Village Voice

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



Closure of Dersingham Post Office
Please sign the petition NOW



Editor's Notes Jo Halpin Jones

By now you may well have heard about the upcoming closure of the postal sorting facilities at Dersingham Post Office. This will nearly half the income of our sub-postmaster Fraser Lindsay and make his business financially unviable. Full details of the situation are on page 9 of this edition of *Village Voice*, and are echoed in the article by Coral Shepherd, the Parish Council Chairman. You can register your protest by signing one of the petitions, details of which are on page 9.



It is a sad day when village amenities are gradually stripped away, often due to market forces and the eternal need for company profits. I have lived in the village for over forty years and in this time I have now seen the disappearance of a baker, a hardware shop, a bank, small grocery stores, a petrol station, a butcher, and now probably the Post Office. There may well be others I have forgotten! However, I suppose we can consider ourselves fortunate to still have doctors, dentists, library, school, supermarkets, and other small businesses. And hurrah for Riches shoe shop where you can still get keys cut – it offers a rare example of an independent local craftsman.

A piece of good news is covered in James Wild MP's article on page 53 about government funding for a new Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We are grateful to him for the pressure he has exerted to help bring this about. Hopefully those ceiling props will keep doing their work until the new hospital is built, which is not going to be completed until 2030. If you've been in the area recently you can already see that the Inspire Centre, where we used to get our vaccinations, has now disappeared under the onslaught of the wrecking balls. This is where a multi-storey car park will be located.

On page 33 you will find the last article from our boy Dick Melton of Sunny Hunny. Sadly, his deteriorating eyesight means that he has decided to bow out from writing the articles that have entertained us for so long. It has been fascinating to read his memories of what the local area has been like since his childhood, and all the changes that have taken place. Thank you, Dick for all your contributions.

Page 41 encourages you to help deliver copies of *Village Voice*. The village is divided up into various routes and we have split some routes to make them more manageable. We urgently need more volunteers to help fill some gaps from the reorganisation and from the retirement of some distributors.

It looks like it is going to be a rousing Flower Festival at St Nicholas Church this year. You can find out all about it on pages 36 and 37. The theme for this year is "Thank you for the Music" and there will be live performances from a variety of musicians. The floral displays will depict a wide range of music.



And finally, I'd like to thank the members of the team that produces *Village Voice*. Eagle-eyed Rob Smyth and Margaret Mann do a wonderful job with proofreading and catching all the errors I've missed. And a huge thank you to Geri Scanlon who puts together in the most miraculous way the jigsaw of articles, photos and advertisements to complete the complex layout. As the deadline approaches, the last-minute entries arrive, all needing a home. Somehow Geri juggles all the content and makes it fit. \Box

Dear Village Voice



Charity Fun Day on May 13th on the Recreation Ground, Dersingham

First, I must thank all our sponsors for coming to support our event and our vet who hot-footed it over having done a clinic in the morning. The weather wasn't ideal, but at least it didn't rain. For those parishioners who attended I do hope you enjoyed yourselves.

The dog show went very well and I was surprised to see all those lovely greyhounds. Someone asked me, "What time was the first race!!"

Once again, thank you all for supporting "NARS" charity and, as you probably saw, they had to attend an emergency close by.

The total amount raised by the event was £1667.68, an increase on last year!

Thank you once again,

Valerie Brundle & Kurtis Green

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Parish Council Chairman's Report Coral Shepherd

The Parish Council has now begun its new four-year term and I have the honour of being elected chairman for another year. I am looking forward to the forthcoming year and I hope it will not be as challenging as the previous four which were dominated by the Covid pandemic that disrupted all of our lives. Hopefully the Parish Council can concentrate fully on dealing with village related issues.



At the start of our new term of office our immediate projects have been the awarding of contracts for the repainting of the two bus shelters in Manor and Chapel Roads, together with the repainting of the railing around the war memorial and gardens. This work is due to take place in September. The other work that will take place in the autumn is the replacement of another six streetlamps. These were identified a while ago as reaching the end of their safe useful lives.

On a more mundane level we have started to review all of our policies which guide the way we work. As most of the policies were adopted in the last three to six years this should be a straightforward process.

We have given a donation to the Dersingham VA Primary School of £1000 towards the purchase of books for their brand new library.



As Parish Councillors we are here to represent and serve the residents of the village. We have received a number of concerns from residents about speeding traffic in the village. We have no powers to deal with this issue but one project we could undertake is a Community Speed Watch. There is a separate article about this elsewhere in this edition. Do please read it if you are concerned and would like to help.

We are supporting Fraser and Maria in their campaign to reverse the decision to close the village sorting office and to prevent the closure of the Post Office. Please show your support and sign their petition, which is available in the Post Office, the Spar shop and the Village Centre.

If there are other issues or proposals for a project that you would like us to look at or undertake, please contact us. You can speak to any Parish Councillor or you can email me or the Parish Council office. (contact details are on the Parish Council website www.dersingham.org.uk) \square



News from Dersingham Village Centre Sue Payne, DVCA Chairman

Annual General Meeting

At the June AGM, all existing trustees were re-elected and are continuing in their roles. We do have a couple of vacancies, so if anyone is interested in helping to manage the Centre and DVCA activities, we would love to hear from you. 'Lay' volunteers are always welcome too.

Centre Closure

The Centre will close on Sunday August 20th and re-open on Monday Sunday Sept 4th as the building is being re-decorated.

Village Centre Finances

At a recent meeting, increased hiring charges, and Coffee Shop and Bar prices were approved by the trustees and will take effect from October 1st, but there will be no change to Village Cinema and the Friendship Lunch.

Thursday and Friday Coffee Shops

We love catching up with our regular customers and extend a warm welcome to visitors who can all enjoy very reasonably priced home-cooked quiche, cakes, 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.

Monthly Friendship Lunch

On the first Tuesday each month we serve a freshly cooked two-course meal, with tea or coffee, for £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

Future films are: August – *Living*; September – *Death on the Nile*. (See posters elsewhere in the magazine.) Please note the August film will be earlier in the month, on the 15th, due to the decorating being carried out (see above).

Barn Dance - Save the Date!

Our Annual Barn Dance takes place on Saturday October 28th with dancing led by Whirligig.

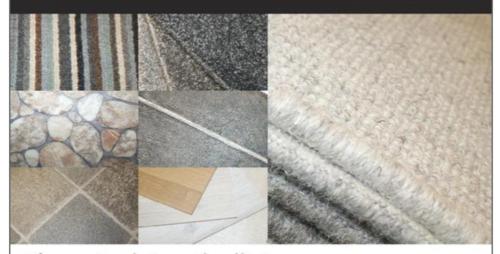
Keep updated by checking notices at the Centre and around Dersingham and visit our website -

www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk where you can sign up for the regular newsletters. We have a Facebook page and also post on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group.

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



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Closure of Dersingham Post Office Editor

Dersingham Post Office is facing closure after two generations of sub-postmasters having provided this vital service to the village since 1979. Fraser Lindsay took over from his father in 2001 and he and his wife Maria and other staff have offered a friendly and helpful service ever since.

Behind the Post Office has been the Royal Mail's local sorting office, with the premises owned by Fraser. Nearly half of Fraser's income has come from providing these sorting facilities and for a supervision role of the postmen. Earlier this year Fraser received a letter from a Royal Mail National Mailwork Manager informing him that the sorting process in Dersingham would close as from 26th August 2023 and be removed to King's Lynn. Compensation would come for a few months, but after that the Post Office becomes financially unviable. Clearly, this means that Fraser and his family face very difficult choices about their future.

It should be recognised that the Post Office offers so much more than buying stamps, posting parcels and other Post Office services. It can be used for all basic banking; it has become a wonderful source for second hand books, with the proceeds going to the Food Bank; you can buy stationery and greetings cards; it acts as a selling point for tickets to many village events; it is a contact point for a dry cleaning service; bargains galore can be found through the ads in the window; and it acts as a distribution point for many publications, including *Village Voice*. Apart from providing such a core amenity for the residents and businesses of the village, it offers an informal meeting place for residents to pass the time of day and chat whilst waiting to be served.

The impact of this closure will be particularly devastating for the elderly and disabled. The Post Office in King's Lynn is in WH Smiths, which is not easily accessible by car or from bus services.

We cannot let this closure take effect without some form of protest. There are two things you can do: Firstly, you can write to James Wild, our local MP. Secondly, you can sign the petition, copies of which are in the Post Office, in the Spar shop, and in the Village Centre. You can also sign online at https://www.change.org/p/help-save-our-post-office-in-dersingham-from-closure.

The petitions will be closed on August 7th, so please don't delay getting your signature on there. □



Focus on the Comma Polygonia c-album Brian Anderson

This is the eighth in the series about the commoner British butterflies.

The Comma has had the same common name throughout the records, with the exception of Petiver (1717) who seems to have identified Silver, Pale, Jagged-wing and Small Commas.

The story of the Comma is similar but not identical to that of the Speckled Wood which appeared in Village Voice in 2017. In the early 19th century it was widespread in England and Wales and had a range extending into southern Scotland. Then it began to decline, beginning in south-eastern England, until by around 1830 it was rare everywhere. There was minor recovery in the mid-19th century but then a more rapid decline so that by 1893 one lepidopterist wrote, "It is very unpleasant to think that Polygonia c-album, the butterfly of our youth, has left us for good and all". By 1914 it had reached its nadir. The reason for the decline and subsequent recovery is not fully understood. It was assumed that the decline in Hop growing (Hops are - or were - the principal foodplant of the caterpillar) and the recovery were caused by a mutation that allowed the caterpillars to eat Stinging Nettle. I did wonder why this should be so, given that Hop growing was still common - anyone who reads George Orwell's A Clergyman's Daughter will find a long description of Hop growing in Kent in the 1930s. The most plausible explanation is the gradually warming weather, although there is no doubt that the Comma has largely switched to Nettle as a larval foodplant. It has now reached or exceeded its previous maximum range with frequent sightings in southern Scotland.

The Comma is an example of superb *crypsis* (or camouflage) - the jagged wing edge and dark underside make it appear like a dead oak leaf when it is at rest with the wings closed. It even adds a subtle touch with the white comma mark on the under forewing, which suggests the "leaf" is breaking up. In the late spring, two colour forms can be seen - a lighter almost golden colour (form *hutchinsoni*). These individuals mate, lay eggs and then die. The new emergent adults are on the wing in late August or September and hibernate until the following spring. The darker forms are much more long-lived and do not breed until the following spring. The colour forms of the adults seem to be influenced by a combination of day length and temperature. The caterpillars are tan-coloured with a splash of white, rather resembling a bird dropping. The chrysalis, like the butterfly, rather resembles a withered leaf.

