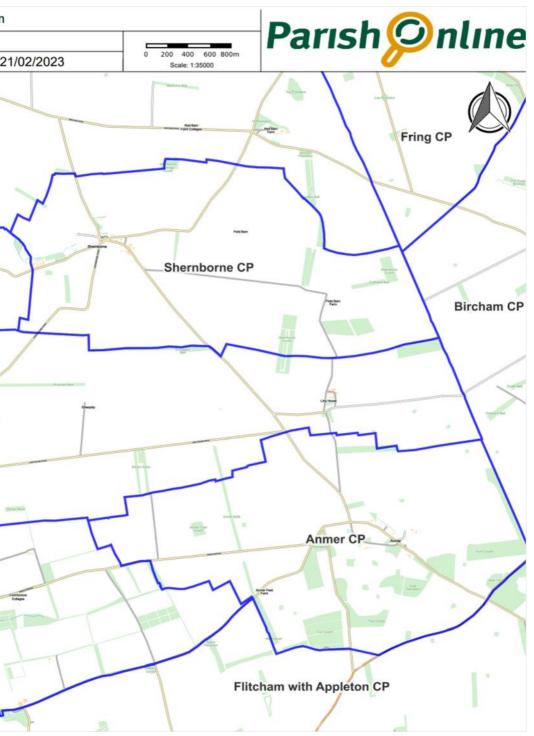


#### **Dersingham Parish Boundary**

When Dick Melton sent in his last piece for Village Voice he reported that several people had asked him where is the boundary of Dersingham Parish. He did describe where it runs, but we thought we would show you on a map, which you can see on the next two pages.

If you would like a map of the centre of the village showing local services, these can be obtained at the Parish Council office. We are open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-2.





# **Dersingham Library**

The library opening hours are:

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 (8 to 10am Open Library access only) Sunday: 10am to 4pm (8 to 10am Open Library access only)

To get full information about library services just Google **Dersingham Library**, or drop into the library.

The following are some recent initiatives:



# Dersingham Library Walk and Talk

Walk and Talk is an arrangement between Dersingham Library and the volunteers of West Norfolk Walking for Health. Once a month, a walk starts from the library, led by experienced walkers. It lasts for about 45 minutes and is about a mile and a half long. The walk ends at the library, and participants are encouraged to have a tea or coffee and a biscuit, and have a general chat.

The walk may well appeal to anybody recently moved to the area, or who is seeking to get some gentle convivial exercise. The walks are open to everybody, they are free, and there is no need to book. Make sure to wear comfortable shoes and clothing.

All the walks take place on a Thursday afternoon, starting at 2pm. The next dates are: **April 20<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup>, June 15<sup>th</sup>, July 20<sup>th</sup>, August 17<sup>th</sup>** 

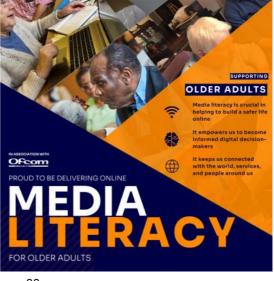
There is a similar walk and talk at Hunstanton Library on the second Tuesday afternoon of each month. More information on all walks at <u>wnwfh.org.uk.</u>

# Digital Support Sessions for older people

Norfolk Libraries is pleased to be working with Ofcom, running digital support sessions for older people to help them gain confidence, resilience, and knowledge when it comes to being online.

Come to Dersingham Library and take part in our *Online, Safe, and In Control* sessions for guided support to learn basic digital skills, become scam-aware, or learn how the online world can work for you.

Drop-in sessions are held every second week on Wednesdays 10-12am. For more information call the library at 01485 540181.□



# Making Gardening Easier May Davey

It was lovely to see forty-two people at our February meeting. That's the sort of audience we had pre-Covid. Thank you for coming as new members and guests. We hope you will enjoy our programme of talks and outings this year. Our speaker in February was Robert Plumb talking about soil fertility. He had samples of additives for our compost heaps and pots to improve soil fertility.

We have planned an exciting all-day outing to The Old Vicarage, East Ruston, by coach. We need lots of friends to join us to share the expense of the coach. See the advertisement included here. Gloria Pantling will be pleased to hear from you.

On 19th May, we will have Geoff Hodge talking about Pests and Diseases. We usually meet at 2.00 pm on the third Friday of the month at the Dersingham Village Centre, unless an outing has

been arranged. Entrance costs £3.00 for tea and a raffle ticket. *Do come and join us!*□





Coach Outing to The Old Vicarage, East Ruston. Friday April 21st



This fascinating garden spans 32 acres, containing many different styles to discover and explore. Not only the Mediterranean garden, desert wash and a large woodland garden, but also herbaceous borders, gravel gardens, sub-tropical gardens, a box parterre, sunken rose garden, and vegetable garden.

Our coach leaves Dersingham (outside Co-op) 10.00 am and South Wootton Village Hall 10.15 am

Subsidised cost (includes the coach, entry and tea) **members £25**, **guests £30.** Light lunches can be bought from the tea room. Return by approx. 5pm

For further information please contact:-

Gloria Pantling, 35 Grimston Road, South Wootton, King's Lynn, PE30 3NR

01553 671912/ 07570262766 /gloriapantling@btinternet.com





# Dersingham Walking Group Tony Bubb

We have been rather lucky with the weather for our last few walks. Blue skies, bright sun and crisp temperatures made for good rambling. Even the walk that boded badly for rain actually dried up with a sunny finish. It was nice to see some new faces recently, as was the chance to see

walkers who had been absent for a while. Now, we cannot guarantee the weather, but we can guarantee some good walking, so do join us.

