

Number 144

October/November 2023

Village Voice

THE DERSINGHAM MAGAZINE



St Nicholas Church Flower Festival



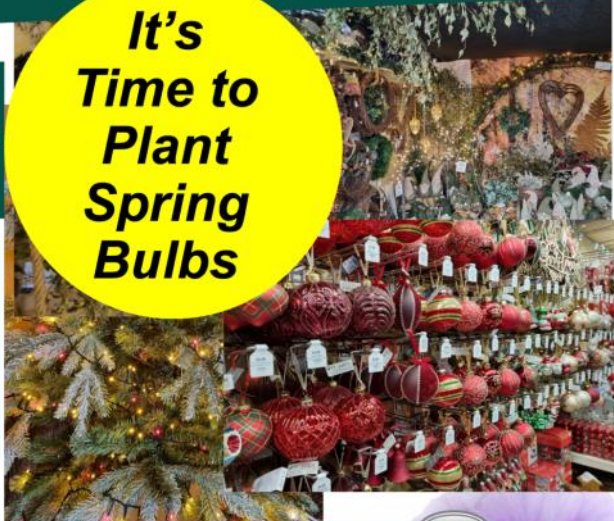
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Editor's Notes

Jo Halpin Jones



As I write this it is the final day of St Nicholas Church's annual Flower Festival, with this year's theme **"Thank you for the Music!"** The front cover, depicting the song *Scarlet Ribbons*, was just one of the colourful and imaginative displays, all portraying the music of opera and other classical pieces, and representing musicals and golden oldie songs that had me humming away. We have some extremely creative flower arrangers in this village, who came together to produce this wonderful show. On the Saturday a crowd of children came along for a Teddy Bears' Picnic. This party culminated in the children's bears careering down a zip wire from the pulpit!! More photos on pages 55 and 56.

We recently heard the sad news of the passing of Philip Neal, who for many years has been delivering to us his cryptic crosswords. Very cryptic. I am guilty of doing a lot of cheating and looking at the very ingenious solutions. His son Rob has told us that Phil was never happier than when he was creating a crossword. We shall miss his cheerful company as he dropped off his latest brain teaser.

You may have noticed that we have returned to the better quality silk finish paper that we used to use. Our very supportive printers at Clanpress contacted us to say that paper prices have stabilized and we could return to the former paper at no extra cost. Thank you Clanpress!! I think this brings a brighter finish to the magazine.

Although it is perhaps a fading memory for some, elsewhere in *Village Voice* there is quite a bit of comment on the traffic chaos caused by the Bank Holiday weekend concerts at Sandringham. It sounds as if sensible discussions will take place before future events. I would merely observe that it was enormously inconvenient for some people, whilst others enjoyed the concerts, either on site or from their back gardens!

As for content in this edition of VV, we welcome back a contribution from English Nature on what's been happening on Dersingham Bog over the summer; Elizabeth Fiddick fills us in with more history of St Nicholas Church and its surroundings; Tony Barratt writes the first part of his personal reflection of his time in the RAF in Cyprus at a time of intense international drama in the 1950s; we remember this year's yard sale, somewhat dampened by poor weather; there is a reminder, for those eligible, to get your flu jabs and to await the call for a top up of the Covid vaccine – the virus definitely seems to be on the increase at the moment.

Brian Anderson enlightens us with the determined activities of local snails; we read what the Brownies, Rainbows and Guides have been up to; and finally you will find notifications of events at the Village Centre in the way of films, a quiz night, barn dance, craft fair, Halloween activities, and Christmas Fair, which take place along with all the Centre's regular events.

This is a village which hosts a very healthy range of groups to meet the very varied interests of its population. In terms of the community as a whole, the Parish Council has an overarching responsibility to make this an even better place to live, work and visit. Our Chairman, Coral Shepherd, encloses a plea for more people to become Parish Councillors and to help make a difference.

As the heat subsides and we enter autumn, get ready to rake all those leaves.□



Dear Village Voice



The Sandringham Concerts

Mr. Terry Parish's article on the front page of *Your Local Paper* (September 1st) is a timely reminder of what little regard Sandringham Estate management has for the residents of the neighbouring villages in particular, and West Norfolk in general. Closing almost all the public roads in the area for four days on a Bank Holiday weekend demonstrates an attitude of arrogance and a lack of consideration for those people who had to go about their daily activities, whether for business or pleasure. It has been suggested that even the staff manning the roadblocks were not entirely sure of what was happening or meant to happen.

The much-publicised tree planting by Robbie Williams was surely the non-event of the weekend and, as Mr. Parish points out, would have little or no impact on the amount of pollution caused by the concertgoers' vehicles. Now, if each and every car driver who attended the events planted a tree, that would have an impact and be more commendable.

The Sandringham Estate assertion that "The concerts provided a boost to the region's local economy" must be challenged. I have no doubt that the Estate's coffers benefitted hugely from the income provided by the concerts, but I would hazard a guess that, apart from the purchase of fuel for vehicles, the attendees spent very little money in any of the local businesses, either in the surrounding villages, or in West Norfolk.

The Estate's statement also included the words: "Bringing world-renowned performers." Is this supposed to justify the disruption and inconvenience caused, or is it the management patting itself on the back for having done such a good job? The majority of local people were probably indifferent to the status of the headline acts, even if they knew who was performing.

Mr. Parish is right in suggesting that one concert would be acceptable, but having four on consecutive days, especially over a Bank Holiday weekend, would appear to demonstrate profit over the goodwill of the local community.

It is to be hoped that Sandringham Estate management take on board, and act upon, the comments received and the suggestions put forward, not only from Mr. Parish but also from local Borough and Parish Councillors, and local residents.

Can we expect Sandringham Estate to make a sizeable donation to local councils as compensation for the disruption caused, and as a gesture of goodwill?

Roger W. Jackson
Dersingham

Dersingham Post Office update

Despite a petition of over 3,600 signatures, the sorting office at the back of Dersingham Post Office has now closed. The Post Office itself remains for now, but our subpostmaster Fraser Lindsay and his family now face some difficult decisions. After a short period of compensation, the remaining income does not support a viable business.

Fraser would like to thank all those who have showed their support by signing the petition and to our local MP James Wild for his involvement in communicating with Royal Mail.□

Parish Council Chairman's Report

Coral Shepherd



The Parish Council has been fairly quiet since the last edition of *Village Voice* as we have a recess in August with no meetings. Nonetheless work has been carrying on behind the scenes and I begin this article with some sad news. For those who are not already aware, and despite a petition of over 3500 signatures, Royal Mail have now closed the Dersingham sorting office. This will impact on Fraser and Maria so we should try to support them as much as we can. Fortunately, the posties have kept their same rounds, although the deliveries may be a little later than we have come to expect.

We have been discussing concerns that have been raised with us about speeding in the village. In the last edition I wrote an article about the police-sponsored speed watch scheme and asked if anyone was interested in taking part. Regrettably there were not enough people for us to progress the scheme.

As we all became aware, over the August Bank Holiday weekend Heritage Live put on four concerts (Van Morrison, Robbie Williams and The Who) on the Sandringham Estate. This affected all of us, mainly because several roads around the Estate were closed, including Sandringham Road, and the normally heavy traffic on the A149 was made much worse by those attending the concerts. This made it difficult to get out of the village, either for work or pleasure. On Saturday, particularly, the noise carried into the village because of the wind direction. This meant that many residents were able to enjoy the Robbie Williams concert from their back gardens!

However, I was aware that there were many concerns, so I asked questions on the village Facebook page about the impact on the village and received numerous responses. I was pleased that the replies were mainly positive (even from those who raised serious concerns, such as difficulties of getting to and from the hospital and carers being able to attend their clients) and many very helpful suggestions were made. I have summarised the comments and have raised them with Sandringham Estate. They appreciate that improvements need to be made, including the impact on Dersingham, and are looking at all of the issues with Heritage Live and other bodies, e.g., the Borough Council. A representative has agreed to come to a Parish Council meeting. As soon as a date is confirmed we will let everyone know, as I am sure many of you would like to attend the meeting.

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Why don't you come and make a difference?

If you're interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Business Manager or speak to a Councillor for more information.

Email: coral.shepherd@dersingham.org.uk (Chairman) or bm@dersingham.org.uk (Business Manager)
Telephone 01485 542465



News from Dersingham Village Centre

Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

The Centre

As I write, the decorators have just finished work in the Centre. We regret the inconvenience to users and visitors but are sure you appreciate that we work hard to ensure the Centre is kept in tip-top condition.

Prices

Our hire fees and coffee shop prices will increase on October 1st, but Village Cinema and Friendship Lunch remain unchanged at £6 and £7 respectively.

Barn Dance

This annual event takes place on Saturday October 28th. Tickets have been held at £15 and are available from the Post Office. For more information ring Judy on 01485 540271.

Coffee Shop

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

Friendship Lunches

On the first Tuesday each month, we serve a freshly cooked two-course meal, with tea or coffee, for £7. Booking is required, so please call 01485 540644 by noon on the *Thursday* beforehand and also advise us of any allergies or dietary needs.

Halloween

This year we are working with the Parish Council to organise a children's event for those up to year 6. Please see the poster opposite for more information.

Village Cinema

October's film is *See How They Run*; the November showing will be *The Man Who Invented Christmas*.

Christmas events

The Christmas Fair will be held on November 19th, and the Coffee Shop will be open. The annual Carols Evening takes place in December and will again be indoors.

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.□

VILLAGE CINEMA

at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on

Tuesday October 24th at 7:30pm

SEE HOW THEY RUN (12A)

Starring: Saoirse Ronan, Sam Rockwell, Harris Dickinson, Adrian Brody, Ruth Wilson & Shirley Henderson (as Agatha Christie)

In the West End of 1950s London, plans for a film version of a smash-hit play come to an abrupt halt after a pivotal member of the crew is murdered. A world-weary inspector and an eager rookie constable take on the case and find themselves thrown into a puzzling whodunit.