The *Polygonia* genus is quite large - there are nineteen species found across North America, Europe and Asia. I have seen only one other species of Comma - the Question Mark *Polygonia interrogationis*. It has a ? on the underwing. (Are you surprised?) My journal tells me that I saw it on 16th April 1982 near Palestine in Texas. The upper surface of the hindwing has a beautiful suffusion of purple at the margin which sadly does not show up well in photographs. The largest member of the genus is the Giant Comma, found in Canada and the northern United States.







Comma form Hutchinsoni



Question Mark



Giant Comma

Hunstanton u3a will not be meeting in August, but will be returning in September. Details will be available on our website hunstantonu3a.org.









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Dersingham Evening W.I. Katrina Mundy

June saw us having a most entertaining evening as we were

invited to have afternoon tea with Mrs Elizabeth Fry in 1845. This was a very informative talk about the many various reforms Elizabeth Fry was involved in during her life, beginning as a young girl living in Norwich and still working to improve the conditions of the poor until her death at the age of 65. I had only associated her with prison reform, especially for the female



inmates and children, but she was also involved in anti-slavery, penal transportation and setting up night shelters after seeing the body of a young boy who had frozen to death in a shop doorway in London, to mention a few. Speaker Georgette Vale made her come to life, even keeping in character until she had left the hall.

Our monthly coffee mornings and evenings have continued and many thanks to Peg, Jackie and Ruth for June's and July's respectively. We have a lovely time chatting, sometimes putting the world to rights and enjoying a cup of tea or coffee. Unusually, I even managed to win on the raffle.



Four of our members joined other W.I. members from across Norfolk to enjoy a guided walk at RSPB Titchwell that had been organised by Norfolk Federation. It was most informative and I know they learnt a lot about the birds who visit our superb coastline.

We had an outing to the Warehouse Antiques and Collectibles at Setchey on July 14th, somewhere I hadn't been, although I've seen the sign for it many times. And we donated cakes to the Dersingham Primary School for their Summer Fete in July.

Our book club continues to meet and are reading *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout and then *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn. They will have a summer break during August and return in September.

As we don't have an evening meet in August, we hold our annual afternoon tea for members, which is also a way for us to remember those friends who are not with us anymore. This year we will be catered by our member Heather. Hopefully the weather will still be kind and we will have a lovely time, food, Pimms, friends and a guiz.

Our dining group enjoyed a meal at the Crown in Gayton in July. Our next outing may be in October. We have further outings in the planning: to visit "What-a-Hoot" gin distillery (and yes, we have been there before but some of us, and no guesses for who, missed out on it.) We also plan to travel to Springfields later in the year for Christmas shopping and a possible autumn trip to Felbrigg Hall, as well as holding our own Autumn Fair on October 21st at St Cecilia's Church. We also have the Flower Festival at St Nicholas Church to look forward to in September, as we will be having a display and some of our members will be helping with the arranging of flowers.

In September our speaker will be Sally Anne Bonfield who will be demonstrating "Patisserie" which I have been told will include samples. WHY IS IT I miss the meetings with the free samples, first chocolate, then cheese and now patisserie, I will have to be

more careful when booking holidays next year. In October we will look forward to our Group meet that is a Murder Mystery evening which I have never participated in but am told they are great fun.

Ann (our Secretary) and I are now busy sorting out speakers for next year, as some get booked up quite quickly. More details will appear in further editions.

Our meetings are open to all ladies and if you think the W.I might be for you, then please come along to a meeting. Guests are allowed to attend three meetings before they have to decide whether to join and these can also be a coffee morning or one of our clubs. Our monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month in St Cecilia's Church, Dersingham at 7.15pm. Posters advertising these are usually up around the village.

If you would like to know more about Dersingham Evening W.I. please contact Katrina on 01485 544773 or Ann on 01485 542847.□

Old Map Corner Tony Bubb

Whilst not too strong on detail, this 1892 map of Norwich shows the huge number of drinking establishments available to the people of the city. Of course, things were different then, not least the relative cheapness of beer and spirits, allied with the much lower overheads that pubs would have had to cover. But just look at it. In the centre you cannot have been more than a few staggered steps from the chance to slake your thirst. How many are left now? Well, a serious pub crawl would answer that □

LOKERAMINA MONEA AND THE LOKER HOUSES ST.



Making Gardening Easier May Davey

Summer is here. Our members enjoyed a visit to Dale Farm on 21st July, too late to include in this report. We now look forward to tea at Gloria Pantling's garden on 18th August for our visit to a member's home.

On 15th September we will be back at Dersingham Village Centre for a talk by Mary Pursglove on potatoes - with poetry and a quiz. And on 20th October Dr Ian Bedford will

talk about "Garden Bugs: Cohabitate, Conserve or

Control".

Looking back, on 19th May our eminent speaker, Geoff Hodge, told us about pests and diseases. He dismissed theories like using soapy water to deal with bugs and recommended lots of the professional products he had brought along, which had been thoroughly tested in laboratories. Sadly, there were no illustrations to show us the various pests and their effects. One became somewhat overwhelmed by the quantity of products to remember. Tea afterwards gave everyone a chance to relax and compare their own traditional remedies.

Our own flower show and cream tea took place at Dersingham Village Centre on 16th June. Members enjoyed a busy afternoon judging the many lovely entries. They also had an excellent tea with scones, jam and cream. Chris Davey and Angela Lancaster provided the scones and Angela had made the jam from her own raspberries. Later she won Best in Show for her brilliant orange poppies. Members generously donated lots of raffle prizes. A lovely afternoon.





Best in show Poppies



Arrangements in a teacup



Single roses entries

We usually meet at 2.00 pm on the third Friday of the month at Dersingham Village Centre, unless an outing has been arranged. Entrance costs £3.00 for tea and a raffle ticket. For more details, please contact our Secretary, Gloria Pantling, at 01553-671912.



May Davey with best in show winner Angela Lancaster

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Our very popular parish Strawberry Fair event at St Cecilia's on Saturday 17th June was a great success. Thanks go to all who helped with books, bric-a-brac and cake stalls, tombola, raffle and servers of strawberries, scones, refreshments etc. and all who helped in any way.



Our annual parish barbecue will be held on Saturday 19th August in the Church gardens at OLSE, Hunstanton. See the parish website and bulletin for more information.



The Pope's prayer intention for August is *For* **World Youth Day:** we pray that the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives. The Pope's prayer intention for September is For people living on the margins: We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhuman life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

If you would like to be on the distribution list for the weekly bulletins straight to your inbox, please send your email address to hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk. 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. And there is also a Mothers' Prayers group which meets at 2.30pm Monday fortnightly at OLSE. 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 see the Links page of our website at www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org

The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, and 11am at OLSE, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton.

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

Website:www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org Email: hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk 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

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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club Jan Rawstron

It doesn't seem like two months since the last article, but time seems to be flying by and our season is well under way now.

We decided to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III by holding a competition on Monday May 8th and having a special trophy, The Coronation Cup. This was won by Les Allen, with Laurence O'Dea the runner-up. On Bank Holiday Monday, May 29th, we played for the Centenary Cup. This event was well supported and was won by Joy Kelly, with Jean Thompson a worthy runner-up. Well done to both winners and runners-up in these events.





The Saturday roll-ups are well attended, and the Wednesday afternoon 'Birds' League is progressing well, with some closely fought matches.

We have welcomed three new members to the club in the last few weeks, Richard, Sandra and David. They have been attending our coaching sessions held on Thursday mornings and are now taking part in the Saturday roll-ups. They seem to be settling in well, and it's nice to see our existing members making them feel at home.

As for the Leagues we are involved in, our new Countryside League Captain, Terry Thompson, reported that, although we didn't get off to a good start, we have since made good progress, winning five games of the next seven. We have also managed to win through to the next round of the Knockout Cup, beating Snettisham in both the home and away legs. We have been drawn against Searles in the next round, which should be a good contest. Terry would like to thank all the players who support the team, and special thanks to last year's captain Brenda Hollywood for her help, which has been most appreciated. We seem to be growing in confidence and hope to build on this throughout the rest of the season.

Our Albert Victor Captain, Gerry Bhagat reports that we have had mixed results in both the Knockout Cup and the Subsidiary Cup. So far in the League we have won two games, drawn one and lost three. Our team includes some members who are new to League bowls and they are settling in nicely. Hopefully we will start to see more favourable results in the near future. Of course, it's good to win, and no-one likes losing, but at the end of the day, we are all out there to enjoy a game of bowls with like-minded people.

I mentioned in the last article that we were looking forward to the first round of the Ladies

v Men Challenge. This was held on a very hot Saturday, June 24th, with thirty stalwart members taking part, including two brave honorary ladies, Davina (aka Dave Graves) and Antonia (aka Tony Drewery). This match was won by the Men and the Ladies can't wait for revenge in the return match on Saturday July 29th. This will be followed by a fish and chip supper.

The draw has now been made for our internal Knockout competitions, so the opening matches in each will soon be played. Good luck to all who have entered.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Carol White. Carol had not been well for a good while, but was always cheerful and upbeat. Her funeral was held on June 13th and was attended by over half of the club members. A great turnout to say goodbye to a well-loved member of the club.

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Wolferton Village News Ben Colson

Social Club Prize Bingo

Tuesday August 15th Doors open 6.30pm eyes down 7.30pm Tuesday September 19th Doors open 6.30pm eyes down 7.30 pm

Cash Bingo

Sunday August 6th Doors open 7.00pm eyes down 8.00 pm Sunday September 3rd Doors open 7.00pm eyes down 8.00pm

A date for your diary: Tuesday 26th September

Prize Bingo in aid of Happy Memories Group (people living with dementia and their carers). Eyes down 7.30pm.

Further information can also be found on the Club's Facebook page.

St Peter's Church

Church services are planned in August and September as follows: Sunday 13th August Holy communion, starting at 9.15am Sunday 10th September Holy communion, starting at 9.15am Sunday 24th September Evening Prayer, starting at 4.00pm

Our morning services are followed by coffee and light refreshments – all are very welcome.

Further information can also be found at www.sandringhamchurches.org.uk



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A La X & MA

Wild Form Artists Exhibition Ringstead Village Hall, High Street, Ringstead, PE36 5LA 23rd September to 1st October 2023, 10am to 5pm

Styled and beguiled by wild nature, these four prominent contemporary Norfolk artists, Jane Brun, Helga Joergens, Barbara King and David Lendrum, are inspired and fired into action by the untamed beauty of their natural surroundings and will be exhibiting their artworks at the Ringstead Village Hall in September in association with Norfolk Open Studios.