Our next walks are:

# Wednesday April 12<sup>th</sup> - 2.00pm

A walk of about 4 miles exploring the Babingley River, with another visit to the tearooms at Castle Rising after the walk should the fancy take you. Start point the Unique car park in the centre of Castle Rising, TF 667 347. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

# Wednesday April 26<sup>th</sup> - 2.00pm

"To the woods!" There is much still to see in the Sandringham woods and Brian is keen to take us on fresh paths. About 4 miles. Start at the village sign, TF 685 297. Leader: Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.

# Wednesday May 10<sup>th</sup> - 2.00pm

Check out the progress of spring with this circular, Courtyard Farm based walk. About 4 miles of splendid country. Start point the car park on the left of the Ringstead to Burnham road at TF 722 405. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

# Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup> - 2.00pm

The north coast this time. After climbing out of Brancaster on the Norfolk Coast Path we get great views of Titchwell before descending down to the coast and returning to Brancaster village. Start point Brancaster Church, TF 771 438. About 4.5 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

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



Joining the walking group is a great way to meet some of your fellow villagers and to explore the local area. You'll probably discover footpaths that you never knew existed and maybe views that will give you a fresh appreciation of the local landscape. So, if you haven't walked with the group before, why not join us for an amble through our wonderful countryside. Most of our walks are between 4 and 5 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. ...

# Dersingham Ladies Friendship Group – Who are we?

We are a group of ladies who meet for friendship and companionship on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Orchard Close Community Centre in Dersingham, PE31 6LU, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

We have a varied programme of speakers, quizzes, crafts, etc. We also arrange one midweek lunch and one Sunday lunch per month at various venues for those who wish to join in.

There is a small annual subscription, plus £2.00 per meeting, which includes refreshments. New members are welcome. Why not give us a try - nobody should be lonely or isolated.

Any enquiries to 01485 545880 or 01485 540941.





# Royal Air Force Bircham Newton Heritage Centre OPEN DAYS 2021 - Open 10am to 4pm

Easter Sunday April 9 Sunday April 30 Sunday May 28 Sunday June 11 Sunday June 25 Sunday July 16 Sunday July 30 Sunday August 13 Sunday August 27 Bank Holiday Monday Aug 28 Sunday September 10 Sunday September 24 Sunday October 29 Sunday November 12 (Remembrance Sunday)

The Heritage Centre at Bircham Newton has a unique collection of memorabilia from the former Royal Air Force station's past service, which spanned more than 44 years, including two world wars and the Cold War. On display are photographs and personal memories of servicemen who served there and other related items from its fascinating history. The Centre is manned and run entirely by volunteers, many of whom are ex-servicemen or children of service personnel. Close by there are two stone memorials to remember those who served at Bircham Newton and its main satellite airfield near Docking.

Disabled access and toilets. Free car park and entrance The National Construction College Bircham Newton NW Norfolk PE31 6RH NCC is signposted off the A148 and B1454 www.rafbnmp.org.uk



# **Dersingham Methodist Church** Elizabeth Batstone

Dersingham Methodist Church will be 133 years old in May. As usual we will be holding our annual flower festival and church anniversary. The festival theme is 'Psalms of Praise' and each of the thirteen displays are based on verses from the Psalms.

The festival is Thursday 25th to Saturday 27th May, from

10.00am to 4.00pm. After seeing the displays in the Church, go into the hall and enjoy light refreshments and find interesting items to buy from the stalls – books and jigsaws, cards, cakes, gifts and plants.

On Sunday 28th May the 10.30am service will be led by Revd. Gordon and Deacon Lynne Tonge and at 4.00pm there is a Songs of Praise led by our minister Revd Dr Richman Ncube. We wish to raise enough to fund two toilet blocks with Toilet Twinning and the rest for Church funds.

We look forward to seeing you and helping us celebrate the Church's birthday. stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com





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**Church Funds** 



# **Events in April and May**

**MONDAY 3rd APRIL - BINGO NIGHT** - Club opens 7.00 p.m. Eyes down 7.30 p.m. Entry £6.60 per book of 10 cards and £1.75 for a flyer card.

# FRIDAY 14th APRIL – FILM NIGHT – See How they Run - 12A - COMEDY / MYSTERY

In the West End of 1950s London, plans for a movie version of a smash-hit play come to an abrupt halt after a pivotal member of the crew is murdered. When world-weary Inspector Stoppard (Sam Rockwell) and eager rookie Constable Stalker (Saoirse Ronan) take on the case, the two find themselves thrown into a puzzling "whodunnit" within the glamorously sordid theatre underground, investigating the mysterious homicide at their own peril.

Admission £4 - Club opens 7.00 p.m. Film commences at 7.30 p.m. For further information please phone 01485 579465 or email <u>films@anmerclub.co.uk</u>

**SATURDAY 15th APRIL – FUN DARTS NIGHT** – 7.30 p.m. – Admission free – Fully licensed bar – Raffle.

**SUNDAY 23rd APRIL – ST. GEORGE'S DAY ROAST LUNCH** 12.30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m. Advanced booking only. For further information and to book please email <u>anmerchair44@gmail.com</u> by Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April with contact details and any special dietary needs.

**MONDAY 8th May – CORONATION BBQ** – 12 noon onwards. (To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III). Fully licensed bar plus entertainment.

**SATURDAY 13th May – CRAFT FAIR AND CAR BOOT**. Stalls and car boot places £5 per stall/place. Double Stall £10. Refreshments available.

**MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY – BINGO NIGHT -** Club opens 7.00 p.m. Eyes down 7.30 p.m. Entry £6.60 per book of 10 cards and £1.75 for a flyer card.

**FRIDAY 19th MAY – FILM NIGHT** - 7.30 p.m. Club opens 7.00 p.m. Admission £4 payable at the door. Title to be confirmed - For further information telephone 01485 579465 or email <u>films@anmerclub.co.uk</u>

**FRIDAY 26th MAY** - **QUIZ NIGHT** - Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts at 7.30 p.m. Entry £2 per person. Fully licensed bar – Raffle.

For further details of these and our future events visit our website

www.anmerclub.co.uk or Facebook page.



# Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Edmund Hunstanton with St Cecilia's, Dersingham



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at St Cecilia's on the evening of 21<sup>st</sup> February was not as well attended as in previous years, but we had a good time, delicious pancakes and the money made from the raffle was added to the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal.



Thanks go to all who helped and those who made the delicious pancakes.



On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March we had a small celebration after Mass at St Cecilia's for Fr Michael, who was celebrating his 59-year anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

If you would like to be on the distribution list for the weekly bulletins straight to your inbox, please send your email address to <u>hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk</u>. Also, if you are a new parishioner, there is a form in both church porches to fill in your details to welcome you to the parish. Feel free to ask if you can't see them.

We have regular Rosary prayer meetings at St Cecilia's every Monday from 2pm. There is also a Mothers' Prayers group which meet at 2.30pm Monday fortnightly at OLSE.

The Pope's prayer intention for April is *For a culture of peace and non-violence:* we pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by

states and citizens. The prayer intention for May is *For church movements and groups:* we pray that church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelisation each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

The setting up of an SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society) Group in our parish is well under way and will be named 'The Wash Conference'. If you would like to join or get more information, go to <u>www.svp.org.uk</u>. 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 speak to someone and 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.

Please contact the Convent direct about daily Masses there on 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.

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: <u>www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org</u> Email: <u>hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk</u> 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 <u>parish-</u> <u>priest763@gmail.com</u> □

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# Banjo Man at the Day Club Joy Kelly and Carol Edwards



Our Club at the Village Centre meets every Wednesday from 10.00am to 2.15pm, and is now back in full swing.

We enjoy games of dominoes, Scrabble, Triominoes, Rummikub and cards at every meeting. We also serve a cooked meal followed by dessert, including cups of tea and coffee. Sometimes we have a quiz, bingo, and a game called chicken foot.

On other occasions we have entertainment. In January we had the Banjo Man who played three different instruments, sang a variety of songs to sing along to, and a very good repartee of light-hearted jokes which everyone enjoyed.

Peg Hunter, the dance teacher, also paid us a visit to put us through some seated exercises, and then performed a short dance for us, which was very much appreciated.

If you would like to join us in the future, please contact Maggie Langridge 01485 543264 or Wendy Raby 01485 544975.

# Ingoldisthorpe Parish Council makes roadside greener with help from Ingoldisthorpe Primary School

Ingoldisthorpe Parish Council has come together with East of England Apples and Orchards to create a greener roadside. On Tuesday 17th January, ten indigenous fruit trees were planted along the B1440 with aid from the owners of Just4You Fitness and the Parish primary school.

Jennifer Shah, a former Parish Clerk, created the hyper-local scheme to increase the area's biodiversity and offer natural focal points of interest within the village. The planting expands the Parish's current scheme, where an orchard of remembrance was planted in 2019 within the Parish's allotments. Each tree represents a serviceman lost in WWI and WWII.

Simon Lee, Parish Clerk, adds, "Planting a community orchard provides fresh, free fruit, not only for people but also food for birds and a wealth of insects. In the spring the flowers are an important pollen source for bees. The recent news that this project will be funded through the Tree Council's Branching Out Project is the icing on the cake."

This project had the backing and support of Norfolk County Council Highways Department, members of the Ingoldisthorpe Parish Council, and pupils from the Parish primary school. They braved the cold weather and were joined by a local gym -Just4You Fitness - to dig the ten holes and secure the trees in situ. Mel Stollery, co-founder of Just4You Fitness, adds, "What a privilege to be involved in a forwardthinking project with Ingoldisthorpe Parish Council. At Just4You Fitness, we are passionate about our members feeling part of a community. It was a great opportunity to be able to extend this ethos outside of our facility."



Back row adults pictured from left to right: Michelle Young of Just4You Fitness, Debbie Jones (local resident), Parish Councillor Helen Beynon, Parish Councillor Kathy Wallace, Parish Clerk Simon Lee, and Matt Franks of Just4You Fitness



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# **Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School**

Now the new year is in full swing, the children at Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School are putting the winter blues behind them and looking forward to a sensational spring!

There have been two exciting football tournaments at Lynnsport, where the girls' and boys' teams represented the school brilliantly, showing fabulous sportsmanship and team spirit. Some of the Year 5 children took part in Bikeability training, where they

honed their cycling skills on the playground, before learning how to stay safe out on the road.

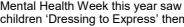
Our Year 5 and Year 6 Sports Council representatives have teamed up with other schools in the cluster to form a group council and are busy preparing to organise a KS1 sports festival in the summer term. Dersingham enjoyed



hosting the first meeting, led by Mrs Bower, who is the School Sports Partnership Co-Ordinator. The children were truly amazing, coming up with lots of innovative ideas to make the day an event to remember!







children 'Dressing to Express' themselves to raise money for MIND. Children were encouraged to 'connect' with friends, families and the wider community to offer and receive support for positive mental health.