Doors open at 7pm

Entry £6; Under 16s £3

(Entry includes tea/coffee/squash)

Licensed Bar available



Dersingham Village Cinema is managed by
Dersingham Village Centre Association,
Charity No 1178462.
Supported by Creative Arts East
www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk



VILLAGE CINEMA

at Dersingham Village Centre

Presents on

Tuesday November 28th at 7:30pm

THE MAN WHO INVENTED CHRISTMAS (PG)

With: Dan Stevens, Christopher Plummer, Jonathan Pryce, Simon Callow, Miriam Margolyes, Morfydd Clark

Failed author, Charles Dickens, finds himself in a financial crisis. However, he uses his father as an inspiration and creates an unforgettable tale that redefines Christmas.



Doors open at 7pm

Entry £6; Under 16s £3

(Entry includes tea/coffee/squash)

Licensed Bar available

With Mulled Wine & Mince Pies



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Saturday October 28th

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(Supper at 7:30)

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Dersingham Parish Council
working with
Dersingham Village Centre Association



Making Gardening Easier May Davey

The year is rushing past. Just three months to Christmas!

Our members enjoyed a visit to Dale Farm on 21st July. And we had a lovely afternoon in Gloria Pantling's garden on 18th August for our visit to a member's home.



On 15th September Mary Pursglove was due to talk to us on potatoes - with poetry and a quiz, but she wasn't able to join us. We are preparing an interesting afternoon with something else instead. And on 20th October Dr Ian Bedford will talk about "Garden Bugs: Cohabitate, Conserve or Control". On 17th November we are expecting a talk by tree surgeon Boyd Willet. And then it will be our Christmas lunch at Knight's Hill Barn on 15th December.

We meet at 2.00pm 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. *Do come and join us!*



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Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School INFORMATION S.O.S

As the deadline for this Village Voice falls before the start of the new academic year, I am taking the opportunity to seek information about the history of Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School.

Our more recent history has seen the close of the Early Years site at Saxon Way, which was the infant school for children from Nursery to Year 2. KS1 joined St George's Junior School in Admirals Drive in 2013, with Nursery and Reception joining in 2020, but what is the school's history?

This potted history is what we have so far...

'The Church of England School at Dersingham was founded in 1875, when the Prince of Wales gave the site for a building on Manor Road, which was enlarged in 1891. The school had both mixed and infants' departments. In 1947, a new St George's Secondary Modern School opened at Doddshill, on the eastern outskirts of Dersingham, and, in 1975, a new First School opened on a third site, towards the northern end of the village. The remaining Voluntary Controlled Junior School, on the original site, closed in 1980 and the old building became a community centre. The pupils were transferred to the former Secondary Modern School at Doddshill, which was renamed St George's Middle School (1980) and then (by 2005) St George's C of E Junior School' (Norfolk Record Office Online Catalogue).

Do you have any photos or memories you could share with the children to help us with the school's history?

There is some wonderful information on the internet about the original school in Dersingham, currently a ruin at the bottom of Doddshill, but not a lot about the current school, now opposite the Sawmill. If you are able to help, please contact Sue Picton at wellbeing@dersingham.norfolk.sch.uk I look forward to receiving your information. □



Snettisham Gardening Club

We are very pleased to say our Garden entry at the Sandringham Flower Show entitled "Btingham Palace Garden" won Gold and best in show - many congratulations to the team who did a wonderful job and to Wards Nurseries who kindly lent the centrepiece tree.

Our October meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 25th in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, when Simon White of the famed Peter Beales Roses will be telling us how to make rose growing easy.

You will be welcome to join us.

For any further information contact Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.□



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Dersingham Evening W.I. Katrina Mundy



As reported in the last issue we had to find a replacement speaker for July, and we were able to have a talk by Kathy Denten entitled "What You Can Do [With](#) A Nun's Dress". I know it was some time ago, but I thought you might be interested in what it was about. We are now all ready if we ever want a fancy-dress costume, or decide in the future to put on a show. Who knew that a nun's habit could become a medieval courtier, a Chinese lady, a man-at-arms, a medieval woman's dress and even a Bishop's costume, to name a few, by just changing a collar, belt or even adding a different headpiece. It was a most enlightening talk and our visitors from King's Lynn, North Wootton and Ingoldisthorpe WIs enjoyed themselves - the cakes at teatime may also have had something to do with this.

August 16th saw thirty-five members gather at St Cecilia's for our Afternoon Tea and it was lovely to see some members who have been absent for a while due to ill health. This was catered for by our member Heather and a lovely afternoon took place. This was a chance to just sit and have a chat with friends while enjoying some lovely food. Diann came up with a quiz for each table to take part in. There were some quite difficult questions among the easy ones and the winning table of Cyn, Carole, Sue, Jill, Lyn and Lise shared a large tub of chocolates for getting nineteen out of twenty right. A few even went home with some liquid raffle prizes (not me!) and the sun shone all afternoon.



August 25th saw five of us have a very interesting tour of What-a-Hoot gin distillery in King's Lynn. This is not our first outing to the distillery but some of us had not been able to make it the first time. We learnt what was involved in the making of their gin – to our surprise dried samphire is one of the botanicals used. It is put into the infuser dried, but at the end of the process it comes out fully hydrated.

We had tasters of all five different gins they make plus vodka. We had a tour of the stills and the bottling area. We also learnt that they made for Prince Charles (before he became King) the Sandringham gin which contains among its botanicals myrtle and persimmon - both grown on the Sandringham Estate. We ended the tour with a double gin and tonic of our choice (we were using public transport to get home!) and a chance to purchase some goodies from their shop - lovely fudge and orange curd made from the fresh orange skins used in the gin process. I would recommend this tour to anyone who loves gin, it is interesting, and the free samples are an added bonus.

Both our craft groups and reading group had a break for August but are now back with the book club reading *The Burning Chambers* by Kate Mosse - a novel set in 1562 France during a time of political and religious unrest. The craft group will, I am sure, be

turning their hands to Christmas crafts before too long.

September saw the return of our monthly coffee mornings, starting at Ann's in September and then visiting Chris's in October.

A few of our members assisted at St Nicholas Church Flower Festival with our Starlight Express display, although it appeared none of the members had any roller skates hiding away in the loft!



Our September meet was "Patisserie" by Sally Ann Bonfield, with some lovely samples to taste. I am sure some members will be having a try at home of some of the lovely recipes. I am sorry I missed it, but Scotland is a bit too far to come back from for one night (this is now the second meeting with free samples I have missed out on).

Our October meeting is a talk by Briony Bax about "Volunteering in Africa" which will be most interesting.

A date to look out for is Saturday October 21st from 10.00am – 2.00pm when we will be holding an Autumn Fair at St Cecilia's Church. This will have stalls from other local WIs, crafts, tombola and a raffle for the Norfolk Stroke Association, plus homemade cakes and teas/coffee. Look out for the posters and please do come along and find out more about us.

Our group meet in October is a Murder Mystery Evening at South Wootton Hall, and Norfolk Federation will also be holding one of their Federation Autumn Meets at South Wootton in October.

We hope to plan a trip to Springfields later in the year for Christmas shopping and a possible autumn trip to Felbrigg Hall.

We meet at St Cecilia's Church Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm and most of our meetings are open to all women of the village. Please keep an eye out for posters put up around the village. If you would like to know more about us, please contact Katrina on 01485 544773 or Ann on 01485 542847. □

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Wolferton news and upcoming events Ben Colson

Wolferton Social Club

Prize Bingo

17th October. Doors open 6.30pm eyes down 7.30pm

21st November Doors open 6.30pm eyes down 7.30pm

Cash Bingo

1st October. Doors open 7.00pm. Eyes down 8.00pm

5th November. Doors open 7.00pm. Eyes down 8.00pm

Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday 11th November 10am - 3pm

Wolferton St Peters Church

It is twelve months since Canon **Paul Williams** joined the Sandringham Group of Churches and we are celebrating this anniversary with the Rt Revd Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich, at St Peter's, Wolferton on Sunday 17th September at 4.00pm. All are welcome.

The annual Sandringham Group of Churches **Harvest Supper and Quiz** will be held again this year in the social club, on Friday 13th October starting at 6.30pm with food and heads down for the quiz at 7.30pm prompt. Tables of up to four people. Tickets must be booked in advance at £10 per person available from Tonia Slack

treasurer.wolferton@gmail.com or message on 07891 109380. It's a fun evening and well worth coming!

The organ at St Peter's was first played by the Director of Music from Westminster Abbey when it was installed in the 1890s. It is in need of refurbishment now. The work is due to start toward the end of September, assuming no hold ups. We ask for your patience as **no services will be held during this time** and the church may be required to be locked while the works are being carried out. Please refer to the Sandringham Group of Churches website for future service dates.

For that reason, we cannot give definite details of the annual **Christmas Carol Service** yet, but can tell you that the now annual **Carol Singing around the Village** will be on Friday 22nd December – meet at the Social Club at 6pm. The more the merrier! □

An Encounter with Snails Brian Anderson

When we lived in Bedford (some twelve years ago), we grew some hostas in pots. We soon became aware that snails are very partial to hostas. We removed those we saw some considerable distance along a wooded footpath. After a while, it occurred to us that some of these snails might be coming back, so we marked the shell of each full-sized snail with a tiny blob of nail varnish (which immediately became known as snail varnish). By the end of the summer some had five blobs. The next year some marked snails reappeared. These were marked with a different colour.

And so it continued for five years, at the end of which time some snails had penta-coloured rainbow snails. The conclusion - snails have a homing instinct and a memory and adult snails can live for at least five years. □

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What could an enlarged and fevered brain,
Like a peacock showing off gain,
Creating a vehicle to plumb the deep
Down to the place where unfortunate people sleep?

This craft was extended, and that wasn't healthy,
But they were extracting money from the very wealthy.
Those five trusting people gladly went down the hatch,
While the promoter's agents closed and secured the latch.

We don't know enough about the upper atmosphere,
And even less we know of what's down there.
Someone had read the book by Jules Verne
And thought, of course, this could be his turn.