They celebrate the natural world in visual form, whether it be flora or fauna, skies, the seasons, different times of day, weather conditions or other natural phenomena. In an increasingly urban-centric world, the importance of nature becomes undervalued, disregarded and destroyed. The loss will result in dire consequences for all living forms.

The power of nature, verdant, unstoppable, and unrestrained in all its habits and guises, is what inspires these artists. Whether insidiously creeping through cultivars in our manicured gardens or reclaiming abandoned man-made structures with rust and ivy, its power is to be respected. Left to itself, it will rewild without any help or intervention. The energy of nature is absorbed by each artist who reflects and interprets their encounters in their own unique and individual way.



In some of her paintings, **Jane Brun** appears totally immersed in the wild, Jane finds power and inspiration from natural landscapes that shape our countryside. Her paintings follow traditional oil painting techniques which transform into luminous colours, optical illusions and enchanting qualities. https://janebrunartist.com



In her interpretation of nature, **Helga Joergens** combines observation with feeling. Her work suggests natural forms and phenomena without representing them in a literal way. The dialogue between her eye and the colours, lines or strokes of the evolving picture leads her on an adventurous journey full of surprises. www.helgajoergens.co.uk



Barbara King takes the wild forms of nature head on with her impressions of plants found in the hedgerows and wastelands, roadsides and meadows. Their changing forms and simple and complex designs are explored and depicted in animated and textured paintings created with acrylic paint, palette knives and other mark-making objects. www.barbaraking.co.uk.



David Lendrum lets the natural world feed and guide his extraordinary abstracts, often paying homage to the sky. He is particularly interested in things that happen by chance, like the elusive qualities of natural phenomena: reflections in water, unexpected combinations of colours, a particular light effect or the mysterious effects of clouds. www.davidlendrum.co.uk



Alpha 2023 Mark Capron

I am pleased that we are starting Alpha on 28th September in Ingoldisthorpe. Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in an informal and friendly environment. The Alpha course consists of a series of talks, looking at topics including 'Who is



Jesus?', 'Why did Jesus die?' and 'Why and how do I pray?' Alpha is for everyone, whether you have been coming to church for many years or don't come at all; you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. You may want to refresh your understanding of Christianity, or you may want to find out about it for the first time. We don't assume any background knowledge of or belief in Christianity and everyone is welcome.

We will meet to enjoy complimentary cake or puddings, together with barista beverages each time in the café, with each talk being followed by discussion in small groups. There is also a one day away day together locally. A previous participant said: "Alpha gave me the opportunity to ask the questions that I had never had the courage to ask and to be able to think through things about Christianity afresh." Alpha begins on Thursday 28th September from 7:30pm concluding by 9:00pm. Come and join us at The Well Café, Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall, Hill Road. Do feel free to bring a friend. To register your place please contact Debbie Jackman the benefice church administrator at dersinghambenefice@outlook.com

Summer Notices

Beginning on Sunday 30th July, and all through August, there will be one combined benefice service at 10am at St Nicholas Church in Dersingham (live streamed). In September there will be services in all four parish churches along with Café Church at The Well. On Sunday 17th September there will be a special Pet Service at Anmer Church, celebrating God's creatures great and small; more details nearer the time. We look forward to welcoming a variety of well-behaved pets! Also, a reminder that the St Nicholas Flower Festival *"Thank you for the music"* begins on Thursday 7th September, concluding with the ever popular 'Hymns and Pimms' Service!

Blessings Rev Mark Capron

Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne and leader of 'The Well' Church, Ingoldisthorpe.

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

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. (No meeting in August.) 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.



We need your help to shape health and care services in the community

We want to hear from you, our residents and staff who make up our communities across Norfolk and Waveney.

Hundreds of people helpfully shared their views earlier this year about what they think we should focus on, to improve health and care services more generally across Norfolk and Waveney. Part of this invaluable feedback was focussed on community services, such as community mental health services, health visiting services, and support for people who have left hospital, to help with their recovery journey.

Using this vital feedback, we have started an important piece of work to listen to our residents, staff and communities to further understand what people think about health and social care services in the community.

This is a crucial part of the journey to make sure that your thoughts and views are firmly embedded into describing what the future vision for community services across Norfolk and Waveney should look like and how we can improve outcomes and experiences for both residents and staff.

To ensure we can listen to as many people as possible, to help influence and inform this important review, there are several ways you can get involved.

Five online workshops will take place throughout July and August. Each workshop will be tailored to different localities across Norfolk and Waveney to consider local perspectives, based on our residents who live there and ensure local issues, challenges and gaps are used as helpful context.

Each resident engagement workshop will be open to all residents living in Norfolk and Waveney, covering five broad locations, bringing together the NHS, local councils and voluntary organisations, residents, people who access services, carers and families. These partnerships will lead design and delivery of integrated services in their local area.

West Norfolk – towns and villages such as King's Lynn, Downham Market, Dersingham, Heacham and Hunstanton. The West Norfolk event takes place on Thursday 10 August 2023, 1-2pm (please register to secure your place at https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/west-engagement-workshop-tickets- 665397550987?aff=ebdsoporgprofile). This event will be led by local Place Board Chair, Carly West-Burnham.

In addition, a short survey is available to capture the views and thoughts of people who cannot attend one of our online events. The survey will be open until Sunday 12 August 2023.

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Hunstanton and District Community Voices

We are hosting a come and sing evening on Monday 25th September 2023, 7.00 pm at The Way, Christian Fellowship Hall, Downs Close, Hunstanton.

Here are a few comments from our members on why they sing:

- "Singing makes you feel good."
- "Singing brightens even the sunniest day."
- "Singing is your passport to a short break from everyday stress."
- "Singing has added a new dimension to my life."

Parking on site, free entry, and free refreshments provided.

Come and try us out, and see if you like it, you never know how much you may enjoy the experience!

For more information contact: lesley.trebbick@btinternet.com 07802 879976.

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Events in August and September

FRIDAY 18th AUGUST: SUMMER FIESTA EVENING – 7.30 p.m. onwards. £6 per person to include strawberries and cream and Pimms.

Musical entertainment with Mike Terry – guitar and vocals.

To book please contact Dorothy on 01553 631349 or email anmerchair44@gmail.com by Monday 14th August. Fully licensed bar open from 7.00 p.m.

MONDAY 4th SEPTEMBER: BINGO NIGHT – Club opens at 7.00p.m. "Eyes Down" at 7.30 p.m. £6.50 for a book of 10 cards; £1.50 for a "Flyer Card" and £2 for a "Cash Accumulator" card. Fully licensed bar and raffle – For information email events@anmerclub.co.uk

FRIDAY 8th SEPTEMBER: FILM NIGHT – Title to be confirmed. The club opens at 7.00 p.m. Film starts at 7.30 p.m. Admission £4 at the door. For further information email films@anmerclub.co.uk

SUNDAY 24th SEPTEMBER: LEE'S CAR SCAVENGER HUNT – Entry £5 per person to include BBQ. Maximum 4 persons per car. Club opens midday – first car off at 1.00 p.m. To book please call or text 07899872351 or email: farmboy24@sky.com

FRIDAY 29th SEPTEMBER: QUIZ NIGHT — Club opens at 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts at 7.30 p.m. Entry £2 per person. Fully licensed bar and raffle. □

Phobbies - Hobbies club for those with and without physical difficulties

The club meets every Thursday at the Social Club in Dersingham in order to do a variety of craft-based hobbies: currently we have knitting, crocheting, rug making, painting and card making, but we would love to have other things going on as well. Many of the men and women who join us either have a disability or have become infirm in some way, but those who have no problems are welcome as well. What we all enjoy is the company of others, while at the same time doing something practical. We need more helpers if anyone is interested.

Come and visit us between 10.30 and 2.00 any Thursday at the Social Club on Lynn Road, or contact Maggie on 07967 799816. Even if you wouldn't want to come regularly you are very welcome to just come and visit. We would be very pleased to show you what we do.

We are closed for the last three weeks of August.

Carpet Bowls Club Elizabeth Fiddick

During the winter months some members have been competing in local competitions. The West Norfolk league, held at Lynn Sports, saw Ulla third and David fifth in the singles. In the pairs competition Eileen and David were second with Jenny and Ulla fifth. Whilst in the Fen league the team of Carol and David, Eileen and Ulla came second. Congratulations to them all.

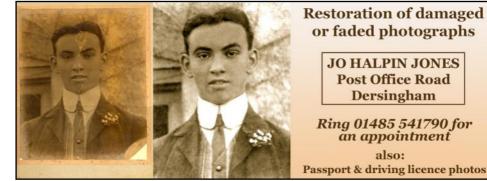


Taking a breather outside "Seasalt".

At the end of May, club members, along with many friends, enjoyed a coach trip organised by Maureen. The first stop was in the picturesque market town of Saffron Walden. This is a very historic place that has retained many of its medieval buildings. Members enjoyed wandering through the streets, admiring the richly decorated cottages and visiting the fine Church of St. Mary the Virgin, that has the tallest spire in Essex and overlooks the town from its hilltop position. A weekly market is held in the old square and time was spent browsing and buying from the many different stalls and shops that were trading there.

Then after a drink, some delicious cake and a rest in the bright sun enjoying the square with its bustling life, we departed for the Scotsdale Garden Centre. This is a truly huge centre which provides everything you could possibly want for your garden and much, much more in all its shops. Many members enjoyed lunch here and later returned to the coach laden with plants and garden accessories. Some members even found the comfortable patio chairs that they had been looking for. So, after a most successful day we made our way back to Dersingham.

As is usual in the summer we have lost some of our members to Green Bowls but look forward to their return in the autumn. If you would like to join us and give carpet bowls a try, come along on Tuesday afternoons at 3 o'clock. You will be given a very warm welcome. \Box



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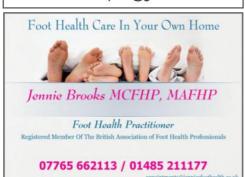
contact@dersinghamvets.co.uk



Tuesdays-Dersingham Methodist Church Hall Gentle Pilates and Exercise Class 10.15 am & 11.15am (seated)

Mat Pilates Classes 5pm & 6.15pm

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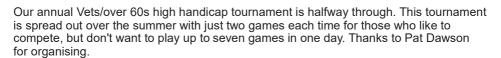
Agency at Dersingham Post Office for your convenience.

See instore for details

Hunstanton Croquet Club Caroline Harper

I can't believe that by the time this goes to print we shall already be more than half way through our seven month season. As always, a lot is crammed into those months.