In Nursery Saplings Class the children have taken a huge interest in babies this half term, as several children have small babies at home. They have been making up feed, changing, bathing, feeding and soothing them to sleep. Lots of interesting love potions, hearts and baking also took place to celebrate Valentine's Day.



Last half term in Reception Willow Class, as part of a Superheroes topic, lots of visitors came to talk to the children about how they help in our community. Police, fire crew, lifeboat crew and our vicar came to answer questions, so a big thank you to them all. It was fun taking part in the national RSPB Birdwatch this half term and making bird feeders to put around school to help feed the birds during the cold winter months.



The Year 1 Oak Class children have been on an icy adventure to the Arctic this half term, where they discovered bears don't like being disturbed from hibernation and rabbits have a very bad habit of eating their poo! They discovered what life was like in the past for Inuit people and how some of their traditions continue today. They all enjoyed their sessions in Forest School, particularly making bows and arrows and toasting marshmallows to have with hot chocolate!

Year 2 Birch Class read a book called *Lila and the Secret of Rain*, set in Kenya, and used this to help them learn about the similarities and differences between human and physical features of both Kenya and the UK; some things were surprising! The children drew fabulous bar charts to compare monthly temperatures, created great fact files about significant people and industries, and rewrote the story in their own words to create a lovely corridor display! It was also great fun practising gymnastics and netball in PE!

Year 3 Maple Class have had an amazing time learning about rivers. Their river journey took them all the way along the River Great Ouse. There was a very interesting trip to True's Yard, where the children learnt about the fisherfolk of the North End. Here they found out about their lives, their jobs and homes. It was fun carrying out the walking tour of King's Lynn, heading to The Purfleet and finding out about the maritime history of the town.

This half term Year 4 Rowan Class have been learning all about the Anglo Saxons. The children sampled Anglo-Saxon flat breads, explored the themes of invasion and settlement, and linked learning to previous knowledge of the Romans and how they shaped our Island. Extracts were read from *Beowulf*, which led to some brilliant Anglo-Saxon adventure stories. The school is lucky to have a brilliant drumming teacher, giving the children the opportunity to use their own drums and experiment with rhythm. During DT, the class made their own intricate dragonfly sculptures using wire.

The Year 5 children in Cypress Class have been learning all about Ancient Greece. The children discovered a variety of well-known myths, including *Theseus and the Minotaur*, as well as finding out about democracy, philosophy and the ancient Olympics.

Year 6 Elm Class have been busy during the last half-



term working upon a topic entitled 'Evolving Islands.' In Literacy, the children studied a book called *The Island at the End of Everything*, which is based upon the creation of the leprosarium on Culion Island in the Philippines. Whilst based upon real events, the book involves fictionalised characters, including the sinister lepidopterist and man charged with segregating the island, Mr Zamora. This character was the focus of much of our writing, including balanced arguments and descriptive writing. In Science, the focus was on the classification of living things and evolution, which prompted many insightful questions from the class. Whilst in RE, the children balanced, compared and contrasted these scientific explanations of life with religious ones.

The children are now planning for Red Nose Day on 17<sup>th</sup> March, where the focus will be on supporting those affected by the tragic earthquake in Turkey and Syria. With Easter just around the corner, there is much to celebrate and look forward to!

# **Phobbies**

# Thursdays from 10am to 2pm At Dersingham Social Club

Phobbies is a club for people with and without disabilities where people can enjoy hobbies together. Current hobbies include painting, card making, knitting, crochet and rug making, but we are keen to try other crafts. Some of our members play cards and board games after lunch. There is always a lot of chatting and plenty of laughter.

New members are welcome, as well as anyone who would like to help run the club. We are always happy for people to drop in and see what we do.

Any enquiries: Contact Maggie: 01485 544865 or 07967 799816.



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# The Time has come...... Elizabeth Fiddick



May 6<sup>th</sup> 2023 will mark the Coronation of King Charles III when there will be three days of celebration. Already we are beginning to hear of some of the events that will take place to commemorate that event, both in our village and nationally.

When the news broke of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the whole country went into deep mourning and thousands lined the roads and fields with bowed heads as the funeral cortege passed by. Thousands queued for hours to pay their respects at the lying-in-state in Westminster Hall and thousands more attended the state funeral of Her Late Majesty or watched it at home in full colour on television. Since she had reigned for 70 years and 214 days, a majority of the population had only ever known Queen Elizabeth II as monarch. My father lived through the reign of six monarchs and I am old enough to remember watching the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1953. We did not have a television but went into our neighbours to watch it on their small black and white set. I remember it poured with rain all that day, but the Queen of Tonga delighted the crowds by insisting on riding in an open carriage.

As often happens, history is repeating itself. It was just the same story 121 years ago when on January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1902 the death of Queen Victoria at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight was announced and the reign of King Edward VII had begun. Queen Victoria had reigned for 63 years, so, just as today, the majority of villagers had only known a queen as monarch and had now to remember it was "God save the King." There were some exceptions of course. Richard Thomas, a retired constable, was just six years old when George III died in 1820. He had lived through the reigns of George III, George IV and

William IV and was a young man of twenty-three when Victoria became Queen. Maria Bussey, a farmer and milliner, who lived in Brook Cottage near Brook Road, William Batterbee, a woodman, and Reuben Bridge, a retired gamekeeper, were likewise young men and women when Victoria acceded to the throne.

