Number 146

February/March 2024



The Dersingham Magazine



King Arthur - Real or Myth?



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Editor's Notes

You may be wondering what King Arthur is doing on our front cover. Did he make a visit to Dersingham? Was there a great battle nearby? Well, no. But Dersingham's Brian Anderson has left butterflies to one side for a while and has been researching the many accounts of Arthur throughout the centuries to explore whether such a person even existed. You will find his conclusions on page 35.



And so we turn to the New Year. Let's hope, most whole-heartedly, but perhaps forrlornly, that somehow the world might become a more peaceful place this year. Have you seen those amazing images taken by the James Webb Space Telescope? It peers back in time to capture and explore distant galaxies formed hundreds of millions of years ago. And here we are on this infinitesimally tiny dot of an amazing planet making such a mess of it with war, famine, massive movements of people, and ruining the environment and the climate. We are so lucky in this little corner of England that so far we are avoiding the catastrophic effects of events felt elsewhere in the world. There's only so much we can do, but on the environmental front I do trot down to the Co-op to put my soft plastic in the blue bins by the checkout!! I'm amazed at the volume I accumulate all too quickly. But I still use a car, I ought to get the loft better insulated, I have a wood burning stove, I replaced a hedge with a fence, I look longingly at long haul flights to warm, exotic places.....

Coral Shepherd, our Parish Council Chairman, reminds us in her article that if we have a water course running through our land, we have a responsibility to keep it cleared. We have a drainage ditch at the bottom or our garden which had become very clogged up with leaves and debris and water was not flowing freely and was threatening to flood with all the recent rain. After a major clearout it is now flowing a little better, though I suspect that further down the watercourse there are some blockages.

It remains to wish you all a HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR, from the Village Voice team. $\hfill\square$



Dear Village Voice



Brief Encounter

In a very long queue at Dersingham Post Office, I struck up a conversation with a very pleasant woman. She was telling me she was going to spend Christmas in Southend



and Canvey Island, places I knew. Then all of a sudden it was my turn to be served and we separated. If she is reading this, I'd very much like to hear about her Christmas. Please give me a ring on 01485 542418.

Essex Girl (Judi)

Mrs Dolittle

I am writing to express my gratitude to the lady who writes the Mrs Dolittle column. What she wrote in the December/January issue really touched me. It made me laugh and then it made me reflect on the true meaning of Christmas - that it is Christ's birth. Thank you for writing this lovely piece and sharing your memories of childhood Christmases with us readers. It meant a lot to me.

Sincerely, Lois Williams



Parish Council Chairman's Report Coral Shepherd

Happy New Year to everyone.

A word to begin with about the recent rainfall - the last couple of months have seen at least more than twice the usual amount of rain. This has resulted in the ground becoming completely saturated, with the result that many areas of the country have suffered flooding. Many of the



fields surrounding the village and gardens in the village have areas of standing water. I count myself lucky as I live on higher ground but the soil in our garden is mainly clay and I have several large puddles that have been there for almost two months and I fear I will lose far more plants than I lost in the very hot summer in 2022. A good excuse in the spring to visit my favourite nurseries and garden centres.

This brings me to a serious point about drainage in the village – we have a number of ditches, dykes and culverts that serve to take water that drains from the hills to the east, across the village and eventually out to The Wash. They are vital to help reduce the risk of flooding. If you have a water course crossing your land or if it is on your border, you will be affected by what are known as riparian rights and responsibilities. Cambridgeshire County Council have a very useful leaflet that explains what this means: <u>www.cambridge.gov.uk</u> - Water course guidance 2022, rights and responsibilities for water course maintenance. It is vital to keep these water courses free of debris and they should not be used to dump rubbish and garden waste. This will impede the flow of water and may cause flooding of your property or that of your neighbour.

Norfolk County Council have recently changed the rules about DIY and garden waste that can be disposed of free of charge at the local waste recycling centres. Please check their website <u>www.norfolk.gov.uk</u> (rubbish, recycling and planning). The Borough Council will take bulky waste, currently £37.70 for up to three items such as washing machines and mattresses. Further information is available on their website <u>www.west-norfolk.gov.uk</u> (arrange a bulky waste collection) or phone 01553 616200 for advice about disposal of waste.

The Parish Council has two meetings in January, one on the 22nd when we will be setting our budgets for the forthcoming financial year (April 2024 to March 2025). This will be followed by a second meeting on 29th January when we will set the precept. This is the funding that we receive from the Council Tax. Each year we have to forecast how much money we will need for the following year and let the Borough Council know by the end of January. They then add in the amount needed by the County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner and the Borough Council and work out how much Council Tax we will each need to pay.

Like everyone else, we have been affected by increases in the cost of living and prices for the services that we provide, such as street lighting and grass cutting, amongst many things. I am pleased that we have been able to maintain services and keep costs down over the last five years, but to ensure that we have sufficient money to enable us to continue to maintain the village, we may have to make the decision to increase the precept, but will try to minimise this increase as far as we are able.

If you would like to make a difference to the village, please do think about becoming a Parish Councillor. If you are interested, please email me at <u>coral.shepherd@dersingham.org.uk</u> or contact the Parish Council office. It is open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 1.30pm. □



News from Dersingham Village Centre Sue Payne, Chairman DVCA

Happy New Year

We are looking at events for this year; more details will follow in the next issue of *Village Voice*.

Coffee Shop

On Thursday mornings, we catch up with our regular customers and extend a very warm welcome to visitors.

On offer are very reasonably priced home-cooked quiche, cake, hot and cold drinks, and great banter with our baristas. Tapping House take over on the first Thursday each month, with a slightly different menu, and the proceeds support the vital 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 just £7.

The menu for February is Roast Gammon, followed by Chocolate Sponge Pudding. Booking is required, so please call 01485 540644 by noon on the *Thursday* beforehand and also advise us of any allergy or dietary needs.

Village Cinema

February's film is *The Great Escaper*. In March we are showing *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*.

For more information about the Centre and what goes on, visit our website www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk where you can sign up for regular updates.

We have a Facebook Page and also post on the Dersingham Village Facebook Group.

Event posters are displayed in various locations around the village; we are grateful to local business for their support.

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

Best Wishes from all at the Centre.□



Other Activities at Dersingham Village Centre

As you pass the Village Centre you will often see the car park packed with vehicles. That's because of the multitude of classes and activities taking place there. You will see that keeping fit is high on the agenda!! Here is a list of what is currently on offer. For full details see the website www.dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk

Yoga

Over 50s Exercise

Stretch & Relax

Fit 'n' Dancing

Pilates

Elevation Youth Group (For children in Year 6 and above)

Seated Yoga

Lavender Lacemakers

Carpet Bowls

Sandringham Bridge Club

Ballet for All

Beginners Ballet

Youth Group (For children aged 8 to 11)

Your Health

Flower Classes

Mobility & Physio Gym

Stretch & Relax

Pilates

Ballet for All

Dance Classes with Take the Lead

Munchkin and Me (For Under 5s and their grown-ups)

Gardening Made Easier

Stepping Out Tea Dance

Rollason Stage School



Lavender Lacemakers



News from Dersingham Bog Matthew Lonsdale, Natural England



It's the start of a new year here on Dersingham Bog NNR, and as winter starts to set in, we will have a quick look back at 2023 and look forward to what 2024 brings.

The team will look back at 2023 as a successful one, with all the core work needed to be carried out on the site completed, as well as many extra tasks which have helped to advance the habitats on the site and achieved a better understanding of some of those that call Dersingham Bog home. I'll run through a few of the highlights below.

During 2023 we recorded ecological data from the site, covering everything from mosquitos to fungi to birds. 126 species of bird were observed by the team on the site this year, including birds such as waxwing, black redstart, great white egret and white-fronted goose, all of which have not been recorded on many occasions previously. The number of breeding species stayed around the sixty mark, with many slightly down in number of territories on the previous year, such as grasshopper warbler and blackcap, mainly due to a severe cold snap at the start of the spring. We recorded thirty male nightjars on territory this year, one down on 2022, but still the second highest ever. During our annual



monitoring and nest finding we found ten nests across the site, fledging eleven young, which is more than one per pair; so we were relatively happy with that overall. We're hoping to re-start our satellite tagging project in conjunction with the BTO in 2024 after a year's break.