We have enjoyed a second 'Come and Try' day - held this time on a Thursday evening for those who couldn't make a Saturday.



We have hosted five tournaments since I last wrote. Lots of hard work goes into making them a success - many thanks to everyone behind the scenes, they couldn't take place without you.

We had another lovely evening with fifteen ladies from Hunstanton Golf Club. Ladies, your enthusiasm is infectious and your skills from the golf course clearly transfer to the croquet lawns! It was great fun to host you all and we are so pleased that you wanted to come back for another evening!

If you or a group of you would like to see what it's like, do come and watch on a club afternoon (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays), or watch a tournament. August dates are 12th-13th and 31st for Golf Croquet and 27th-29th for Association Croquet.

We can organise an evening of croquet for organisations: £10 per person - equipment, tuition and refreshments provided. Please get in touch if you are interested. Contact details are on the website. www.hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk

The photo below on the left is of the competitors and winner of the Green Shutters GC tournament. From left to right: Hazel Denslow, Ellie Lewis, Gary Lewis, Lucy Closs, Colin Spencer and David Boxell. Lucy won all of her games. On the right Lucy is presented her trophy by Chairman Janet Kendal.





HUNSTANTON

From Your Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb

Well, it is all change at the Borough Council as the Conservatives were unable to form an administration. Independent Councillors, together with an alliance of Greens and a loose coalition with Labour will be responsible for the Borough Council policy and performance in future.



However, we are grateful and not a little humbled that the electorate in the Ward which includes Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe, Anmer, Shernborne, Wolferton and West Newton, have chosen once again to put their trust in us. We will continue to work hard to deliver for our Ward members, particularly in terms of local concerns and issues. Already we have been kept busy with planning issues, suggestions and problems with previous housing developments (ref. the Windborough development in Ingoldisthorpe.)

We are of course aware of the concern over the Post Office in Dersingham. It would be a great shame were we to lose not only the official service, but the care and concern Fraser and Maria (our sub-postmaster and mistress) show for all who come into the Post Office. We have lobbied our MP, James Wild, who has brought the matter up in Westminster; and we have written, as has our Parish Chair, to the Post Office to point out the importance of retaining local postal services. We would encourage everyone in the villages to sign the petition located in the Post Office to keep the service open. To be clear, the issue is that Royal Mail will withdraw sorting office services from Dersingham and centralize them in King's Lynn. This will mean a serious loss of revenue for the sub-postmaster and would make the business unviable. It must be said that Royal Mail is a privatized company and therefore any influence exerted even from Westminster may not

be successful. However, if we do not campaign then it is certain that the measures proposed will be actioned.

The provision of pharmacy services in Dersingham appears to have improved. Let us hope this continues to be the case, but any sudden, un-advertised closure should be monitored and reported to us for further action

We are sorry that Priors the butcher had to close. Let us make sure that not every local service or business goes the same way.

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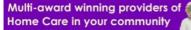
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Dick Melton of Sunny Hunny

Village ponds

since I was up there.

I was asked a few weeks ago about the ponds that were in the village and if there was ever a pond in the field on which Clayton Close is now built.

Well, yes, there was a small pond in the middle of this field that I think was owned by Mr Lloyd Pratt, who lived in a large house, *The Oaks*, nearly opposite the field. The house got damaged by fire and was later demolished. There was also a pond in the field in front of Hawthorn Cottages but it is now built on like most open spaces in Dersingham. For many years this field was used to graze cattle on. The next pond I am going to mention was in the field at the back of the Old Hall. All the land was built on. I was told that subsidence was found but since then it has been put right. If you go up Sugar Lane from the junction of Chapel Road, Shernborne Road and Manor Road, you will find Hill House Farm. Behind the

The next pond we come to is on the Emblems, an area of scrubland and trees. This pond is quite large compared with other ponds in the village. When I went to the bottom school some seventy years ago the pond would freeze over and us boys would go through the gate at the top of the school playground and skate on the pond. We would also take our sledges and sledge down the slopes of the Emblems. It was a very good place to play but I have been told that the area is all overgrown and you cannot see the pond from the road like you could a few years back. Not far away was a small shallow pond in the middle of an area of grass at the corner of Manor Road and Sandringham Hill, between Parkers old shop and the track down to the playing fields. At one time a man who lived in the area kept ducks and geese on the land.

farmhouse, to the side, is a small pond; it may not be there now as it is over twenty years

Another pond or area of water is down The Drift, just before you get to the bypass. For many years there had been a manor house with a moat here, but this had all gone long ago when I was a lad. There was a stretch of water there with trees and bushes around it called Balding Moat, named after the man who farmed the land. All of this land has now been built on and I have been told that there is very little of the moat left. My father told me that when he was a boy the only way to get to the beach was down The Drift, which went down in a straight line ending near to the new pumping station. The concrete road to and from the station to the old sea bank was constructed in 1942 so that farmers could get down to the marsh and grow more crops to help meet the wartime food shortage.

Boundaries

It was interesting to see the Dersingham boundary map in *Village Voice*. I have a more compact map that is about twenty years old and a reprint of a Bryant's map of 1826 (but it requires good eyesight that I have not got). A very interesting map is called *Around and About Snettisham and Dersingham*. Other good maps are *Norfolk Coast West* and *North West Norfolk* by Ordnance Survey. Then, of course, there is the good old reliable *Norfolk Street Atlas* printed by Philip's; this map is updated every year with all new roads. Most of these maps are still in print. It is a problem to sort out the boundaries of my estate, Butterfield, in Hunstanton. It is met on two sides by the Heacham boundary and on another side by the Ringstead and Old Hunstanton boundary. The Ringstead River used to run between the Heacham and Hunstanton boundary and Ringstead laid claim to 200 yards of beach on this boundary where the river ran into The Wash.

A Norfolk folk tale

Now I am writing a little folk tale about something that happened a long time ago, even before the *Doomsday Book* was written. Some of you may have heard of it as it was read

out on Radio Norfolk a time back. The tale takes place when Dersingham was but a hamlet of about four houses and King's Lynn was a small port. Castle Rising was larger than King's Lynn and the Lord of the Manor owned many hundreds of acres of land all along the east coast of The Wash, nearly as far as Hunstanton today.

One fine day, the Lord of the Manor was out riding with his men through a forest when he came across a clearing and there stood a man with four dogs and a dead deer lying on the ground. 'Seize that man,' said the Lord, 'and hang him from the nearest tree.'

'But my Lord,' said the man, 'I swear on my life my dogs would not kill your deer. It lay there dead as I passed through looking for rabbits. My dogs would not kill your deer and I can prove it.'

'Alright,' said the Lord of the Manor, 'I will leave one of my men to keep an eye on you and the rest of my men will take your dogs to see if they will kill my deer,' and off they went deep into the forest.

After about two hours the Lord of the Manor came back with his men and the dogs. The Lord of the Manor got off his horse, went up to the man and said 'You are right, your dogs are useless. Every time we saw a deer and I told them to kill, they just sat down and looked at me.'

What the Lord of the Manor did not know was that the man had trained his dogs to kill when he said 'Sit' and to stay when the word 'Kill' was given. The Lord of the Manor then said, 'I will not hang you; instead, for being so truthful, I will give you all the land and forest you can see from here to the sea.'

'Thank you, my Lord.' 'What is your name, my man?' the Lord of the Manor then asked. 'My name is Dersing and I shall name the whole of the land you have gifted to me Dersingham.'

The man and the Lord of the Manor went their own ways. A few days later, the man and his friends measured the land and it was three leagues long and one and a half leagues wide, the same as it is to this very day.

Dersingham Fire Service

I was interested to see that the old Drill Hall at the bottom of Doddshill is up for sale. The Drill Hall and Fire Station opposite came under the Territorial Army and the garages were used for the army trucks. I think there was only one fire engine and it was kept in a large barn up Heath Road, right next to the Open Common. This barn was always known to locals as Mann's Barn and I think I am right in saying it belonged to the Mann family who lived next door. It was the ideal place for a fire station in those days as most of the fires broke out on the fen and, if the wind was in the right direction, the fires would spread to the Open Common and the Shut-up Common. The firemen had a job getting to the fires on the fen so a track was made from Dersingham Sand Pit across Dersingham and Wolferton Fen as far as Wolferton Cut. There was also a fire break cut out along the northern edge of the Open Common. On one occasion a fire on the Open Common got so near to properties in Manorside that some residents got out their hosepipes and sprayed water on the fire. Thankfully, the Fire Brigade and the residents put the fire out before it got to the bungalows.

Most of the fires were caused by sparks from the steam trains. From time to time the sparks also set light to undergrowth in Life Lane Wood. After 1969 diesel engines took over and in 1969 the Hunstanton to King's Lynn line was closed down.

When the fire station was in Mann's Barn the fire officer lived in Chapel Road and above his front door there was set of bells that rang out when there was a fire. The ringing of the bell could be heard as far away as Manor Road. Mann's Barn was the best place for a fire station when I was a boy as most fires started on the fen, but nowadays they can start anywhere.

Dersingham Marshes

I was asked if I knew the owners of the land down on Dersingham marshes. This is located on the west side of the railway line and Dersingham bypass. I can name many people who farmed on the marshes but cannot say whether they owned or rented the land.

The first field on the left as you went down The Drift over the railway line was farmed by a Mr Wagg, who also had a cycle repair shop on Lynn Road. He gave the land up to the Balding brothers from Dun Cow Farm, who kept turkeys on it. I remember the turkeys going to roost on an old elevator up the corner of the field. Near this was a very sandy field where a Mr Vauser grew carrots and white turnips, next to trees and grassland. Further down the concrete road the Lincoln brothers had some land; their farm buildings were up on Station Road. Then you had Mr Bird's land and buildings between The Drift and the concrete road, where he kept his cattle. Mr Jackson from High Farm had about four or five fields and on one of them he grew strawberries. At one time the Jackson family farmed down Centre Vale and I think the old farmhouse is still there.

The Stantons from Manor Farm had many acres of land where they grew tates and barley. Their land went from the end of The Drift as far as the River Ingol. I believe this land is now farmed by the Sandringham estate. When the Stantons farmed this land they employed a marsh foreman who lived at the bottom of Station Hill, over towards the Ingoldisthorpe boundary. There was a decoy there with a bird trap in it called a Heligoland trap. Most of the land around the decoy was used by a farmer from Ringstead to graze his sheep in the summer. His shepherd, with some help, would drive the sheep there and back along the roads between Ringstead and Dersingham. When you got near to the end of the marshes you came to a concrete bridge over the River Ingol. All the land between the river and the old sea wall was and still is in the Parish of Snettisham. When I was a lad I am sure that this land was farmed by a Mr Gent, who farmed and lived in the small hamlet of Inmere east of Snettisham.