Advertising a lifetime opportunity, for mountains of pence,
Risky lives with careless methods and stiff-necked negligence.
The dive began in Canada, off the Newfoundland coast.
In two hours, distress signal – lost all contact with the host.

With rising panic, they realised something was wrong,
The silence had continued for far too long.
The extreme pressure of the water, the severe coldness,
The dwindling oxygen in the surrounding darkness.

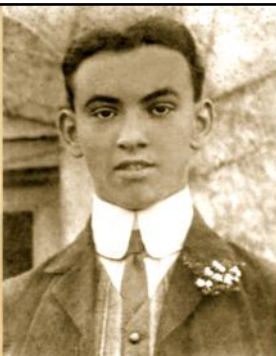
The hapless inhabitants realised their fate was loaded.
It would have been very quick, as the vehicle imploded.
Meanwhile, up above, search and rescue leapt into action,
Coast Guard, aircraft, ships and drones powered into operation.

We know the awful, inevitable outcome of their fate;
It became search and retrieve; it was all too, too late.
Dark Tourism, destinations to view sites of trauma,
Is it creepy exploitation of the past, presented as drama?

The *Titanic* has been there 100 years or more,
Resting where she stopped on the ocean floor.
It's a hard nut of history their families have to bite on,
The legacy of the misnomer of a submersible called THE TITAN...!!!

**Lorna
July MMXXIII**

*Meanwhile, a boat capsized near Greece and hundreds of migrants drowned,
But their news was superseded and pushed into the background.....*



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News from Dersingham Bog Matthew Lonsdale, Natural England

Summer is coming to an end as I write this, and this also indicates the end of the breeding season on Dersingham Bog and the start of our winter workplan. But there's still a lot to be seen, especially invertebrates, and Nightjars fledging as I type.

We seem to have had a good season for many of our priority bird species on Dersingham Bog - with twenty-nine Nightjar territories and thus far we have found nine nests in which ten young have fledged. The number of nests found are down this year as we've struggled with staff and volunteer capacity to find the time to partaking in as much nest finding, but from them we have found a productivity we are happy with. We had seven Woodlark territories, and many fledged young have been seen around the reserve. Stonechats were also very successful with many pairs fledging three broods of young, and these Stonechats are now starting to build up before their migration south. Crossbills are being seen with some regularity now, indicating a good breeding season around us. Juvenile Goshawk and Raven have also been noted.

Invertebrates have also been seen in good numbers. Where we have opened up around the decoy pond and let in light, great numbers of Black Darters and Willow Emeralds have been seen. The latter is a species only first recorded last year. Butterflies seem to have had a great year all round with large hatches of Peacock, Red Admiral and Meadow Browns, as well as the scarcer Purple Hairstreak. Moths had been relatively quiet, but we have had some moth evenings on the east end the bog and have recorded speciality species such as the Light Knot Grass and Sundew-plume moths. The constant trap near the office was also rewarded with a magnificent Clifden Nonpareil, which interested even



the non-moth enthusiasts who work on the reserve.



We have been working hard over the summer carrying out improvements to the infrastructure on the site as well as controlling the rhododendron and bracken. We have replaced the railings and steps down to access the bog from the Denver bench, as well as making improvements to the paths at Le Hairs Hike and the scissors car park. In addition, some painting has been carried out to help give the site a bit of a spruce up. We have also been doing our

regular cattle checks as well as holding livestock courses for Natural England staff from across the organisation to help improve all our skills. We have been lucky with the weather this year as there is still plenty for the cows to eat and drink around the reserve, as well as in the old landfill; this is opposite to last year's drought which saw us spending lots of time ensuring the cows had ample supplies of feed and water.

Our twice-weekly volunteers have been crucial in helping us achieve this work this summer as well as in the upcoming autumn and winter. Volunteer days are on Mondays and Wednesdays every week. If you'd like to come and volunteer with us, please email matthew.lonsdale@naturalengland.org.uk. □



From your Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb



A wonderful sunny, warm start to September after what has been a mixed bag of weather during this year's summer. The rain has certainly given the gardens a boost, and whilst delivering leaflets, your Councillors were impressed at the way most gardens in Dersingham are looking. Early autumn rather than

spring seems to be the best time of year for flowers and flowering plants, as plants give their best show before late autumn comes and winter sets in, and the display is a joy to behold.

Enough of matters horticultural; what of the Borough? Good news is that the new Administration are to continue with the scheme whereby each ward Councillor has £1,000 to contribute to local initiatives; so do let us know if there is a special project that we could support with this level of funding.

Mention should be made of August Bank Holiday weekend when Sandringham hosted no less than four concerts on consecutive days. Great for some, not so much for others. We hope to have a meeting with Sandringham to discuss sharing the roads and indeed the visitors in a more equitable manner. Having said that, it was a big boost to this part of the world, which will result hopefully in more folk being aware of just what this area has to offer.

Last Council we discussed the closure of booking offices at railway stations. The Councillors unanimously decried the proposed closure of this service, citing the need for disabled, elderly and indeed anyone else to be served and advised by officers of the rail network. The notion that everyone has access to "smart" technology is not true. It was also noted that the car parking is payable also only by smart phone unless (we are told) you park in the lower portion of the car park.

The next few months will see the new Administration bedding in, and hopefully continuing with managing and progressing the levelling up projects for which funding is in place.

We wish all ward members a pleasant start to the autumn season and look forward as ever to hearing from you should there be issues with which we can assist. □



Dersingham Walking Group

Tony Bubb

Whilst the possibility recedes of walking in fearfully high temperatures, we still can look forward to some good walking weather this autumn. The latest batch is staying fairly local with routes to enjoy. The picture shows one of the Long Ponds that were part of the Civil War defensive moat that we passed on a recent walk.



Our next walks are:

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.

Wednesday October 11th 2.00pm

A meander around Hunstanton to enjoy the different views of both old and new 'Sunny Hunny' including a beach walk under the cliffs. Meet at 'The Lookout' in front of the Salad Bowl Cafe near the bowling green, TF 673413, or, if you use it - What3words location reference: boomers.morphing.unlisted. Approximately 4 miles. Leader Wendy Mears 01485 534338.

Wednesday October 25th 2.00pm

A circular walk around Thornham, including both the village and the picturesque harbour. Start point All Saints Church, Thornham, TF 733434. About 4.5 miles. Leader Stephen Martyn 01485 541333.

Wednesday November 8th 1.30pm – the clocks have gone back!

A chance to enjoy Dersingham Fen, its nearby woods and open spaces. About 4 miles. Start at the village sign, TF684297. Leader Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.

Wednesday November 22nd 1.30pm

Sherborne - The Peddars Way and some points in between on this circular trip of about 4.5 miles. Start point just north of the eastern end of Ling House Road where it crosses the Sherborne to Anmer Road and continues east to Ling House. TF730306. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542538.

Wednesday December 13th 1.30pm

An exploration of the new Elizabeth path and a bit of the River Ingol. About 4 miles. Start point Dersingham Station, TF631308. Leader Tony Bubb 01485 542638.

All our planned walks will appear here in Village Voice and can also be found on our page on the Parish Council website and in the Calendar on that website. Our page is at www.dersingham.org.uk/walkinggroup. Joining the walking group is a great way to meet some of your fellow villagers plus some folk from further afield and to explore the local area. There is no cost involved. 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@btint

Sandringham Parish Council

Ben Colson

The Parish Council met on 9th August, which I attended as the only member of the public. Remember, if you live in the parish – that includes Babingley, Sandringham, West Newton and Wolferton – you can come and sit in at meetings and ask your Councillors questions about things in the parish and matters that concern you.

The Parish Council can have up to seven Councillors and is currently working with just four, so if you're interested in joining, just contact Stephen Thompson, the Chairman, who will happily take you through what it means and entails to be a Councillor.

The meeting covered a wide range of issues including a report on the progress with siting a memorial bench at Wolferton in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and also on repairs to the ancient monument Butlers Cross at Babingley. The cross, which is in the grass triangle at the junction of the West Newton road and the main road, marked the historic boundary between the estates of Castle Rising and Sandringham and was named after Boutelier, the Chief of Staff to William I (William the Conqueror of 1066 fame) who gave the Castle Rising estate to him in recognition of the part he played in the invasion of England.

The main item on the agenda was to consider the suggestions from parishioners following the call for ideas for a bid to the Borough Council's Community Infrastructure Levy fund. Nine suggestions had been made, six in writing and three verbally, some of which would not be eligible for the fund. However, two were selected for further development. One was to set up a 'Men's shed' and the other was what is called a Travel Hub, to be located close to the Wolferton and Sandringham crossroads on the A149 where cars can be parked, bikes stored or hired from, with a pedestrian crossing across the main road, and all linked to the bus service from there to Lynn, Hunstanton and along the coast. It was thought that this could be of considerable benefit to tourists as well as local residents.

Following a question, there was also considerable discussion about the impact of the various road closures for the period of Sandringham concerts over the August Bank Holiday weekend. It was too late to do anything about them then, but the Chairman undertook to discuss further with relevant parties based on actual impacts so that, if needed, improvements can be made for future year events.

West Newton Carpet Bowls Club

West Newton Carpet Bowls Club welcomes new members.

We play at West Newton Village Hall on Tuesday evenings from 6.45 pm to 9.15 pm from September to the following April.

For more information please contact the Chairman: Trevor Riches 01485 543706 or 07453 303379, or the Secretary: Ian Jenkins 01485 542432, or turn up on the night and have a go.□



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It's time for autumn vaccines

NHS flu and COVID vaccine programmes brought forward due to risk of new COVID variant

Millions of eligible people will now be offered a covid vaccine from 11 September, in line with the latest expert guidance on the new covid variant. This change follows an announcement by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) on the risks presented by the new BA.2.86 variant and pre-emptive measures the NHS has been asked to take.

The adult covid and flu vaccination programmes had been due to start in October to maximise protection over the winter months, but now those most at risk including adult care home residents will be vaccinated from 11 September.

The NHS has been asked to bring the programme forward and will be working quickly to ensure as many eligible people as possible are vaccinated by the end of October.