We continued with our regular moth trapping on Dersingham Bog in 2023. Highlights, recorded around the west end of the site, were a Delicate, a migrant, which was new, with three records - but it was an exceptional year for them throughout the county. Also, *Coleophora versurella* occurred for the third time, with two other records in 2002. Other migrants were a Convolvulus Hawk Moth and three Clifden Nonpareil (these are now breeding in Norfolk). Moth trapping at the east end of the site also included many local specialties only found in and around Dersingham Bog and Roydon Common, with a few moth nights hosted here for enthusiasts in the summer months.

It was another good year for dragonflies in Dersingham, with the decoy pond the best place to spot them; Black Darters and Keeled Skimmers were some of those of note. We managed to continue with our reserve management work out on the Bog with our team of volunteers to keep the reserve in good shape. This included the thinning of trees and removal of some rhododendron around the decoy pond to allow more light in and for species such as the dragonflies mentioned earlier to thrive in these improved conditions. We have continued with our usual scrub removal from the heath and Bog to keep on top of it and not let it overtake some of our priority habitats. We've also carried out a lot of improvement works on the east end of the site that is not publicly accessible. We have worked in the ditch and reedbed, again mainly removing large scrub to avoid this from taking over, as well as better allowing us to learn about the flows of water and nutrients at this end of the site and stop the progression of reed growing onto the Bog.

In 2024 we're hoping to continue our good work on Dersingham Bog, improving and managing the habitats for the benefit of the array of species that live there, as well as continuing to improve facilities for visitors to access and appreciate many Dersingham specialties and the wonderful landscape. We will keep you updated with our progress throughout the year with the projects we are undertaking as well as general management of the site. We'd like to thank everyone who visited the site or supported our work on Dersingham Bog NNR in 2023 and hope to catch up with many and wish them a happy and successful 2024.

If you'd like to join our volunteering team in 2024 and help us to carry out this work, please don't hesitate to get in touch at <u>matthew.lonsdale@naturalengland.org.uk</u>.





The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House Niki Ellis, CEO

In light of this week's high-profile coverage of Esther Rantzen's decision to join Dignitas I am compelled to shine a light on hospice care. (Written on 22nd December.)

Here at The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House we are able to support patients who are entering the final phase of their lives and facing death, with a team of extraordinary professionals who deliver expert care both in the management of distressing symptoms associated with any disease progression, as well as recognising the emotional impact a life limiting diagnosis has on an individual and their family. In 2023 we have supported 4,500 patients and family members. Hospices like ours support people to have a good death, naturally. Hospices also support people to live well as they approach and navigate this final phase of life.

Funding: Only one third of our Hospice income is provided by the state, with the remainder raised by our local community. This is an unsustainable model that leaves essential care reliant on charity shops and marathons. I have today raised this with James Wild, our local MP, for his urgent attention.

Nationally, as demand for care soars, hospice income is shrinking with adult hospices in England experiencing a real term cut in Government funding of £47 million over the past two years. Today, in an interview with BBC Radio Four, Victoria Atkins, the Health Secretary, spoke of £1.5 billion released from Government to support hospices in the last year. Our Hospice in West Norfolk has yet to benefit from any of this.

Whilst we are enormously grateful to our community and supporters for everything they do to help us raise the £2.5 million needed this year from charitable funding, we urge our local Integrated Care Board to reassess their contribution and offer further financial support to The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House so we are able to continue providing all of our care services.

If you, or someone known to you, is affected by a life-limiting condition you can seek support from The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House by ringing 01485 601700, or visit our website <u>www.norfolkhospice.org.uk</u> for information on the services we offer and how to make a referral.





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Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

Christmas may seem like a distant memory, but the joy of that special time of year is still warming the heart of our school community, even if the new year weather isn't! There was a bounty of celebrations, starting with the Year 1/Year R Nativity performance of The Big Little Nativity. The children performed to a packed hall, under glittering stage lights, singing, dancing and acting, remembering tricky lines and managing technology in the form of microphones. The little stars truly sparkled throughout. Year 2 had a hard act to follow, but they rose to the challenge and created a magical Christingle under the soft church lights and shimmering Christmas trees in St Nicholas's Church. The children learnt some beautiful carols and explained the traditions and importance of Christmas, speaking eloquently to a packed church. The choir raised money for new musical instruments by singing carols in the heart of Dersingham village and also entertained residents at The Gables. With Christmas jumper day, a festive lunch with homemade hats, and a fantastic Christmas Fayre organised by the PTA, it was a very busy time. The PTA also hosted a popular movie night, with popcorn and hotdog snacks. Year 3 performed another sensational Nativity, also in the church, with fabulous costumes, singing and acting, bringing Christmas to life. The whole school were in attendance along with many parents, family and friends, it was a truly wonderful way to wrap up 2023!

The half term's learning has been varied and busy with the Reception children turning their hand to palaeontology. They excavated bones they found in the garden, labelled them and measured them. They discovered what they were by looking at their teeth. They really enjoyed exploring the dinosaurs with a trip to the dinosaur park, looking at the life size anatomical models.

Back in November, Year 1 discovered an alien crash site at school and learnt about a friendly alien called Beegu. They wrote her letters, created diary entries and retold parts of the story through drama and role play. They enjoyed learning about the space station and historical and modern facts about Tim Peake and Neil Armstrong. They joined Year 5 in the space dome to kick start a joint space topic. When they returned to school after Christmas, a magical castle had appeared to hook them into the next half term's learning.

Year 2 had a great focus on History with their topic 'Remember, Remember', learning all about The Gunpowder Plot, why we have fireworks, and how life changed for people during World War Two. The children looked at a range of artefacts and wrote non-fiction reports after reading war-time stories! In January, the focus will be on geography and science, travelling across the world to learn all about the people and habitats of Australia.

Year 3 stepped into the world of 'Frozen Kingdoms', where the children explored the text *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe.* They created some beautiful Narnia maps and developed their descriptive writing skills. Learning about Antarctica gave the children the opportunity to develop their map reading skills and compare the climate in different countries. They enjoyed sharing different forms of winter poetry, including haikus, tankas and cinquains.

This half term Year 4 have been learning about the Victorians. The children had a look at the amazing life and times of Queen Victoria and the British Empire and explored what life might have been like in a Victorian school and a Victorian workhouse. In science the children experimented with circuits and found out about electricity. The half term was rounded off by writing fairy stories and singing lots of Christmas songs.

Year 5 embarked on a Space Odyssey, learning all about phases of the moon, how the earth moves and why and how we get seasons. They produced some fantastic sci-fi 'hot writes.' Forest School was great fun in the lead up to Christmas, making Rudolf from two sticks complete with a red nose, chopping wood for the fire, making fires and cooking popcorn and s'mores. Some children made dampers from bread dough and cooked them too.

Year 6 have been studying *Floodland* by Marcus Sedgwick, a dystopian novel set in a future in which England has been consumed by rising sea levels. The children learnt about the 1953 floods that affected areas along the Norfolk coast, which led to them writing a newspaper report, informed by an interview with one of the children's grandparents. A novel called *The Giver* was read during Destination Reader and this challenging text was very warmly received by the class who were full of predictions as the story unfolded.



The sporting calendar has been rammed with exciting events, including the crosscountry qualifying event at Lynnsport, where fifteen of our students took part, and the county finals at High Lodge in Thetford, which saw two students from Dersingham Cross Country Finalists at High Lodge Thetford



competing. A huge achievement! The Year 6 and Year 5 boys and girls both had squads in the KLTFC competition held at Lynnsport, where the boys finished third overall. Bikeability training took place once again, giving children the opportunity to learn safe cycling skills.

The school took part in their first non-pen day, to help develop the art of communication. Practical activities such as using resources to explore equivalent fractions, map reading skills, an epic space yoga session, creating 3D shapes from sticks, honing IT skills programming Beebots and using Scratch, as well as a plethora of art and drama activities, made it a fun-filled, pen-free experience.