A lot of the marshes are now farmed by estates and you can only get to the marshes if you bike or walk, as some locals do, as there are two gates on the Dersingham concrete road and two gates on Steer Road that runs from Wolferton village as far as the pumping station. I wrote to Sandringham estate as to why these four gates had been erected and they replied saying it was to stop their farm machinery being stolen. When I was a lad many years ago, the marshes were a playground, like the Common, from Heacham right through to King's Lynn and the fen. Us boys would go and fish in the river near the pumping station and swim in the shingle pits. In 1953, after the great flood, the land down the marshes could not be used to grow crops due to salt water washing over them, so hundreds of tons of lime were spread on the marshes. It was about three years before crops could be grown again. Also, the walkway across the pits was washed away so if you wanted to swim in the sea you had to go around by the pumping station to get on the beach near to the old jetty. More and more of us swam in the pits. In 1964 three hundred acres of marshland on Sandringham estate were reclaimed and made suitable for cattle to graze on.

Changing Sandringham

I was talking to a friend of mine who, like me, lived and went to school in Dersingham, about how things have changed at Sandringham. When you got to the top of Sandringham Hill there was a stretch of grass about ten yards wide that went as far as the Norwich Gates. Cars used to park on this, both sides of the road. The house and gardens were only open on Wednesdays and weekends, when two ladies from Dersingham would sit either side of the Norwich Gates selling postcards of Sandringham. Where the Visitor Centre is today there was just an open space on which Ray Dilks had his ice cream trailer. Ray kept the paper shop near Lindfords Corner. Another user of this land was Mr Billy Andrews with his horse and cart selling fruit and vegetables, which he also sold from his shop at the corner of Post Office Road and Chapel Road. It just shows how things have changed, not always for the good. I think it is called progress.

Fifty-three years

Well, now I have some sad news as I am afraid that, owing to my eyesight getting a lot worse, I am having to give up writing letters to papers and such which I have been doing since 1970. I have been writing in the Dersingham *Village Voice* and the Hunstanton *Town and Around* for over twenty years, and I would just like to thank the editor and all the many people far and wide who have got in touch with me regarding the different things I wrote about Dersingham and, especially, the dear old fen and two commons. You know what I am going to say now. Just keep a troshin. The Boy Dick.

Flower Festival at St Nicholas Church Thursday 7th - Sunday 10th September 2023

The theme for this year's festival is:

"Thank you for the Music!"

Our dedicated team of flower arrangers will be bringing their flair and imagination into the church to create floral displays depicting a wide variety of music from country to jazz, classical to music-from-the-shows, with some glamrock thrown in for good measure! And of course - there will be music, with live performances by local musicians in church each morning and a Teddy Bears' Picnic on Saturday afternoon. The festival is rounded off with "Hymns and Pimms" on Sunday evening.

You are cordially invited to come along to enjoy the flowers, and perhaps your favourite song or piece of music will be included in the displays!

Refreshments will be available in church during the festival and other attractions include a variety of stalls, a raffle and tombola.

Remember Your Loved Ones. By making a donation towards the cost of the flowers included in the displays, you can have the name of your loved one included in a Book of Remembrance which will be placed in the Lady Chapel. Donations, in a sealed envelope please, showing the name of the person(s) to be remembered, should be addressed to The Flower Festival and taken to the Post Office in Dersingham before 29th August.

The Flower Festival will be open each day from 10am to 4pm, 12noon until 4pm on Sunday. Admission is free, with donations welcome. All proceeds will go towards the upkeep of the church.

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



Dersingham and its Neighbours – Shernborne Elizabeth Fiddick

Since I came here many years ago, I have frequently driven through Shernborne on my way to Docking and beyond. The village is so small that it takes but a moment to drive through. In 2011 its population was less than 100. However, small though the village is, its story is anything but.

It lies in a deep valley close to the source of the Ingol rivulet which is just to the west. The Ingol, a classic chalk fed stream with clear water and a gravel chalk bed, is one of only 200 such rivers in the world. It flows for ten kilometres through Ingoldisthorpe and on to its mouth near the RSPB Reserve at Snettisham. The village's name translates as "muddy waters".

There is much evidence of early inhabitation in the area, as a Neolithic stone macehead has been found as well as flint axeheads, spearheads, Roman coins, pottery, bracelets, harness fittings and a mysterious iron age moustached-shaped object of unknown function.

But let us start our exploration at the church, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. The church we see today was completely rebuilt in 1898 by King Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, as part of his plan to improve the villages on the Sandringham Estate. A much earlier church once stood here. In the sixth to eighth centuries the ruling dynasty of East Anglia was the Wuffing family. Their name, Wuffingas, translates as "descendants of the Wolf" and it is thought that it is one of these Wolf kings who is buried at Sutton Hoo. It was another, Sigerberht, who invited St. Felix of Burgundy to come to his East Anglian kingdom to help



spread the Christian Gospel about the year 640. A document dated 1574 reads, "St. Felix landed at Babingley by Lenne (Lynn) and there builded the first church of these countries. The second is built at Sharnborne then of wood and therefore called Stock-Chapelle".

By 1066, the time of the Conquest, the village was well established with one Edwyn as Lord of the Manor. He was ejected from his property by the Conqueror (although restored later), and the small estates here were awarded to followers or family of the Conqueror. The small Saxon church was replaced in the eleventh and thirteenth centuries by a fine stone church in the Norman style. Over the following centuries it gradually fell into disrepair, so when The Prince of Wales came here in 1898 he found the chancel had been in ruins since the Reformation, and the medieval south aisle was

completely gone. Under the supervision of the architect Herbert Green it was rebuilt for the cost of £2000. The ancient stonework was retained in the doorways, windows, and arcading and in the bases of the thirteenth-century pillars in the south aisle arcade. The south doorway copies the Early English style. The oaken pulpit was a gift of the King.

Inside we find one of the treasures of this church, a survivor of the earlier building, which gives us a glimpse of its previous finery. It is one of the four finest fonts in the whole country, carved over a thousand years ago by the same great stonemason, and stands on four legs with intricate interlaced work and plaited knotwork trailing all round it like foliage. Each side has an elaborate lion



mask with other faces and carvings held within roundels. It is very fine indeed, and the other three fonts can be found at Sculthorpe, Wootton and Tofttrees.

The second treasure, another survivor from the original church, also transports us back into Shernborne's past. It is a fine fifteenth-century brass commemorating Sir Thomas de Sharnborne and his wife. After the Conquest, Shernborne was divided into several small tenures and Lordships, but for the next six centuries the largest landowners in Shernborne were the de Sharnborne family. On a map, a short distance along the road from Shernborne to Ingoldisthorpe, you will find marked Shernborne Hall and a moat close to the source of the Ingol. The farm that now occupies the site contains the remaining wing of a fine Elizabethan manor house which was built on a possible medieval moated site. This I believe was the home of the de Sharnborne family.



Members of the family were active in many of the great events of our history. For instance, Sir Adam de Sharnborne went to the Holy Land under Richard I where he was knighted. His son Andrew, who died in 1249 and was buried in Shernborne Church before the altar, followed King John to the Holy Land. Andrew de Sharnborne, born 1328, fought at the battle of Crecy (1346) during the Hundred Years' War. At the siege of Rennes he was mortally wounded by "a great stone" and brought home to be buried in the church. Another member of the family died in the Black Death in 1349 and was buried before the south door of the church. Henry de Sharnborne was knighted by Henry VIII and became Vice Admiral of England but was killed in a sea fight with the French. But what of Sir Thomas of the brass plaque?

First, we must remember King Henry V, considered at the time as one of the greatest warrior kings of medieval England. He had amazing success in the Hundred Years' War against France, winning the battle of Agincourt against overwhelming odds and becoming recognised as heir apparent to the French throne. He married Catherine of Valois by whom he had one son, also Henry. However, he contracted a serious illness while campaigning in France and died in 1422, aged just 36, leaving his son of just nine months to became King Henry VI of England. All the nobles hoped that young Henry would inherit the outstanding qualities of his father, but he proved to be very timid, shy, passive, averse to violence and mentally unstable. He was totally unfit to be king and was dominated by the more powerful nobles around him. In 1445 he married Margaret of Anjou, who arrived here with an established household and soon became the power behind the throne. The tensions between her and the Duke of York over who should command the King led to the civil war known as the Wars of the Roses. During the following years Henry lost all his father's gains in France, his son was killed in battle and poor Henry was himself deposed, captured and put in the Tower where he died in suspicious circumstances in 1471. It was said of him that he "lost his wits, his two kingdoms and his only son".



Sir Thomas de Sharnborne was appointed Chamberlain to Queen Margaret, and he married Jemona de Cherneys, a French woman, who was one of the Queen's maids of honour. It is fascinating to realise that Thomas and his wife would have been witness to some of these events. They would have known Queen Margaret well and seen poor Henry during his mental breakdowns in 1453. Thomas died on February 3rd 1458, or perhaps as late as 1465, and was buried in the church at Shernborne.

The village sign portrays Thomas with his wife peering out of a castle window.

The last member of this family was Francis De Sharnborne who had one daughter, Mary, by his wife Martha. On his death the manor was sold to Francis Ashe a Muscovy, a merchant from London who gave it by lease in 1654 to Emmanuel College Cambridge. White's Directory of 1845 states that there are two farms in the village - one belonging to Henry Coldham Esq. and the other to the Masters and Fellows of Emmanuel College Cambridge. The vicarage was built in 1881 when it was held by Rev. W. Campbell.

In the Enclosure Act of 1767 fourteen acres of land was allotted to the poor. It was noted that they gathered whins for fuel and grazed their cattle on these acres. The tithes paid

to the church were commuted and allotments were awarded instead.

Close to the church stands the old village school, now a private residence. A school board was founded in 1875 and the school was originally constructed for £800 as a single schoolroom attached to a teacher's house. It was a Public Elementary School to house forty-one children. The average attendance was twenty-nine. It was closed in 1961/1962.







Walking on from the church we see the former bowling green and one time village hall.

The old village hall used to be Queen Alexandra's beach house which she had moved

stone by stone from Snettisham beach to be erected

here for the use of the village.

Next door stands a grand building that once served the village for many years as The Bull Public House. On 15th November 1907 the King gifted it to the village for future use as a club. The landlady of The Bull, Mrs. Hooks, was appointed the first caretaker for the club which ran successfully until quite recently.

