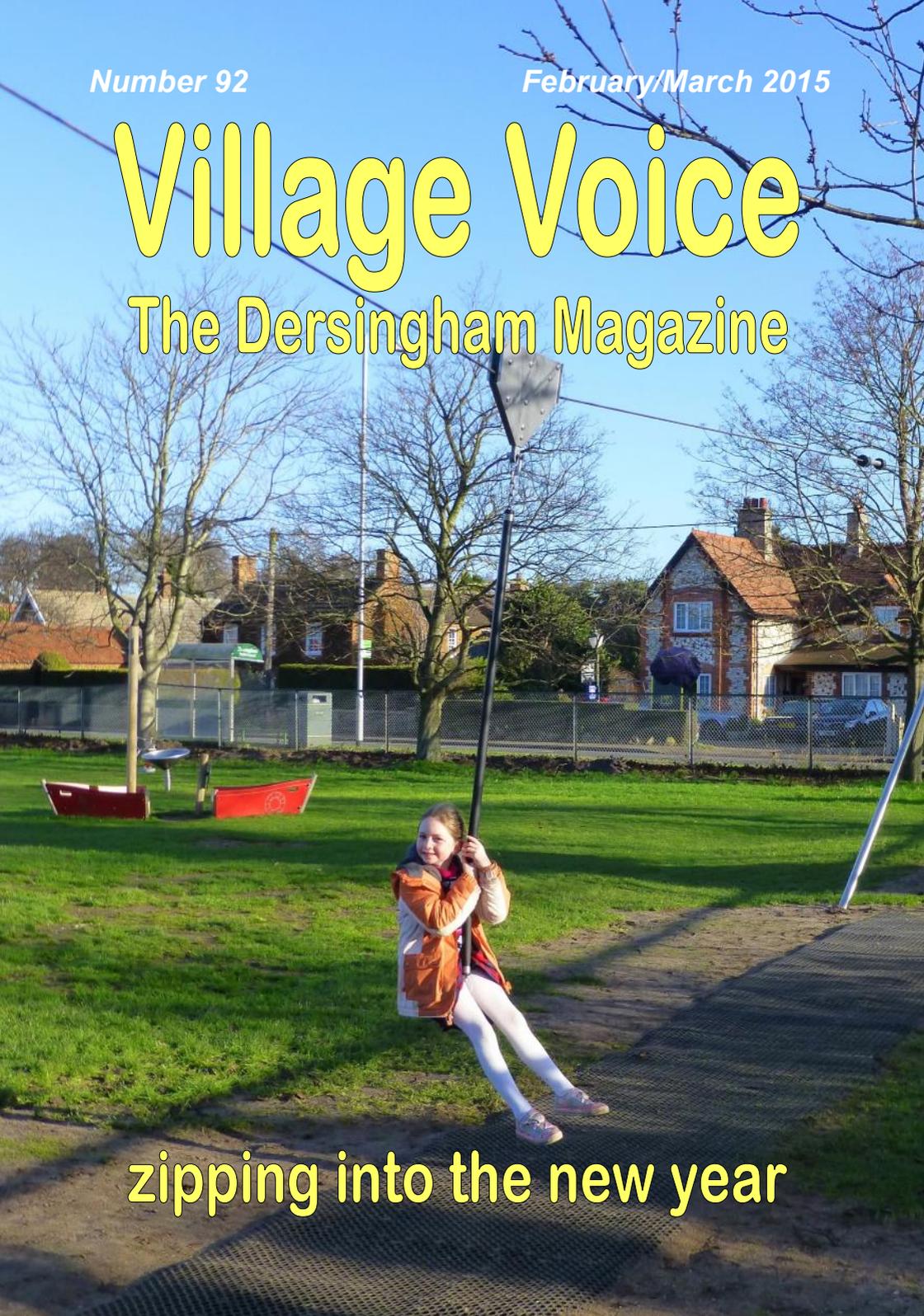


Number 92

February/March 2015

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



zipping into the new year



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Editor's Notes



By now I suspect many a new year's resolution for 2015 has been made and broken and we are perhaps tempted to think "Oh well that's it, I've blown it for another year!" But really, resolving to do something new can start any time we choose to make it happen! A question that can give rise to new resolutions that I have asked of myself and I invite you to do the same is: *"What can I do to help make a difference in my village or community or maybe even further afield?"*

Reading through Village Voice and other local publications, amongst the details of all the wonderful groups we can join and events we can attend, there are often pleas of various kinds for people to help out with the organisation and running of things. The trouble is that we value our free time so much and really just want a quiet, uninvolved life and Dersingham seems just the ideal and friendly sort of place to live it out, supported by the relatively few, whose vision and dedication have helped to build and shape what it is.

This year, the start of May will see the dissolution of our current Parliament, our local Borough Council AND our own Parish Council prior to new ones being voted in. Whereas we might blame the overall make-up of Parliament or our Borough Council on the opinions and prejudices of those living elsewhere, the Dersingham Parish Council's make-up is entirely in the hands of Dersingham residents. There will be eighteen Parish Council vacancies and as many ordinary people as wish, with ordinary experience of life, one of which may be you, can fill in an application to stand. Of course, if only eighteen or fewer apply, then they are automatically elected and no ballot will be taken but, either way, it will be *we* in Dersingham who have decided, and *we* who get the council *we* have elected, even if by default! So for applications, please form an orderly queue at the Parish Office, or maybe phone up or email first! And should you perhaps feel that such a step is not quite one you are ready to take, then why not encourage, support and champion someone who is?

When we moved here a little over eight years ago and started receiving Village Voice, I never dreamt I'd even be writing for it, let alone taking on the editorship! I cannot pretend that it doesn't consume vast amounts of my time and can sometimes drive me a little crazy, but I do have a great affection for all those who help and contribute to it and am encouraged by those of you who enjoy its pages and that makes it all seem worthwhile. I've said I'll try and keep it up through to the 100th issue, which is scheduled for June 2016, if circumstances so allow it to continue. But, we could use some more support in reporting, writing articles/stories, making phone calls, distributing, etc, and, if it is to continue past issue 100, will be needing an apprentice sub-editor sometime this year!

This issue's front cover pays tribute to the splendid new play equipment that, after a few setbacks not least with the weather, was finally up and running in time for the Christmas break. Thank you to all concerned and I hope the whole area brings a lot of pleasure for years to come. Now if I was perhaps just a few years younger!

Last issue's "Hunt the Poinsettia" competition seemed to get at least some of you frantically counting away, though only thirteen entries were actually submitted, five of which gave the correct answer of 31. Roger and Diana Foreman of Kings Croft were the lucky winners drawn first from the hat to receive their £20 Budgens Voucher. How many of you are now kicking yourselves for not entering? I doubt you would get much better odds of winning a competition than that!!

Whatever it is you resolve to do or take part in during 2015, however ambitious or menial, I hope that you will prosper and reap inspiring and even life-changing benefits from it although, as they say, "It is better to have tried and failed, than never to have tried at all!" Or was that Tennyson talking about love? Oh well Valentine's Day is nearly upon us— we can all dream!

Steve Davis - editor@dersingham.org.uk □





Dear Village Voice

Please email (editor@dersingham.org.uk) or write to us at Village Voice, Dersingham Parish Council, 4A Post Office Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn, PE31 6HP with your thoughts or memories of village life, comments concerning items read or ideas for the future. Ed.



As a child I always had to be reminded to write my Christmas thank you letters and having a birthday in January meant I also had to quickly repeat the process. With fewer letters to write now I still have good reasons to say thank you, hopefully on this occasion via Village Voice. My first big thank you is to the Dersingham Task Force. They are a small stalwart group of residents who help keep our village tidy by litter picking around the village, keeping our footpaths open by cutting back overgrown vegetation and tending the rose garden on Chapel Road as well as other tasks they undertake. Last year I asked even more of them and as ever they came up trumps by willingly supporting the village wide Litter-Pick prior to the Open Gardens event, helped with the planting of nearly 140 tree saplings on the Warren and also planted 100s of daffodils on the Hunstanton Road between Hawthorn Drive and Chapel Road, even if some were dug up two weeks later to put in new BT cables! (The daffodils not the Task Force). Without their reliable and unstinting support we would not have achieved so much. I mustn't forget either to say thank you to all the other Dersingham residents who also gave their support at these events and to Thaxters for very kindly donating the daffodils.

My second thank you is to Tony Bubb for the monthly Village Voice Live presentations. As ever Tony has, each month, engaged for our delight informative and interesting talks on topics near and far. My particular favourite was 'Flight of the Falcon' which included birds of prey flying in the church hall. Tony must be congratulated for continuing to bring new and enlightening topics to the audiences, something I think that must be quite a challenge at times. He is also supported by a team who sell the tickets, help with the raffle and serve the refreshments during the interval, tea or coffee and cake is always welcome. A big thank you to them too.

And finally another big thank you to the Editor and his team for yet another excellent year's production of Village Voice and Dersingham Data. When deciding whether to move to Dersingham these publications proved to be so useful and they gave such a good impression of a lively and thriving community. It must be remembered that none are paid for the work that they do on our behalf, they give their time willingly and I am very grateful to them and I hope our village will continue to give them our support and thanks.

Kate Hathaway (Cllr)

Many thanks to everyone who responded so generously to the Samaritan's Purse 'Operation Christmas Child' appeal in November. The total number of shoeboxes filled with gifts for disadvantaged children in the poorest countries in the world was 183. This is an amazing number, an increase on the previous year's total, and particularly heart warming given the present climate of economic austerity. It speaks volumes about the generosity of our community, that we were an exception to the general trend of decreasing numbers of shoeboxes being filled for the Samaritan's Purse Appeal. Special thanks also to Budgens for once again storing the filled shoeboxes, making collection so much easier for the Samaritan's Purse volunteer lorry driver.



Our boxes are being tracked, so we shall find out later in the year where they finished up.

With thanks and best wishes for the coming year.

Carolyn Brock and St. Nicholas' Church 'Fried Green Tomatoes' Group

Campylobacteriosis and Parvovirus:

Recently I decided to vary my walk after collecting the newspaper and chose the left hand side of Chapel Road. After crossing at the lights I made a quick detour having spotted a pile of dog poo, then another and another, therefore, deciding to count the number of heaps seen before arriving home. Seventeen in all between the traffic lights and the beginning of Old Hall Drive.

My question is this; will the new hobby in this area be dodging dog poo in the dark, dirty streets of Dersingham? Think on environmentalists. Such an opportunity for after-dark walkers to take home some very nasty bacteria from our badly-lit pavements.

I am happy to say that there are kindly, responsible dog-owners who clean up after their pets and use the dog bins provided. Should there be a dog bin half way along Chapel Road to make the task of dog poo disposal easier?

Jackie Harris

A frequent agenda item, I fear, for our Parish Council (to whom the last suggestion must be made directly of course). I see that there are now Facebook pages and even some councils that facilitate a name-and-shame approach to irresponsible pet owners. According to the Edinburgh Evening News, the threat of such public humiliation and embarrassment has halved the problem!! Ed.

Following Paul English's leg break during a football match playing for Dersingham Rovers in November, we would like to thank everyone in and around Dersingham who have kindly helped us out during this difficult time. We have been overwhelmed by the support we have received and a special thanks to Dersingham Football Club who even held a benefit match for Paul on Sunday 30 November. This was brilliantly organised and supported and thank you to anybody who contributed to the raffle or attended. We have been touched by the kindness and generosity of everybody. By the time you read this, Paul will have had his third operation on his leg and hopefully just about walking again although returning to work will still be a long way off. A big thank you again from us all.

Paul, Victoria, Maisie and William English

And now for this issue's well travelled Village Voice; here we see John Tansley pictured nonchalantly reading his October issue alongside the RMS Queen Mary at her permanent mooring in Long Beach California—as indeed one would! Where and who next I wonder? Ed.



Barry Beales signed off his piece in the last issue with his rank and number. We might forget our wives' birthdays and wedding anniversaries but old squaddies never forget their number!

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Parish Council Report by Cllr Suzy Daniels



Happy New Year!!! A brief report as we didn't get to meet in December. We currently have several vacancies so if you are interested in having a say or making a valuable contribution to Dersingham please contact the office for an application to become a Parish Councillor. 01485 541465.

NEW COUNCILLORS: On behalf of the Council I would like to welcome Iris Broughton who was co-opted at January's precept meeting. (More on the precept in the next edition!)

CRIME.....specific to Dersingham

- Enquiries are ongoing into one recorded burglary within a property on Lynn Road.
- Following a domestic assault an arrest was made.
- An incident of arson involving fence panels on Dodds Hill Road.
- A reported theft from a vehicle after a window was removed from the vehicle in Shernborne Rd.

BOROUGH COUNCIL...Open Garden and Movies Planned

Cllr Collingham reported plans are already well underway for this year's Open Gardens. Anyone interested in being involved is asked to get in touch. Cllr Collingham had also attended training with Creative Arts, a company which provides film equipment, with the idea of providing movie/film events within the village. A trial session is planned for early 2015.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES....All minutes for Full Council and Committees are available on the Dersingham Parish Council website

Other matters:

Cllr Anderson reported that street lights in Gelham Court have failed, which would suggest a problem with the junction box, but an order for new LED lights had been placed. The current street light contractor has been contacted and asked to fix the problem in the meantime.....this is still ongoing and we would like to apologise to the residents for the continued inconvenience.