Residents of older adult care homes and those most at risk including those who are immunosuppressed will receive their covid vaccine first. Carers, pregnant women and health and social care staff will all be among the groups to be offered a covid jab this winter, as well as adults aged 65 and over.

Eligible people should wait to receive an invite from their local provider.

From 18 September, the NHS will start to invite people in priority order of risk and those eligible will be able to book an appointment on the National Booking Service.

The NHS winter flu and COVID-19 vaccination programme provides vital protection to those eligible and their families over winter, keeping people from developing serious illnesses, and helping to minimise hospitalisations during busy winter months.

Where people had already booked an appointment for their flu vaccination earlier in September with their local provider, these appointments can go ahead. If vaccine supply has been ordered for covid and flu, sites can start vaccinating against both.

It is important that those eligible this year come forward for their vaccinations as protection fades over time, and the virus that causes flu can change from year to year.

As in previous years, the NHS will let people know when bookings open. Adult flu and COVID-19 appointments will be available through the NHS App and website, or by calling 119 for those who can't get online. Flu and Covid vaccines will also be available through local participating GP practices and pharmacies □



Dersingham Methodist Church

Elizabeth Batstone, Church Secretary

Saturday 22nd July was a very wet, dreary morning and we didn't expect many to attend our coffee morning. How wrong we were! People came in, discarded their umbrellas and wet coats, looked at and bought from the stalls, enjoyed hot sausage rolls and coffee cake and sat chatting. In a very short time every table was full and more chairs were put out.

Thank you for helping us to raise £326.21 which has been divided equally between Methodist Missions in Britain and Methodist World Missions. Thank you too for showing us how wrong we were!

We look forward to seeing you all again at our forthcoming coffee mornings.

Dates for coffee mornings are as follows:

Saturday 27th October: 10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

Saturday 25th November – **Christmas Fayre**: 10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

Other activities

Bowls Club: Wednesdays 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. weekly

Jigsaw Club: Third Thursday each month 9.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. Fee 50p per year, 10p per jigsaw borrowed. Church services continue at 10.30 a.m.

You are welcome to join us for worship, followed by coffee and biscuits. We are a small friendly Methodist Church who support and care for each other and want to share God's love to everyone.

Further information on the above from Elizabeth Batstone, 01485 541068
stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com □

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Stroke Association Strawberry Fair



Early August saw the Stroke Association Coastal Group Strawberry Fair. This was a traditional afternoon tea with the added bonus of strawberries and cream following sandwiches, cakes, and scones with jam and cream. It was enjoyed by the members and carers of the Stoke Association Coastal Group.

Special thanks to Allison at Moss Bakery for providing the food, and Amanda at Bernie Beans for providing the fine china.

Jamin Joe provided a wonderful musical backdrop for a special afternoon.□



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Monday 9th October 2023

Magnificence & Splendour: The Royal Art Collection in the Court of Henry VIII

Lecturer: Helen Rufus-Ward



Monday 13th November 2023

Sickert and the Camden Town Murder

Lecturer: Steven Barrett



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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. □

A blue poster for a quiz night. The title 'FUN QUIZ NIGHT' is in large, stylized letters with a dotted pattern. Below it, the date 'FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER' is in bold white letters. The venue 'DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE' is in white letters. The time 'Questions start at 7pm' is in white. The prizes 'CASH PRIZE FOR WINNERS' and 'RAFFLE & TEAM NAME COMPETITION' are in bold yellow and red letters. At the bottom, there is information about tickets, a QR code, and contact details.

FUN QUIZ NIGHT

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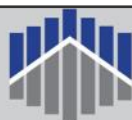
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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club

Jan Rawstron

Goodness! By the time you read this, the 2023 season will be over! Where did the summer go? We have packed a lot into a short time and, in spite of the unpredictable weather, have not had to cancel or re-arrange many events.

Our Countryside League Captain, Terry Thompson, reports that as it stands, and having completed our matches, we are currently sitting in second place, with only one team who can surpass us. Fingers crossed there. We also did well in the Eddie Hipkin Knockout Competition, winning in the first round against Heacham, but unfortunately losing to Searles in the next round. We have, however, won through to the final of the Knockout Shield. This match will be against Houghton 'A' team on September 5th on neutral ground, weather permitting. Heacham Bowls Club have kindly made their green available. Terry, in his first season as team captain, says that he is really proud of all the Dersingham players who have made all this possible. Without their support we would not be in this position, so a big thank you and congratulations to the team, well done.

Our Albert Victor League Captain, Gerry Bhagat, reports that from the latest league table received we are in 4th place. However, teams below us have not submitted all their results, so with us with one game to play the final result could be a lot different. He also thanks the players for their support throughout the season.

Gerry also organises the Ladies v Men Challenge matches. I reported last issue that the men won the first leg by 118 shots to 112, a closely fought match. Well, the ladies certainly pulled out all the stops on the return match played on Saturday July 29th, winning by 153 shots to 76. This means the ladies won overall by 71 shots. Well done ladies! Once again, the Village Fryer provided the fish and chips supper, enjoyed after this match.

Thanks must go to Gerry also for the coaching sessions he holds on Thursday mornings. Many of those now involved in the league teams have progressed from attending these sessions. It is good to see the development of these players. Long may it continue.

Our internal league - The Dickie Murrell Memorial League - affectionally known as 'The Birds League', came to a nail-biting conclusion on Wednesday August 16th with everything hanging on the afternoon's results. Winning by just 2 points were the Kestrels (Dave Graves, Muriel Saunders, Mary Hearn and Steve Booth), with worthy runners-up, the Wrens (Joy Kelly, Sue Booth, Laurence O'Dea and Albert Chamberlain).

On Sunday July 29th we played for the Edie's Cup. This was well supported, and was won by Dave Graves, with David Liddle the runner-up. Well done both.



Edie's Cup



Eddie Roye Pairs Cup

Bank Holiday Monday just gone (August 28th) saw the last of our internal competitions - the Eddie Roye pairs match. This was won by Terry Thompson and Albert Chamberlain. Worthy runners-up were Kevin Mayor and Steve Booth. Again, well done.

We enjoyed our home and away friendly matches against Cliff Parade which are always played in a spirit of friendly rivalry.

Of course, none of this would be possible without a green to play on, and we would like to thank our green keeping team of Allen Toppin, Albert Chamberlain, Ray Hollywood and Laurance O'Dea. This year we have had a persistent problem with rabbits. This was solved by putting concrete paths with wire around the green. The work was very well done by both our green team and C.L. Services of Dersingham. Having hopefully rid ourselves of rabbits, moles may be the next challenge! Allen reports that the green has been regularly cut and fertilised, watered as required and has held up well to a good season of bowling. Work will continue over the winter for next year when we shall welcome old and new friends.

Meanwhile, the green will close until next April on Saturday, September 23rd, but we still have our Presentation Lunch to look forward to at The Mariner, Old Hunstanton on October 20th, when those who have been successful will receive their trophies. Also, our Wednesday Winter Warmers will commence at the beginning of October, where we can keep in touch with our bowling friends over bingo, darts, and most important, tea/coffee and biscuits. So, until the next issue, stay safe and well. □



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Well, summer's over – how quick did that go!!

So, what's next? Halloween? Bonfire night? Christmas?

CHRISTMAS!! HOW DARE I MENTION THAT WORD.

But think about it. It was only the other week that the schools broke up for their summer holiday, wasn't it?

Before you know it, Christmas will have been and gone, 2024 will be here and it'll soon be Easter, so get your planning head on and start thinking about that lovely Christmas dinner you'll be having.

Our butchers will be taking your Christmas orders from the end of September but why not visit the deli counter and choose some delicious cheeses and accompaniments too.

We also have a large selection of locally produced beers, wines and spirits.

There's loads of other stuff too, so why not pop over and have a look – you never know, you might even end up in Norfolk Lavender's gift shop and pick up a few (dare I say?) Christmas presents.



St. Nicholas Church: A Look back in Time

Elizabeth Fiddick

If we, like Doctor Who, could travel back through time to explore Dersingham, I suspect no matter in which century we arrived we would struggle to find our bearings, even if our Tardis had materialised next to the church. There is evidence that a smaller Norman church with just a nave and chancel stood here, for Norman mouldings have been found worked into the present structure. Also, it is almost certain there was an Anglo Saxon church here even before that. Some believe that St. Felix, who introduced Christianity into this area and founded churches at Babingley and Shernborne, may have come here as well.

Over the following centuries changes were made to the Norman church, but it was the fourteenth century that witnessed the greatest. In 1348 our country was ravaged by the Black Death. This plague killed an estimated one third of the population in eighteen months. No part of England was safe. King's Lynn became a ghost town, losing half of its population of 5,000 by 1349. Stay at home orders and quarantine were put in place to attempt to halt the spread. Wardens patrolled the streets, taverns and workplaces were closed, and strangers were turned away. (Sounds familiar?)

In Norwich as few as 6,000 people survived out of a population of 25,000. Graveyards were overwhelmed and the dead had to be buried in communal pits. No town or village was spared. It was possibly one of the reasons that the lost villages of Babingley, Mintlyn, Summerfield near Docking, and Anmer became deserted when their populations failed as economic life ground to a standstill. There were successive poor harvests which led to severe food shortages and starvation. Many clergy abandoned their posts and while the rich could move to their large estates to isolate themselves, for the ordinary citizen no escape was possible. Here Richard de Wiclewood was the Minister from 1344 to 1349 when Hugh Smith replaced him. I do not know yet if either survived the plague, but research is ongoing.

The disease eventually waned and died out, only to return again, although less severely, in 1361 but with equal severity in 1369. As a consequence, the population of England did not recover to its thirteenth-century levels until the eighteenth century. (One significant consequence of the Black Death was that it brought an end to serfdom and gave the surviving ordinary labourer an enormous advantage - as demand for his services was extremely high, he could bargain for better pay and conditions.)