There is still much information to be discovered about Shernborne and its past, but now when I drive through

this quiet, sleepy, Norfolk village I remember it was once called home by a family who took a full part in our early history and whose bones now rest quietly in the churchyard.



Distributors

We are extremely grateful for our band of volunteers who distribute *Village Voice* throughout the year. After this edition we shall have great difficulty covering several routes around the village. **Could you help?**

It only takes 1.5 - 2 hours once every eight weeks and is a good way to get to know your village!!

For further details or to apply, please contact Geri on 01485 541465 on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays from 9.30 to 1.00 or email her at abm@dersingham.org.uk.

Thank you!!!



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Tulips for Tapping Attracts Record Number of Visitors

Tulips for Tapping 2023, which saw a welcome return this year, has been hailed as a huge success. Visitors from all over the UK flocked to the tulip fields near the Sandringham Estate in West Norfolk to walk among the tulips, capture photos, purchase tulip-related merchandise and enjoy refreshments from local food

and drink traders.

The event built on the success of previous years and offered visitors a rare opportunity to see and experience the stunning beauty of the tulip fields. The success of the event would not have been possible without the support of Roydon Hall Farms for the use of their land, the team at Norfolk Tulips for once again allowing the opening of their wonderful crop to visitors, tulip grower Mark Eves of Belmont Nurseries, and the dedicated team of volunteers. The event was also made possible by the support of local businesses including T M Browne, Rural Broadband, Algeco, Rudd Marquees & Baco Compak.

The event raised £140,268 for the Norfolk Hospice. Tulips for Tapping has become a beloved annual tradition for visitors from

across the UK. With the success of this year's event, organisers are already looking forward to planning for an even bigger and better event next year. Anyone who would like to support the event, through sponsorship or by volunteering, is encouraged to contact the Hospice via their website:

Dersingham Day Club Joy Kelly and Carol Edwards

The members and volunteers at The Day Club come together every Wednesday at the Village Centre for a day of activities - dominoes, Scrabble, cards, Rummikub, Chicken foot - but always plenty of chat and laughs.



A two-course lunch is provided, and plenty of tea, coffee and biscuits. From time to time, we also have bingo or a quiz. Recently we were entertained by the Heacham Songsters, which was a very pleasant afternoon.

For our next lunch we are going to the Feathers here in Dersingham.

We break for the summer on 26th July and resume again on 6th September. If anyone is interested in becoming a member, please contact Maggie Langridge 01485 543264 or Wendy Raby 01485 544975 □



We have been enjoying mostly fine walking weather recently and explored some interesting territory on our walks. When planning routes there are a number of factors to take into consideration. We aim for about four miles, we need a start point with parking if not Dersingham based, it should

preferably be a circular walk but this is not always possible and it should be suitable for the season – no trudging through freshly ploughed mud when re-establishing a field crossing. We hope that we succeed in this aim. Our next walks are:

Wednesday July 26th: 2.00pm

A visit to the villages of Little and Great Massingham. Start point the car park on the Peddars Way behind the Dogotel kennels at Harpley Dams, TF 771254. About 4.5 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

Wednesday August 9th: 2.00pm

In order to avoid hoards of tourists and their parked cars, a walk down to the Snettisham RSPB reserve along the beach road, round the hides and back again. Start at Dersingham station, TF 681308. About 4.5 miles. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Wednesday August 23rd: 2.00pm

A town walk this time, taking in some of the waterways and historic parts of Lynn. About 4 miles. Start point is the car park just north of the Lynnsport main building, TF632213. Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

Wednesday September 13th: 2.00pm

A visit to the small village of Gayton Thorpe from which we will walk along quiet tracks to East Walton where we'll circuit some of the Westacre Rewilding area, rich in butterflies

and other wildlife. More field tracks will return us to the start point, which is Gayton Thorpe's village green. Take the minor road through the village and you will see the green with its village sign. There is plenty of parking on the grass, TF 744185. About 5 miles. Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

Wednesday September 27th: 2.00pm

We are going for a tramp in the woods. There is a lot of woodland for us to explore with fresh paths being discovered by Brian all the time. Start at the

Common car park in Heath Road, TF 687298. Leader: Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.



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 VA Primary and Nursery School

From a chilly spring to a blazing hot June, the children at Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School are throwing aside their coats and making the most of the good weather. Sports day was a huge success with a round robin of fun events in the morning, like crazy cricket, silly sack shenanigans and rumbustious rugby, ably led by Year 6, to more traditional races on the track in the afternoon. Children will now go on to represent the school at Area Sports at Smithdon. The parents enjoyed a picnic with their children before the event started and the PTA did a roaring trade in ice pops!



Year 6 Sports day leaders

Other sporting events in the calendar include mixed Dynamos cricket at Snettisham and a Dynamos cricket tournament at North Runcton for the girls. Both teams performed admirably with the girls finishing third overall after winning their pool. A handful of children took part in the off-road cycle race at Glebe school, where they valiantly represented the school.







Year 1 at Methodist Church Flower Festival.

The school were incredibly proud to be asked to open the Flower Festival at Dersingham Methodist Church again this year. The theme was Psalm 148 and the children thought about the creation story, celebrating a host of different animals. Year 1 and Year R sang songs and led prayers as part of the opening ceremony. The flowers were truly sensational again this year. Reception class started this half term with a walk around the village to see

what kind of shops and landmarks there are. The children then made a 3D map of the village using loose parts and blocks. They compared Dersingham village to the city of London, even having a bus tour of London on the interactive whiteboard! It was great fun sitting on a homemade class bus. The rest of half term will be spent looking at holidays and the beach, ending with a trip to Hunstanton to investigate the rock pools.

The pirates have descended on Year 1 this half term with Pirate Pete teaching the children how to be a good captain's mate. They have been making treasure maps, creating stories and are looking forward to a pirate day at Sandringham. They are also off to the library in the hope they will find some more books on a pirate theme!

Year 2 spent last half term learning about how plants grow, the differences between villages, towns and cities, and how aeroplanes have developed over time. The children got muddy planting seeds and learning down in the forest school area again. This final half term, the children are learning how to sew pouches using fabric templates.





finding out more about the coast, and looking forward to a trip to Holme Dunes to develop their geography fieldwork skills.

This half term Year 3 travelled back in time to Ancient Rome, learning about the Roman empire, Roman towns and life as a soldier. An amazing trip to King's Lynn Museum resulted in meeting characters from the past. The children handled Roman artefects, such as weapons and shields, made mosaics, played Roman games and tasted Roman food.

This half term Year 4 started off with a brilliant Victorian experience day at Lynn Museum. This really brought to life the workhouse and daily life during the Victorian era. The children helped to set tables, wash whites and enrolled in a slightly terrifying Victorian school. They were quite relieved to return to normal classroom life! As part of the new topic this half term, the children have been exploring the Amazon rainforest. They have been looking at the threats to different habitats and how important the rainforest is, even though it's so far away. The children have really engaged with this topic and have even started their own eco-warrior group. They are classifying some native species of plants and comparing them to the species found in the Amazon rainforest. Year 4 are looking forward to hosting their very own French cafe for parents next week and practising their language skills.

Year 5 have been developing young play leaders, with help from Tracy Bower, who praised the children for their fantastic ideas and organisational skills. There are some budding PE teachers in the class! This half term's topic is 'The Circle of Life' and is based on the quality class text *The Rise of Wolves* by Kerr Thompson.

Year 6 are having a very busy last half-term, rehearsing for a production of *Super Stan*, a comedy whereby a sugary charlatan and his mad minions enslave the citizens of Megaville using hypnotic gobstoppers, leaving an unlikely hero, Stan, to save the day. The final topic of the year, entitled 'Islamic Enlightenment,' will see the children studying

the stories of 1001 Arabian Nights, as well as looking at the golden ages of Islam. The children have taken part in a 'Healthy Body and Mind' course to boost mental wellbeing and fitness, which will set them up as they transition to high school. Everyone wishes them the best of luck!

So ends another eventful year at school. With many changes on the horizon, children and staff are looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead and rising to meet them with enthusiasm! With our new headteacher at the helm, it is hoped the school can be steered onwards to future success. \Box

Dersingham Choir



Wondering what to do on a Thursday evening from September 2023?

Have you ever thought about joining a choir?

We do not hold auditions and you do not need a 'perfect voice'. The only requirement is that you are an adult who loves singing and wants to be part of a fun group.

You can join the choir at any time. The first session is free and thereafter £5 each week. For more information, visit our website by using the QR code at the bottom or go online to dersinghamchoir.com

Everyone is welcome, so come along and see what we do. There is no charge for guests and refreshments will be provided.

7pm to 9pm St Cecilia's Church Hall, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham PE31 6YE



Supported by Dersingham Parish Council





Dersingham Methodist Church Elizabeth Batstone, Church Secretary

The Church 133rd anniversary and Flower Festival went very well from the moment Dersingham School Year 1 children welcomed everyone and entertained parents and visitors with their songs. On the Friday morning the Reception class did the same and we all enjoyed learning the rhyme about the monkey bumping his head!

The flower arrangements on the theme 'Psalms of Praise' were beautiful and depicted the Psalms very well. The display by the Year 1 children included lots of animals as well as their information about other religions. There was an excellent board display by Dersingham Rainbows, it was colourful and creative.

We had lots of visitors, especially on the Saturday morning when people were queueing for food and tables. During the three days we had visitors from France and Switzerland, as well as holiday makers from varying parts of the country. Obviously our fame is spreading!!

After expenses we raised £2,064.75. We have sent £500 to Toilet Twinning to fund two school toilet blocks in African countries, and the rest is for Church funds. Sunday's Songs of Praise was led by our Minister Revd Dr Richman Ncube, the collection was £133.85. This is for the West Norfolk Methodist Circuit fundraising project to provide a water source for Matjinge Secondary School, Zimbabwe, where Rich attended. Thank you all for your support and generosity.

Our next coffee morning is on **Saturday 23rd September** for Marie Curie Cancer Appeal.—We look forward to seeing you.□



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A Tall Short Story Sheila Davies

She awoke with a start, heart racing and pounding in her ears. It was that dream again. She was running down a dark alley being chased by a strange man. He was gaining ground on her and as he got closer he gave a ghoulish laugh, revealing a huge mouthful of gleaming teeth. Then she would wake up.

She shook off the remains of the dream and proceeded to get up and start her day. Her flat was on the third floor and she climbed into the elevator to take her down. It stopped on the second floor to let in the chap who had just moved in below her. She glanced sideways at him, and shivered as she thought there was a slight resemblance to monster man in her dreams. He caught her glance and smiled in return, revealing a full set of gleaming teeth! The elevator stopped on the ground floor and she scurried away as fast as she could.