When the news of Victoria's death was announced, our village joined in the universal mourning. It was noted in the Sandringham Estate magazine that during the anxious days of Her Majesty's illness the school children had sung the first stanza of "God the save the Queen" every morning and evening as they knelt at their prayers. Then, after that solemn announcement, they opened the school meeting the next day with "God save the King." It was a change they would remember all of their lives.

The funeral took place on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, when thousands lined the streets in



Funeral procession of Queen Victoria

respectful silence. Queen Victoria expressed a wish to be buried as a "soldier's daughter." Thus, for the first time a gun carriage was used to convey the coffin to St. George's Chapel. The artillery horses took the strain but then "nothing in the world would make them start," so a Royal Guard from *H.M.S. Excellent* was ordered to haul the carriage with ropes. Thus, a new tradition was established which we all saw used again so impressively at the late Queen Elizabeth's funeral. However, the Royal Artillery responsible for the horses was "furious and humiliated beyond words" by the incident. This was not the only unfortunate incident, as Queen Victoria's coffin was dropped down a flight of steps, so a guardsman was ordered to walk behind it to prevent it falling off the shoulders of the pall bearers again. This became another tradition that we saw followed last September.

A Memorial Service was held in our church at 2 o'clock on that Saturday in 1902, which the vicar thought most impressive, not only because of the solemn funeral service and music, but by the assembly and reverent bearing of the very large and sympathetic congregation. He thought the number of working men attending presented a very striking feature.

Once the period of mourning was over, everyone's thoughts turned to ways in which to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. A meeting was arranged for all the dwellers on the Sandringham Estate to meet at the club at West Newton on June 10<sup>th</sup>. It was first proposed that a clock should be erected on the tower of West Newton Church, but Mr. Beck suggested that as Anmer had only recently been acquired by Sandringham that an avenue of trees be planted to connect Anmer and Shernborne with the Royal Estate as a personal gift to the King and a permanent memorial. It would be called The King's Avenue. This amendment was passed and it was agreed to plant sycamore and ilex trees along the new avenue.

At a meeting here in Dersingham it was decided to mark the Coronation by placing a clock in the Church Tower and to purchase 400 silver coronation medals to be given to children aged fourteen years or under. A subscription fund was set up and most villagers contributed to it. Some gave to both funds for the clock and the medals. The largest donations of  $\pounds$ 5 were given among others by Mr. Tingey of The Manor House, Mr. Tansley the butcher, Mr. Wilkin of Wellswill House (Woodroyal) - equivalent to about  $\pounds$ 500 today. Others gave  $\pounds$ 1 ( $\pounds$ 98), and so on, down to the smallest contribution of 3d ( $\pounds$ 1.25).

Everything was in place to celebrate the Coronation, but on June 26th all festivities were cancelled as the news came that the King was very ill. Services were held in all the local churches to pray for the King's recovery. A few days later there was favourable news concerning the King's health, so there were festivities held in Sandringham Park from 8pm to 10pm. The national anthem was sung, a band attended and fireworks were let off.

It was on August 9<sup>th</sup> 1902 that the Coronation Service was held. It was a very fine day when a party of 120 left Wolferton at 5am to journey by train to St. Pancras and then to be driven on to their seats at Buckingham Palace or Constitution Hill. After watching the procession they were taken by omnibuses to view the decorated streets. They took the 7pm train home and arrived here at 11pm, where they gave rousing cheers to their Majesties before going home.

Here on the Estate everyone gathered outside Sandringham Church at 1pm. Surpliced choirs from Sandringham, Wolferton, Dersingham and Anmer marched to the churchyard. "God save the King" was sung, accompanied by the Norfolk Militia Band, after which the

full service was held. Following this, 1200 adults dined in a spacious marquee and 600 children were entertained in another tent. Toasts were proposed to the health of the King and Queen and drunk to rousing cheers. The helpers then sat down to their dinner in a neighbouring tent.

After the meals, sports were held on the cricket field, including donkey, bicycling and running races; jumping, and other games. Prizes were awarded and then there were children's races and a tea that brought the day to a happy close. Tremendous cheers were given for their Majesties the King and Queen, and everyone made their way home tired but happy. This was not the end of the celebrations, however.

The new King's and Queen's Avenue was planted with a hedge of privet either side of the sycamores and was duly presented to their Royal Majesties by the tenants and labourers of Sandringham.

In November, the tenants of Sandringham Estate decided to commemorate the King's 61<sup>st</sup> birthday, his restoration to good health, and the recent Coronation with a presentation of fourteen

The King's Avenue. The Planting of the Adesway Clum ty Thir Majesties The King and Quie and the Reyal Tamily. November 10th 1902. at 2:30. p.m.



purple beeches to be planted in the Coronation Oval in the centre of the new King's Avenue. So, on November 10<sup>th</sup> 1902 the Royal Family,

accompanied by the German Emperor and many very distinguished guests, gathered at the site. People flocked from all the surrounding villages

to watch as their Majesties and their guests duly planted the trees.

On December 22<sup>nd</sup> 1902 the clock, which the villagers of Dersingham had purchased for St. Nicholas Church Tower, was finally set going. His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, came to the village accompanied by the other young princes. After being greeted by the Chairman of the Coronation Committee, the Royal party proceeded to the vestry where His Royal Highness pulled a cord and set the pendulum in motion. The clock immediately struck the hour of 3pm. By the permission of His Majesty the King, the Crown and Royal Cipher appear on the two dials of the clock. The 400 medals were also given to the children of the village and I wonder if there are any still to be found among old photos and family memorabilia.