20 volunteers assisted Cllr Hathaway and the Environment committee plant new tree saplings on the Warren. Cllr Daniels reported that work on the Recreation Ground was completed and looked forward to the new equipment being enjoyed by local children. Cllr Edwards has been investigating making the school run safer and has included a report within this edition.

Reminder: Waste food caddy liners are now available from the Post Office, not the Parish Office.

PLANNING DETERMINATIONS:

The Borough Council have published its final site allocations for new housing developments, which, for Dersingham, highlights two potential sites:

10 units on land adjacent to St Nicholas Court and 20 units on allotment land in Dodds Hill.

The Parish Council will be discussing this at its meeting on 26th January, and will be feeding back to the Borough. We also **URGE** residents to comment on the proposals. The full document is held in the Parish Office, or you can go on to the Borough Website; the site allocations are found on the planning pages. If you need any advice on how to comment please contact the Parish Office on 01485 541465 or the Borough Council on 01553 616200.

DETERMINATIONS:

Squirrels Cottage, Centre Vale...Granted

Waves Consultancy Ltd, Budgens...Granted

Holt Architectural Ltd, redundant picnic site...Granted

Please come along to the Full Council meetings on the last Monday of each month at Dersingham Early Years site.

Now they say there's snow headed our way! Let's hope that it doesn't last *too* long! ☐

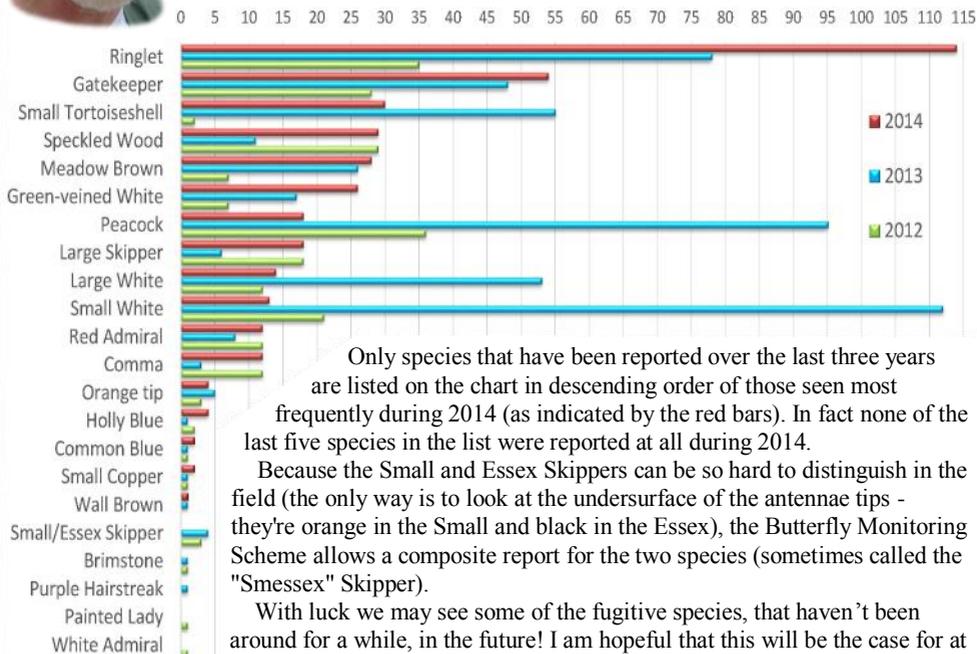


Butterfly Transect Report for 2014

by Brian Anderson

2014 was the third year of the butterfly recording transect along the old railway line between Ingoldisthorpe and Dersingham, so we can now make comparisons with the previous two years as the following chart shows:

Butterflies reported along the Dersingham 'Railway Line' Transect over the past three years



Only species that have been reported over the last three years are listed on the chart in descending order of those seen most frequently during 2014 (as indicated by the red bars). In fact none of the last five species in the list were reported at all during 2014.

Because the Small and Essex Skippers can be so hard to distinguish in the field (the only way is to look at the undersurface of the antennae tips - they're orange in the Small and black in the Essex), the Butterfly Monitoring Scheme allows a composite report for the two species (sometimes called the "Smessex" Skipper).

With luck we may see some of the fugitive species, that haven't been around for a while, in the future! I am hopeful that this will be the case for at least some species, such as the Brown Argus and Small Heath, that have

been seen around Dersingham or nearby since this particular transect recording started. This transect also looks ideal for the Green Hairstreak, although none have yet been seen.

Comments on selected species

Large White and Small White:

Both these species showed significant declines over last year and against the 2012-13 average. I am not certain of the reason but one possibility is the depredations of the parasitic wasps of the genus *Trichogramma*, which lay their eggs within the eggs of the butterfly (you may recall my comments about parasitism of the Small Tortoiseshell in last year's report). The fact that both these species are parasitized by this genus but the Green-veined White and Orange-tip aren't and suffered no declines may be significant.

Small Tortoiseshell:

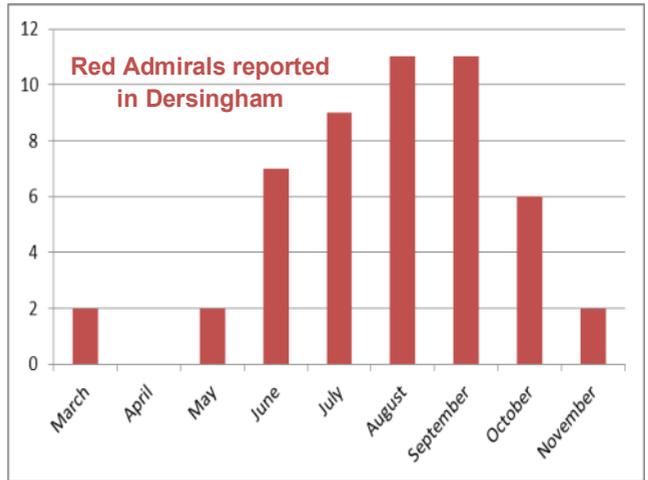
The recovery seems to be continuing. There was a small year-on-year decline but the numbers are well up on earlier years.

Peacock:

This is a bit of an oddity. Peacocks are well known for going into *diapause* (a period of suspended development) early and the rather inclement August may have stimulated this earlier than usual as numbers dropped substantially. But the warm and dry September seems to have stimulated a re-emergence as larger numbers were seen for a few weeks.

Red Admiral:

This did quite well and was the most frequently seen late season species, an accolade normally reserved for the Speckled Wood. The issue of whether it goes successfully into hibernation (or more strictly, *diapause*) or has a succession of *anachronistic* (not at its usual time) *emergences* is still a matter of dispute. The increase in numbers seems to be countrywide as the British Trust for Ornithology Garden Bird Watch scheme's butterfly project has shown significantly to be the case. I saw the last Red Admiral



of the year in our garden on November 16th. This chart shows how long the Red Admiral season was this year - the data is a sum of all Dersingham sightings.

The Browns:

By which I mean the Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Ringlet. All these had a good year. The numbers in each contributing year are high enough that we can be cautiously confident that the data reflect real changes in abundance. The numbers of Wall Brown are so low that no sensible comment is possible. □

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Dersingham Day Centre by Alice Worth



On January 7th the Dersingham Day Centre was back after the Christmas holiday and, as usual, it was good to see all our members again and to catch up with their news. It seems a long time ago now that we ended 2014 with a variety of special events.

At the end of November we celebrated our 33rd Birthday Party with a special lunch and we were entertained by Brian Roy, who got us all singing along to his music. These events are always so popular and it feels good to sing at the top of one's voice, knowing that however out of key you are no one can hear it above the music!

Throughout the Autumn session members and volunteers had been busy making decorations for the Day Centre Christmas Tree, part of the St Nicholas' Tree Festival held each December. We were very proud of the final result and our tree really was a great credit to the Volunteers and Members who had contributed to its decorations.

Our tree theme for 2014 was "All things edible". Every tree was special and the whole event was well worth a visit. On the Wednesday following the Festival, and despite the very cold weather, we were able to take Members across to the church to see the final result of their efforts and those of other organizations in the village.

All that remained then was to have our Christmas Party on December 17th, our last meeting of the year. The tables had been beautifully set out and decorated (thank you Ann and Kathy) and, together with our guests, forty-eight of us sat down to a superb traditional Christmas lunch, cooked by Carol Kenny and her loyal helpers in the kitchen. Later, in what is now Day Centre tradition, the Vicar Michael Brock and the Curate Julie Boyd, together with Carolyn Brock, led us in singing carols, accompanied by our special entertainer Leigh Murfet on keyboard. Leigh had dressed up in an inflatable snowman's outfit. This caused great laughter when his hat slipped down and virtually covered his face whilst

he was trying to play. Then followed our sing-a-long, and the usual dancing cabaret by the Volunteers, who despite them all being a year older (!) put on a good show. The afternoon ended with tea and home-made mince-pies, kindly donated yet again by Hazel Wolff (thank you Hazel – as usual they were delicious) and each Member was given a Christmas card and present. Both Volunteers and Members were also given a large box of chocolates, donated anonymously to the Day Centre. On behalf of us all I would like to thank that person for their kind generosity yet again this year. As each one of us left the Church Hall to go home, we collected a present off the trolley by the door. So ended another successful and happy year for the Day Centre.

The Members and Volunteers at the Dersingham Day Centre wish all Village Voice readers a Happy and Peaceful New Year. □



Old Picture Corner from Tony Bubb

Heacham PC sent us this page from an 1899 album donated by a relative of Eleanor Sarah Martin. They sent it because of the picture of Dersingham Church. I have enlarged the mother (or nanny) and child as much as can be done without loss of detail:



On the reverse of the page was this other view. I have identified it, can you?





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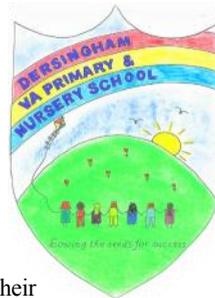
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It barely seems possible that 2015 is here already! It only seems five minutes since we were preparing for Christmas with our Christingle service, school plays, Christmas Fair and Christmas Carousel day. Parents and children enjoyed a special French Café, where the children practised their French

songs and new French vocabulary, while serving a variety of French fayre! It was pretty hectic, but the children worked tirelessly to ensure their family members had a fantastic afternoon.

Already the children are launching themselves into their new topics. Woodland Warriors and Treetopolis are looking forward to welcoming Starlings to kick start their science topic about light and are expecting to see an amazing light show. Adventurers and Scavengers are preparing to discover the wonders of Ancient Egypt and

are planning a drama workshop at Norwich Castle, as well as performing 'Strictly Come Egyptian Dancing!' Last half term they learnt about volcanoes and made some exploding models!

Investigators and Discoverers are getting to grips with sound and space exploration, Darth Vader has been seen along the corridors...! Voyagers topic is 'I'm a Year 6 Pupil - get me out of here...!'. They will be learning how to read maps as well as how to survive in some challenging outdoor situations. The children are also very keen to begin inventing obstacle courses and bush-tucker challenges for each other!

At our Early Years Site the children have had a visit from a variety of Owls to support their reading of 'Owl Babies', which they thoroughly enjoyed. There wasn't a dry eye in the



house during the traditional nativity, which was followed by the Christmas Fair and a very special visitor! The Children have also been to visit Orchard House to sing during their coffee morning.

The Student Council had fun organising this year's Children In Need and the school had a whole host of Super Heroes doing good deeds to raise money and think about children less fortunate than themselves. The Shoe Box appeal was another fund raising highlight of the year, with the children producing some very thoughtful gift boxes.

There have been many sporting achievements, including

hard fought hockey competitions at Lynnsport and Glebe, a tremendous display of football prowess during the Croydon Cup and gold medals won at the Schools Sports Partnership gymnastics competition. Year 2s now go forward to the finals at UEA in Norwich, good luck to them. Our cross country runners excelled at Greshams School and Smithdon, with several children finishing in the top three and going forward to the County finals; fingers crossed for further success!

It looks like another busy term ahead, not even the dreary weather or shorter days can dampen the enthusiasm of those enjoying fun filled days at Dersingham VA Primary School!



Sue Picton □

Puzzle Corner

Sudoku No 40 by Rob

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

Answers on page 73

Where is it? What is it?
by Tony Bubb



Hmmm, looks familiar! Ed.

Word Wall by Philip Neal Sort the following into 4 groups of connected words:

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TRAM	CARRIAGE	DATE	VIOLET
LIME	SCALLOP	TANDEM	INDIGO
ORANGE	SPONGE	LEMON	WORM

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Just a Thought... from Rev Steve Oliver



Cats! I have always had cats around but none loved perhaps quite as much as Raffles. Raffles was 21 years old when he died but in his very lazy life he enjoyed nothing more than coming into my study in the early morning and either stretching himself across the desk pushing all the papers everywhere or sitting quietly on my knee and going to sleep whilst I listened to music.

Now during those moments that he slept on my knee he purred, and that purring sound really relaxed me as I talked with God about the day ahead, or people that were needing prayer. In other words as Raffles slept, I was still with God; and being still with God was and is a necessity to prepare myself for what is ahead of me.

Psalm 46, has some very wise and wonderful words to tell us *'Be still and know that I am God'*.
"Be still," says the Lord, "and know that I am God."

When our hearts are quiet—when we are waiting and listening and watching—when we see the world around us—really see it—we know that God is God.

It's as simple as that. The beautiful sunrise, the rain, the stars, the joy of love all these things are reminders that God isn't far away, that life in all its wonder is only an outer garment of God and that God is as close as the breath we take. God is always waiting to reveal himself to those who look for him.