That evening there was a ring on her doorbell. There stood monster man! He smiled sheepishly at her. "So sorry to bother you, but I seem to have mislaid my phone charger in the mayhem of moving. I don't suppose you have one I could use?" She eyed him up. Actually, once you got past the teeth, he was really quite tasty. She decided to let him in. He proved to be agreeable company, and he soon became a regular visitor. Monster man was evolving into dream lover quite nicely thank you and her dreams were now far more interesting.

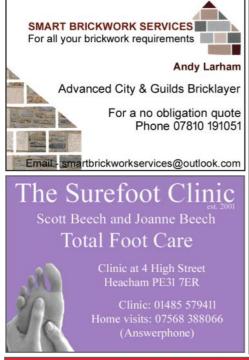
Oh, my goodness! The dream was back with a vengeance, but seemed to have moved on in time, and she had just given birth to monster man's offspring. The baby arrived into the world smiling and displaying a full set of gleaming gnashers, and those protruding bumps on each side of his forehead looked suspiciously like baby horns!

Before she had time to dwell on this, however, another baby popped out, this time complete with hard hat and brandishing a torch, and there was no mistaking the definite little horns that had pushed through the hat. He then proceeded to run around the delivery room shining his torch into corners muttering, "C'mon Wendy, we can fix this". The midwife grabbed him by one horn and unceremoniously dragged him back to her. "My goodness! This one's an adventurous little soul," she panted, dangling him by one horn. "Admittedly, his ears seem set a little high, and they are a bit pointy, but I'm sure he will grow into them", she said reassuringly. The baby responded by giving them the benefit of a dazzling smile, displaying an identical set of gleaming choppers to rival his brother's. She looked at him in dismay.

Oh dear, Mother would not like this. She had a bit of a thing about inherited tendencies, ever since great grandad had arrived with an enormous hooked nose. It was so big it was rumoured that when he died the undertakers had to break his nose in order to close the coffin. Mother always rushed to the bedside to examine every newborn in the family to check for its reappearance. The nose had even developed a mutant strain, which arrived innocently, but suddenly put in an appearance during childhood.

Poor cousin Jeremy had been afflicted with this one; he had started out in life very cherubic. One day he seemed normal, and the next time she saw him he had the most enormous conk which dominated his entire face. She recalled once being on holiday in Scotland with them when Aunt Joan had flatly refused to take him on a hillside walk. It turned out she was nervous about "the nose", coupled with his unruly mop of hair that would make him a target for the eagles in the vicinity, and they would swoop down and carry him off as one of their own. Understandable. No, her mother would not like this at all!

This time she awoke more gradually. She groggily opened her eyes and looked around the room. Reality surged back in as she took in the familiar surroundings and the pretty curtains at her bedroom window fluttering gently in the evening breeze. Her gaze fell upon the newborn infant sleeping contentedly in the crib beside her. He was perfect! However, she could not stop herself as she gently pushed her little finger into his tiny mouth. She encountered nothing but soft baby gums. How silly that dream was! No Bob the Builder babies for her; it was all probably a side effect of the pain relief medication she had been given. She took in his neat little cap of dark brown hair. Just like his father's, she thought fondly. She reached up and stroked his downy little head. It was then she felt the two bumps protruding from either side of his forehead.......



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The Heacham Songsters

The Heacham Songsters, who for some years have been presenting concerts to local community groups, residential establishments, etc in and around the area, placed a notice in the local press over a year ago announcing we were back in business following Covid. Resulting from this we gained a number of new 'clients'. However, we still have capacity to deliver some further concerts. If your organisation has either had concerts from us in the past or would be interested in receiving a concert from us in the future, then please telephone Peter Francis on 01485 534031. Please leave a message if there is no answer. We do not charge for concerts. However, we combine any donations we receive throughout the year and make contributions to local charities.

We meet for our practice sessions every Wednesday in Heacham from 10.00am until midday and our concerts are also held during the day. We are always looking for new singers to join our group, particularly men right now to help achieve tonal balance, so if you are interested in singing with a friendly bunch then please give us a try. You do not need to be able to read music and we would welcome people who love singing for fun. Most of our material comprises our take on the pop and popular music of the late 1950s and the 60s, 70s and 80s.

Here's our little poem to encourage new members, particularly men!!

Hark! Heacham Songsters' harmonious call resounds, A chorus seeking depth, more voices to be found. In pursuit of melody, a longing to embrace, The gift of male timbre, an essential embrace.

O brave souls of song, unite and take a stand, Join the Songsters tapestry, lend your voices, grand. With dulcet tones, together we shall soar, In resonant symphony, let our spirits explore.

Amidst the gentle whispers of the evening breeze, Let melodies intertwine, like branches of the trees. The chorus yearns for balance, a union to be seen, Majestic chords entwined, a wondrous vocal team.

Deep voices, firm and bold, embrace this noble quest, Unleash your inner resonance, let your hearts invest. From low to lower, your harmonies unfurl, Embracing every rhythm, every melodic whirl.

Oh, Songsters, reach the heavens with your soaring sound, Through energy and vibrance, let your voices resound. All in harmony, weave a tapestry so fine, Enchanting with your timbre, in unity we'll shine.

Together, we shall breathe life into each refrain, Elevating souls, dispelling sorrow and pain. Through melodies, a language we all understand, The power of music, forever hand in hand.

Heacham Songsters beckon, let your spirits rise, Recruit the noble souls with a yearning for the skies. Men of valiant heart, join this musical endeavour, In harmonious unity, our voices shall deliver. Heacham Songsters, may your journey be blessed, With men of rich resonance, your ensemble dressed. Together, let us celebrate the power of song, A testament to harmony, where all belong.

From our local MP - James Wild MP

It is a pleasure to be invited to contribute to this edition and I would like to focus on the issue that has been my priority since being elected - getting a new Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Indeed, my first visit as MP for North West Norfolk was to QEH where I met the brilliant staff and saw the poor state of the buildings. I remember well chatting to the porters who play a vital role moving patients around the hospital, as well as talking to patients, nurses and consultants about the negative impact the props supporting the roof were having on providing quality care.

For three and a half years, I have been making the case for QEH to be added to the new hospitals programme on behalf of patients and staff. From my first speech in the House of Commons, through questions, debates, ministerial visits to QEH, and countless ministerial meetings, I've argued that we have a compelling case given the safety issues with the cracking concrete.

It is fantastic news that the government has now agreed and committed to building a new QEH by 2030. It took longer to get that news than anyone wanted - but I was always confident that with the great campaign support locally - including 15,000 people across West Norfolk signing a petition - and the backing of other MPs, councils, and media support we would get this result. It was a huge relief to all of us when it was finally announced.

So, what happens next? Well, the new hospital will be based on a new "Hospital 2.0 plan" to optimise and standardise designs for inpatient wards, A&E, operating theatres, and other areas. By using Modern Methods of Construction, new hospitals can be built more quickly and at reduced cost — with efficiencies of up to 25 per cent. This new approach is very important given that nine of the last ten new hospitals built have been late and over budget. QEH will be tailored to our local needs to deliver a hospital making use of the latest technology, digital innovation, and sustainability.

Now we have the decision everyone in Dersingham and West Norfolk wanted, QEH has already taken the first step on the journey to delivering the hospital with the demolition of the Inspire Centre to make way for the new multi-storey car park - to free up the existing car park where the new hospital will be built. Planning and design work will now develop, and I will work with the QEH, the NHS, and the government to progress the plans to deliver a new hospital that patients, staff, and our community deserve with its doors opening by 2030.

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Mrs. Dolittle

I was stupid enough to put my washed candle moulds into the dishwasher. I thought the hot water therein would be enough to take off the wax residue and send it safely through the pipes. No, it didn't and consequently I now have a defunct machine and have to save my pennies to get another.



In the meantime, of course, I have had to wash up by hand. Oh no! I swore many moons ago I would NEVER, EVER wash up again in my life.

As I toiled over the sink washing by hand, I thought how much easier it is these days than in the old days. I vividly remember when I was about five – which was during World War II - and my aunt was in our tiny, cold kitchen, making me help with the drying up while she washed. I think my mother was ill, for the two sisters normally did not get on and my aunt would not be there. There was a sink – a large white one called a Butler's sink - with a round, chipped, enamel bowl within. And about an inch of hot water in the bottom. And an old rag to do the washing. Because of all the privations in the war years, we never had enough water to wash ourselves, our clothes or our dishes, because it all took money, and that was in short supply. You would have to boil a kettle for the water, and the sixpence put in the gas meter soon ran out. And there was no nice dish washing liquid that got rid of all the grease in an instant. I think we only had some kind of horrid soap flakes, and all the grease would be floating on top of the water in the bowl, and quite honestly I don't think anything was clean at all. But we seldom got ill. Our immune systems took care of us.

I had one of the two tea towels in the house and it soon got sopping wet. I wondered what the point was of drying wet dishes with a wet cloth but as I was only five my concerns were not listened to. I can still see the remaining cup - the one thing I had not wiped. It sat there about level with my eyes, and I truly did not know what to do. That kind of thing often happened to me, even in adulthood, and it is only now that I realise that I have a 'condition' – ADHD (Attention Deficit, Hyperactivity Disorder). I only realised this when I saw something online mentioning people who work in a muddle, and I read on. It was me to a tee. People with this disorder are usually intelligent and creative, which is nice to know, but I often wonder how I can create such a mess when I am in creative mode (which is most of the time). I still haven't cleared up my sewing room after the gorgeous doll I made for someone in Texas had long left these shores, wrapped in brown tissue paper and jammed in a cat-food box.

I spent hours on that doll – sewing tiny hands that had to be turned inside out (almost impossible), then pipe cleaners inserted so the fingers can bend and hold things. I designed beautiful clothing for her, pushed sheep's wool - dyed in shades of green - into her head for about two hours, painted her face and freckles carefully, and she was perfect. But the room! Opened boxes with the contents chucked back any old how, the lids on the floor, colourful, awful mess. You can't see the floor, or the counter tops. Colourful fabrics, organzas, paints, bits of paper, you name it, heaped up on every surface and covering the floor. It will take me as long to clear up the mess as it did to make the doll.

Going back to the ADHD, I don't know if it would have helped me at all if it was a 'condition' that had been discovered in my day. Would I have been given all kinds of medication to stem my natural inclination and ways? It probably would have. I like the way I am, creatively. I don't like the mess and muddle, but it is how I work, and I

eventually get round to clearing it all up afterwards. Clearly I need a maid, a butler, a cook and a personal dresser but I have managed up to now, and no doubt I will until the time the grim reaper claims me. (He's probably tried to get through all the mess to scythe me down but couldn't get through. See, some things are good....)