Children In Need proved to be another popular annual event, where children dressed up and the PTA sponsored fantastic cake making sessions with every year group. The Student Council opted to split the monies between Children in Need and children suffering in the recent Israel/Gaza conflict. This event came quickly on the back of Odd Sock Day, which launched anti-bullying week, where the children celebrated difference, promoted tolerance and stood up to say NO to bullying and discrimination. Mid-November heralded a visit from Ofsted, where the children were praised for their good behaviour, being kind and compassionate, with an ability to talk about their learning. The school is very proud of the Ofsted outcome and is in a strong position moving forward to join DNEAT (Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust) in 2024.

So, with one busy term already complete, the school is prepared for innovative and exciting learning adventures as the new year unfolds. \square





Abseiling down



Abseiling down St Nicholas Church Tower in Dersingham is back! Thrill seekers, here is your chance, but also those who want to push themselves and achieve something very special. St Nicholas Church is holding its

second abseil event on Bank Holiday Monday, 6th May between 10:00 am and 4:00

pm. As you can see from the picture, I enjoyed the abseil last time. It was a memorable community occasion, seeing hundreds of people coming to watch and support everyone. That was held back in 2021 to raise funds for the essential provision of two accessible toilets and a new kitchen within the church. We are nearly there with the amount needed, but not quite! The plans for the church are in the church for all to see. We hope to complete the improvements this year. So, the invitation is for those of you brave



enough to abseil from the top of the church tower, with professional instructors and insurance of course. We would love to see you and, on the day, supporters to watch. We ask for a minimum of £50 sponsorship offering a unique and memorable opportunity in our village. If you would like to do it, please email or telephone Maggie Anderson for an application form: 07876 034281 or 01485 522465 grandmasrus66@gmail.com.



On the subject of ropes and letting down. Jesus had a paralyzed man lowered down on ropes in front of him, because the man wanted to see Jesus and be healed. His friends carrying him couldn't take their friend into the house where Jesus was because it was so full, so they "went up onto the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, 'young man, your sins are forgiven'." Luke 5:19-20. Don't worry, we won't be making holes in the church roof! The abseil involves faith in stepping over the parapet of the church tower and putting your weight onto the ropes. Sometimes, we have to take that step of faith, both physically and spiritually. Across the churches of St Nicholas, Dersingham, St Mary the Virgin, Anmer, St Michaels and All Angels, Ingoldisthorpe, St Peter and St Paul's, Shernborne and 'The Well Church' at the Church Hall, Ingoldisthorpe, there is a great variety in styles of worship. You are welcome to step in, in faith and join us - we don't bite! For service details please check out the website below.

Notices

Thank you to the organisers, community groups and volunteers who made the Christmas Tree Festival a great occasion in St Nicholas Church.

Congratulations to Mrs Warren the Headteacher, staff, governors, parents and children at Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School for the recent "Good" Ofsted Inspection. What a lovely school we have in the village; anyone new looking for a school - check it out!

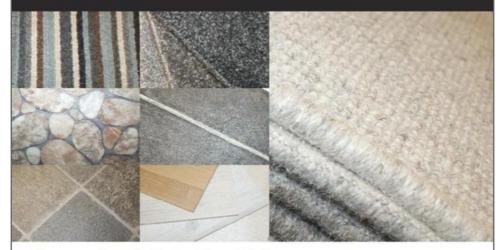
It is great that the new heating system in the Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall has made such a positive difference for all users. The Well Café, open for all in Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall, continues Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:00am to 12:30pm offering barista beverages and Carol Prior Cakes. I`m working my way around the cake selection!

Rev Mark Capron

Rector of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne and Minister of 'The Well' Church, Ingoldisthorpe. www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk YouTube Channel: 'Dersingham Online Worship'



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QEH: Isn't it Time for Action? Gordon Taylor, Save our QEH campaign group

On May 25th last year, there was great excitement, and a sense of relief, when Health Secretary Steve Barclay made the announcement that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital had been added to the New Hospital Programme. So what has happened since then?

Other than a press release saying the helipad will be moved, not a great deal, to be honest. The new hospital is to be built to a much-heralded Hospital 2.0 design, a standardised modular approach, which will allegedly reduce building costs and speed up the process. The only problem with this is that no plan has yet been made public, and details should have been released six months ago.

Another issue is the size of the new hospital. The current building was built in 1980, when the local population was much smaller, and the age of those using the hospital was much younger. During the time we were campaigning previously, the hospital management made it clear that the new hospital was to be built with substantially more bed capacity, to meet the changing needs of those living in West Norfolk and surrounding areas.

The management team announced earlier this year that there was going to be a data collection, looking at the needs of the current population, to help with finalising the size of the new hospital. No results have been announced, nor has any date been given for this to happen. The little information that has been made known about the new hospital appears to suggest that the new Queen Elizabeth will have the same number of beds as the current one.

And then there is the multi-storey car park, which must be built before anything else can take place. No plan for this has been made available, and no funding has been released. Originally scheduled to start early this year, this was initially put back until the summer. The most recent update is that building won't begin until January 2025.

Back in November, The House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts released a report stating that it is highly unlikely that any of the thirty-two new hospitals, which includes the QEH, will be completed by 2030. Just to remind you all, the current hospital will not be able to function beyond that year. If the new hospital has not been built/

completed by then, then King's Lynn will not have a hospital at all.

Our MP James Wild has assured us that all is going to plan. Our campaign group sadly do not believe him and are concerned that the muchheralded new hospital may not be completed in time, if at all. So reluctantly we are going to begin campaigning once again and started outside QEH just before Christmas...



Dersingham Institute Bowls Club by Jan Rawstron

"This is the turning of the year, the final scene before the curtain falls. The squirrel, warm within his bed of leaves cannot hear the

wind that blows around the chimney pots. For, like the pilgrim of the year gone by, he sleeps. Already he is but a memory, fading like a shadow on the wall But time, with restless footsteps hurries by And now beside the road, there stands the pilgrim of the year to be."





These few lines are taken from the 1970 album *Seasons* by Magna Carta, and seem to sum up this time of year when the old year has gone, and we look forward to new things.

In the case of the Bowls Club we are counting the weeks to the 2024 season in April when we will meet up again with our bowling friends. Of course, we have been in touch with a good few of them at our weekly winter warmers, which began again on January 10th after a few weeks' break. Our last meeting was a merry affair with sparkling wine and Christmas goodies.

Our dedicated green keeping volunteers are working hard in spite of the inclement weather. Hopefully the weather will improve, and we will again have a great surface to bowl on come April.

Hopefully I will have more to report in the next issue, but until then we wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. \square



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Phobbies - Hobbies club for those with and without physical difficulties

Happy New Year to everyone.

Phobbies enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch with musical entertainment. Lunch was provided by Dersingham-based caterer, Good Tastes, and entertainment by "Jammin' Jo" (Joseph Smith from Hunstanton). We recommend both highly.

This year we will continue to meet every Thursday to enjoy the company of others and to try our hands at different craft projects. These include painting, paper crafts, knitting, sewing, crocheting and rug making. We will be inviting Joseph Smith back again to entertain us before long.

If you think you might be interested in joining us or helping to run the club, come and visit us between **10.00 and 2.00 any Thursday** at the Social Club on Lynn Road or contact **Maggie on 07967 799816.** Even if you wouldn't want to come regularly you are very welcome to just come and visit.

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Become a "Hedgehog taxi" – How you can help us

Year round (although mainly during summer/autumn months) we regularly need help with collecting poorly hedgehogs we've been contacted about.

I'm based in Downham Market and usually the hedgehog will be brought to me. I have several fosterers who can also admit hedgehogs into their care. Rachael in Terrington St Clements is the main one, so it may be that we ask you to take the hog to her. When we are full we sometimes ask for the hogs to go to East Winch RSPCA.

You are under no obligation to help. It's purely if it's convenient for you and you don't mind helping. You will need a secure carrier, a pair of gardening gloves and some specific flea spray. We will provide the basic kit if necessary. I will also show you how to handle hedgehogs and talk about the variety of cases you are likely to come across.