Today we can drive along the road to Anmer between those magnificent sycamores and purple beeches and our church clock continues to chime the hours and quarters every day - two lasting memorials to that Coronation.□

The Coronation Oval



St Nicholas Church and clock



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# The Daily Doings of Mrs Dolittle

I attacked the garden with vigour yesterday and was doing okay, then my handsome gardener unexpectedly turned up, to my delight. He could now dig up all those unwanted difficult roots – lemon balm that sows itself everywhere, golden rod, sorrel and so on. Something I can no longer do. I carried on elsewhere in the garden, simpering now and again and telling him how strong and capable he is. After that he went



into the front garden to see to the vegetable garden weeds, and a couple of hours later, when I went to see how he had done, I was so pleased that I shouted out, 'Oh, Mellors, I love you!' (His name is not Mellors, nor did I shout that, but I think he would probably prefer that I didn't use his real name.) I suppose that was enough to make him nervous and also to set the neighbours talking.

It wasn't until I went to take off my gardening top in the evening that I found that my left breast was unfettered and free of its bra-cup and dangling over the top of the garment. Goodness knows how that had happened. At first I laughed somewhat hysterically, then I broke into a worried sweat. Had I been lop-sided all day? What a terrible thought, and I'd been gushing over the gardener in such a state of deshabille - but what worried me most was the fact that I had not noticed any discomfort whatsoever, which reminded me how I had awoken a day earlier in bed to find large biscuit crumbs sticking into my creped thighs. I didn't feel those either. What is going on? I do so dread dementia, but fear it is creeping up on me, and rather quickly too. I can't work out what day it is and I know that is on the list that indicates you are losing it, that and not remembering the name of the Prime Minister. I can see our present PM's face but can't remember his name. There is an R in it somewhere I recall?...oh dear...

I was having my morning wash when I heard a crash – something I am used to with Walter, the clumsy Maine Coon who loves to dislodge anything off surfaces. On investigation I discovered shattered glass all over the floor and the cats in the middle of it all eating what had been the contents of the dish – a bit of salmon skin from last night's meal in a Pyrex bowl. I have learned not to leave things out because of Walter's wanton ways, but tired after gardening, I had not been diligent.

First, I had to get the cats out of the way, so lured them with chicken treats into the parrot room for safety. I had to brush up all the glass, then thought I would give the cats some bread in milk to soak up any bits of glass they might have ingested – it doesn't bear thinking about, does it... I swept and hoovered – so much glass everywhere, prepared the bread and milk and took it to their room to shove it there while I continued to search for any glass that might remain, but they all shot out into the hallway. I was so hot and bothered by this time that I took off my top - no one would see me - but as I went through the door it slammed behind me with the sound of something falling against it. Either the broom or vacuum tube. I hoped it wouldn't lodge the door shut. Oh, but it did! I'm not one to panic, but I was not suitably attired, having just removed my top, to run into the road searching for a fireman or rugby player to free me from my plight...

I tried to remain calm. I was wearing no top. I had not yet had my breakfast or medications, so if I couldn't solve this problem, my blood sugars might fall and I would have a hypo – a diabetic thing and very scary. I tried to open the door again, but no, only a few inches, which of course was better than none. Luckily there were enough inches for me to just get my hand through, and knowing I had another broom in my sewing room, I retrieved that, managed to get it through the small gap, swung it around and to my surprise, after a while, I managed to free the offending article that turned out to be the other broom. Phew! That was a close shave.

The cats have now eaten their bread and milk, so hopefully any small pieces of glass they might have ingested will be coated in bread. That's the theory, anyway. No point having expensive x-rays because glass wouldn't show up. I tell myself that in the wild they would be eating sharp bones and beaks, claws and teeth, so hopefully their guts are equipped for such dangers and all, therefore, will be well with them. There is no blood smearing the floors and surfaces, so they have not been cut. I haven't quite recovered yet, though.

Well, that's enough for now. The brown cat has just come in, soaking wet, demanding sustenance, and then I have to go through the final edits of my book, very soon to be published. In the end, I had to do my own cover design, amateur though I am, and actually, I am quite pleased with my endeavours. There is life in the old dog yet, even though a bit demented. Until next month then, I am still, for the time being, your Mrs. Dolittle.□





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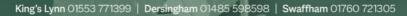
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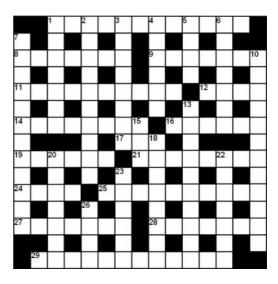
# **Philip Neal**

# Across

- Someone always found busy in 1 the classroom (12)
- 8 Artist and Princess tucked into spread (7)
- 9 Someone else trained on Earth (7)
- 11 Eccentric padres snap and be come abrasive (10)
- 12 Primarily a group formed by likeminded countries (4)
- 14 Famous choir sit uncomfortably (8)
- 16 Abduct child while sleeping (6)
- 17 Brandy party ended quietly (3)
- Look across road and harass (6) 19
- 21 Soldier covered airmen with suitable messages (8)
- 24 Cheese made but rejected (4)
- 25 Directions may be misleading so use consideration (10)
- 27 Young tree growing in German plains (7)
- 28 Bell prayers (7)
- 29 Will they keep the doctor away say? She didn't believe them (7,5)