Well, I have done enough, before breakfast, to fill my allotted space in this magazine, so I had better go eat before I have a diabetic hypo. Till next month then,

* Since writing the above I have had a heart attack, lived in the horrors of the A&E ward at QEH for a week and had a heart valve replacement at Papworth. When I get over all that, surely I will be a new woman, ADHD or not!

The Question Master's Team Name Competition Graham Eley

Each entry will be asked to give their team a name. Ideally it should be creative, amusing and relevant to quizzing, and supplied to me by 12th October –

grahamreley@tiscali.co.uk, or 07901 896102.

Team names, with the table number, will be listed on a sheet and each table will be given a copy. The players on each table will be asked to vote for the Team Name that they think is the best by ticking the box by the name.

The sheets will be collected at half time and the votes counted. The Team Name with the most votes will win a prize of £15 for that table.



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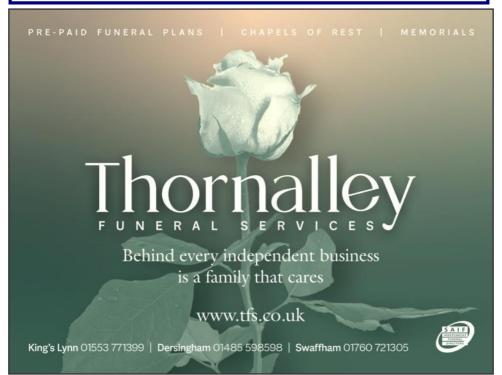


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Community Speed Watch



The Parish Council has received a number of concerns from residents about speeding traffic on various roads in Dersingham. The whole village is covered by a 30mph speed limit but the police have limited resources and unfortunately are unable to carry out speed enforcement checks in every community.

Norfolk Police have set up a Community Speed Watch programme to help communities to play an active role in tackling the problems of speeding in their neighbourhood. The scheme enables volunteers to become actively involved in road safety using speed detection equipment to officially monitor and report to the police details of speeding vehicles in areas of concern.

Please note that Community Speed Watch is not enforcement. The aim is not to catch as many speeding drivers as possible but to raise awareness that excessive speeds are socially unacceptable.

The police require a minimum team of six volunteers who must be over eighteen years of age; they are vetted and provided with training and equipment. The volunteers work in teams of three and monitor vehicles from designated sites which have been risk assessed and approved by the police.

Vehicles recorded as exceeding 35mph in a 30mph zone and 46mph in a 40mph zone are noted and details sent to the police. They carry out checks and write to the owners advising details of the offence and reminding them of the effects of their action. If there is a second offence a follow up letter is sent with stronger wording. If there are persistent and high speeders they will be targeted for police intervention.

If you are interested in forming a Community Speed Watch team to help improve road safety in the village please let the Parish Council know and we will arrange a meeting with the police to take it forward. Telephone the Parish Council Office on 01485 541465.



Philip Neal

Across

- Dad retired with little desire
- 5 Second class ways in Norfolk (6)
- 9 Enclosed somewhere within
- 10 Pokes around and brings up the cutlery (6)
- 12 Two's boat builder (4)
- 13 Two soldiers on a piano and a Chinese resident (5, 5)
- 15 Messenger playing with large peer (9, 4)
- 19 Uncover illumination in southern holiday sunshine (5, 8)
- 23 Repair cooker broken in stores (10)
- 25 Own harbour but not northern entry (4)
- 28 Tug on a fancy sweet (6)
- 29 Swimmer restores airline business in real trouble (8)
- 30 Daniel and Sarah feed the antelopes (6)
- 31 Engineers recalled lads trained to find Beryl (8)

12 19 28 30

Answers on page 65

Down

- Longing for silver plated facial feature
- 2 Secretary protects waterproof vessel to keep warm (5)
- Returning to study is a bit of a drag 3 (4)
- 4 Lace looped by shabby physicist (7)
- Rugby? No. But archer uses it (3, 2)
- Progressing to R.C.M.P.? (9)
- 8 Danced in easy dash formation (8)
- 11 Including a Quechua (4)
- 14 Recall friends and make-up (4)
- 15 Is it surprisingly natural to be covered by reserves and found on a w.w.w.? (9)
- 16 Read it but don't lose it (3)
- 17 Lock up top where Irish see the funny side (4)
- 18 Alienate drill sergeant (8)
- 20 Trace ten volunteers (4)
- 21 Vandal fits cowl on Scottish chimney (8)
- 22 Hats and bets are off for Queen in residence (6)
- 24 Six and a delicacy (5)
- 26 Islands initially form a tax on learners (5)
- 27 Loud music coming from festival (4)

Sudoku

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



Inheritance Tax – Back on the Political Agenda?

Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

Death taxes, in some form, have been with us for a long time. The current Inheritance Tax (IHT) framework can trace its origins back into the Estate Duty which was

introduced in 1894 to help break up the landed estates of the time. It then evolved into Capital Transfer Tax in 1975 and finally took its present form in 1986. However, it arguably mirrors the medieval "heriot", which entitled the Lord of the Manor to seize prized assets of a deceased serf before the tenancy could pass to descendants. In some ways little has changed and from the Treasury's view it is close to a perfect tax – it is not paid by the individual who triggers it, avoiding it brings considerable inconvenience and involves entrusting assets to (typically) one's children, and no one can inherit until the tax has been paid.

There is now a strong and growing perception on one side of the political divide that IHT is going far beyond its original purpose. The tax catches both the estate at death and also any gifts made in the previous seven years. Clearly no one knows exactly when they will die, but for the super-rich it is relatively easy to divest oneself of many millions during lifetime, with such lifetime gifts generally being outside the scope of the tax. Conversely, the rise in house prices in recent years (and the freezing of allowances) has brought into charge many who would have regarded themselves as merely "comfortably well off". So whilst the tax bears quite lightly on the rich and poor, it is much harder to avoid for those in the middle whose main asset is the family home. More recently there has been a sustained campaign to abolish the tax altogether on the basis that it taxes wealth which has already been subjected to Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax and, in the words of one broadsheet editorial, is morally wrong, "absurdly complicated, encouraging planning and gifting to limit liability (and) raises a small proportion of total revenue".

There is a counter argument which was quite vociferously made before the last election: various think tanks (including the Office for Tax Simplification and the All-party parliamentary group on inheritance and intergenerational fairness) more or less agreed that it was no longer fit for purpose and suggested wholesale reform to include tax on lifetime gifts, abolition of most of the current reliefs and a lower flat rate band to be paid on almost all assets. These would effectively bring far more estates into tax but at a much lower rate, whilst making it much more expensive for the wealthiest. Others have called for a simple wealth tax. All these suggestions were quietly ignored after the election, but in an environment where the tax burden will need to rise simply to service the government borrowing which was taken out during the pandemic (let alone future spending promises) it would be naïve to think the pressure for reform will simply go away.

So, in the window of maybe 9-18 months before the next election what planning steps can be undertaken? As outlined above, substantial gifts have a role, particularly if made more than seven years before death. There are also modest annual allowances, and although these have not been increased for decades, they are still worth considering. Business or agricultural property will often escape tax, subject to conditions regarding use and the period of ownership, and there is also a relief for "regular gifts out of income" which needs careful planning but can be very helpful. Gifting assets but retaining the use of them will not be effective for IHT purposes.

Under current rules, a married couple with a house which they pass to direct descendants upon second death will probably be able to leave assets of up to £1m

before tax is payable, but the basic exemption is only £325,000 each, so those with total assets above this level would do well to take professional advice sooner rather than later.

Speaking in 1986, Labour politician Roy Jenkins remarked that IHT was "a voluntary levy paid by those who distrust their heirs more than they dislike the Inland Revenue". In many ways little has changed over the last 37 years, but there is no reason to suppose that will continue for ever.

For advice regarding your potential exposure to Inheritance Tax and planning opportunities please contact either of the partners Kate Gigg FCA or Nicola Tarry FCA at Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton on 01485 534800 or kate@kathryngigg.co,uk.

N.B. Article written in June 2023

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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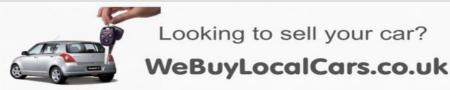
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Word Wall by Philip Neal Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 65

| LAMBETH | PRIMATE | BOILER | RA-RA |
|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| SWIFT | TUTU | CRANMER | TRACK |
| JAZZ | ROMPER | MICRA | MINI |
| SPACE | POLO | KILT | AUGUSTINE |

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There will be a traditional Hog Roast, ice cream vendors and a Punch and Judy Show will entertain children throughout the day. Tea and cakes will be available at St Mary's Church, Westgate and, of course, the permanent good eateries and specialist shops that make up this charming and attractive village.

Ample parking is available in the new North Street car park and event parking on the Playing Field, just off Creake Road or why not come into the village on the Coastliner 36 bus?

For more information visit www.theburnhammarketcraftfair.co.uk $\ \square$

Crossword Answers

Across

1 Appetite. 5 Broads. 9 Herewith. 10 Snoops.

12 Noah. 13 Giant panda.

15 Telegraph wire. 19 Strip lighting.

23 Renovation, 25 Have, 28 Nougat,

29 Albacore 30 Flands 31 Fmeralds

Down

1 Aching. 2 Parka. 3 Tows. 4 Tatting. 6 Run up. 7 Amounting. 8 Sashayed.

11 Inca. 14 Slap. 15 Tarantula.

16 Rag. 17 Hair. 18 Estrange. 20 lota.

21 Hoodlum. 22 Berets. 24 Viand. 26 Atoll. **27** Fair.

Word Wall Answers

Archbishops: Augustine, Cranmer.

Primate. Lambeth

Skirts: Tutu. Mini. Kilt. Ra-ra

Suits: Track, Romper, Boiler, Space Small cars: Swift, Polo, Jazz, Micra

Sudoku Answers

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

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| Issue | Copy deadline midday on | Publication date |
|-------|-------------------------|------------------|
|-------|-------------------------|------------------|

| No. 144 (Oct/Nov 23) | Monday 4th Sept 2023 | Monday 25th Sept 2023 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| No. 145 (Dec 23/ Jan 24) | Monday 6th Nov 2023 | Monday 27th Nov 2023 |
| No. 146 (Feb/Mar 24) | Monday 8th Jan 2024 | Monday 29th Jan 2024 |
| No. 147 (April/ May 24) | Monday 4th March 2024 | Monday 25th March 2024 |

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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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- Live-in Care
- Home Help
- Companionship
- Personal Care
- Dementia Care

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