"Be still and know that I am God."

Being still with God is being conscious of His grace, being aware of His presence, and being present when He calls. And this used to happen very often in the early morning with a very needy cat who loved his cuddles and softly meditative music playing in the background.

So wherever and whenever your moment is – bear witness to the words of Psalm 46:

"Be still and know that I am God". □

Chicken Foot Keeps on Running!



Word gets around! **Chicken Foot** is a great game for **all ages** from 6 to 96, played with **coloured double 12 dominoes**, it is very easy to learn.

We meet at the **Methodist Church Hall** on the **first Friday of every other month**, the next being **6th March 2015** at **7pm** for a **7:30pm** start. An evening of fun and laughter for just **£3** per person, including refreshments.

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Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny



One of the Best

Well, here we are again. The 92nd issue of Dersingham Village Voice and they get better all the time. I write in other village magazines and I also get people bring me them from all over the country. There are some good ones about but Dersingham is up there amongst the best. One of the many things that shine out is the amount of letters, eleven in the last issue, some from regulars and some from complete strangers to the village. It's nice to see Bernie Twite is back with us again; it was also good to see a letter from Pauline Robinson (née Drew).

Milkmen

Now then, Mr and Mrs McNeil, who have moved into *Sunnymead* (Hunstanton Rd), ask about the two milk bottles they found with the name Riches and Gilbert on them. Well, they were one of three that delivered milk around the village; the other two were Mr Dewer from Snettisham and the Co-op from King's Lynn. I am not sure when they started up but I would think it would be in the late nineteen-forties. At one time my uncle, Mr Sid Hunter, was a roundsman for them. Their depot was in Manor Road, in an old barn and some outbuildings right opposite the Coach and Horses public house. Next to them was a large house with a shop attached; this shop was a butchers during the Second World War and then it was a fish and chip shop; also at one time it was a clothes shop and an antique shop. Anyway, Mr Gilbert I knew very little about but I have a funny feeling he lived in Bank Road and that's about all I know of him. Mr Riches lived with his wife and twin sons, who I think were called Terry and Raymond, at a house called *Dunroamin*, right at the top of White Horse Drive. Mrs Riches turned her front room into a shop from where she sold clothes.

Before we had milk roundsmen in the village you would go to the dairy farm with a jug and fetch your milk. At one time there was three dairy farms in the village: Bauldings at Dun-cow farm, Lincolns down Station Road and another down Centre Vale. Before milk was bottled the milkman would bring it round by horse and cart or an old van and the milk would be in churns. You would take a jug out to him and he would use a half pint or a pint ladle to put it into your jug. When my mother was a small girl and lived at Smokers Hole in Breckland she would have to go two miles, there and back, every morning to fetch the milk before she went to school. When I was a lad at school we would get a small bottle (a third of a pint) of milk free of charge for our morning break each day.

Mr and Mrs McNeil also ask about the land where their bungalow is built. Well, as far as I can remember the bungalow was built in the early sixties by a Mr Seymour, and up to then it was just scrubland with a few birch trees on it. As for the well and pump, there were many of these around the village. When I first lived in Dersingham in 1945 we had a water tap outside on the pavement that we shared with other people in the road.

Uncle Two Foot and Billy Cook

Thanks a lot to Doug Gelder for telling us that Uncle Two Foot's surname was Daniels and that he had been a roadman (lengthsman). When I was a lad there were about five roadmen living and working around the village. Them days all the roads' grass verges were always kept clean and tidy.

Doug also mentions Mr Billy Cook and his one-man band I did do a story in the Village Voice about him a year or two back. Billy lived in Chapel Road; he played in the Salvation Army band at Snettisham, but most Saturday nights he would be seen and heard playing his one-man band outside the Coach and Horses public house in Manor Road. My father told me that at one time he served in the Canadian Mounted Police and during the Second World War he served in the Royal Marines. He was always a very upright man; also, he was always smartly dressed.

Best Views

One day in October 2014 a friend took us to Dersingham to get some chestnuts; we went to Wolferton crossroads, then we turned left up Folly Hill, and then left again along Princess's Drive. We stopped at the Look-out Tower to have a look at the view across The Wash. Unfortunately, the trees have grown up around it so the view is not so good as it was a few years back.

In the nineteen sixties the Eastern Daily Press ran a competition as to where the best view was in Norfolk. At the time my future wife lived at Hill House Lodge at the top of Fern Hill in Dersingham. If you walked up Mill Road about 200 yards from her house then climbed onto the bank, you had a wonderful view across The Wash. I sent an article into the EDP and it was voted the second best view in Norfolk. The best view was somewhere on the coast near Sheringham. So, after we had gathered as many chestnuts as we wanted, we drove up there and the view is just as good as it was then fifty years ago and we were fortunate to pick a very clear day. From this vantage point you can see the power station at Sutton Bridge, the wind farm on Holbeach Marsh, the Boston Stump and, on a very clear night when it is light, up there you might be able to see the Belmont TV Transmitter Mast. If some of the trees at Ken Hill Wood were cut back a bit you would be able to see Hunstanton and the wind farm at the mouth of The Wash.

As I said back in last April's issue, the proper name for the Boston Stump is St Botolph's Church, situated 17 miles across The Wash as the crow flies and can be seen from the top of Fern Hill on most clear days. The church itself is 282 feet long, 100 feet wide and the height of the tower to the top of the weather vane is 272 feet. There are 365 steps to the top of the tower, one for every day of the year, twelve pillars supporting the roof, one for every month of the year, seven doors, to represent the days in a week, and fifty-two windows for the weeks in a year, all making this church a calendar in stone.

The Belmont TV Transmitter Mast was constructed in 1959; it is called a guyed mast and is 385 metres (1270 feet) high. It is situated 18 miles north east of Lincoln and approximately 60 miles west across The Wash from Dersingham. At night-time it is lit up with hundreds of red lights and it stands up like a big red finger on the horizon. So if you want a nice walk on a nice fine day just go up Fern Hill and Mill Road to see what you can see.

More about *Sunnymead*

Now then, back to Mr and Mrs McNeil's bungalow down the lane beside the newsagents in Lynn Road. I have now found out some more interesting facts about it. At one time this plot covered about two acres and on it stood an old wooden and tin bungalow with a long veranda facing south; also on the land was some old sheds that were used for rearing pheasants as the owner at the time was a gamekeeper. A friend of mine lived there around 1949/50. As for the pump and well, this was their water supply. In front of the old bungalow was a large fishpond in the shape of a threepenny bit; also on the land were fir trees, birch trees and many apple and plum trees. My friend is not sure but he thinks they moved into the new bungalow about 1964, which was built by his stepfather.

Christmas Day Swim

Well by the time you read this Christmas will be long gone and we shall be looking forward to Easter, which is on the first weekend of April. One of the things I always look forward to on Christmas Day is going down the beach to watch the Christmas Day charity swim. We have been doing this since we moved to Hunstanton in 1967. This year was a very bright morning with the tide well up and 127 people going in for a dip. Next year the tide will be well out so they will have much further to go to reach the water.

That's all for now; do you keep a troshin. □



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Dersingham Walking Group

Welcome to the Dersingham Walking Group, which provides regular guided walks round the local countryside. Some favourite local walks are coming up with Sandringham and Wolferton, and Ingoldisthorpe along the River Ingol to name but two.

The walks are free, just turn up on the day wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. Dogs are welcome, provided they're well behaved. The length is shown for each walk but they usually take a couple of hours or so, with a stop halfway. Why not get some fresh air and exercise, you'll be in good company!

Wednesday 11th February 2.00pm

Starting point: The big layby near Ingoldisthorpe crossroads. Grid ref: TF 683 324
Length of walk: 4.8 miles. A circular walk featuring some encounters with the pretty River Ingol.
Leader: Cliff Jordan 01485 541115

Sunday 1st March 2.00pm

Starting point: Sandringham Visitor Centre. Grid ref: TF 690 288 Length of walk: 4.9 miles. Amble through the woods of Sandringham and Wolferton
Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333

Wednesday 11th March 2.00pm

Starting point: Great Massingham village green. Grid ref: TF 798 230 Length of walk: 5.5 miles. A circuit of footpaths around Great Massingham, including a stagger along Drunken Drove.
Leader: Cliff Jordan 01485 541115

Wednesday 25th March 2.00pm

Starting point: The layby on the A148 opposite the turning to Sandringham.
Grid ref: TF 711 253 Length of walk: 4.5 miles. A circular walk via Roydon.
Leader: Pat Reed 01485 540757



Full walks programme available from the website at: www.dersingham.org.uk/announcements

Quoted grid references are for the relevant Ordnance Survey map, usually Landranger sheet 132 or Explorer sheet 250. 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. As Alfred Wainwright said "watch where you put your feet"!

If you would like more information about an individual walk, such as the going underfoot, stiles, etc. please contact the walk leader. **Stephen Martyn—Walking Group Co-ordinator** □

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Dersingham Library News for the Start of 2015



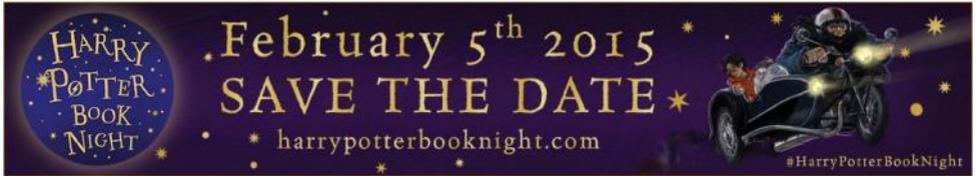
Scrabble Club—Mondays 1.30-3pm

Crime Book Club—2nd Monday of the month from 6-7pm/Book Club - 3rd Monday of the month 6-7pm. To find out what books are being read - ask library staff!

Knit and Natter—every Thursday 10.30-12

Baby Bounce and Rhyme—every Thursday 2-2.30pm

Harry Potter Night—Thursday February 5th from 5.30-7pm. Phone 01485 540181 to book.



Adult Education Classes

Crafts at the library with Jill Crowson including rag-rugging and patchwork.

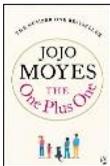
A free 4 week course running from Tuesday 3rd March to Tuesday 24th March from 10am-1pm.

Monthly Carers Group

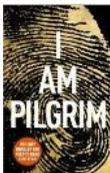
If you care for someone with dementia, and would like to talk about your experiences with others in a similar situation to you, come along to our peer support group, on the first Tuesday of the month from 1-3pm. Contact 01603 763556 or norfolk@alzheimers.co.uk for more information.

Great Big Read 2015 March 23rd -April 30th

For our Big Read we have chosen two very different titles - both loved by our 2014 book clubs:

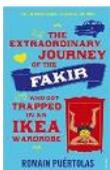


The One Plus One by Jojo Moyes— One eternal optimist...Jess Thomas, with two jobs and two kids and never enough money, wears flip flops in the hope of spring. And when life knocks her down she does her best to bounce right back. But no one told her it's okay to ask for help. Plus one lost stranger...Ed Nichols is the good guy gone bad. He had it all, then one stupid mistake cost him everything. Now he'll do anything to make it right. Equals a chance encounter...Ed doesn't want to save anyone and Jess doesn't want saving, but could Jess and Ed add up to something better together?



I am Pilgrim by Terry Hayes—Can you commit the perfect crime? *Pilgrim* is the codename for a man who doesn't exist. The adopted son of a wealthy American family, he once headed up a secret espionage unit for US intelligence. Before he disappeared into anonymous retirement, he wrote the definitive book on forensic criminal investigation. What begins as an unusual and challenging investigation will become a terrifying race-against-time to save America from oblivion. Pilgrim will have to make a journey from a public beheading in Mecca to a deserted ruins on the Turkish coast via a Nazi death camp in Alsace and the barren wilderness of the Hindu Kush in search of the faceless man who would commit an appalling act of mass murder in the name of his God.

To join our Big Read, simply read the books, and then tell us what you think! But finally:



The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir who got Trapped in an IKEA Wardrobe by Romain Puertolas will appeal to fans of Jonas Jonasson's *The Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared*, though with more humour!

One day a fakir leaves his small Indian village and lands in Paris. A professional con artist, the fakir is on a pilgrimage to IKEA, where he intends to obtain a brand new bed of nails. But when a swindled cab driver seeks his murderous revenge, the fakir accidentally embarks on a European tour, beginning in the wardrobe of the iconic Swedish retailer.