Please message us on 07724 005692 or 07772 584140 if you would like to join our WhatsApp group.□





Dersingham Walking Group Tony Bubb



It won't have escaped your attention that we have enjoyed a lot of rain recently. Leaders try to pick routes that are passable, but lately this has been a challenge. I set out to start looking at my March walk, but the going was so wet that I had to give up. I am trusting that it will have dried up somewhat by the walk date. Working as we do some

two or three months ahead when writing the programme, we can only hope. However, I am sure leaders will have a plan B up their sleeves. Our next walks are:-

Wednesday February 14th 1.30pm

We have got lots of woods round here, so we have another chance to explore them with woodsman extraordinaire Brian as he leads us through the trees. About four miles, starting at the car park in Heath Road - TF 687298. Leader: Brian Eldridge 01485 540862.

Wednesday February 28th 1.30pm

Starting from Dersingham Station, down to the bird sanctuary then back via The Drift to The Warren, which is only a short walk back to the station, about five miles in total. Start point - TF681308. Leader: Brett Thomas 07801 095510.

Wednesday March 13th 1.30pm

This walk has been rained off twice now, but we hope for better luck today, in spite of the date. A tour 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, opposite Lincoln Square - TF 673413. Approximately four miles. Leader: Wendy Mears 01485 534338.

Wednesday March 27th 2.00pm

Back to summertime, which starts today. A suburban walk of about four miles around the Reffley area with woods, river, muntjac and a supermarket to entertain you. Start point is the NW corner of the South Wootton ASDA car park - TF651223. 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@btinternet.com

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ELECTRICAL

From Your Ward Councillors Judy Collingham and Tony Bubb

Your local Ward Councillors wish everyone a Happy 2024. We will continue to support our Ward members wherever and whenever we can.

Council work continues as usual but, of course, slows right down over the festive period. Vital services are maintained but committees etc. get a rest. We will report back during the year as to how various projects and initiatives progress. We welcome your input to any issues that affect our community, and hope that we can continue to serve our Ward members effectively in the year ahead.

Did you know that Lynn Museum is free to enter over the winter months, with charges restarting in April. This is a good chance to inspect the fascinating collection held by the museum. Also, you can visit the museum on YouTube - go to Lynn Museum – YouTube. You can also access virtual tours through https://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/lynnmuseum.

King's Lynn Museum

The museum is well worth a visit, with displays on local history, archaeological finds from many centuries, including gold torcs found in Snettisham, maritime connections, the Civil War, an important art collection, the changing environment, and a reconstruction of the famous Seahenge discovered in 1998 off the coast at Holmenext-the-Sea.









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



Our annual pancake supper will be held on Tuesday 13th February at St Cecilia's, beginning at 6:00 pm. For further details please see the weekly bulletins on our parish website.

This year's ecumenical World Day of Prayer will be held at St Cecilia's on Saturday 2nd March, with refreshments from 10:00 am and the service starting at 10:30 am. This years' service, "I beg you, bear with one another in love" has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine.

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

We are always looking for volunteers to help with flowers or teas etc. Please contact the parish office if you would be available to help.

We have regular Rosary prayer meetings at St Cecilia's every Monday from 2:00 pm. And there is also a Mothers' Prayer group which meets at 2:30 pm Monday fortnightly at OLSE.

The Pope's prayer intention for February 2024 is *"For the terminally ill";* we pray for the sick who are in the final stages of life, and for their families; may they always receive the necessary medical and human care, and the accompaniment they need. The Pope's prayer intention for March 2024 is *"For new martyrs";* we pray for those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world; may their courage and missionary zeal permeate the church.

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

Please contact the Convent direct about daily Masses there on tel. 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.

The Sunday Masses are at 9:00 am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, and 11:00 am at OLSE, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton.

Daily Masses are at 10:00 am at Hunstanton on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and 10:15 am at Dersingham on Wednesdays.

Website: <u>www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org</u> **Email:** <u>hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk</u> The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675. If you require a Priest urgently, please telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220 or email <u>parishpriest763@gmail.com</u>

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Dersingham Day Club

Good Taste Catering cooked and served up a delicious Christmas lunch which was enjoyed by all helpers and members. After lunch we were entertained by the fabulous Purple Angels. Everyone had a fantastic time singing and dancing.



Alice presented the club with a generous donation from the Masons



We would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2024! Day Club resumed on Wednesday January 4th. Any enquiries, please ring Wendy Raby on 01485 544975 or Maggie Langridge on 01485 532264.

St Nicholas Church's Christmas Tree Festival

Twenty-one Dersingham groups and organisations came together to decorate their trees, each in their own imaginative way. What a way to celebrate this village's rich community spirit.



















Arthur Brian Anderson

We, most of us anyway, know the stories - King Arthur, Guinevere, Camelot, Merlin, Excalibur and all the rest. So, how many of the stories are true? Are any of them true? We need to go back to the sixth century, in the so-called Dark Ages, the time when Arthur is presumed to have lived.



When the Roman rule in Britain ended in 410CE, Roman culture continued in many respects - the British, certainly among the nobility, had been Romanised for 350 years. But there is no doubt that this post-Roman period was confused. There had long been Saxon settlement in England, partly as the result of Saxons being used as mercenaries to protect the east coast. A Roman style of government persisted for many decades, but inevitably conflict developed between the British and the Saxons. And into this turbulent time, the first glimmers of the story of Arthur were born.

We start with a monk named Gildas who was born in the late fifth century. He wrote a vehement text, *On the Ruin and Conquest of Britain,* which sought to portray a cataclysmic series of events in the mid fifth century - battles between Saxons and Romano-British and civil war between Romano-British parties. One Romano-British military leader is named - Ambrosius Aurelianus, who apparently won several battles against the Saxons, culminating in the battle of Badon Hill (*Mons Badonicus*). It is not known where Badon is, although the most likely site is the Iron Age fort at Liddington Castle near Swindon. Nothing more is known about Ambrosius. We should note that he wasn't a king and wasn't called Arthur.



The story lies fallow until 829CE, when a Welsh cleric called Nennius wrote *The History of the Britons*. It is clear that the only source of his fifth-century knowledge was Gildas, but that doesn't prevent him seriously embellishing the account. The hero of Badon Hill is called Arthur. Nennius writes:

"The twelfth battle was on Badon Hill where 960 men fell in one day and no-one killed them but [Arthur] alone."

Which seems a superhuman impossibility. There is another document - *The Annals of Wales (Annales Cambriae)*, which contains many of the same details as the Nennius document. Michael Wood, in his book *In Search of the Dark Ages*, says that the 960 is consistent with the Welsh poetic tradition: *"three three hundreds and three score"*. Nennius was writing in the ninth century, some four hundred years after the alleged events took place. The name Arthur was already common in Welsh folklore, largely through mythological tales about supernatural monsters and was the obvious but unjustified choice of the name for the hero of Badon.

But if Badon was the twelfth battle, what of the other eleven? A considerable amount of research has been done regarding the sites of the other battles and they aren't in the south-west but in Cumbria, the Scottish borders and Solway. One has definitely been identified as being at Bremenium, a Roman fort in the Cheviots. Another was at *Cat Coit Celidon* - the battle of the Caledonian Forest. In the Scottish Dark Ages there was considerable turbulence as various groups competed for control, status and resources. The kingdom of Dalraida was at war with a border tribe called the Miathi. The king of Dalraida, Aedan, had a son Arthur or Artorius. Arthur was sent to lead the battle against the Miathi and although successful, Arthur was killed. In *The Annals of Wales* there is a mention of Mordred, Arthur's nemesis in later legends, but does not say whether they were enemies or allies.

This Arthur was not fighting Saxons in the south-west and wasn't a king.

Where does this leave us? There is scant evidence for an historical Arthur. Such stories and legends as we have seem to be confected from various documentary and oral traditions of Welsh and Scottish origin. In the *Ecclesiastical History of the English People, a* truly scholarly work written in 731CE, the monk Bede makes no reference to Arthur.

So, there things might have rested, with the Arthur story sinking into obscurity along with the other myths of the time. But this is not what happened.