Many came to regard the Black Death to be a form of Divine punishment and sought a means of salvation and forgiveness of sins. So large sums of money were donated to the church and by 1370 huge building works were commenced at St. Nicholas. The nave, aisles and tower were added to the west end. Existing aisles were raised to their present height and the clerestory was built to add greater height to the roof and to increase the amount of light. All the stained glass windows in the nave were altered from the Decorated Gothic, where ribs of stone divide the window into elaborate geometric patterns, to Perpendicular Gothic where the emphasis is on vertical lines to the top of the arch. The windows in the aisle and the clerestory are likewise Perpendicular Gothic. This was partly a consequence again of the Black Death as it was felt a more sober plain mood should replace the elaborate patterns of the past. This means St. Nicholas now has a mixture of both these styles.



West Window – Perpendicular



East Window – Decorated Gothic

As the fifteenth century dawned, the south porch was built with its large entrance and trefoil windows. The tower was improved and additions were made inside to the rood screen. The lower panels we can still see today are from the fourteenth century. This is the church building we would have been able to recognise, although up to 1798 we would still have been puzzled to see a small spire with a lantern on top of the tower which was a clear landmark to the local fishermen returning across The Wash. The angels that top the tower today are a much more recent addition. There is an account in the church records that in 1751 the church, steeple and porch were whitewashed at a cost of £4-4s-0d. How different it would have looked then.



***St. Nicholas by Thomas Kerrich, Vicar
1784 -1828***

We would also have noticed that the graveyard was only on the southeast side. The extension of the graveyard to the northern side did not occur until 1935 when the old Pakenham Manor House that stood in the school playground was demolished. It was the stone from there that was used to build the wall that surrounds the extended cemetery today.

A map from 1720 describes this land as *Conny Ground* with a pinfold or pound in the far corner to secure stray animals. Conny or Coney is the old medieval name for the rabbit. Rabbits were brought here from France 900 years ago and were highly valued for their meat and fur. During the Middle Ages it became a status symbol to have rabbit

on your table and as their fur was soft, durable, and warm it was desirable for lining clothing. Thus they were considered a major economic asset, so wealthy families kept rabbits in special walled enclosures, cared for and protected from predators by the warrener. In his will dated 1607, John Pell, the Lord of the Manor here, left his wife the *"Dovehouse, barn and yard thereunto called the Couney ground"*. The Tithe map of 1839 describes it as pasture called Dove House Close, used by Joshua Freeman of Church Farm and owned by John Motteux of Sandringham.

Before 1671 of course we would not have seen the Tithe or Great Barn of today but John Pell's smaller barn and Dovehouse mentioned above. Dersingham Hall would not be the fine late eighteenth-/nineteenth-century house we see today but a much smaller premises, possibly built in the early seventeenth century by the Pell family.

It is on the southeastern side of the church that we would notice much change, for in 1264 Adam de Mota, Prior of Binham, granted Sir Thomas de Gelham, of Gelham Manor, permission to build a chapel in the churchyard and to appoint a Chaplain to conduct services. It was known as The Free Chapel of St. Mary. We know it stood there in 1438 as a Nicholas Cockerell was appointed Chaplain. However, Henry VIII (who else?) confiscated many of the bequests left for the benefit of St. Nicholas, about 1497, so the Chapel slowly fell into ruin. Also on this side there once stood the *"small studded clay"* building which was the vicarage. However, there were long periods of time when the village was without a vicar and consequently the studded clay house became very dilapidated.



The extended cemetery - previously The Conny Ground, then Dove House Close Pasture



The 1720 map showing the Conney ground left, Pell Manor House and garden, top right, Moat bottom right.

It was just opposite the church, in the area now occupied by the surgery, Church Row cottages and the land enclosed by that old carstone wall, that in 1553 John Pell II decided to build a fine Manor House more suited to his wealth and status than the old-fashioned moated house that stood in the pastures opposite. He surrounded his new house with a large garden plus several barns to store the corn and produce from his lands. The Pells, whose wealth was made from shipping and the wool trade, were Lords of the Manor here for nearly two hundred years. It was this John Pell II who became so annoyed by that dilapidated "studded clay house" just outside his front gate that he ordered it to be demolished in about 1656.

When the last member of the Pells died in 1690 without issue, he left all his property to his relatives the Walpoles of Houghton Hall. They then allowed the old Pell mansion to be used for the vicars of Dersingham. Samuel Kerrich was the last vicar to occupy it, but by 1753 the fine old house had become very rundown and too expensive to renovate. So the Kerrichs moved to Dersingham Hall and sometime later unfortunately the Pells' Manor House was demolished.

So with the loss of the Chapel of St. Mary, the demolition of both the Manor House and the small vicarage, the southeast side of the church becomes more like the one we know today. Opposite in the pastures the moat of the original Brookhall Manor House can still be seen.

So you can see how much this area has changed over the centuries. It continues to change even now, with the Village Centre, and a bowling green replacing the old cattle barn that used to stand there. □

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The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle



Well, I've been getting upfront and personal with the grim reaper recently and I have to confess it's been a bit scary.

The first iffy moment was when watching the Coronation on TV. There were lots of very bright colours and suddenly the screen pixilated. Oh no, I thought, then glanced across the room only to realise that the room was pixilated too. I decided to go and lie down and have a snooze and perhaps all would be well when I awoke. It was. I considered talking to the doctor, but the thought of trying to actually reach one put me off. I should have bothered, for it turns out it was the symptom of a mini stroke.

I had been in the process of waiting and waiting to be given a date for a heart valve replacement which just never seemed to materialise. Too many emergencies getting priority. The cheek of those people having heart attacks and knocking me back in the queue...

I went on to have an experience I wasn't sure was 'wind' or a mild heart attack. Pain under the boob which was relieved by burping. I decided to go to sleep (always the best remedy) and all was well in the morning. But a friend a bit older than me announced she had experienced a heart attack recently. Curious, I asked her what it was like, and she described exactly my 'under the boob, burping' episode. I realised I must have had a heart attack too, so immediately went to the surgery and asked if I could speak with a doctor. "You will have to phone tomorrow for a same day telephone appointment". Clutching the region of my heart, I asked, 'What if I am having a heart attack now?' 'Then you must phone 111 or 999', I was advised. So, I waited until the next day and phoned at 8.30 a.m. and was told the doctor would contact me. I waited until 7 p.m. that evening to be told by the doctor that it sounded like indigestion to him and he would send a prescription to the chemist for me. I tried to tell him I never suffer from indigestion, but the call was cut. Despite my annoyance, I realised how late the doctor was working, and that it was no fun for him either.

At four in the morning I awoke with the 'boob pains and burps' and decided to phone 111. Just as well, as it **was** a heart attack. Now, I don't know about you, but I always thought a heart attack was a most painful experience where you rolled around the floor screaming, clutching your throat with curled claws whilst your body convulsed. Not at all. Just mild pain, alleviated by burping. So, don't be fooled into thinking it is nothing if it happens to you. The hospital doctor later explained to me there are different types of heart attacks and some **ARE** painful).

I spent six days in the A & E 'Acute' ward, which was not the most pleasant of experiences, with so many ill people around me and the occasional emergency when a whole heap of doctors, nurses and orderlies appeared, rushing from nowhere, to deal with the situation.

What was good and very surprising about my time spent in the Acute ward was that the food was absolutely gorgeous! I don't know if I just struck lucky that week, or it is always good, I can't say, but it was something to look forward to. Something else to look forward to was getting to Papworth hospital earlier, as my condition hopefully would bring my operation forward. And so it came to pass.

I was speedily sped in an ambulance to Cambridge - reading the Ambulance lady's palm as we went - and apparently suffering another heart attack, according to the machine I

was hooked up to. I would never have known it. It seems there doesn't have to be pain involved at all!

To my surprise, I was trolleyed into a most gorgeous space-agey building, all white and gleaming and ushered into my own private room with en suite toilet/shower! It was absolutely wonderful and I was able to unwind and relax in this oasis of calm after the chaos of the QE at Lynn. However, to my dismay, the food was not good at all, including a stone-cold baked potato. Well, you can't win 'em all, can you!

The next morning I was wheeled, still in my bed, along a myriad of white corridors with blue clad persons It was weird. The doors swung open to a vast, high-ceilinged theatre, with covered 'pipes' (maybe electrics) and it was just like being transported onto an alien spaceship. The nurses greeted me with smiles, saying they had never seen anyone come into the theatre with make up on before (just some lipstick and a bit of eye shadow – but one has one's dignity to maintain...)

It was explained I would be given pain killers and a little anaesthetic to stop any pain, but that I would be conscious the whole time. Ooo-er. I didn't like the sound of that. But first, I was to get onto the operating table from my bed which they shunted up beside the table. I was asked if I could hop off my bed onto the table. I looked at them in horror as I can't 'hop' anywhere these days. Without dignity - make up or no make up - I heaved myself around like a beached whale and managed to wriggle my way over onto the bed. Old age really does suck as the once natural and graceful agility one used to have is replaced by slow reflexes and complete uselessness.

I didn't feel a thing during the operation which was around two hours, and I did manage to keep my cool.

The next day I was told to go home. I would have liked to stay a bit longer! I was also told to take it easy for a couple of weeks and not to drive for a month....nothing to worry about then.

It's two months since the op. I can't say I feel well at all, which is a bit worrying. I don't take 'takings things easy' easily and am constantly being told off by my nearest and dearests.

And to end my tale of woe, I must just say that while we might get fed up with the current NHS situation, I discovered that the cost of my operation – should I have gone privately – would have been £59,500.00! I had no idea it amounted to so much. I wonder how much it has cost for all the various scans I have had, the stay in hospital, the drugs, and so on and so forth. The NHS might not be perfect, but my goodness we certainly get our money's worth when we get treated. No way could most of us find that kind of money, so we really shouldn't moan, however infuriating it can be at times.□



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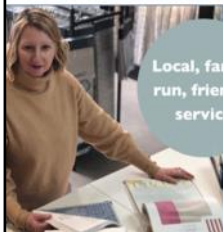
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Our annual parish barbecue at OLSE on Saturday 19th August was very well attended and enjoyed by all. There will be a Harvest Lunch on Wednesday 18th October at St Cecilia's. Please see the weekly bulletin and notices in both churches for more details.