For further information or to book places on classes and events call: **01485 540181**

Alison Thorne Community Librarian for Dersingham, Kings Lynn & Wells □

Carole Brown Health Centre (CBHC) Patients' Participation Group (PPG) News

From: Tom Morris, PPG Committee



FAREWELL AND WELCOME: Towards the end of November, PPG members bid farewell to Graham Dickerson, the Managing Partner of Vida Healthcare and welcomed his successor, Andrew Williams. Andrew began his health and social care career in Norfolk and worked for about 15 years for several NHS organisations serving King's Lynn and West Norfolk before being appointed Chief Executive of a Primary Care Trust in the East Riding of Yorkshire in 2001. Since 2006, he has worked as a Director of both Children's Services and Adult Social Services. He

also worked independently as a consultant and interim chief executive around the country, usually managing integrated care services, provided by innovative NHS and Council partnerships. Andrew indicated that getting re-acquainted with West Norfolk will be a very enjoyable part of this move for him and his wife. The PPG looks forward to establishing with Andrew the same excellent relationship as it enjoyed with his predecessor.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY TEST: From 1 December 2014, it was a contractual requirement that all GP practices implement the NHS Friends and Family Test (FFT). The FFT is a feedback tool that supports the fundamental principle that people who use NHS services should have the opportunity to provide feedback on their experience that can be used to improve services. Patients will be asked to complete a questionnaire with the following FFT questions: "We would like you to think about your recent experiences of our service. How likely are you to recommend our GP practice to friends and family if they needed similar care or treatment?" The responses are: 'Extremely likely'; 'Likely'; 'Neither likely nor unlikely'; 'Unlikely'; 'Extremely unlikely'; or 'Don't know'. The patient feedback will be anonymous using the standard wording of the FFT question and the responses exactly as set out above and including at least one follow up question which allows the opportunity to provide free text. Practices must submit data to NHS England each month and publish results locally. Another meaningless additional burden on General Practice? What do you think? However you feel, please cooperate with your practice bearing in mind that it has been mandated to implement this procedure. □



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The Sandringham Newsletter

*by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate
compiled by Helen Walsh*



October was a warm month and the weather in half term week in particular was gloriously sunny in the main. This made ploughing and lifting sugar beet easier than it can often be for Farm staff, and winter wheat came through more quickly than usual.

Nevertheless, preparations for winter continued, and in the blackcurrant fields plants have been trimmed back and frost protection pipes have been checked and laid out. Fields that are planned for blackcurrant planting have been prepared ready for the arrival of the cuttings. On wet days when field work is out of the question, Farm staff keep busy overhauling farm machinery and preparing for Spring.

Preparations for winter were made in the Gardens, too, with tender plants cut down and covered. This process turns the Gunnera, for example, into small wigwams for the winter, protecting the crown of the plant against frost. Most of November was spent cutting down the perennial plants in the North End Garden, along the West Terrace and around the Upper and Lower Lakes. The dahlia tubers in the Walled Garden were lifted and stored, and the summer bedding removed.



Work has begun to repair turf in various areas, mainly on the edges of paths and drives through the Gardens. As grass growth finally began to slow down, gardeners spent less time mowing lawns, but now and for the next few weeks they will have to spend more time gathering up fallen leaves. The leaves collected last year were shredded to make space for those collected this autumn, with the resulting leaf mould being used as a valuable mulching material this winter. Leaf collection this year was made difficult by the wet ground conditions, and will doubtless need to continue for some time to come.

Following September's Game and Country Show, more chainsaw sculptures were acquired to add to the Sculpture Trail near the Visitor Centre. This year's additions include among others a pair of giant tortoises, to add to the menagerie there which currently includes a wolf, a wild boar, a pair of dolphins and an orangutang, not to mention St Felix's beaver.

Sandringham's Pigeon Loft Manager attended the Annual dinner for the Pigeon War Service at the House of Commons in November and on Remembrance Sunday he carried a wreath to the Cenotaph, this was again for the Pigeon War Service.

The Visitor Centre shops and restaurants continued to be busy during the run-up to Christmas, and this year the Gift Shop staff noticed a distinct increase in online and mail order sales, with Sandringham teddy bears and corgis being posted to all parts of the UK and beyond. The Restaurant also found that their online sales of afternoon teas with entry to Sandringham House were very popular as Christmas presents. □



The Return of the Lucy Lavers

Work has been continuing apace on lifeboat *Lucy Lavers*, readying her for her return trip to Dunkirk in May 2015, 75 years on, to mark the anniversary of the evacuation of troops from the beaches.

The difficult job of drilling through the keel to fit the centreboard has been completed and the newly forged centre plate is in place. Bronze work has been cleaned and where necessary cast to make additional parts. More coats of Witham paint have been applied to *Lucy Lavers*' hull, with

more to come. The engine has been stripped and restored and is ready for installation. The new build of the mahogany engine canopy is under way. The sails and spars are ready. You can see films of the work on our website. There will be a celebration of *Lucy Lavers* re-launch in Wells on **Saturday morning April 11 2015** – do put the date in your diary.

Plans are well advanced for *Lucy Lavers*' commemorative return to Dunkirk. With a different crew for each leg of the journey, she will be setting off from Wells-next-the-Sea in early May and calling at Lowestoft, Southwold, Aldeburgh, Levington, Harwich and Ramsgate on the way. There will be a big welcome home in Wells towards the end of May. After her return, *Lucy Lavers* will live in Wells and give pre-booked trips afloat.

Would you like to get involved in the Dunkirk trip? You can:

- contribute to a nautical mile (it's 385 nautical miles and will cost £90 per mile)
- bid for a crew place on one of the 9 legs (if you are comfortable being at sea)
- come and meet *Lucy Lavers* on route
- help at the information/exhibition stands at one of the ports

Do contact us if you would like to join us in this unique historic event. Leaflets with further details are available. Don't forget you can come and take a look at the work progressing on *Lucy Lavers* at the **'Rescue Wooden Boats' Visitor Centre in Greenway, Stiffkey NR23 1QF** - open throughout the winter months on **Saturdays and Sundays 10am- 4pm**, and which also has nice things to buy – shopping for a good cause! The Education and Events Room has been decorated by volunteers and is being equipped thanks to a North Norfolk FLAG (Fisheries Local Action Group) grant with chairs, tables and electronic equipment in readiness for school and adult visits.

We have had well over 3000 visitors since opening in August 2013. Feedback from our visitors... *"fantastic history and workmanship"*; *"enlightening and fascinating"*; *"interesting and cool, even for a grumpy teenager"*

Over the summer our team has expanded, and we are always looking for more keen friends and volunteers with a few hours to spare. **Contact us on info@rescuewoodenboats.com or on 07920 760238. More details on www.rescuewoodenboats.com. Charity no. 1144180** □



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The Gables Residential Home

The Gables was built in early 1900s as a private residence and 25 years ago was opened as a private Residential Care Home for the Elderly, initially for 8 Residents and it has today 24 Residents. On 1st October 2014 Cavell & Lind Ltd purchased The Gables and their pride and commitment to the place is for all to see. Dr Kamal De, a



Director within Cavell & Lind Ltd, and Miss Mandy Sadler, the Registered Manager, work closely together to ensure a safe, happy and caring environment at The Gables for Residents, Staff and Visitors. We have retained the homely features within the existing building, working alongside the Care Quality Commission and all other regulatory bodies.

Throughout the last 30 years a lot of changes have occurred. Care Standards were brought into effect and stringent improvements within all Care Homes, including ongoing training for all staff in the care industry, mandatory management qualification and NVQ training at all levels, all relevant to the quality care of residents. The proprietor at this time brought in a qualified registered manager, who is also a nurse, to oversee the changes and give the best care for the residents and recruit the best staff and training to the highest standards. We have a committed team of Care Staff, Housekeepers, Cooks and Maintenance Persons all of varying ages each adding their own individual characters. The majority of our staff are local and have been with us for many years.



It is always pleasant to have local residents who can share memories and enjoy their twilight years together. A family atmosphere is generated when friends, family and visitors previously known to each other meet again. Prospective Residents and family are welcome to visit The Gables without prior arrangement. We operate an open door policy, visiting is at any time. Bedrooms are personalised with residents' own items including furniture if so wished, otherwise all rooms are

fully furnished and refurbished on a regular basis. We also receive referrals through Social Services for placement within The Gables.

Each Resident receives a monthly newsletter, which they may contribute to. The newsletter keeps all residents and families up to date as to what is happening within The Gables including an Activity Rota generated by residents in accordance with their wishes. Families are welcome to join in with activities such as Coffee Mornings and our successful Knitting Club. Regular visitors to the home include our local vicar Rev Michael Brock, Janice the Hairdresser, 'Ladies' from the local library and Gerald attends to all hearing aids. Foot Care is attended to in-house. You may have seen residents with staff around the village using local shops, tearooms and services.

We also cater for day-care, giving the person a change of scenery and their carer a break. We offer respite care, if rooms are available, and can also cater for a married couple.

We are privileged to have excellent cooks, using local produce and cater for dietary needs and preferences. Menus are varied and alternatives available.



Mandy Sadler

"As a Gables Resident of more than a year I can endorse and confirm Miss Sadler's description of the excellent facilities provided within its pleasing exterior. The staff are all most professional but at the same time friendly, warm and caring, always obliging and helpful. The meals are extremely good and varied, served with care in very comfortable surroundings. Everyone is most congenial and everything is done to make our stay here as comfortable and safe as possible. You get the constant feeling that you personally matter to all the staff. Truly an enterprise of which Dersingham can be really proud."

Jack Neale

Goose Counting at Dawn

by David Bingham



Good conservation needs good science and good science needs good data. I was on a mission to get some good data as I cycled down the track from Dersingham to the Snettisham RSPB reserve before dawn on a clear moonless night in late October. Anyone who has cycled down there during the day will know how hard it is to avoid the potholes. This difficulty is multiplied a hundredfold when all you can see are the few yards in front of you that fall within the cone of your bike light. I noticed the stars when I set off but have no memory of seeing them while negotiating the track.

I was there to count the pink-footed geese leaving their night-time roost and took up a position behind some low lying vegetation on the sea wall. It was still dark when I arrived and the sky glowed orange over King's Lynn, Boston and Skegness - while a ribbon of blue and red lights flashed on and off to guide ships along the deep water channel towards The Wash ports. It is amazing how sound carries in the cold pre-dawn air. The mournful cry of a curlew, the strident chatter of oystercatchers and the musical 'teu-teu' of a redshank all sounded much louder than they do during the day. The BBC Winterwatch team have been filming Snettisham at night recently with their special night vision cameras. I haven't seen this footage yet and I'm sure it will be good. However, it is hard to imagine what new insights it will reveal when the calls of the birds tell their own story to anyone prepared to listen attentively. Amongst the sounds were the calls of geese. The resident greylag and Canada geese could be heard making their loud nasal cackling and honking calls. Underneath this cacophony were the contented murmurings of the pink footed geese - sounding like an audience waiting for the curtain to rise on a much anticipated show. I was sure the pink-feet were much closer to the sea wall than usual and the first light of day proved this to be the case. They were only a couple of hundred yards away and probably floated in during the night on a rising tide. The usual view at dawn is of an indistinct dark smudge on the horizon, which takes time to solidify into a flock of roosting geese. On this particular morning it was even possible to pick out the chocolate brown heads and necks of the pink-footed geese in the half light (but not the colour of their feet). A flock of small geese flew in from the saltmarsh and flopped down onto the mud. Even though these only appeared as dark silhouettes I was certain from their behaviour that they were brent geese. They come to us for the winter from their breeding grounds in Siberia and find all they need to sustain them on the mudflats and saltmarshes - rarely venturing into the fields. The brents come from the far northeast, while the pink-feet come from the far northwest - breeding in Iceland and Greenland. Pink-feet use the mudflats as a safe roost and fly inland to feed in the fields, mainly on the aftermath of the sugar beet harvest.

A group of pink-feet took to the air and started to fly in my direction. This was a purposeful flight easily distinguishable from the aimless loafing of the Canada geese and greylags or the short transits of the brent geese. Their calls changed from a low murmur into strident wink-wink contact calls. The flight was my cue to start counting. I count geese in fifties having developed a mental image of what a flight of fifty geese look like. This worked well on the day because it was early in the season and the main flocks were still staging through Scotland and Lancashire. The geese were also very obliging and took off in small groups and flew over my head. Counting twenty or thirty thousand geese later in the season, sometimes taking off en masse, is more problematic and the mental image of fifty needs to be factored up to a hundred and then a thousand. The count for the day was 1,875 and this figure will be added to the counts coming in from the other roost sites around the country, giving a pretty good idea of where the geese were on this day and the follow up monthly counts will track them through the winter. We have a particular duty towards this species because the majority of wintering pink-feet come to the UK. And a significant proportion of these come to Norfolk.

It is now the 22nd of December and I've been out again counting geese at dawn. I decided against cycling because a strong wind was blowing before dawn. I drove along the sea wall in a four wheel drive vehicle and, because the geese get spooked by headlights, I proceeded with care on sidelights only. I was comfortable and warm sitting in the truck but had to wind down the windows to make sure I could hear the geese as they took off. They were much further out this time and when they began to leave at first light they flew parallel to the coastline heading towards Hunstanton – propelled at speed by the high wind. Counting was difficult and nowhere near as leisurely as it had been in October. My final tally for the morning was 14,750. Not a record for the year (we have had over 25, 000) but better than we have had for several weeks when the total fell to a few hundred. The Norfolk roost counts are quite variable and the geese probably select roost sites based on where the feeding fields are and the level of disturbance. □

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On Being a Parish Councillor by Kate Hathaway



When I moved to Dersingham I decided that I wanted to do something in the village and when I saw there were vacancies on the parish council I thought 'I could do that'. So just over 2 years ago I was co-opted on to the council; this involved a brief interview with two of the current councillors who made a recommendation to the full council who hopefully vote for you to join them. Quite an easy process really. Councillors have come and gone during this time and there are still vacancies that can be filled by co-option. This year, borough and parish council elections in King's Lynn & West Norfolk are due to be held on the same day as the General Election on Thursday 7th May. This includes Dersingham, in which case if the number of candidates is the same as, or fewer than, the number of seats available then the candidates are elected uncontested. If the election is contested, that is to say there are more candidates than seats available then an election will take place and candidates with the most votes are elected until all the seats are filled.