In 1136CE, over five centuries after the supposed Arthur, Geoffrey of Monmouth wrote The History of the Kings of Britain (Historia Regum Britanniae), a work more of fantasy than history, tracing as it does the regnal line back to Troy and Brutus. It is here that the "modern" story of Arthur begins. In this work, Merlin makes an appearance as a soothsayer and Arthur is born at Tintagel. His father is Uther Pendragon. Later, Guinevere makes an appearance as Arthur's queen. Arthur eventually conquers Britain and most of Northern Europe. Mordred seizes the throne. Arthur defeats him at the battle of Camlann but, mortally wounded, he is carried to the Isle of Avalon. This account is almost entirely fantasy. In 1191CE, the monks of Glastonbury Abbey claimed to have found the grave of Arthur within their estate and a little later that of Guinevere and Joseph of Arimathea. It was a forgery, no doubt prompted by the need to attract pilgrims (and their money) to the Abbey. Monmouth also makes the first mention of Excalibur. Celtic and Scandinavian legends are replete with stories of magical swords. The Excalibur is derived, via a number of philological contortions, from the Welsh Caledfwlch. The stories about Excalibur are many, varied and contradictory. Arthur receives the sword from the Lady of the Lake or he pulls the sword from the stone and attests his right to be King. At the end of Arthur's life, Excalibur is destroyed, lost or returned to the Lady of the Lake. It is in this period that the late Arthur is referred to as "The once and future king".



Later in the same century, the French poet Chrétien de Troyes added Lancelot, the Round Table and the search for the Holy Grail to the mix. It is de Troyes who adds Camelot into the Arthur story. The Camelot legend is as mixed as that of Excalibur. The French Romantic legends of Arthur give the name *eighteen* different spellings. Many

Arthur and Excalibur

Camelot

places have been "identified" as the site of Camelot, including Cadbury in Somerset, Camelford in Cornwall, Shrewsbury, Winchester and even Roxburgh in Scotland. Geoffrey of Monmouth identified Arthur's court as being at Caerleon, somewhat predating Camelot but with all its grandeur.

By now the legends had a life of their own. In 1470, Thomas Malory wrote *Le Morte d'Ar*thur (The Death of Arthur), published by William Caxton in 1485. Between 1859 and 1885, Tennyson wrote *The Idylls of the King*, a long poetic cycle that continued the Romantic concept of Arthur. In 1832 he had written *The Lady of Shallot*, based on an Italian romance about a cursed lady living near Camelot. One stanza is famous:

"Out flew the web and floated wide— The mirror crack'd from side to side; "The curse is come upon me," cried The Lady of Shallot."

The stories of Arthur continued through the nineteenth century and into the present day with books, plays, films, musicals and television series. Sceptics of the Arthur legends have been around for as long as the legends. In the tenth and eleventh centuries, William of Malmesbury doesn't mention Arthur at all, despite writing copiously and accurately about the centuries before him. The noted eighteenth-century historian, Edward Gibbon, doubted the whole idea. Likewise in the nineteenth century, Macaulay said that Arthur was *"no more worthy of belief than Hercules"*.

So, what explains the Arthur myth? In the turbulent times when Arthur's story is set, there would have been a desire for a brave, charismatic and competent leader, real or imagined. The Romantic period embellished this greatly and the inheritance has survived. Perhaps we should amend the famous phrase to "Arthur - the once and future myth".

A number of sources have been consulted in the writing of this article, but the most used has been "In Search of the Dark Ages" by Michael Wood. It's in Dersingham Library.



u3a, Hunstanton Addie Thompson

Our next meeting will be at the Community Centre, Avenue Road, Hunstanton on Monday 19th February at the usual time of 2.00 pm when Ed Foss will be talking about the River Hun and Chalk streams in Norfolk.

The speaker at our March meeting on Monday 18th will be Ralf Jackman who will be speaking about Empress Agrippina and how to become an Empress.

You will be most welcome to join us for either or both meetings. For further information please see our website <u>hunstantonu3a.org</u> or telephone 07443 763679.□

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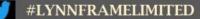
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Dersingham Task Force Dennis Weatherill

Following a very busy year for the Task Force we finally paused our gardening activities in mid-November, taking a well-earned rest until March. However, we didn't allow ourselves to get too settled in front of a cosy fire as we were helping with the setting up of the trees in St Nicholas' Church ready for the Christmas Tree Festival in December. We also helped to clear them out of the church in early January.

We were exceptionally fortunate throughout 2023 in that we were rarely "rained off" throughout the spring, summer and autumn. Not only was our fortnightly gardening possible on all our scheduled Wednesday mornings, but we were also able to sit outside for our post-gardening tea and scones at Thaxter's! (Although there was a bit of shivering by November).

Just recently we have had a very generous donation of spring-flowering bulbs from Jutta and Cameron Whitworth of the Bay Tree Garden Centre, Hilgay. We will be looking to plant these at the first opportunity in the New Year. This very kind gesture is much appreciated and will add some spring colour to our lovely village.

As always, if you'd like to join us every second Wednesday at 10.00am, please contact me, Dennis Weatherill, on 07482 913399 or <u>denzilweatherill@gmail.com</u> and you would be made very welcome.□

Hunstanton Croquet Club Caroline Harper

If your New Year's resolution was to make new friends and take up a healthy pastime, then head our way for the perfect way to keep it! Explore our website - <u>hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk</u>, or browse our FB page or email me - littlehumph@amail.com.



No reports of tournaments to give you, but there has been activity over the close season as some wonderful volunteers have been busy mending, painting and clearing. Huge thanks to them all. The final push to be ready will be on March 16th followed by hoop setting on March 21st. Then it's fingers crossed for good weather for the first club afternoon on Monday 25th March - a little bit sooner than usual, but we can't wait to get back on the lawns.

Following the success of last year, we shall be running a four-week introductory course to Golf Croquet for U3A members in April, so watch out for details of that. There will also be our annual free taster session on Wednesday 17th April. More details nearer the time.

We hope to see you at the club this season - new members always welcome. You only need to possess flat-soled shoes or trainers, and for your first season a mallet is provided.□



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Dersingham Evening WI Katrina Mundy, President





We held our annual Christmas coffee morning at Maggie's

house where members enjoyed sausage rolls, homemade mince pies and glasses of mulled wine. A delightful few hours were spent with friends. Eight members had a lovely meal out before going to the cinema to see Andre Rieu's *White Christmas*, just what was needed to put everyone in the Christmas mood.

We ended the year with our Christmas party evening and had an amusing talk by Mark Hudson about being a Panto Dame.

Mark was appearing in Panto in Skegness and came especially to give his talk after already being in two performances that day. Mark started his talk with a brief history of pantomimes and the role of the Dame over the years. Apparently, pantomimes now bear no resemblance to the pantomimes of the past, even ones we may remember as children. It is now not correct to call Cinderella's sisters ugly, or in some to have males play the roles. Not many have a female play the leading male role (no more slapping of thighs – apparently this is sexist) and he thought that in the future the Panto Dame will have to be a woman. Children apparently want more up to date technology in them, not just a flash or bang to herald the baddie.



He followed up by putting on his stage make up and talking about costumes and their design. Mark makes his own costumes and costumes for many other productions being held around the country. He finally transformed into a Panto Dame for us. We all enjoyed drinks and snacks and then did our Secret Santa Sock with much hilarity, especially over some of the designs on the socks. A lovely evening was had by all who attended.

By the time you read this, January will have seen all our usual groups restart: the Book Club has been reading *Miss Benson's Beetle* by Rachel Joyce - an interesting book about Miss Benson and her companion going across the world to look for a beetle that may or may not exist!

The craft group recycled Christmas cards into new cards ready for this year's Christmas (only fifty weeks away).

Over twenty of us went for a lovely New Year's lunch at The Swan in South Wootton, not a turkey dinner in sight.

On January 25th we held a drop in coffee morning for our members at St Cecilia's, as we did not have an evening meet in January.

Our Annual Meet will be held in February, when we vote for a new Committee and President for the next twelve months, and there will be a short talk from the Samaritans.