We need to review and develop a new website for our parish from 2024 and to grow the team who maintain it. If you feel you are able to contribute in any way, we have a blank canvas to start with and would appreciate and welcome any ideas; please don't be shy about coming forward, you will be most welcome. Contact us initially using the parish email address.

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 2.00pm and there is also a Mothers' Prayers group which meet at 2.30pm Monday fortnightly at OLSE. The Pope's prayer intention for October is **For the Synod**: we pray for the church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world. The Pope's prayer intention for November is **For the Pope**: we pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Sr Danuta is guiding a regular parish study/discussion group at the Convent every Tuesday, 4.00pm - 5.00pm, looking in more depth at the readings for the following Sunday. 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 9.00am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, and 11.00am at OLSE, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton.

Daily Masses are at 10.00am 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 parishpriest763@gmail.com

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Our new term starts on September 7th at St Cecilia's Church Hall at 7pm for a two-hour rehearsal with a break halfway through. Enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits and a chance to have a chat and a catch up. Your first rehearsal is free, with following weeks charged at £5 per week.

There's no need to be able to read music, as our experienced Music Director guides us through every piece. We all just want to sing together and enjoy all the benefits that brings. Our repertoire is very varied and, in preparation for our Christmas concert, we will be learning a medley from *Oliver*, a selection of carols for the second half sing-a-long, plus other works.

The concert, which will be free to attend, will be on 16th December from 2-4pm, with refreshments and a raffle.

You can see and hear more by visiting our website - www.dersinghamchoir.com where you can contact us for more information.



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Dersingham Yard Sale

Alex Dixon

So lovely to see the support and the turnout from everyone for the Village Yard Sale in July.

There were a few houses that dropped out on the day, but most people were very resourceful when it came to making sure rain didn't stop play. We saw gazebos, garages, carports, tarpaulins and even a van being used as cover.

Kim's Dog Groomers kindly offered their services for free to help raise money for charity by doing nail clipping, face and paw trimming, and ear cleaning in the Village Centre as part of the tabletop sale. The Village Centre volunteers were kept really busy and did a tremendous job keeping everyone supplied with teas, coffees, cake, rolls and quiche in their pop-up cafe.



The Social Club did well with their BBQ and tabletop sale, and everyone we spoke to who had their own sale seemed pleased with their takings and were in high spirits on the day



A big thank you to Thaxters, the Co-Op, the Post Office and Petals Tearoom for getting involved in collecting the names of participants and selling maps.

We are hoping to make this an annual occasion and hopefully get even more events planned around the village to coincide with it next year.

In total we raised £375 for our chosen charities with map sales, stall fees and donations. This will be split between Ryston Rachel's Hedgehog Hotel and Safe Rescue for Dogs. All donations have been very much appreciated. We hope everyone had an enjoyable day.□

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The Five Painters' Exhibition at Thornham Village Hall In Support of the Stroke Association

Local artists Jill Ilett, Kit Price Moss, Stephen Martyn, Julie Witt and Chandra Ward will be exhibiting their work on the weekend of Saturday October 7th and Sunday October 8th at **"The Five Painters' Art Exhibition"** in Thornham Village Hall on our beautiful Norfolk coast. The exhibition, open from 10:00am to 5:00pm, is organised annually by artist Stephen Martyn, a long-time supporter of the Stroke Association and, indeed, some of the participating artists have been involved in teaching and facilitating art therapy for the rehabilitation of patients that have suffered serious, debilitating strokes.

The artists taking part all have very diverse styles and will present a wide range of subjects - beautiful landscapes, wildlife, flowers, and many more. There will be something for everyone!

Do pop along and visit us if you are out and about around the coast, walking the creeks or just having a day out at the nearby beaches. It's going to be a fabulous show!!!

The five painters are:

Kit Price-Moss

Being near the coast has increased Kit's fascination with the wildlife to be found there, living on the edge. 'The natural world in particular inspires me. I enjoy painting and drawing outside and also work up sketchbook observations for paintings or printmaking such as linocuts in the studio.'

Jill Ilett

'I have painted all my life, enjoying mostly landscapes & gardens. Still life is lovely to do when in my studio during inclement weather. My media depend on how I feel about the subject, but mostly acrylic. I have exhibited my work widely and hope to continue to enjoy painting now that I am an octogenarian!'

Stephen Martyn

'I love to be out in the landscape and can often be found trudging the footpaths of Norfolk and beyond, always with a sketchbook and camera in my rucksack. The inspiration for my paintings often comes from some fleeting effect of the light that I've glimpsed on one of these trips. My work encompasses a range of subjects, but is mainly landscape based, often featuring big skies and wide open spaces. My preferred medium is watercolour, and over the years I have done a great deal of art tuition in the use of this medium.'

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The poster features a grid of nine small paintings: a landscape with a person on a beach, a still life with a green vase and fruit, a bouquet of red flowers, a sunset over water, a still life with a blue jug and bowl, a boat on water, a landscape with a lighthouse, a beach scene with a red building, and a still life with pink flowers. The background is a vibrant, abstract blend of red, orange, and blue.

Julie Witt

Julie's work is inspired by her emotional response to colour, and much of her artwork has been inspired by the German expressionist painters. She works mainly with watercolour, acrylics and mixed media (watercolour and ink). Her subject matter varies widely from still life to flowers.

Chandra Ward

'I love to create atmospheric landscapes and waterscapes, of both real and imaginary places. My inspiration comes from the changing moods of nature, such as sunlight glistening on water, or the magic of shadows and clouds moving silently over sunlit fields and meadows, near my home in a small West Norfolk village, on the edge of the Fens. Wildlife also features in some of my paintings. I work mainly with watercolour, or acrylic inks, but also enjoy using soft pastels.'

Old Map Corner With Tony Bubb

This little plan shows King's Lynn in 1835 drawn by Robert Creighton and was probably part of Samuel Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of England* (1835), showing the boundaries as surveyed for and determined in the Great Reform Act Bill of 1832. The naming of features is fairly sparse, but the ones shown are nearly all existing today, although North Lynn has moved to the east across the river. It's a pre-railway plan, of course, but the biggest change is the river Ouse which is now quite different and constrained.





Events for October and November

MONDAY 2nd OCTOBER: BINGO NIGHT – Club opens at 7.00 p.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 13th OCTOBER: 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.

FRIDAY 20th OCTOBER: FILM NIGHT – Allelujah – 12A. Club opens at 7.00 p.m. Film starts at 7.30 p.m. Admission £4 at the door. For further information email enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk

SATURDAY 28th OCTOBER: HALLOWEEN PARTY – 7.00 p.m. Admission £3. Children under 16 free. Musical entertainment with Roger Williams. Prize for the Best Fancy Dress. Fully licenced bar and raffle.

SATURDAY 4th NOVEMBER: BONFIRE and FIREWORKS NIGHT – Club opens at 6:00 p.m. Bonfire lit at 6.30 p.m. Hot Dogs available £2.50 – please order in advance – email anmer.club@hotmail.com or telephone/text 07986 139210.

MONDAY 6th NOVEMBER: BINGO NIGHT – Club opens at 7.00 p.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 10th NOVEMBER: FILM NIGHT – The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry – 12A. The club opens at 7.00 p.m. Film starts at 7.30 p.m. Admission £4 at the door. For further information email enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk

FRIDAY 24th NOVEMBER: 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 Maggie Ponder

After a break in August, we have been enjoying our weekly meetings with arts and crafts including: painting, paper crafts, knitting, sewing, crocheting and rug making. If anyone is interested in joining, we would be very happy to show you what we do.

Come and visit us between 10.00am and 2.00pm 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 have a limited stock of handmade blankets, baby clothes and gloves, hats etc. for sale.□

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What's on offer?

Rev Mark Capron

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

In this edition of *Village Voice* I thought it might be helpful to share an insight into a number of the groups or activities that are available both in and through the churches.

Little Nippers Baby and Toddler Group has a friendly, relaxed and faith-based atmosphere. We meet each Monday morning in St Nicholas Church, Dersingham during term time only, between 9.30am and 11.00am for play, craft activities, story time and games. We have a maximum of thirty children and we do have a waiting list, so if you are interested in exploring this with your little one, please contact us via our Facebook page (Little Nippers Dersingham) or by contacting the Church Secretary on 01485 544561.

Elevation Youth Group: The young people enjoy great games, snacks, Bible study through music videos by Christian artists, along with chilling out. We meet in the Village Centre across the road from the church during term time on Sunday evenings at 7.00pm. It is for young people in school year 7 (age 11+). We have some big events planned, including in October: 'Cathedral @Night' packed full of activities and fun for young people across Norfolk, and in November an activity residential weekend which the young people love! If you or your young person are interested in joining us at Elevation, please contact the Church Secretary on 01485 544561 for more information.

Mothers' Union is an international Christian charity that seeks to support families worldwide. Its members are not all mothers or even all women, as there are many parents, men, widows, singles and grandparents involved in its work. Its main aim is to support marriage and family life, especially through times of adversity. With a worldwide membership of over four million, the Mothers' Union is the largest lay ministry in the world. St Nicholas Mothers' Union is always happy to have visitors at our meetings which are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in Orchard Close, Dersingham.

St Nicholas Friendship Group: Both ladies and gentlemen come to our meetings which are held on the second Wednesday of each month at Orchard Close. Each time we have a speaker and enjoy time together - anyone is welcome to join us.

Bible Study Groups: There a number of Bible study (home groups) who meet in our local villages, studying God's word together and supporting and praying for each other in our walk of Christian faith.

'Drop In': This new group's purpose is to offer a weekly time when people can drop into St Nicholas Church to chat to someone, to be listened to, prayed for, and/or a complimentary cuppa be made for them. This is weekly on Fridays between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. After this the weekly prayer meeting starts at 4.00pm in church where all are welcome.

Notice:

Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day: There will be a short act of Remembrance at the war memorial at the crossroads in Dersingham on Saturday 11th November, meeting together at 10:50am. All are welcome. The main service of Remembrance will be on Sunday 12th November at 10:30am in St Nicholas Church.