So have you ever thought about becoming a parish councillor? Though there are certain criteria to meet, you don't have to have special skills or be retired like me. We all have different abilities, work or life experiences and points of view that can make a contribution to the council and ensure decisions are made democratically. A good dose of common sense and humour goes a long way!

Have you visited the Dersingham Parish Council website? (dersingham.org.uk) Have you been to a parish council meeting? (*usually the last Monday of the month, 7pm at the old Infants School Hall.*) Do you know who your parish councillors are? After all, they are making decisions on your behalf. Do you think we're making the right decisions? Can you make a difference by becoming a parish councillor? If you think you can, if you have a desire to serve your community and make your contribution, then you too could be co-opted as I was or voted in at an election. Being a parish councillor does come with certain responsibilities but also gives you the opportunity in the community to voice your opinion. I find that if I tell people I am a councillor they are very willing to give me their opinions on what is going on and how to put things right. Want to know more? Feel free to contact me or any of the other councillors to answer your questions or call into the parish council office on Post Office Road. I can assure you that you will receive a warm welcome.

When you retire you are often asked "Do you miss work?" I didn't miss the work but I did miss my colleagues and I did miss being part of something really big; I worked on an operational RAF base for 20 years. Dersingham Parish Council isn't quite that big but it does give me the opportunity to be a part of something that can influence decisions made by higher levels of government and issues that the parish council has responsibility for. The decisions that are taken at local level have an impact on the everyday lives of the villagers and at the very heart of our community and very much closer to home. □



Tree Planting Day on The Warren Saturday 15th November 2014

Over 140 new tree saplings have now been planted on the Warren, most from the Woodland Trust and some donated by a Dersingham resident. Species include, silver birch, grey willow, oak, rowan, wild cherry, field maple and beech trees.

Cllr Kate Hathaway □



The Story of Appleton—Part One

by Elizabeth Fiddick



If you drive from Sandringham along the road that leads to Hillington you will pass the Appleton Water Tower. It is a commanding structure built to safeguard the water supply for Sandringham designed by Robert Rawlinson. Princess Alexandra laid the foundation stone in 1877.

Drive a little further and you will reach a small side road on your left with a sign to Appleton Farm. At the top of the rise stands a small ruined church that at one time was in danger of disappearing from view beneath the ivy and greenery that threatened to engulf it. Now that has been stripped away, it is possible to see the round tower of the church of St. Mary clearly. About 170 round tower churches survive in Great Britain and it is an interesting fact that nearly three-quarters of them are in Norfolk. There has been much speculation as to why this should be and many reasons have been given but early last century a very intriguing explanation was put forward. It was suggested that the towers are much older than first thought and had been built as a defence against Viking raiders. There are several in our immediate area at Sedgeford, Titchwell, Burnham Deepdale and Syderstone to name just a few. It is true that many stand on good defensive hilltop sites overlooking river valleys just like the one at Appleton but the jury is still out. Just over the fields to the South of our church is the site of a spring known as Holywell. Beneath a large tree and surrounded by metal railings you will see a large stone arch protecting the water filled spring.

If you walk on past the church you will arrive at the busy working Appleton farm and a couple of cottages. Yet St. Mary's Church was once the centre of a thriving village that lay to the south. Apparently if you look down on the pastures below the church on a frosty day the earthworks of this deserted village, trackways and several tofts, can still be made out. On my visit with a low sun casting long shadows I could indeed see many mysterious lines and hollows. The name Appleton derives from old English, pre-seventh century "aeppeltum" which translates as an orchard or a place for the production of apples. The Domesday Book lists 27 households and a church. There were 20 smallholders and 2 slaves with 1 cob, 6 pigs and 63 sheep recorded in 1066 but this was changed by 1086 to 35 pigs and 14 sheep. In Saxon times Abba was the Lord of the Manor but after the conquest the Tenant in Chief was a Roger Bigot. There is evidence of much earlier occupation in a small copse marked on the maps as Denbeck Wood. In 1947 an archaeological dig was here to uncover the site of a 3rd to early 4th century Romano- British Villa. They discovered a fine tessellated floor beneath which was found the skeleton of a new born infant.

The Manor of Appleton changed hands many times over the following centuries. Families by the name of de Rokele, Copedike, Coket and Conysby are recorded. Henry Daniel Gent was buried in the church in 1498 and Robert Nisson in 1549. In the reign of Elizabeth I "concealed lands in Appleton were granted to John Farneham, lately prior of Flicham". So it was an active village and church at this time. In 1571 the Manor was acquired by one Clement Paston. The Pastons were a very wealthy, influential Norfolk family with substantial estates and property in the East of the county. Caister Castle was one of their holdings. They were soldiers, lawyers, courtiers and Members of Parliament throughout the fifteenth and much of the sixteenth century and all their private correspondence for three generations was preserved. From this comprehensive collection we



gain an incredible insight into everyday life of the time. Clement was a distinguished soldier and naval commander. He was called by Henry VIII "his champion", by the Duke of Somerset "his soldier", by Queen Mary "her seaman" and Queen Elizabeth I referred to him as "her father". He was described as "a man of greate stomach and courage" who had fought on Museleborough field in Scotland where he had been severely wounded and left almost for dead. In one battle between the French and English he captured a galley of the King of France and took prisoner the Admiral Baron St. Blancard. He brought him to England and kept him at Caister until he paid his ransom of 70,000 crowns. He built a "goodley faire house" at Oxnead near Aylsham the finest of all the Paston properties which sadly no longer stands.

This was the man who now owned the Appleton Estates. He died childless in 1597 but had passed the Appleton holdings on to the son of his younger brother Thomas, Sir Edward Paston. It was Sir Edward who decided to build a fine Manor House here in 1596. This date was apparently carved on the gatehouse. It was said that Sir Edward had been building a house at Binham on priory land granted to his father by Henry VIII. Many families benefited in this way after Henry's dissolution of the monasteries. However during these building works one of the workmen was killed by a wall falling on him. Edward was apparently conscience stricken and would have no more to do with secularising consecrated ground so chose to build his house at Appleton. So Appleton Hall, later described as a handsome agreeable pile, was built on the rising ground opposite the church. It would have had a commanding view of the country about and must have been an impressive sight. Sir Edward married Margaret Berney of Reedham and they had sons, Thomas, William, Edward and Clement. Sir Edward settled William at Appleton. William married Agnes Everard from Lyngstead in Suffolk and they had one son, also William. Sometime early in the 17th century the Pastons converted to Roman Catholicism, which was a highly dangerous decision taken at a time when adherents of that religion faced extreme persecution. There were other Catholics close by, such as the Cobbes of Sandringham, the Hovells at Hillington the Yelvertons of Grimston, the Walpoles of Anmer and the Bedingfelds at Oxburgh.

In 1642 this country erupted into a civil war between King and Parliament which set friends and sometimes family members on opposite sides. The Pastons as well known recusants and Royalists were an immediate target and all their estates were sequestered with heavy compensation demanded. Although the East of England was firmly on the side of Parliament all the families mentioned including the L'Estranges of Hunstanton were Royalists. This must have been a strange time for Dersingham's principal family, the Pells. They must have known and been friendly with all those Catholic families especially the Cobbes and Pastons who lived so near.

There are records of them exchanging gifts with the L'Estranges but the Pells were Puritan and served in the Parliamentary forces. In 1643 after Cromwell's forces had defeated the attempt by the local Royalists to hold King's Lynn for Charles I by besieging the town and forcing surrender, Appleton Hall became the centre of another plot. Roger L'Estrange hastened from a defeated Lynn to Oxford where he persuaded the King that he could organise another uprising of the loyal folk of West Norfolk. The King wrote out a commission for Roger appointing him Governor of Lynn and promising to provide



money and troops. Roger went immediately to Appleton Hall but although Agnes was there William was away. Roger sent for a sea captain from Lynn whom he had met at Oxford and believed, if not a committed Royalist, could be bribed. He offered him £1000 to help form a group to take over Lynn again. Leaman promised to return to Appleton the next day but on reaching Lynn he went straight to the governor Colonel Valentine Walton. As promised he returned to Appleton the next day accompanied by a Corporal Hagar who was disguised as a seaman. Hagar explained he was a poor man living at Fisher's End in Lynn where he kept an ale house. He grumbled that he was owed money by the Roundheads and wanted revenge. However he needed to be sure Roger had the authority he claimed. Roger took the King's commission from its hiding place in the canopy of the bed and showed it to Hagar. Meanwhile downstairs a Lieutenant Stubbings and five soldiers all disguised as poor seaman had entered the courtyard and begged for alms at the kitchen door. Mrs. Paston went upstairs to tell Roger who sent down a shilling and asked that the men leave. But the "seamen" then rushed the stairs, pushing aside Agnes and the servants, seized Roger and arrested him. The commission was quickly found and Roger was marched away under guard to Lynn. The old Hall had never seen such commotion and the locals in the fields must have been intrigued by the appearance of the "poor seamen", followed by the marching off under guard of a guest at the Hall. No doubt the news was soon spread about the district. Roger was tried in London as a spy and in spite of a stout defence was condemned to be hanged by the neck. However due to some high level support he was reprieved and sent to Newgate prison for three years.

In quieter times after the war with the Monarchy restored William's son took over the Manor in 1664. Agnes died in 1676 at the age of 73. Over these years the influence of the Paston family was waning and it seemed there would be no-one left to carry the name forward here in Norfolk. So when Agnes' grand-daughter Margaret married Sir Henry Bedingfield of Oxburgh the name Paston was added to Bedingfield for future generations. Margaret died at Oxburgh in 1701 so did not live to see the events at her family home at Appleton in 1707. A shepherd on his way to his flocks in the early hours saw flames at the Hall. He alerted the family who were all asleep in their beds and amid the general panic that roused the neighbourhood they all escaped. The hall could not be saved and was burnt to the ground. A smaller rather rambling house was constructed later amid the ruins no doubt using as much of the stone of the Hall as could be recovered but Sir Edward's lovely Tudor house was gone. The Pastons, now homeless, left Appleton and went to property they owned in Wiltshire. They were never to return. Perhaps this was the final nail in the coffin for the village. The next century saw the ownership of the estates here change hands many times and the church slowly crumble into decay. The land passed from the Bedingfields to

the Cobbe family of Sandringham who sold their estates to James Hoste. Thus Appleton became part of the Sandringham holdings. It was about 1808 that the Rev. Charles Parkin of Oxborough wrote about a visit he paid to Appleton. He mentions the "curious spring" but found the church mostly in ruins. He wrote, *"I found horses chained together in the porch and in the church, both in a filthy condition, and no door to the church."* At the East end he discovered under much rubbish the grave of Frances Paston who died in 1665. Another stone recorded the death of Thomas Paston, a soldier and yet a third marked the grave of Agnes Paston of Linstead who died in 1676 aged 73. I was pleased to find this last gravestone is still in place so Agnes' name lives on but of the others there is no sign.

In the next article, with the help of research carried out by Allan Coleby, I will continue the story of Appleton to the present day. □



Dersingham Task Force

We are very grateful to the kind donor of a strimmer following our appeal in an earlier edition of Village Voice. This should be of great help to us in keeping the vegetation lining the footpaths under control.

We are also grateful to Thaxter's Garden Centre for donating a large number of daffodil bulbs which we planted along Hunstanton Road mainly under the spreading horse- chestnut trees with some along the Recreation Ground fence. A contractor kindly dug some of them up a couple of weeks later (!) but we hope that those which survived will be showing through the grass shortly.

We are less grateful to the dog walker who likes to decorate the Common with purple 'doggy-bags'! Do look out for them next time you walk on the Open Common as I am sure there will be more there by now. Our 'litter-pick' on the Common in November yielded a large quantity of these, together with a number of empty vodka and whisky bottles as well as the usual 'take-away' food containers, drinks cans and plastic bottles. We wonder just what does go on around the area!

It does seem that there was an increase in the quantity of litter deposited as the evenings got darker. We are used to there being more rubbish to be seen around the Playing Field area as football replaces cricket but surely that cannot account for a general increase throughout the village? We hope the situation improves now that the evenings are getting lighter.

On a more positive note, we have been very pleased to see that some people other than Task Force members have been doing their bit towards keeping the village tidy. In particular, we have admired the trimming of the hedges and the grass along the Centre Vale footpath and at the top of Sugar Lane. We have even had instances of our going along to clear litter where it has been reported only to find that someone has beaten us to it. Thank you for your help and keep up the good work!

We give a warm welcome to Kevin who joined us just before Christmas but, as those who noticed our tree (what did you think of it?) at the St. Nicholas' Christmas Tree Festival will have seen, we would still be delighted (and relieved!) if more people would join us in our on-going tasks such as tending the rose-bed, keeping footpaths clear, occasional litter-picking and helping with the Flower Festival at St. Nicholas' church.

If you could spare a couple of hours each fortnight (usually on a Wednesday morning – weather permitting) please contact Sue on 543870 or email taskforce@whiffilersworld.co.uk .

Keith Starks □



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Surviving the Storm

One year on from the devastating storm surge of December 2013 we can stand in an area of conservation importance and take heart that nature found a way to survive. At the RSPB reserve in Snettisham important habitats were compromised by the exceptionally high tide which followed the unexpected severe weather. This reserve consists of areas of grassland, saltmarsh and saline lagoons which are bordered by vast mudflats stretching

out into the Wash. At low tide, especially in autumn and winter, the exposed mudflats become a feeding ground for thousands of wading birds which feast on tiny invertebrates living in the mud. As the tide comes in, the birds are pushed inland and some species, such as knot, can be seen congregating on high tides in large dense flocks to prevent predator attack from peregrines and other birds of prey. From mid to late summer and into early spring, thousands of knot can be seen whirling en masse over the Wash as they are pushed off the mudflats by the incoming spring tides.