We have a varied programme of speakers for 2024 as follows:

March: Wally Webb - "Forty years plus, broadcasting for Radio Norfolk" April: Birthday party with musical entertainment by Joan Hocking May: Our Resolutions evening with a talk from Co-op Planning June: Hazel Gillingham – "Three Women of the WI" July: Judith Key – Painting the Landscape August: Afternoon tea – music from a ukelele band. **AFTERNOON MEET** September: Cheryl Cade – "A Cheesy Chat" October: Susan Parry – "The Tragic Case of Florence Maybrick" November: Susan Cranmer – Christmas Traditions December: Christmas party – Debbie Perris and Katie Hayden-Slater - Seasonal Wild Floristry. **AFTERNOON MEET** We also hope to have excursions to Ely Cathedral and Peckover House.

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

Snettisham Gardening Club Addie Thompson

Our February meeting will be on Wednesday 28th at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham when we will be updated on the activities of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust by Gary Hibbard.

Our March meeting on Wednesday 27th will bring Kate Graves to give us a talk on the activities of the RNLI.

You will be most welcome to join us. Any further information can be obtained from Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754. \square

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Wolferton Village News

John and Sally Godfrey

John Godfrey lived in Wolferton for seventy years, the last fifty-seven in Bullseye Terrace, to where he moved when he and Sally married. Prior to that he lived with his parents in Whin Hill, with no electricity and only a pump for water. They moved in January 1953, just before the North Sea Flood which so devastated Hunstanton and Snettisham in particular.

John and Sally finally said goodbye to Wolferton in December 2023 to move to a more suitable home in Dersingham, with a whole range of facilities close at hand, but missing in Wolferton. The village didn't let them escape without a send-off, and on January 13th held a well-attended tea party for them at the Social Club. We all wish you well in your new abode, John and Sally.

Memorial seat in memory of Queen Elizabeth II

It is ten years since Queen Elizabeth graced us with her presence to unveil the replacement and refurbished village sign on the corner of Station Road and Rectory Road. Funded by money from the Scarecrow Festival the previous summer, the new sign incorporated a seat around the base, as pictures from the nineteen thirties showed was in place then. By popular acclaim, the best view in Wolferton is at the corner of Church Road and Rectory Road, looking out to the Wash and, on a clear day, over to the Lincolnshire coast. It is fitting that here, almost precisely ten years later, in December, a seat was installed in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.



Coffee morning, Saturday March 15th

Jacquie Dennis will be holding another of her popular coffee mornings in the Social Club from 10am to 12noon. Come and join the chat and fun. Raffle, lucky straws, cake stall, coffee and cake and much more, and raise funds for St Peter's Church, Wolferton and the Happy Memories Group. No entry fee, all are very welcome.

Social club

Cash BingoSunday 4th FebruarySunday 3td MarchDoors open 7.00pm, eyes down 8.00pmDoors open 7.00pm, eyes down 8.00pm

Prize Bingo

Tuesday 20th February Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm Tuesday 19th March Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

St Peter's Church

The work on our organ at St Peter's Church continues; the revised completion date is likely to be Easter. The restorers have enabled us to use the church and we gathered for our traditional Christmas Day service which attracted an attendance of twenty-six who all enjoyed hot drinks and mince pies afterwards! Looking ahead, we plan to continue with our regular services on the second Sunday of each month. However, the church will not be open to the public outside of these hours until the work is completed. Please check the Sandringham Churches website for service times.

On the Friday before Christmas, a cheerful assembly of around twenty sang carols around the village. Thank you to those who listened and provided us with treats along the way! A total of £176 was raised for the Children's Society, thank you to all involved. □

Sandringham Parish Council

No meetings have been held since the last report in *Village Voice*, and the next one will be at 7pm on Wednesday 7th February at a new venue – West Newton Village Hall. We are delighted to be able to meet there as it opens up the Parish's business more readily to residents of that village rather than just always being held at Wolferton. We hope that this will be a successful arrangement which can continue with alternate meetings in each village.

At the time of writing, the agenda has not been completed but one item to be discussed will be how to strengthen the Parish Council by the appointment of new Councillors. Especially if you live in West Newton, and especially if you are perhaps new to the village but have had experience of contributing to community life elsewhere, we would really like to hear from you. The Chairman, Stephen Thompson, can be contacted on 07956 638313 or feel free to turn up at West Newton Village Hall at 7pm on 7th February.

Carpet Bowls Club Sue Eastmure

Very enjoyable times have been spent on Tuesday afternoons at the Village Centre, with some new members joining us. At the AGM, after the Committee and Officers had been elected, members agreed to send a donation to the local Stroke Association.

In the run up to Christmas, twenty-four members enjoyed a visit, organised by Maureen, to The Princess Theatre to see the pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk*. (Oh yes they did!)

On December 15th members and friends made a coach trip, first to Stamford - a fascinating town of historic houses of warm stone, timber-framed buildings and five medieval churches. There they enjoyed browsing the many and varied market stalls that lined the streets and discovering the countless small, well-



known shops. It made one regret that Lynn's Tuesday Market is now a thing of the past and that so many of our shops are empty. After a good stay here, the coach then went on to Springfields Retail Outlet, where a good lunch was enjoyed before once again exploring the many outlets. It was a tired group that rejoined the coach, complete with shopping bags, to make their way back home. It had been a good day. Thank you again Maureen. Also, the weather had been kind. Not sunny, but at least no rain.

The season was rounded off with a party on the last Tuesday. Maureen and Jenny had devised many intriguing and amusing puzzles to be solved. Target Bowls proved to be its usual challenge and Jenny's Connections Quiz was a real brain teaser. Can you see the connection between *Wet*, *Location*, *Education*, *Ho*? After these tests everyone sat down to the fine spread provided by the members and a welcome cup of tea from Ulla.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in January and wish all Village Voice readers a Healthy New Year. $\hfill\square$

The Benefit of Art Lesley Nadel, North West Norfolk Arts Society

Monday 12th February 2024 starts our New Year season of monthly lectures at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2:00 pm with **Arts and Crafts in Stained Glass in English Churches.** Kirsty Hartsiotis is the accredited Art Society lecturer, and she is a wonderful storyteller, writer and speaker on folklore and Arts and Crafts history. In this lecture she will look at the revolution in church interiors brought about by the Arts and Crafts designers. Between about 1890 and 1930 Arts and Crafts designers built and contributed to hundreds of churches across England, with some famous schemes that included the church building and all its interior fittings. Most notable are Brockhampton - perhaps the finest Arts and Crafts church in the U.K; Holy Trinity, Sloane Square, London; and St Andrew's, Roker. Sometimes it is just one commission – a stained glass window, a screen, or a font cover. Find out how these designers and Morris & Co., in churches like Selsley, changed the course of church furnishings in England, and how the next generation of Arts and Crafts designers revolutionised church design.

Christopher Whall, a nineteenth-century master in the technique of stained glass, responsible for such masterpieces as the windows at Holy Trinity in Sloane Square, is quoted as saying, 'Our lives are like the broken bits of glass, sadly or brightly coloured, jostled about and shaken hither and thither, in a seeming confusion, which we yet hope is somewhere held up to a light in which each one meets with his own, and holds his place; and, to the Eye that watches, plays his part in a universal harmony by us, as yet, unseen.' His philosophy illustrates the importance of art generally and particularly how it can help our brain. Everyone's reaction to art can be different but it has the ability to have a strong effect on the brain, from highly lifelike portraits to abstract collections of rectangles. Each time our brain is working to make sense of the visual stimulation it is receiving by viewing and analysing the art.

When we look at wonderful artwork such as a painting, sculpture etc. it is believed the blood flow to the brain increases by as much as 10%, some say the equivalent of looking at a loved one. When we view and analyse art, we often are not just making sense of the shapes we see. We feel we want to place ourselves in the picture. Our brain can turn things like action, movement, and energy into actual emotions that we feel. Look at a Jackson Pollock drip painting and you may feel that you are one of those flinging the paint on to the canvas. A desert landscape can make you feel the hot sand beneath your feet and the sun beating down.

The relationship between art and brainpower is increasingly becoming serious science with findings that art is a great way to flex our brain while improving our life and wellbeing. Slowly, more public places are supporting this. Anywhere we might find ourselves waiting, waiting, and waiting, we may find an art gallery or museum being made from the concourse. The Charity Paintings in Hospitals has created a collection of more than 3,700 artworks since 1959 which it lends to hospitals, hospices, care homes and surgeries. Many studies have shown the benefits to patients' recovery and morale when they have something pleasant to look at.