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

St Nicholas Flower Festival

The theme of "Thank you for the Music" inspired a church full of displays depicting a wide range of music, both classical and popular.



Preparations



"We plough the fields and scatter"



"All that jazz"



"All things bright and beautiful"



Vivaldi's "Four Seasons"



"Oklahoma"



Part of the display depicting each of the "Doh, Ray, Mi" notes from the song in "The Sound of Music"



"Teddy Bears' Picnic"



Porch



Teddy Bears' picnic



Teddy Bears' zipwire

This Island Fortress – Part I

Tony Barratt

This is a personal reflection by Dersingham resident Tony Barratt of his time in Cyprus from 1956-58 with the RAF.

A voice called out and I struggled to come awake. I looked at my watch; it was 6.30pm on a warm, muggy evening. I had not long been in bed, or at least it didn't seem very long since I had come off duty. I had been on patrol in Nicosia on the lovely island of Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean, at that period held under British rule. My patrol had ended six hours previously but it seemed like six minutes.

I recalled a number of shootings that day. We had been notified that an RAF NCO had been shot. The Land Rover patrol I was with had been in the area of Mataxis Square at the time, but unfortunately we were too late to catch the gunman who had long gone, disappearing into the crowded market streets situated around the location. My RAF Police section, British Army and Cypriot Police were out everywhere on the hunt for the assassin. The dead victim had been an off duty British NCO on his way back to his flat. We were more than a little concerned as there were a number of married RAF personnel living in and around the area.

My Senior Aircraftsman looked down at me as I lay on my bunk and informed me that I was on call for a twelve-hour flight in a Shackleton sea patrol. I got out of bed, put on my uniform and ate a meal in the mess. By 8.00pm I was ready in my flying kit with earphones, camera, note pad, and flask of hot coffee, standing beneath the enormous wingspan of our Shackleton MKIII with my officer and NCO crew.

As an RAF Policeman with special training in photography, I was often told to report to an aircraft like this, and my work included photography of incidents such as air crashes and other situations where my talents were required to collect evidence. My task tonight was to assist in the identification of suspicious-looking sea craft such as fishing vessels, which had been picked up by our radar stations. The Shackleton Mk III I was to fly in that evening was equipped with powerful front-mounted searchlights and these, together with the somewhat slow speed of this type of aircraft, made it ideal for this type of reconnaissance.

The noise of the four Merlin engines droned on through the night. This plane was a direct descendent of the famous Avro Lancaster that had reduced Nazi Germany to ruins. Those famous engines used in other aircraft, such as Spitfires, were an unforgettable and rather distinct sound that brought a feeling of power and pride that made the hairs tickle on the back of one's neck. We flew between Cyprus and Turkey, and glancing to starboard I espied the friendly lights of the lovely old fishing port of Kyrenia with its medieval ruins dating from the time of the Crusades and the Knights Templar who had ruled the island in the 1200s AD when the famous Lusignan dynasty held the area as a feudal kingdom. This heady mixture of ancient legend and the death that stalked British military personnel seemed like some lover's tiff that threatened to spill over into civil war at any moment. What a contradiction. The island of Aphrodite beguiled in one moment and killed in the next.

EOKA was the terrorist organisation we fought against in a game of hide and see, all too fatal and deadly in reality. We knew there was strong support for them in the town below. Seemingly innocent fishing boats smuggled arms into places like this under the very noses of the authorities. EOKA, commanded by the dark shadow of General Grivas, sought to murder its way to power and achieve union (*Enosis*) with mainland Greece. It obtained weapons from there, whilst those of Turkish descent attempted to do the same in order to prevent this coming about. The poor old British Tommy was caught in the

middle and unfortunately was the victim from both sides, a veritable triangle of horror.

All this was taking place against the backdrop of conflict between Egypt and Israel and the removal of British troops from the Suez Canal, then nationalized by Egypt's President Nasser. Sir Anthony Eden declared nearby Cyprus to be "an Island Fortress" and EOKA terrorists increased their activity to create an atmosphere of fear and to demoralise the British personnel to encourage their departure.

My crew and I were placed in a state of instant readiness, which meant our Sikorsky S55 Whirlwind helicopter could be in the air in seconds in response to any act of terrorism. On one particular sortie we flew down low over the Nicosia airfield to the edge of the runway. Emergency vehicles had followed us on the ground, and we were all converging on the radio unit that had been the subject of an EOKA attack.

Suddenly we noticed a man running. His progress was hampered by the sand and rocky terrain, and having spotted him we pinpointed his location by hovering above him. Our chopper's rotors stirred up the dust around him into a cloud. He realised the game was up and lifted his hands in the universal sign for surrender. My fellow policeman and I drew our personnel weapons from their holsters and kept him in our sights in case he should try to escape from under the helicopter which was hovering only feet above him. Eventually another patrol arrived on the ground and collected him. We then returned to the actual scene of the shooting of a Leading Aircraftsman.

I was terribly saddened by the death of this young man who was only just eighteen years old, who had lost his life on the cowardly whim of some thug under the pretence of being a freedom fighter. The young lad's job had been merely to maintain the electronic equipment needed to protect the lives of RAF aircrew and personnel.

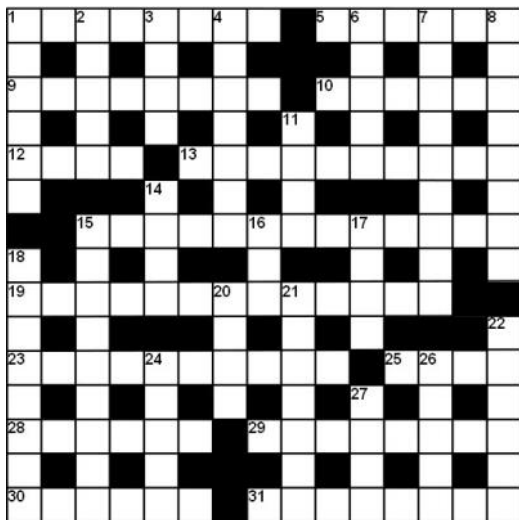
In contrast to the Cypriot terrorist who had blithely shot the young boy, I have never fired a shot in anger, even though I have carried weapons for many years. This probably saved the country a fortune in cash, as well as its reputation in difficult circumstances. The terrorist was still a human being, despite our feelings towards these types, but a wounded prisoner would have had to be treated before he was able to be questioned effectively, and another life lost in this manner and situation would not improve matters. We were trained professionals, not hired thugs whose respect for life was minimal. It would have done the British authorities no good to maim and kill in the same manner as the terrorists. We only utilised such means when there was no alternative. Wars like this were about winning the hearts and minds of the local populace. We were not to be seen as soft but as a civilised ruler, capable, if necessary, of policing a difficult problem by tough but disciplined means.

I remember in particular that on 30th August, drinking Keo, the local Cypriot beer, in the Corporal's Mess around lunch time, a fellow Corporal asked if I had seen the noticeboard. I went to have a look and exclaimed, "Good God! I've been promoted to Sergeant." I had originally signed up for seven years with the RAF and had wanted this new promotion very much. I had passed all the written exams for it and really it was just a matter of waiting, but it was still a big surprise. The next step up the ladder was the rank of Flight-Sergeant, but they were two a penny. There was little hope of reaching that rank, as there were already so many left over from World War Two still serving out the remainder of their time in the Service, well on their way to a pension. We had three on our section already. Two of them did nothing as far as the rest of us could see.

Next time: The arrival of a huge range of aircraft and international troops as Akrotiri on Cyprus became the main British base in the Near East – an aircraft spotter's dream! □

Across

- 1 Island gold sprinkled on monastery mountain butter (4,4)
- 5 Polar region in charge of English headgear (6)
- 9 Dancing starlet right to include Mojave residents (8)
- 10 Queen reigned under British flag (6)
- 12 Nobleman owns share of yearling (4)
- 13 Worried Sid pined so he became poorly (10)
- 15 SEGG (9,4)
- 19 EU Labour Party broadcast in salon (6,7)
- 23 Morning found singer on wrong road for diplomat (10)
- 25 Experienced Vince lost his head (4)
- 28 Dorian went wrong way on to M1 (6)
- 29 Coached English stealth to become sportsmen (8)
- 30 Followed her in finale (6)
- 31 Noise of vehicle reversing conceals a house spider (8)

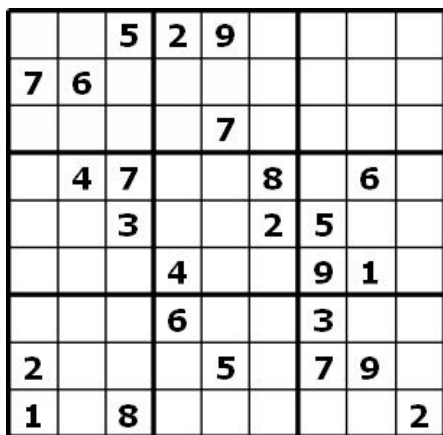


Down

- 1 A new posh car assembled underground (6)
- 2 Afterwards it's seen in 9 (5)
- 3 Good beer might give you wind (4)
- 4 Initially anyone can run on New York motorway (7)
- 6 Athlete retired after getting pressure spasm (5)
- 7 Beat sweet (4,5)
- 8 Spare aid working in promised land (8)
- 11 Laid back radio control (4)
- 14 Rector went into bat as a youngster (4)
- 15 Small taxi carrying poets weapon holders (9)
- 16 Hobo actually caught writher (3)
- 17 G.P. needed spectacles to gain entry (4)
- 18 I've joined American supporters harsh treatment (8)
- 20 Amuse yourself in competition (4)
- 21 Bedtime with queen bird (8)
- 22 Discontinued content in record (6)
- 24 Suit worn at home in Hastings for example (5)
- 26 Conductor uses it in samba tonight (5)
- 27 Primarily a batch of likeminded other countries (4)

Answers on page 65

Sudoku





The End of the Tax Return?

Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

When the concept of “Making Tax Digital” (MTD) was first introduced, back in 2015, one of the promised benefits was that the number of taxpayers required to submit annual Tax Returns would plummet, since their income would all be automatically uploaded from all sources so that tax affairs would be updated without direct involvement from the taxpayer.

Eight years on, things have not gone exactly as planned. The introduction of MTD has been deferred four times and is now scheduled for April 2026, and even then it is unclear when (or if) all the self-employed will be brought into the system.

One interesting change which was announced quietly in a taxpayer Agent Update in May, is that from April 2024 taxpayers whose income derives mostly from PAYE (and who have no rental income or self-employment) will no longer need to file a Tax Return if total income is below £150,000 (currently £100,000). Those affected by this will receive a letter from HMRC removing them from self-assessment in due course.

The rationale behind this is, presumably, that HMRC will have received details of most sources of untaxed income direct from the payers and such income will be picked up and taxed via the coding system. However, the new policy seems to open up huge possibilities for over or underpayment in several different ways:

- The higher rate relief on gift aid and private pension contributions will still need to be claimed.
- Even if UK bank interest is accurately supplied to HMRC and matched to the individual taxpayer, HMRC will not know about private or offshore interest which will still need to be declared.
- With the reduction in the tax-free dividend allowance announced in the 2022 Budget many more individuals will need to declare and pay tax on dividends from listed shares. Even if such information were to be supplied to HMRC by the listed companies (and accurately matched) there may still not be a mechanism for HMRC to pick up private company dividends.
- The interaction of all these factors when income is in the marginal “60% band” (where personal allowances are reduced by 50 pence for every pound of income over £100,000) is extremely complex and can only be calculated when all the correct income details are to hand.

There is therefore a real danger that taxpayers will receive the HMRC “exit letter” and assume that they never need to file a Tax Return again. This raises the material concern of underpaying tax on investment income (particularly as interest rates rise or circumstances change) with consequent discovery assessments, interest and penalties for failure to declare. Alternatively, taxpayers may not benefit from the reliefs to which they are entitled and end up overpaying.

For those fortunate enough to be in this position it is always worth consulting with a qualified accountant to have matters checked, even if a Notice to File a Tax Return has not been received. This will avoid accidental under or over payments and will also give the opportunity to discuss one’s tax affairs generally, including the looming danger of Inheritance Tax which is likely to affect growing numbers in the next few years.

For advice regarding whether or not you should continue to submit a Tax Return 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 August 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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Hunstanton u3a

Our monthly meeting on Monday 16th October at the Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton at 2.00pm will be our AGM followed by a quiz.

On Monday 20th November we have a talk about the tribes of Southern Ethiopia by Patricia Alker. We do hope you will be able to join us, you will be most welcome. For further information please see our website hunstantonu3a.org or telephone 07443 763679.□

Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

By Dersingham Rainbow/Brownie/Guide Leaders

The Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides all enjoyed a variety of activities before the summer break.



The Dersingham Rainbows travelled by coach to the Rare Breeds Centre at Stowe Bardolph. They enjoyed meeting and petting a variety of animals including sheep, goats, pigs, rabbits, guinea pigs, donkeys, horses and alpacas. There was plenty of time for play on the outdoor play area, a ride on the tractor and trailer, a picnic lunch, and a visit to the gift shop and an ice cream before the key event of the day - the pig racing competition. They returned home tired and excited after a very special day.

The 1st and 2nd Dersingham Brownies and Dersingham Guides took part in the NW Norfolk Guiding Activity Day at Girlguiding Anglia Hautbois Activity Centre near Coltishall. All the girls enjoyed three different activities as well as the chance to meet girls from other groups from around North West Norfolk. The Brownies' activities included night trail (leading a blindfolded partner through an obstacle course), crate stacking, exploring the giant maze, team games, low ropes and climbing wall, whilst the Guides chose between archery, paddleboarding, kayaking, abseiling and a visit to the ARC - Girlguiding Norfolk Archive Resource Centre - a museum of Guiding.

Everyone had a picnic lunch and the day ended with everyone attending a campfire and receiving a souvenir badge.□





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Word Wall by Philip Neal

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

DOC	JOLLY	GRUMPY	SMEW
BOAT	SHOVELER	CYCLE	MERRY
DELIGHTED	POCHARD	GADWALL	BASHFUL
HAPPY	STYLE	CHEERFUL	GUARD

Sun, tents, Adventure and Dragons!

It's the 1st Dersingham Guides Summer Camp 2023

Elizabeth Wheeler

This August, the 1st Dersingham Guides descended upon the Girlguiding Anglia Hautbois Activity Centre for 4 days of fun and adventure and fantastic weather. This year's theme was Dragons and many of the crafts and games were inspired by Zog.

On arrival, the Guides put up their tents and began to build washing up stands - poles, bamboo canes and square lashing. During the camp, the Guides helped with the preparation and cooking of the meals, keeping their tents tidy and rolling their beds into bedding rolls each morning. All these activities earned the Guides lots of points for their patrols and very quickly extra points were being earned for doing extra washing up!

Hautbois is a great location for camp as there are lots of adventurous activities to try. The Guides enjoyed Archery, Fencing, Paddle boarding, Orienteering, Crate Stacking, Obstacle course (sighted and blindfolded) and Grass sledging. There was lots of laughter during the activities and it was great to see the Guides supporting each other and having lots of fun.

In between all these activities, the Guides made mini handbag first aid kits, made peppermint creams (or other flavours), played games during the day and in the dark, and enjoyed a variety of different crafts.

On the last evening there was a campfire with marshmallows and silly songs. The next morning, once the tents were dry, the guides helped with packing everything away before being presented with a range of badges.□





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camps and...



Contact Lynne Wheeler (544753) for more information or visit
www.girlguiding.org.uk to register your interest.

Rainbows
1st Dersingham Rainbows
4 - 7 years

Brownies
1st Dersingham Brownies
7 - 10 years

Brownies
2nd Dersingham Brownies
7 - 10 years

Guides
1st Dersingham Guides
10 +

Crossword Answers

Across

1 Wild goat. 5 Icecap. 9 Rattlers. 10 Banner. 12 Earl. 13 Indisposed. 15 Scrambled eggs.
19 Beauty parlour. 23 Ambassador. 25 Able. 28 Inroad. 29 Athletes. 30 Ensued.
31 Arachnid.

Down

1 Warren. 2 Later. 3 Gale. 4 Acronym.
6 Cramp. 7 Cane sugar. 8 Paradise. 11 Dial.
14 Brat. 15 Scabbards. 16 Boa. 17 Door.
18 Abrasive. 20 Play. 21 Rooster.
22 Ceased. 24 Spade. 26 Baton. 27 Bloc.

Word Wall Answers

Life: Boat, Cycle, Guard, Style

Wild fowl: Smew, Gadwall, Shoveler,
Pochard

Snow White's Dwarfs: Bashful, Grumpy,
Doc, Happy

Pleased: Delighted, Cheerful, Jolly, Merry

Sudoku Answers

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

Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

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

Issue	Copy deadline midday on	Publication date
No. 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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Quarter page (Portrait)	6.4cm wide x 9.5 high	£38.00
Half page	9.5cm wide x 12.8cm high	£75.00
Full page	12.8cm wide x 19.2cm high	£140.00

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

Articles

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

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

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Kathryn Gigg *p.61*

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Lynn Frame *p.40*

Mann Made Developments *p.47*

Semba Trading *p.49*

Smart Brickwork Services *p.49*

Carpets & Flooring

Gary Rushmore *p.9*

Supreme Carpets *p.15*

Chimney Sweep

D Thompson Chimneys *p.63*

Chiropody

Jennie Brooks *p.28*

The Surefoot Clinic *p.49*

Computers

CJB Computing *p.47*

Gary Kite *p.17*

Dogs

Hoochy Pooch Parlour *p.17*

Kim's Dog Grooming *p.12*

Domestic Appliances

Fix up my Appliance *p.43*

DK Appliances *p.28*

Dry Cleaners

Clock Clean *p.28*

Electrical

Gelder Electrical *p.31*

SW Electrical *p.47*

Estate Agent

Geoffrey Collings & Co *p.15*

Fabrics, curtains, blinds

Christyana *p.43*

Farm Shop

Norfolk Lavender *p.35*

Financial Management

Allen Tomas *p.19*

Flowers

Hilliers Flowers *p.34*

Funeral Services

Thornalley *p.45*

Garden Centre

Thaxters *p.2*

Garden Maintenance

The Conifers *p.24*

Hair

Anna *p.34*

Crowns Barber *p.53*

Holiday Lets

Norfolk Holiday Homes *p.31*

Home Care & Home Help

Extra Hands *p.43*

Home Instead *p.68*

Jill *p.49*

Home Improvements and Maintenance (decorating, cleaning, handyman)

C.L Services *p.32*

M&T Local Services *p.43*

Neill's Guttering *p.31*

Ironcraft

Sandringham Ironcraft *p.49*

Legal Services

Christina Thain *p.53*

SJP *p.11*

Mowers

R. & B. Mower Mend *p.17*

Pest Control

West Norfolk Pest Control
p.49

Pet Supplies

Dersingham Pet Supplies *p.12*

Photography & Restoration

Jo Halpin Jones *p.19*

Pilates

Active Health Pilates and More
p.42

Pizza

Bordoli Pizzas *p.28*

Plumber

PG Plumbing *p.45*

Printing

Clanpress *p.31*

Residential Home

The Gables *p.63*

Therapies

The Wright Hands *p.17*

Timber Products

Quercast *p.27*

Sandringham Estate Sawmill *p.47*

Vets

Dersingham Veterinary Clinic *p.27*

Vehicle servicing and sales

AJD *p.32*

Red Pumps Garage *p.19*

Station Road, Heacham *p.53*

Waltersons *p.63*

Windows

Admiral Windows *p.31*

Sandringham Windows *p.27*

The Window Repair Man *p.24*

West Norfolk Glass *p.32*

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- ♥ Home Help
- Companionship
- Personal Care
- ◆ Dementia Care



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