# Down

- 1 Railway features where policeman is caught up with no good suspect (7)
- Bubbly hen do took shape in French 2 resorts where films are kept in cans (10)
- 3 Pear ovid stewed like some footballers? (8)
- 4 Poor confused soldiers guarding silver (6)
- 5 Small bed for northerner (4)
- Clone he crossed on the level (7) 6
- 7 Shop holders get round to make ticking jumpers (12)
- Desk worker I enrolled in top secret 10 complex (12)
- 13 Friar arranged with rowers to fly goods (3,7)
- Tenon teeth (3) 15
- 18 Publish herald (8)
- 20 Fish living in south east river disappear (7)
- 22 Frozen drip formed by chemical company's heartless ideas (7)
- 23 Craft almost floating in outskirts of Derby (6)
- Fifty sharing family oven (4) 26



# Answers on page 69

# Sudoku

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



# Time for some personal taxation spring cleaning? Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

The new tax year starts on 6<sup>th</sup> April. Could there be a better time to take a long hard look at your personal taxation affairs?

The first £1000 of interest is tax free ( $\pounds$ 500 for a higher rate taxpayer). This simple "quick win" should be considered if you currently have savings sitting on low interest deposit accounts or bank current accounts. After years of negligible interest rates, it is now possible to find accounts paying in excess of 3%.

Are you making pension contributions outside your payroll deductions and wondering whether you have received the correct tax relief? Even non taxpayers (aged under 75) can save up to £2880 net each year, and the government will top it up by 20%, so you get the relief at source automatically, and if you pay £2880 you will find £3600 in your pension account. Higher rate taxpayers will also be able to claim the balance of their relief to 40% in their tax return, reducing the year end liability. Remember, the higher rate relief will not be given automatically, so if you are in this position, it will be necessary to file a self-assessment return – according to some sources many higher rate payers fail to claim this relief and the amount lost runs into hundreds of millions every year. There are restrictions on the maximum level of pension contributions that receive tax relief so these need to be checked if significant amounts are being contemplated. Additionally, as always, any investment decision regarding making pension contributions should be referred to an Independent Financial Adviser.

Are you making charitable donations under gift aid? Rather like pension contributions, gift aid payments reduce your taxable income, although in this case the basic rate relief goes back to the charity, so a £80 gift aid payment will mean that the charity can claim £20 from the government. However, a higher rate taxpayer can also claim the difference between basic and higher rates personally, so would see a repayment or tax reduction in the year end tax bill. Those who fall within the 60% tax band (see below) could actually have half their charitable deduction refunded in this way – perhaps enabling them to make even more charitable donations. The maximum gift aid relief will be restricted to the total income for the year. There is a limited opportunity to "carry back" gift aid payments to the previous year, but only in respect of payments made after the year end and before the tax return is submitted. This is a rare opportunity to retrospectively "fine tune" income for optimum use of the rate bands.

Make the most of your marital status to review your individual and joint shareholdings. Gifts between spouses or those in civil partnerships are not subject to capital gains tax (CGT) and take place on a "No Gain/No Loss" basis. With the annual allowances for CGT dropping to £6000 for 2023/24 and then £3000 in the following year, splitting the ownership of investments between you as a married/civil partnership couple can reduce the CGT liability when they are eventually sold. Since the tax-free dividend allowance is also reducing (to £1000, then £500) this course of action can have more immediate benefits. Moreover, since those with more than £500 of dividend income will need to file self-assessment returns by 2024/25, sharing dividend income might well save the need for that chore. It is estimated that over 4 million shareholders will be caught by these new rules. Alternatively, or additionally, if the shares can be liquidated without triggering a CGT charge, it may be advantageous to sell them and repurchase within an ISA, where they will be exempt from both CGT AND dividend tax in future, but again IFA advice should be taken.

Watch your tax rates: From 2023/24 these are:					
Up to £12,570	nil	NON-TAXPAYER			
£12,571-£50,270	20%	BASIC RATE			
£50,271-£100,000	40%	HIGHER RATE			
£100,001-£125,139	60%	MARGINAL RATE: SEE BELOW			
Over £125,139	45%	ADDITIONAL RATE			

Many people do not realise that there is an effective 60% band – this arises because personal allowances are reduced by 50p per pound of income where income is over  $\pounds$ 100,000. The government has made it clear that these bands will not be increased in line with inflation, so many more taxpayers will be affected in coming years.

All this means that careful attention to income levels can be well worthwhile, and those in business who may be able to time capital expenditure for best tax effect, but almost everyone can use pension contributions or charitable donations to keep income in the lowest band possible.

<u>N.B.</u> This article was written in March 2023 before the Budget, and therefore needs to be considered in the light of any announcements made on 15 March 2023 and before 5<sup>th</sup> April. For further advice please contact either of the partners Kate Gigg FCA or Nicola Tarry FCA at Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton on 01485 534800 or <u>kate@kathryngigg.co.uk</u>.

**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 we endeavour to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, neither we nor our 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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Word Wall by Philip Neal

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

GAME	FLOAT	TACKLE	STRIKER
CORNER	CRICKET	BEE	CREEL
FLY	APHID	SPINNER	GOAL
SHOP	PENALTY	MANTIS	BEETLE

### What Grows on a Churchyard Wall? Richard Carter, member of St Nicholas Eco-church Group

At St Nicholas in Dersingham we have an active 'eco-church' group tasked with considering how we as a congregation can lessen our environmental footprint (looking at energy use, recycling etc.) and how we can preserve and enhance biodiversity on land managed by the church, especially the four churchyards of the benefice, i.e. those at Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe, Shernborne and Anmer. When talking about churchyard conservation, the grassland flowers often get all the attention, and the value of the flowers we find growing on our churchyard walls is often unappreciated. This article was framed to address that, but old walls are a feature of Dersingham as a whole (and all of the neighbouring villages), so we thought we should offer this article in *Village Voice* too!