We invite you to come as our guest for £5 to one of our meetings and explore how much art may benefit you. Or you can join as an annual member for £45 (or less if joining later in the year) and enjoy a range of benefits - nine monthly lectures which cover a wide range of subjects; trips and tours in the UK and abroad, interesting study days, regular newsletters and magazines, and a warm welcome from a very friendly society.



We meet at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2pm

Come as our guest for £5 to one lecture to see if you enjoy our meetings.

Monday 12th February 2024 Arts and Crafts in Stained Glass in English Churches (Focusing on Brockhampton, Herefordshire) Lecturer: Kirsty Hartsiotis

Monday 11th March 2024 *Treasures of the Borghese Gallery* (The collection of ancient sculpture and Renaissance Art amassed by Scipio Borghese in the early 1600s.) Lecturer: Stuart Harvey

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Dersingham Methodist Church Elizabeth Batstone

Our grateful thanks to you all for supporting our Christmas services and for helping us raise £400 for the King's Lynn Night Shelter. The Christmas Fayre raised £566, also for the Night Shelter. The Night Shelter are very grateful for the money raised, which will help to continue their work.

During 2024 our usual activities will take place:

The Bowls Club meets weekly on Wednesday afternoons, 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm; contact Joan on 01485 298824 for further details.

The **Jigsaw Club** meets on the third Thursday each month 9.30 am - 10.30 am; contact Rene on 01485 541035 for further details.

The first **coffee morning** is on Saturday 27th January 10.00 am to 11.30 am, raising funds for the flower festival.

Further **coffee morning** dates are: 24th February, also for the flower festival fund, Saturday 23rd March coffee morning is for Action for Children and Methodist Homes for the Aged.

The **annual flower festival** to celebrate our 134th church anniversary will be from Thursday 23rd to Saturday 25th May, Songs of Praise on Sunday 26th May. Further details will be in future issues of the Village Voice. We look forward to seeing you at any of our activities.

Weekly Sunday services continue at 10.30 am.

We wish you all a Happy New Year and God's richest blessing for 2024. Elizabeth Batstone. Tel: 01485 541068. stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com□



If music is the food of love, then our Farm Shop must be an orchestra.

We know you're still recovering from Christmas and New Year but with Easter coming early this year, we will be taking orders for Spring Lamb from 1st February.

And with Valentine's Day fast approaching, why not pop in and see what special offers we will have on our steaks – you'll love 'em!! Our Valentine's discounts will run from 12th – 14th February. (Don't forget to treat yourself to a lovely bottle of wine too, from one of our local suppliers, to go with your meal – there's plenty to choose from.)

As always, we have plenty of other goodies for you at the Deli and on the shop floor, so why not pop in and see if anything takes your fancy.





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The Covid Booster

"All our lines are busy at the moment." The precious and aggravating time spent, The robotic voice with the automatic mantra, Phone clamped in hand, waiting for an answer.

"Your call will be answered shortly, please hold." For half an hour or more, this is what you are told. This automated loop plays over and over and over, While holding I made my bed and smoothed out the cover.

"You are currently number ten in the queue." Oh well, Monday morning, 8:30 am – it's only just a few. I put the phone on speaker, and got other things done, Listening anxiously to the countdown to number one.

The magic number came, and I waited for the operator, Only to hear, "there's a problem with the system, please call back later." Later I tried again and again, then at ten minutes to four, Joined the ruddy countdown once more, just like I did before.

You couldn't make this up, or even "Adam and Eve" it, The long wait, it shut down once more, at the very same bit; The options were Thetford or Fakenham or Downham, Then eventually I found out, it could be done at Heacham.

With fingers crossed, next day I made a hopeful call. "We're out of stock, call back on Friday" – yet another brick wall. I planned to try the hospital again when the lines opened at eight. I overslept, darn it, and called just a little late. Again, the repetition of my number, plus that awful wait, Then a human voice cut in, a thrill, and we were given a date.

We sorted out the personal and necessary things, then Hubby and I were confirmed to get our jabs at ten. Finally, I asked the question of where were we to meet. The reply was bemusing...the NHS Hub, 24 New Conduit Street...!!!

Lorna MMXXIII

The Daily Doings of Mrs. Dolittle



It seems with old age that memories surface more and more. I'm not doing much at the moment, but the brain keeps whirring. Rather than moan about the frailties of life, I thought I'd meander down Memory Lane today and share with you.

My first kiss. Do you remember yours? At school, we all wondered what it would be like, and how we should go about it when it happened. Someone said that if you practised on the back of your hand, it gave you a head start. So there we were, kissing our own hands with passion, and wondering how it would feel when reciprocated. I was a late starter, as I was waiting for a proper Prince Charming, and refused to let the boys at school catch me at kiss-chase. I was such a fast runner they couldn't catch me and instead called me 'Spitfire', which was the fastest plane in the sky at the time. That pleased me more than any kiss with a smelly boy. Eventually, though, my time was come. I was staving with a friend, and we had gone to a dance in Sevenoaks. They had a real band there, and we girls would line up on one side of the floor in our sticky-out skirts and stiletto heels and the boys with their slicked back quiffs and sideburns, big shoulders to their suit jackets and thick-soled 'brothel creeper' shoes, on the other side of the hall. My friend had told me that if any of them offered to buy me a drink, to ask for either a gin and tonic, or a port and lemon. I'd never touched drink before. Can't say I ever got used to it. Anyway, on the way home on the bus, it was standing room only, and I was with a boy who had danced with me, and whom I had fancied for some time. He bent down and kissed my lips. I was horrified. All those witnesses and lights a-blaze. Where was the romance and music? I couldn't have kissed back satisfactorily, despite all that practising on my knuckles, for he never got in touch again. My first despairing heart...



Then, so many memories surface of my time on the farm. I loved it there, and my heart is still full of it, my grandparents, my aunt, the dogs, cats, chickens, calves, pigs and horses, and the little trap Granddad would take me out in to see how the cows were doing in a far meadow – oh, and the hissing, wings-outstretched, chasing geese; and sliding down the straw banked high in the barn (have to be careful it doesn't catch fire, warned my Granddad) and the ever important hope of skating on the pond.

My Dad had given me a pair of second-hand skates he had picked up somewhere. They fitted, and I used to walk up and down the hall carpet in them, pretending I was a star skater. Daddy had borrowed a car and taken me up to London (we lived not far, in Kent, at the time) to the skating rink at Streatham. I was so excited, realising this was the beginning of my life as a skater, only to discover the place was closed down. My heart ended up in my stomach that day and it was the last of my skating career before it had begun.

But there was 'the farm pond' to skate on. I asked my aunt to tell me when there would be a pond to skate on, and she assured me she would. I believed her. You see, there wasn't an actual pond on the farm, but I thought it might rain enough to form one. I was

ever hopeful, but it never happened and I outgrew the skates, but oh the wishing, and hoping, and rushing there to see if enough puddle had iced over...

Never mind, my little legs took me on many adventures around that farm: Fairtrough Farm, Charmwood Lane, Pratts Bottom. What an address! The farmhouse is a ruin now, burned down by vandals and never rebuilt. I knew every flower in the wood and checked up on them each year. Harvest time was hard work. I wasn't much help, but I tried. The tractor pulled the cutters, and the hay would be left on the ground. This had to be turned to dry, then raked up into heaps (or if it was corn, the stooks had to be propped up holding each other up). It was very prickly, itchy work. Everything had to be dry before storing, which was dodgy as our climate is ever unpredictable; then the carts were brought out, and pitchforks employed to toss the bales into the cart.

Many of the villagers used to come to help on these occasions. Things weren't mechanised much then. The best bit was being allowed to climb up and sit on top of the hay in the cart and trundled back to where the haystacks would be made. One day, when the villagers were pitchforking the hay up, my aunt grabbed my hand and started to run back to the house. I asked why we were running. Apparently, a child had had an accident – I never found out what happened. I think the child had fallen off the top of the cart and got run over - it was dire, but children were never told things in those days. She was keeping me away from a gory sight and running to phone for help. I had hoped, however, to witness the gore.