In winter months, migrating pink-footed geese arrive at Snettisham in their tens of thousands. Flying in from Iceland and Greenland they gather to roost on the mudflats overnight. At dawn, the geese fly in formation to inland arable areas where they feed on discarded potato crops, sugar beet tops and winter stubble. Such is the importance of the reserve at Snettisham that these summer and winter events are considered to be amongst the best wildlife spectacles that the UK has to offer. When the reserve was hit by the unexpected storm surge in winter 2013 some of the habitats were badly affected causing disruption for the wildlife that live there.

The Environment Agency reported that water levels in some places were above those of the devastating floods of 1953. Coming within a foot and a half of the sea wall, flood waters washed large amounts of shingle, debris and part of a wader bank into the saltwater lagoons. A portion of the pathway around the southern lagoon was destroyed as were some of the island habitats. Over the course of the last year, the Environment Agency has completed repairs to the outer seawall and much of the damaged roads and pathways have been repaired thanks to the assistance of CITB, Bircham Newton who have donated equipment and labour. Parts of the reserve which were temporarily closed to the public have been reopened allowing visitors to once again enjoy the spectacle of the pink-footed geese this winter.

The damage to manmade structures can usually be rectified, but what about wildlife habitats? How does nature recover in the event of a disaster? Without the ability to predict the future, nature must rely on the strategy of resilience to recuperate from adversity. Resilience is all about the ability to recover after a disturbance, things may not return to their original state but core functions and behavioural patterns will be intact. How else do forests regrow after

substantial damage from fire, rivers recover from the process of damming and landscapes survive destructive volcanic blasts? Fortunately for Snettisham Reserve the storm surge is likely to have had a beneficial rather than long-term devastating effect. Nutrient rich saline lagoons were flushed by incoming tidal water allowing these areas to be rebalanced. Large quantities of shingle washed into the lagoons were re-profiled into new islands providing further habitats for birds and other wildlife. In some areas, swathes of vegetation were washed away exposing bare shingle. These have provided additional successful habitats, especially for the region's rare red hemp nettle.

RSPB staff and volunteers have worked diligently to rectify structural damage from last year's storm but nature has done the most by facing adversity head on and finding new ways to survive.

Carrie Carey – Visitor Experience Manager – NW Norfolk Reserves □



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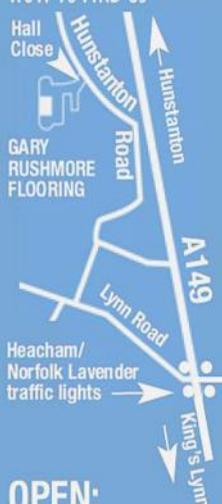
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Just a Few Seconds More...

by Cliff Jordan



Many of you could probably tell a story or two about chance or accidental events, or coincidences, over which you had no control, but which have turned out to be pivotal points in your life, changing things for ever, for better or worse. There have certainly been a few in my life, but the personal story that I am about to tell here must be regarded as exceptional as it involves possibly a unique collection of elements - a quiet residential avenue in Norwich, World War Two, The US Air Force, US General George Patton

and a tin of sweets... and it all takes place before I was born!

The story begins in July 1937 when my parents, John and Phyllis, were married at St Catherine's Church, Mile Cross in Norwich, and took up residence in a bungalow at 26 Hastings Avenue, Hellesdon, Norwich. In due course my sister Joyce joined them; born in February 1939. Later, in September of the same year, Britain and her allies declared war on Germany and World War Two had begun. A significant event for many all over the world but particularly significant to this story for two reasons.

The first was that my father, like so many others at that time, was soon conscripted into the army and therefore spent much of the next five years away from home and far away from this country. As a consequence I had to exercise patience and wait until early 1947 before I could make my entry into the world.



The second was the establishment of an airfield north of Norwich during 1939, opening as RAF Horsham St Faith in June 1940 - it is now Norwich Airport. In those early days, and until the 1950's, there was only one runway on this airfield, aligned north-east to south-west. Hastings Avenue is less than a mile away from the airfield and almost due south-west.

The story begins to unfold in September 1942 when RAF Horsham St Faith was made available to the **United States Army Air Force** and in 1944 the **458th Bombardment Group** (Heavy) arrived, flying its first bombing mission on 24 February with **Consolidated B-24 Liberators**.

Events in northern France in 1944 now played a part in this story. US General George Patton's Third Army had been progressing so swiftly after the Normandy landings that the land supply line was having difficulty keeping his tanks and vehicles adequately fueled. From September 12th of that year until the end of the month, some of the 458th, along with other groups, were removed from combat operations and assigned to the 775th in order to fly fuel directly to France - the mission was codenamed Operation Truckin'.

The scene is set and now the events of the fateful day, 20th September 1944, can now be told. Back in Hellesdon at about 4.30 in the afternoon of that day my sister, then aged 5, was playing with a friend, at her friend's home in nearby Sutherland Avenue, when her friend's mother asked them to go on an errand to a shop on the corner of Hastings Avenue and Reepham Road. So off they set, but their route took them up Hastings Avenue and past our home at number 26. My parents by then had begun a practice of keeping a large tin of assorted sweets in the corner of the Living Room, a tradition still being maintained in my days. The temptation of the sweet tin was always far too great for my sister to resist and so the two little girls diverted from their errand to persuade my mother to let them have a sweet or two to sustain them on their journey.



While this tranquil domestic scene was taking place, less than a mile away pilot Herbert H. Humke was taking off from Horsham St Faith in his veteran B-24 Liberator, named Gator, heavily laden with fuel for France. War weary, Gator had been retired from combat duty as unfit for this purpose, it was possibly too heavily laden for its mechanical condition, the pilot was possibly too inexperienced for the conditions and load, but for whatever reason the Liberator failed to gain altitude and crashed onto Hastings Avenue, the fuel ignited and created a fiery coffin for all six members of the crew. Several homes in the Avenue were severely damaged and numbers 10 and 12 completely demolished. The resident of number 12, Ethel Smith, perished and five other residents of the Avenue received minor injuries and burns. Mr and Mrs Palmer, who lived at number 10, together with their son Derek and daughter Valerie, were all out at the time of the crash and so no lives were lost there, but their home and all their possessions were.



Meanwhile at number 26, interest in the contents of the sweet tin was forgotten as all three occupants, my mother, sister and her friend rushed to the safety of the air-raid shelter, soon to be joined by my sister’s friend’s mother who was understandably concerned for her daughter. Many years later, when my sister told me this story, she was adamant that if it was not for her sweet-tooth she and her friend would have continued to walk up the top of the Avenue and they would have been exactly at the location in Hastings Avenue where the Liberator came down at the time of the crash. But having seen photographs of the crash site (on the [458th Bombardment Group’s website - 458bg.com/crewba6humke.htm](http://458bg.com/crewba6humke.htm)) and personally observed in later years the charred, blackened, wooden fence between numbers 26 and 24, which was a consequence of the conflagration following the crash, it is unlikely that anyone in the open in Avenue at that time would have survived unscathed.

So how did this event change my life? Clearly the obvious one is that my sister survived to take her young brother’s hand, when he had attained the age she had at the time of this traumatising experience, and lead him each week to Sunday School at the church at Mile Cross where this story began. But when I had gathered together all the facts surrounding this event I realised that things could have been so very different. By the time the Liberator, on a south-westerly flight path from the airfield, was over Hastings Avenue it was out of control and it would have been pure chance that would determine where it came down. The intended path would have brought it over number 26 and if it had remained just a few seconds more in flight it would have crashed onto that bungalow instead of number 12. My sister, her friend and my mother would have probably perished. I say “my mother” but if Phyllis Jordan had died on that day I would never have been born and I would not now exist. Just few seconds more of the flight of that Liberator on 20th September 1944 could have had the most fundamental effect on my life. □

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Speed Awareness in Dersingham by Cllr Paul Edwards

At a recent Parish Council meeting the question of speed limits in the area of St George's School on Admirals Drive was discussed. As a parent of a child at the school, and also a Parish Councillor, I am keen to get the views of people in the village as to whether something needs to be done and how we might go about it. Currently the 30mph speed limit sign is only approximately 200m away from the exit of the school and drivers coming from the sawmill direction in to the village are often still slowing down as they pass the school. I have had a meeting with a representative from the Highways department to investigate how we might make the area safer and have come up with a few suggestions, which are:



- ③① Re-site the flashing 30mph sign near Thaxters to Admirals Drive
- ③① Install a brand new flashing 30mph sign in Admirals Drive
- ②① Introduce an advisory 20mph zone on the approach to the school
- ③① Lay a trod (footpath) in the verge between the parents car park entrance gates and the staff car park gate

These are only suggestions and obviously there is a cost implication with each one so in order for us to progress any of the above ideas I would need an idea of support for each. Also this list is not exhaustive so if you have any other ideas or suggestions I would be happy to hear them.

Please contact me on **07770 743767** or email paul.edwards@dersingham.org.uk. □

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Poppy Appeal 2014



All monies for the 2014 Poppy Appeal have now been received, and in the villages of Dersingham, Sandringham, West Newton and Wolferton we have raised **£6560**. We feel this is a very good collection, an increase of **£800** on the previous year, especially as 2014 was the hundredth anniversary of the start of the First World War.

We are very grateful to all our collectors for giving their time and energy at this cold time of year, especially the house to house collectors and of course the static collectors outside the stores. Our thanks also to the businesses who gave us precious space on their counters for our collecting boxes for two weeks. The house to house collections totalled **£2123**. The static collections outside the stores were **£1184** and the static unattended in businesses were **£2334**. We received very generous donations from Castle Rising Church of £318 and £30 from Wolferton Church.

We are still in need of more collectors for next year and if anyone feels they can spare an hour or two for one day we should be very pleased to hear from them. Once again our very many thanks to our collectors and to everyone who gave so generously to the Haig Fund.

Pamela Kendal (01485 544404) and Karen Bushell (01485 540236)—Appeal Organisers □

News from St Cecilia's RC Church by Patricia Nevin

We would like to extend to you all our very best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Both Dersingham and Hunstanton Churches looked beautiful over the Christmas period, thanks to the hard work of the volunteers who cleaned, set up the cribs and prepared the floral displays in each.

We will be arranging our social calendar shortly for the coming year. The first social occasion is usually the Pancake supper at St Cecilia's on the evening of Shrove Tuesday. Look for details on the website or the bulletins, which are displayed at both churches.

We are still collecting for the Food Banks in Hunstanton and King's Lynn, which provide help to those in very real need in the local area. There is a box for donations in the porch of both Churches. There is a Fair Trade Stall at St Cecilia's after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of every month. For more information contact Caroline Brooks on 01553 673069.

Everyone, whether Catholic or not, is welcome to all of our services and social occasions. We have refreshments after the 11am Mass every Sunday and after 10.15am Mass every Wednesday. There are also refreshments after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of the month at Dersingham. Please come along, you will be most welcome. Our daily Masses are held at St Theresa's Convent, 27 Sandringham Road, Hunstanton, except on Wednesday when it is usually at 10.15am at St Cecilia's, Dersingham. Please check for dates and times on Church notice boards, website or phone. Sunday Masses are 9am at Dersingham and 11am at Hunstanton.

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Dersingham Evening WI by Maggie Guest



The end of 2014 saw a busy time at our WI. Our numbers have continued to increase and I am pleased to hear the new members are, in part, encouraged to join by reading the V.V. articles and finding out what sort of things we do before venturing to a meeting.

December saw us engaged in a range of activities. Many to do with Festive eating. Shirley provided her annual 'Sherry, Mince Pies and Coffee morning'. Full afternoon tea was enjoyed at the Le Strange Hotel as was our Christmas Lunch. Also on the calendar was lunch at The Riverside combined with shopping. These were all well attended and much enjoyed. Our thanks to Olive and Shirley who have also continued to organise Sunday lunches and evening meals. The last meeting of the year was our Christmas Party. The committee prepared and served the refreshments and a 60's duo, Chris and Adam, played and sang for our enjoyment. Good to see some members dancing too!



We are sad to see Lilly leave our membership as she has been totally brilliant at making the Interval Tea for many years and will be sadly missed. All our good wishes go to her even if she is not making the tea for us anymore!

Our Christmas Tree in St Nicholas' Church looked lovely with all the hearts some members had made. Many were in fact lavender bags with a plan to sell them

later. Great idea and well done to our mastermind Rhoda and her helpers!

Wendy organised a Ten Pin bowling session at Hunstanton and a visit to Thursford both of which included a lunch out. Afternoon tea at Dobbies was another successful outing for the group.

The Theatre Group were thrilled to see the live showing of Billy Elliot and Blood Brothers. The Keep Fit, Mad group and Craft sessions continue to be popular.

The meetings have had interesting speakers but we were particularly moved having Sue, a Tapping House fund raiser, speak to us. She was able to give us more background information. Such wonderful work everyone involved does.

Various outings are proposed for the future including a holiday to Northern Ireland in May, a Trip to Salzburg and some members are doing the Walk for Life at Houghton but probably walking the distance rather than running. A good cause whatever they do.

Speakers for the first 6 months of 2015 will be presenting:

- January - The life of a Vet**
- February - All Aboard America**
- March - The life of a Paramedic**
- April - Divided by a Common Language**
- May - Elizabeth 1 in person**
- June - Time at a London Fashion House**



Of course all the other smaller activities and coffee mornings will continue and anyone who wants to join us is welcome. Details are handed out at the meeting but bring a diary! We have a great Meet and Greet team on the door to welcome you.