These days we are becoming used to hearing about the value of churchyard grassland for biodiversity – especially wildflowers and the insects that rely on them. However, we might be surprised to hear that old walls can be just as important for biodiversity. And yet it is commonly so, and almost certainly so at St Nicholas in Dersingham, at least if you include the fine old walls along the adjacent roads. If you want to find fascinating and uncommon plants, these are the places to look.

The first thing we notice are the mosses that green much of these old walls. Mostly they are very common species such as the Wall Screw-moss forming little greyish-hairy cushions, and we may notice the shiny yellow-green wefts of a creeping moss called Silky Wall Feather-moss that grows mainly on old walls. There are several less-common species too, but moss recognition is very specialised so let's leave it at that. Similarly, these walls are rich in lichens, and we may notice some of the 'pixie-cup' *Cladonia* species, but lichen recognition is even harder...

And then there are wildflowers and ferns. Some are conspicuous perennials, among which the most abundant at St Nicholas is Ivy-leaved Toadflax. It forms patches up to about a foot across, flat against the wall, and festooned throughout the summer with small lilac-blue and yellow centred 'snapdragon' flowers. Also common is a much less showy species, related to Stinging Nettles (but quite different in appearance), namely Pellitory-of-the-wall. Some of these wall plants have been taken into our gardens, so it is now hard to tell whether they are wild or not. The handsome Yellow Corydalis and Red Valerian are probably encouraged by gardeners, even if not planted. The Wallflower on old walls usually has plain yellow flowers, and the Snapdragon plain red or pale-yellow flowers, as compared with a much wider range of colours in the plants we deliberately grow.

A range of small ferns grows mainly on old walls (and curiously on railway brickwork). At St Nicholas the most conspicuous is Intermediate Polypody with simply but deeply lobed leaves up to about eight inches long. Also common is Wall-rue and several closely related species are around.

In spring the walls also have a range of small annuals, mostly dainty plants less than about three inches high. By midsummer they have usually shrivelled up. Some of these are very common – Common Chickweed, Procumbent Pearlwort and Annual Meadowgrass grow in upright forms - more elegant than when they are sprawling across our flower beds or lawns. Others are common only in open vegetation on free-draining soils: Thyme-leaved Sandwort is a good example, as is Biting Stonecrop and a tiny stiff and architectural looking grass called Fern-grass, all of which are easy to find around St Nicholas and St Nicholas Court. Others really are wall specialists, at least in our part of Norfolk. Perhaps the most attractive of these is Rue-leaved Saxifrage, which has red-tinged stems and leaves with glistening glandular hairs and small white flowers. The churchyard grassland may have many flowers, but they grow elsewhere in the village. The wall plants don't, and having so many species associated with a scarce habitat makes it a biodiversity hotspot. But are there any seriously rare flowers there? Well, yes! The churchyard wall at St Nicholas has Fine-leaved Sandwort – one of the inconspicuous annuals of old walls. It's a native plant that has declined so much over the last fifty years that it is categorised as 'Endangered' on the England Red List, which is almost the highest category of importance going (a single higher category covers species clinging on in fewer than half-a-dozen or so sites nationally.) Even our wonderful Dersingham Bog doesn't have 'Endangered' wildflowers, and that's a National Nature Reserve!



# **Crossword Answers**

### Across

1 Schoolmaster. 8 Radiate. 9 Another. 11 Sandpapers. 12 Bloc. 14 Historic. 16 Kidnap. 17 Dop. 19 Pester. 21 Graffiti. 24 Edam. 25 Discretion. 27 Sapling. 28 Angelus. 29 Granny's myths.

### Down

 Sidings. 2 Headphones. 3 Overpaid. 4 Meagre.
 Scot. 6 Echelon. 7 Grasshoppers.
 Receptionist. 13 Air freight. 15 Cog. 18 Proclaim. 20 Scarper. 22 Icicles. 23 Dinghy.
 Kiln.

### Word Wall Answers

Keepers: Shop...., Bee ...., Goal ...., Game .... Football terms: Corner, Penalty, Tackle, Striker Fishing gear: Float, Spinner, Fly, Creel Insects: Cricket, Beetle, Mantis, Aphid

# Sudoku Answers

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

### Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates For articles, reports of events, meetings and details of upcoming attractions:

<b>ssue</b>	Copy deadline midday on	Publication date
No. 142 (June/July 23)	Monday 8th May 23	Monday 29th May 23
No. 143 (Aug/Sept 23)	Monday 3rd July 23	Monday 24th July 23
No. 144 (Oct/Nov 23)	Monday 4th Sept 23	Monday 25th Sept 23
No. 145 (Dec 23/ Jan 24)	Monday 6th Noy 23	Monday 27th Noy 23
No. 144 (Oct/Nov 23)	Monday 4th Sept 23	Monday 25th Sept 23
No. 145 (Dec 23/ Jan 24)	Monday 6th Nov 23	Monday 27th Nov 23
No. 146 (Feb/Mar 24)	Monday 8th Jan 24	Monday 29th Jan 24
No. 147 (April/ May 24)	Monday 4th March 24	Monday 25th March 24

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Please send as Word documents. Any photographs need to be attached 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. Please send articles and photographs to villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk

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

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

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