Rabbits. There were so many rabbits. They ate the crops as they were growing, and grandad was for ever going out with his gun and shooting as many as he could. We had lots of rabbit pies and rabbit stews and when eating, I ALWAYS got the shot in my mouth, which put me off rabbit for ever. I don't know why my Gran never cut out the shot. You could see the bruise on the poor bare rabbit when its skin was pulled off, but no, I always got a mouthful which crunched on my teeth and felt disgusting...Then along came myxomatosis. What a dreadful man-made disease. Poor rabbits blundering around, blinded, with swollen heads, maggots eating them alive, unable to eat, see or run. The lanes were amok with dead rabbits that were flattened by cars over time. Not many cars in those days, of course. You couldn't eat the poor things as they were diseased.

Kittens. There were always kittens, but poorly, undernourished little things. My Gran fed the cats with milk and bread. Not a good diet for cats. They were expected to eat the ever present mice in the granary that was filled with loose corn and mice droppings. I think the cats were too poorly to catch the mice. (People didn't pamper animals at that time, nor were there copious cat and dog foods available. The war had just ended and it was difficult enough feeding family, let alone pets, so they just got scraps.)

I would climb up the vertical ladder in the cow barn and through the hatch into the hayloft. Hay smells so sweet and wonderful, filled with clover and other wildflowers, and, of course, grasses. My nostrils would fill with the gorgeous heady aroma as I searched for kitten nests.

There was no such thing as Health and Safety in those days, thank goodness. We used common sense for survival. There were three holes to fall through. One, the open hatch, through which I came up into the hay loft; the other two were squares cut out of the floorboards where the hay was pushed down into the cow mangers below. Oh, and a large square in the wall, casually closed with a hook, where the fresh hay was tossed in from the cart below in the yard. There would be pitchforks and other dangers to fall on if one was stupid enough not to be careful. As I played and cuddled the kittens, I

loved the aroma wafting upwards from the cows below who were chomping on their hay or cud. I'd lie on the floor to look through the danger-hole and talk to them below me. So many aromas and odours. I even liked the smell of the dung – I suppose because to me everything was wonderful. (I still like it as the smell evokes good memories.) It was so peaceful. I was growing up around animals and nature and whilst I never grew up to be a famous skater, or anything else grand that I might have aspired to, I have never, ever, forgotten that my formative years were spent in such a wonderful, happy-making place.

Modern life progressed, towns spread into the countryside, the population grew, I worked in London and grew to hate it – so many people and bad things happening – and later on, when I was thirty, I moved with my own family to Norfolk, and it was like stepping back in time to my childhood. We moved to Norton Hill in Snettisham, where we knocked three cottages into one. It was up a cart-track, with cows as our neighbours and lovely countryside all round. It was utter bliss - for a few years until Life got in the way again...

And after some moves of houses and a couple of Prince Charmings, here I am in Dersingham, tucked away in my bungalow, reminiscing instead of working, letting the dirty dishes malinger in the sink and the dust on surfaces reach wadding proportions. I don't feel inclined to do much anymore. Just drift away on Memory Lane in front of a lovely log fire...

I wish you a HAPPY NEW YEAR and may your dreams come true.



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Christmas Carols at the Village Centre

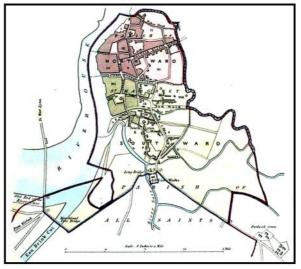
The annual Village Centre Christmas Carols evening took place on December 20th. Sausage rolls, rmince pies and mulled wine were served. It was a wonderful, heartfelt, enjoyable occasion and a perfect way to bring our community together at this time.





1832 Map of King's Lynn Tony Bubb

Here's another early map of King's Lynn, showing how much has changed since then.





Word Wall by Philip Neal

Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers on page 61

SNITCH	EARTH	COUCH	BECK
REED	MARRAM	OTTOMAN	CHESTERFIELD
BIN	MARS	FESCUE	JUPITER
PLUTO	SETTEE	VENUS	DIVAN



Crossword by Philip Neal

Across

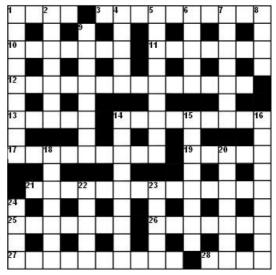
1 Crowd entrance (4)

3 Foreign infidel set to become old time footballer (6,4)

- 10 Auto club's storyteller recalled to form a single coach (7)
- 11 Mended in technical college working from home (7)
- 12 Bale ran ref. nuts but stayed at his club (14)
- 13 Girl returned to Kelvin with a grilled tongue twister (5)
- 14 Painful milk? (9)
- Thief plays clarinets while lancer clumsily bumps into first (9)
- 19 Répair a drey in the life of a squirrel fully grown (5)
- 21 Widely reported at legionnaires demobilisation (14)
- 25 Two horses one inside German city (7)
- 26 Groom one ripe developer (7)
- 27 Blackish spirit arises nearby busy centres (10)
- 28 Engineer does poetry (4)

Down

- 1 Pop art partner who displayed brilliant vision (9)
- 2 Double drummer (4,3)
- 4 Anoraks found in Tyneside streets (5)
- 5 Dévice used in simple mental arithmetic (9)
- 6 Goodbye (5)
- 7 Clone trained for this formation (7)
- 8 Orderly papers needed in outskirts of Tilbury (4)
- 9 W.W.2 Pilot Officer Butcher clambers aboard following this alarm (8)
- 14 Bone broken when taxi met car reversing into odds and ends (4-1-4)
- 15 Wild goat ran around rare plant (8)
- 16 SAS incorporated a rayon compound for more sixes (9)
- 18 Whirling fish caught in a circle (7)
- 20 Harry and I see something sweet (7)
- 22 Two under a large soarer (5)
- 23 Japan lost new karate execution (5)
- 24 Overcome by climbing bananas (4)



Answers on page 61

Sudoku

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

What's in the Name? Tony Bubb

Individual letters are used a lot in life: initials, acronyms and abbreviations are all in common use.

Here is a selection that we offered in the last edition for you to find out what the letters stand for. (*Ed: I only got four!!!*)

A A Milne	Alan Alexander			
B & Q	Block & Quayle			
G K Chesterton	Gilbert Keith			
H P Sauce	Houses of Parliament			
J B Priestley	John Boynton			
EE	Everything Everywhere			
Jerome K Jerome	Klapka			
I K Brunel	Isambard Kingdom			
BRM	British Racing Motors			
AEC	Associated Equipment Company			
SAAB	Svenska Aeroplan Aktiebolaget			
FIAT	Fabrica Italiana Automobil de Torino			
HMV	His Master's Voice			
QUANTAS	Queensland & Northern Territory Aerial Services			
J M Barrie	James Mathew			
E M Forster	Edward Morgan			
W H Smith	William Henry			
F W Woolworth	Frank Winfield			
HSBC	Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation			
JCB	Joseph Cyril Bamford			

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Across

1 Gate, 3 Inside left, 10 Railcar, 11 Patched, 12 Untransferable, 13 Kebab, 14 Beestings, 17 Larcenist. 19 Ready. 21 Generalisation. 25 Trigger. 26 Pioneer. 27 Nigrescent. 28 Odes

Down

1 Garfunkel. 2 Twin tub. 4 Nerds. 5 Implement. 6 Extra. 7 Echelon. 8 Tidy. 9 Scramble. 14 Bric-a-brac. 15 Tarragon. 16 Sayonaras. 18 Reeling. 20 Aniseed. 22 Eagle. 23 Ippon. 24 Stun.

Word Wall Answers

Grass: Couch, Snitch, Fescue, Marram ...ham: Reed..., Mars..., Bin..., Beck... Planets: Venus, Pluto, Earth, Jupiter Sofas: Chesterfield, Divan, Ottoman, Settee

Sudoku Answers

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

Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates For articles, reports of events, meetings and details of upcoming attractions:					
Issue	sue Copy deadline midday on Publication date				
No. 147 (April/May 24) Monday 4th March 2024		Monday 25th March 2024			

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