Our President, Gilly Spencer, and the committee wish everyone a Happy 2015. □



Village Voice Live

How to Run a Modern Zoo—Tuesday 2nd December

Imogen White, Manager and Head Keeper at Cromer's Amazona Zoo, talked with great enthusiasm about both her own career that led to her present position within the zoo, and of the zoo itself. She explained that her wish to work with animals began early in life, shaped her education, and eventually led to her working at Wroxham Barns with farm animals. A trip to South America led to a desire to work with more exotic animals and hearing that a new zoo was about to open, close to her home in Norfolk, she applied for and got a job as a keeper at Amazona Zoo just outside Cromer, starting in January 2008. Since then she has progressed to Head Keeper and, for the past 3 years, Manager.

Imogen then went on to describe Amazona Zoo (amazonazoo.co.uk) as a small zoo specialising in tropical South American animals, including Jaguars, Monkeys, Snakes, Flamingos and Tapirs, numbering about 200 in total. Apparently this specialisation has led to some uninformed visitors asking why there are no lions or elephants! She stressed that all animals in the zoo were captive bred, none being taken from the wild, and that the zoo was a member of BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums) thereby participating in inter-zoo breeding programmes and animal swaps. The zoo tries to use natural surroundings for the animals wherever possible making full use of the numerous lakes to keep visitors and animals apart. She did admit that there was an element of trial and error in the development of enclosures, a notable failure that had been turned into a feature being the Mara (Patagonian Hare), which refusing to be penned and burrowing under fences, is now allowed to roam free over the site. For the future she said there was no intention to grow the zoo - it is small and will remain so - but new investment will lead to innovations and for next year there are already plans for spiders, including tarantulas, and guinea pigs.

A good, lively and interesting talk despite the lack of illustrations - a few photographs of the animals would have probably elicited a few more "oohs" and "aahs" from the audience.

The evening concluded on a festive note with sausage rolls, mince pies and mulled wine in the Hall followed by a trip across the road to the Church, for those who wished, to hear the our local handbell ringers play a selection from their Christmas programme.

Whiffler

In Darwin's Footsteps—Ecuador and The Galapagos Tuesday 6th January

Our own David Collingham, ably assisted by his wife (and Borough Councillor) Judy, took us through an impressive selection of photo and video snippets taken on their recent holiday.

The first half showed us photos of their tour of Guayaquil, the largest city in Ecuador with its impressive monuments, statues and ubiquitous football support promotions, before going on through the city of Quito to the Ecuadorian eastern end of the vast 2½ million square mile Amazon Rainforest (or *Amazonia*) region. Here they cruised the Napo river, a major tributary of the Amazon in a series of vessels, ending up in a hand-paddled 'dug-out' canoe, amid a cacophony of jungle sounds made by a variety of often hard-to-spot creatures.

The second half introduced us to the life and often traumatic adventures, life and heart searching dilemmas and writings of one Charles Darwin. From there we were transported through pictures taken on their own cruise around the Galapagos islands, 600 miles west of mainland Ecuador, including many of the sights, flora and fauna that would have greeted the great man himself and a memorial to 'Lonesome George' the last known male of the Pinta island sub-species. All in all a most enjoyable evening that stimulated questions and discussion throughout.

Brucie □



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Random Jottings

by Tony Bubb



I was joined by 19 brave souls on Boxing Day for an enjoyable walk around the Bog and Sandringham woods in quite agreeable weather for the time of year. I picked a route that could be used whatever conditions prevailed except perhaps more than a foot of snow. The challenge is to find another such route for this year.

The Sunday after Christmas was a nice bright day. It brought out the crowds to Hunstanton, us included. I was most impressed to see an ice cream stall on the promenade open and doing business. More surprising was the fountain in action in the gardens and not turned off for the winter. Maybe it's the Hunstanton in Bloom effect.



Marmalade and Wendy

We spent New Year in the Lake District, as did a lot of others. There they have the right idea, keep the attractions open and the people will come. Boats on Windermere were doing good business, the shops were busy and so were the cinemas. I got to see the new Paddington

film in Zeffirellis cinema in Ambleside. It's a sort of vegetarian cinema, quite disorganised, very warm but comfortable and having a veggie restaurant attached. The film was very good with seamless animation and real actors giving a believable story which even had adults in the audience gasping occasionally. Do see it if you get the chance.

Not so great was the production of Peter Pan performed in the Theatre by the Lake in Keswick. Perhaps our enjoyment was tempered by the truly dire meal served in their restaurant ahead of the performance. Think school dinners - square pie, a few small piles of peas, carrots and mash plus translucent gravy and you will get the idea. Very 1950's. Now I have not seen a pantomime for many years and neither have I seen PP before but shouldn't there be a few laughs? There was one when a deep male voice shouted "I do" when Peter asked if we believed in fairies. OK the scenery was good and nobody forgot their lines, which were all clearly heard, so the 400 strong audience clapped well at the end but not for too long.

I was in that fine establishment Moulam & Horne in Heacham the other day and spotted a Fly & Bug Killer that "decimates insects". I think I would like a more effective one.

We often get a fairly mild patch of weather in January giving me a chance to catch up on some garden tidying but I don't think that I ever remember seeing daffodils out in a garden on the 11th before. We also have birds checking out the nest boxes already so perhaps they know something.

Talking of gardens, we are now starting to organise this year's Open Gardens - May 24/25th - weekend and would love to have a few new gardens taking part. Any shape, size, state of excellence are of interest, as visitors not only appreciate perfection but also are very interested in work in progress. Several owners who opened for the first time with some trepidation found it terrific fun and now want to be regulars. Would you like to join them?

I love browsing in second hand bookshops, delving into those scruffy boxes that maps get relegated to and scanning the shelves for books that I always meant to read but are now out of print. One of those was "Narrow Boat" by Tom Rolt. This is the work that is supposed to have awakened interest in the canals as a leisure pursuit. Now I have read it I can see why, it's a delight and for only £4.50 I have a very tidy 1945 second edition complete with lovely engravings, so it pays to keep your eyes open. □



Rotary Matters by Phil Newell

Christmas at Rotary is always a busy time. We were very pleased to give out 112 Christmas lunches to senior citizens, Phobbies of Dersingham and representatives of local churches. The lunch was put on and served by the Hunstanton Day Centre and it was followed by entertainment given by the Heacham Songsters.

At our Rotary Christmas lunch held at the Le Strange Hotel, 43 were present to witness the presentation of cheques to the three charities benefitting from our Norton Hill, Snettisham weekend light railway event. Every year we are grateful to Michael Schumann, the owner of the railway who enables Rotary to help different charities. This year they were the West Norfolk Hospice, Keeping Abreast and Riding for the Disabled, each charity being presented with just over £3000. Rotary decorated a Christmas tree for the Festival at the Hunstanton Town Hall. The Club was also pleased to welcome two new members – full member Richard Shaw and Associate Member Debbie Peel.



We were very pleased to welcome John Smith, a well-known Hunstanton resident, to the Club just before Christmas. He gave an inspiring talk on the Lovat Scouts. We learnt that they had been the forerunners of the Special Air Services (SAS) and for a time had been in Hunstanton. The Lovat Scouts got their name from the 14th Lord Lovat in 1900. They were a Scottish regiment (later to become two regiments) and they

became actively engaged in World War I. They were sharpshooters and the regiment was originally formed from land owners and gamekeepers in Scotland from the Highland Estates. They first fought the Boers in 1900-1902. At the start of WWI they went to Sutton-on-Sea and Skegness in case of invasion. Then followed a time when they were billeted at several coastal towns, including Hunstanton. They served abroad, including at Gallipoli, Egypt and Macedonia and many Scouts lost their lives. They were again in action in World War II, where their reputation in stalking, patrolling and sniping was second to none. Their skills had been honed as gamekeepers, shooters of game and land owners on their Scottish estates.

Lord Lovat's son, Simon Frazer, 15th Lord Lovat, grew up to be one of the big heroes in WW II. As Brigadier and commander of one of the Commando units, he landed at Sword Beach on D-Day. He instructed his personal piper to pipe the commandos ashore (as shown in the film 'The Longest Day'). Apparently the Germans couldn't shoot him – they thought he was mad!! A little later part of Lovat's brigade advanced to relieve the 6th Airborne Division at Pegasus Bridge who had arrived there by glider. Although severely wounded on 12th June, Lord Lovat fully recovered and after the war went into Parliament, holding a high-ranking position in Foreign Affairs. His political activities continued throughout his life although much of his time was devoted to the family estates. At his death in 1995, Piper Bill Millin, Lord Lovat's personal piper, who had piped the Commandos ashore on D-Day, played at his funeral.

We have an exciting programme ahead of us with speakers at our meetings on subjects as diverse as Wills and Probate and a talk about the National Autistic Society. One of our two black-tie events of the Rotary year will be taking place in early March when we celebrate our Presidents' Evening, that is, our Hunstanton & District Rotary Club President and Inner Wheel President.

Readers can find out more about our programme and activities from our web-site

www.hunstanton-rotary.org.uk □

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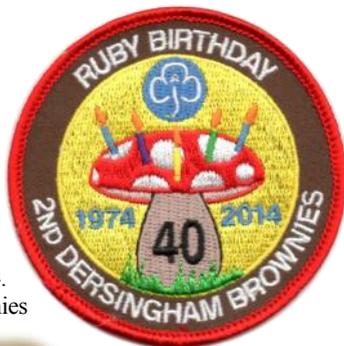


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2nd Dersingham Brownies Ruby Birthday by Lynne Wheeler

Last November the 2nd Dersingham Brownies celebrated 40 years since they opened with a Ruby Birthday Party. Leaders from the past 40 years, including those who started the unit, joined the Brownies for a special celebratory meeting. They showed the girls old photos and told them all about the activities they used to do. The party had a 1970s theme with the girls making "Womble" sock puppets as they were on TV in 1974. Before the candles were lit on the birthday cake two of the Brownies



dressed up in the 1970s Brown dress and the 1990s mix and match. A party is not a party without *pass the parcel*, complete with Womble toy prizes and food, both of which were enjoyed. The guests were each presented with a framed copy of the Ruby badge created for the event. □

Hearty Easy-to-Make Winter Soups from the Bluebell Cottage Kitchen by Lindsey Davis

Carrot & Potato

2lb (1kg) carrots

1lb (500g) potato

1 large onion

2 vegetable stock cubes (or 1 vegetable stock pot)

1. Peel and chop carrots, potato and onion.
2. Place in a large saucepan with stock and enough water to well cover vegetables and cover with lid.
3. Bring to boil, simmer for approx. 30mins, until vegetables softened.
4. Use a stick blender (useful tool) to whizz soup, season to taste, then serve with fresh bread or toast.



Makes 4 generous servings

Fridge Soup

This is good for the end of the week to use up what's left in the fridge.

Any vegetables: carrots, parsnips, sweet potato, swede, turnips (I've even saved and used the thick stalks from broccoli!), about 3lb (1½kg) in all plus 1 large onion

2 vegetable stock cubes (or 1 vegetable stock pot)

Exactly the same cooking instructions apply!!

Cold soup can be stored in the fridge for up to two days, though may need to have a little more water added to thin down before warming through. □

Dersingham Bog News from Tom Bolderstone, Reserve Warden

This winter has been surprisingly warm although there have been a few more frosts than the winter of 2013! Although not too cold the weather has been windy with quite a few gusty days but, in the not too distant future, spring will arrive, the days will get longer and there will be a flush of colour as trees begin to get their leaves.

This time of year is one of anticipation for a nature reserve warden. It is when you begin to finish the habitat management works of the winter and look towards the start of the breeding season. For many birds the breeding season is mid-march but here at Dersingham Bog it can start much earlier, particularly if the weather is warm, and can start anytime from late January to early February. Last year the first Woodlark began singing on site around the 28th January. Woodlarks are known for their early breeding and in a good year can fit in a mighty four broods of young.

Woodlarks are a special bird and have the same legal protection as many of our best loved and iconic British birds such as the Barn Owl, Avocet, Bittern and Bearded Tit to name a few. All nesting birds are protected from disturbance but these birds have a higher protection as they are considered part of a group of rare breeding birds. To put this into context the number of breeding Woodlark in Britain is c3100 pairs, the Avocet, 1500 pairs and, one of our commoner species, the Blackbird numbers a whopping 5.1 million pairs. Our work at Dersingham Bog is helping to conserve the Woodlark along with other key species such as Nightjar, Tree Pipit and Stonechat as well as the myriad of moths, dragonflies, scarce heathland and bog plants that can be found here.

It's at this time of year that we remind people of the importance of keeping dogs on leads. Whilst this is important all year round due to the presence of our herd of Black Galloway on site, in the breeding season it's especially important as this can make the difference between success and failure for a nesting Woodlark. Being a ground nesting bird, Woodlark are very vulnerable to disturbance and can abandon a nest if they feel threatened by what they perceive to be a predator. By walking on the path with your dog on a lead you are helping to conserve one of Britain's rarer breeding species.



Woodlark by Lisa Treadwell - lisatreadwell.co.uk

This winter's scrub control has gone well and the volunteers and staff have made a massive impact on the invasive birch and pine scrub around the site further improving the habitat. Over the last few years we have noticed that the density of scrub regrowth is slowly reducing. This has allowed many areas of heath to continue to flourish and not get shaded out by the scrubby trees. Our work over the next few months will move from the scrub orientated work to looking at works repairing the infrastructure on site. With some four kilometres of fencing to check and boardwalk and step repairs to do, the next few months will be a busy time.

I hope to see some of you out on site over the next few weeks and months and please stop for a chat if you see us. *Email: thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk* □



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Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service Needs You!



Sandringham Fire Station, which is located on Doddshill Road, Dersingham, is looking for people who live or work in the local community to join their team of Retained Firefighters.

The Fire and Rescue Service offers a challenging and varied career, which involves dealing with emergency incidents such as fighting fires, road traffic collisions, and providing community fire safety advice to members of the public.

A *Retained Firefighter* differs from a *Wholetime Firefighter* in that they have primary employment elsewhere and are called upon by the Fire and Rescue Service when there are emergency incidents in their area. Working as part of a team you will respond to emergencies when alerted by your pager at any time of the day or night. There may be options to consider different arrangements for cover, depending on your availability.

You will be required to attend a regular weekly training session held on Tuesday nights and pass an induction course held at the Brigade Training Centre in Bowthorpe, Norwich. In return you will receive a monthly retaining fee plus additional payments for every incident and training session you attend. There is also the opportunity to undertake further training courses as your career progresses. Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from anyone subject to certain criteria. Currently the requirements are:

-  You must be over 18 years of age and you will be required to pass some standard written and physical tests.
-  Live and /or work within 5 minutes travelling time of the Fire Station.
-  Be mentally and physically fit, with good eyesight standards.
-  Be of good character.
-  Have the agreement of your employers to leave work to attend emergency calls.

Paul Edwards, Crew Manager at Sandringham Fire Station said “ We currently have some vacancies at Sandringham Fire station and anyone interested in knowing more about what is entailed is more than welcome to visit us on one of our drill nights.

“The whole recruitment process can take up to 6 months depending on the applicant being able to pass initial training sessions and completing a 2 week induction course which is why we are hoping to generate some interest from people now with a view to recruiting throughout 2015”.

“It is important that potential recruits are aware of the commitment required to become a Retained Firefighter, but there are great rewards and satisfaction that the job can also bring.”

Drill nights on Tuesday evenings at the Fire Station on Doddshill are from 6:30pm to 9.00pm and anyone interested in finding out more information is encouraged to come along or to contact:

Crew Manager Paul Edwards on 07770 743767 □



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CT&A

The Daily Doings of Mrs Dolittle (a.k.a Valerie Anckorn)



Well, here's wishing you a very happy New Year, and if you have made any resolutions, I do hope you keep them!

Now ladies, have you found that when you are under the weather, or even quite ill, that your other half manages to get 'flu' or some such thing and be far worse than you? That instead of being nurtured, you are the one getting the cups of tea for him, cleaning up the cat sick and generally running yourself ragged when all you want to do is to put your feet up and have someone care for you?

'My leg' has been really bad recently and I have been more-or-less housebound. If I do the shopping, then I have agony for the next three days or so, and I am now back to the tottery tiny steps, hanging onto two sticks, with my bum stuck out to balance. I caught sight of myself in the mirror, and it looked as if I hadn't made it to the 'little room' in time – and while I am joking there, actually, it *is* difficult to get there at my snail's pace! Anyway, one copes, because one has to, but of course, remote control man has been worse than me and in bed for nine days. I can't say I devoted my nursing skills on him, because I couldn't walk to feed him, so other than the occasional glass of water, he had to get on without me.

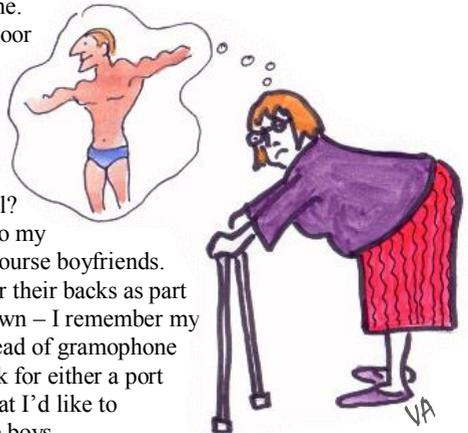
Just getting up from the sofa to stagger to open the door for the dog 'to be excused' nearly killed me – I exaggerate a tad. Thank goodness for books – I have read a lot these last few weeks, and of course have done plenty of watercolours, all of which lack expertise. When I show them to people, they remain silent, so I am thinking, are they *that* dreadful?

In elderly mode as I sat with my leg up confined to my chair, my memory drifted back to my youth and of course boyfriends. The dances we went to, the jiving, being thrown over their backs as part of the routine, going to 'big' dances at the nearest town – I remember my amazement when there was 'a proper big band' instead of gramophone records – and where my friend had advised me to ask for either a port and lemon or a gin and orange if a boy asked me what I'd like to drink. Yuk! They were horrible – the drinks not the boys.

My first 'proper' boyfriend was a handsome, athletic, blonde whom I adored. He was a Scorpio, and by George did he have a sting in the tongue when he spoke! He always denigrated me with scornful words. Well, we lasted two years but eventually I had enough. His eventual long suffering wife (he once told her he should have married me – poor woman) recently posted his photo on Facebook and I saw that the handsome young man is now a grumpy old bloke in a wheelchair with man-boobs, a downturned mouth and loads of nostril hair – nothing like the vision I keep of him in my mind and I would never have recognised him had I passed him in the street. I too have changed of course and he probably wouldn't know me either.

It's the same if you go back to childhood homes. My grandparents had a lovely old farmhouse in Kent that I adored as a child. I spent all my happy days there, and made the mistake recently of returning. The house had burned down and was just an empty shell that someone had attempted to rebuild with breeze blocks and then abandoned. It was all totally different to my memory and I just wanted to cry. In time, I managed to let go of the recent images and can still return to the beloved farm of old in my mind – but wish I had never gone back. Things are changing all the time, aren't they, but we don't tend to notice them day-by-day.

This morning I had a lie in and was watching a programme on Oxford Street, in London. I used to work in Conduit Street nearby and would wander along all the exciting streets with the girls from work in our lunch-hour. We spent most of our time looking for material to make dresses for



ourselves but, being a country girl, I always hated the crowds and felt very uncomfortable having to push my way through so many people where eye contact with any of them could prove fatal.

However, watching the programme got my memory going of those days, of fluffy net petticoats and hooped ones as well that stuck our dresses out almost perpendicular. When sitting in crowded trains, these layers of skirts would cascade over the next passengers however much one tried to keep them under control. The shops in London were, of course, fabulous but after a mere two years working there I couldn't take the crowds anymore and ended up with panic attacks.

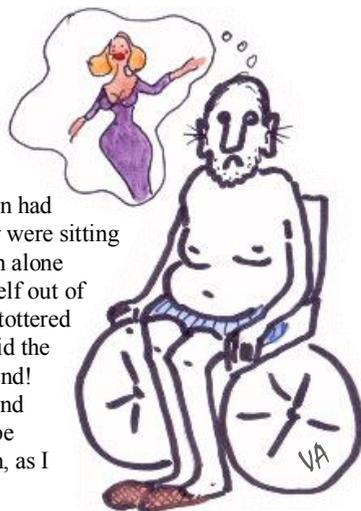
There were many, many weirdoes that one had to beware of, but no immigrants. I recall walking along a relatively clear London pavement minding my own business, when a dirty trampish bloke leapt out in front of me, and with force behind it, thrust his clenched fist into my face, as he spat out words of hatred. Luckily I was able to duck my head back so he didn't actually make contact, but my, it shook me up. Whatever had taken his probable meths-fueled mind to take dislike of me, goodness only knows, but it was a scary moment. I had many horrible scenarios like that in London, so no wonder I suffered phobias. I opted out of the 'bright lights' and ended up back in the country working in a pleasant little town until I got married and had my first baby. I cured myself of panic attacks by facing my fears, getting on buses with people all around, as I wanted to take myself to the hospital for pregnancy classes.

Another trip down memory lane reminded me of the Prince Charming who 'got away'. This was the local paperboy who delivered my comic, Sunny Stories, into a post box way down our long drive. Unfortunately (or fortunately) my father intercepted a couple of love notes intended for me when I was around 13, and didn't give them to me until I was well into my twenties. I was rather outraged about this, for who knows, that lad might have been The One for me. The messages were brief and badly spelt, giving me a date and place to meet up with him. The last sentence in the first letter demanded: 'Do not ware your hair in platts'. The other ended, 'Do not ware them long brown stockins or them glasses'. Who said romance was lacking in the 1950's?

Stockings in those days were utilitarian and not the sexy statement of today. We had ghastly salmon pink suspender belts, and the stockings were thick for young girls. Prior to suspender belts, we girls wore what was known as Liberty Bodices over our vests – these were warm, fleecy lined affairs, with buttons at the bottom, so that suspenders could be buttoned onto them to hold up our stockings. This was not a very comfortable arrangement, but with homes and schools without central heating, we needed to keep as warm as possible, though we seldom went anywhere without chattering teeth and chilblains. I always kept my vest, liberty bodice and navy blue knickers on under my pyjamas as my bedroom was so very cold at night – lovely fern patterns would be thick on the inside of my windows where ice had formed during the night. In the mornings I would lean out of bed, pull my clothes off the floor, warm them up a bit under the blankets and dress myself in bed, trying to keep a vestige of warmth going. Wash first? Gracious no! A quick flannel over the face in a freezing bathroom, and usually cold water was all that we managed!

Back to the present day. My leg pain kept me awake ALL NIGHT recently. I got so angry in the end. Remote control man had been given a large box of Thornton chocolates at work and they were sitting temptingly on the coffee table but I had been good and left them alone (diabetes) but at 5.30a.m. with not a wink of sleep, I threw myself out of bed, to stomp limpingly into the sitting room, grabbed the box, tottered back, and devoured all but the nutty ones. What a pig. But it did the trick, I went to sleep for two hours which eased my temper no end!

Well, this is enough for now. All the best for the new year, and watch out for all the snowdrops, daffs and celandines that will be pushing their way up to greet the chilly days. I love to see them, as I know that better weather will soon be on the way. □





John Lambert's National Service Experiences (No 2)

When you first go into the army, if you rush around and show keenness they ask you whether you would like to become a PTI (Physical Training Instructor). I said I would so they sent me on a course and, in due course, that's what I became.

Whilst I was a PTI, a recruitment body came to the Royal Norfolk Barracks getting volunteers to try to join the Parachute Regiment. The course was not easy so I was glad to have had my cycle racing behind me for the stamina it gave me. There was 375 of us who started the course, but only 72 who got through.

But first things first, because there was a quick turnover of PTIs in the "Norfolks", I suddenly found myself drafted to go to Korea and was sent on 2 weeks embarkation leave.

On return from my leave, I had to report to the guardroom to read *Part One Orders* to see if anything on these concerned me, which there was. I was to report to RAF Abingdon for parachute training. It was one of those occasions (rare) when you can go on embarkation leave but then don't go anywhere! So, for me, it was "goodbye Royal Norfolks", "hello Parachute Regiment". □

Leaving us bit in suspense here John! Ed.

Hunstanton & District Lions Club



Thank you to all those who supported the Club's annual 'Turkey Tinsel' Lunches held at the United Services Club, Hunstanton, in December 2014. We welcomed 638 senior citizens over 7 days to enjoy a delicious three course Christmas lunch (85 of whom were from Dersingham).

We organise all sorts of activities in the area to help others and raise funds for good causes. Coming up on **Saturday 28th March 2015** is our **Lions Country & Western Night** at the Heacham Public Hall. Dancing and Entertainment to the music of 'MT Allan'. Everyone is welcome. Then in April we have an **Easter Egg Hunt** and in July an **American Independence Day Dance**. Posters will be displayed in due course advertising ticket sale outlets.

We are continually seeking new members to help with events and activities. If you have some time, no matter how large or small, that would be well used and much appreciated in supporting our community, please do get in contact. No particular skills or specialist talents are required – just time and enthusiasm. Please contact Chris Holt on **0845 8335738**. □

Snettisham Coastal Footpath 35

Following a public inquiry last summer and order confirmation, Snettisham Parish Council's success means the coastal footpath at Snettisham Beach Norfolk is a public right of way. Footpath 35 starts at Snettisham Beach Car Park, joins public Footpath 26 from Heacham to RSPB Reserve Snettisham joining up with FP29 coming from Dersingham. Footpath 35 is level on fairly firm shingle, mud free, walking distance

is ¾ mile, can be extended by walking around the RSPB reserve and back again.

Promotion of this newly registered public footpath is essential, enabling everyone to benefit and enjoy the wonderful views across The Wash. The magnificent displays of Knot flying will keep your eye fixed at the wonder. Many other waders are to be found busying themselves in the mud whilst you walk by. On a clear day you can see the Lincolnshire coast. Watch the sailing boats from Snettisham Beach Sailing Club, all this and more can be seen from this newly registered public right of way. Walking this coastal stretch is another great way to exercise in a great place, making it now possible to walk along the coast on registered public footpaths all the way between Hunstanton and Dersingham via the Snettisham RSPB Reserve.

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St Nicholas Church News from Pauline Martin



On **Sunday 1st February** we will be having a **Charity Lunch** – a traditional 3 course lunch plus coffee/tea for **£12** per person in aid of Cancer Research (Barts Cancer Institute), with Guest Speaker John Marshall, Professor of tumour biology.

Friday 13th February we will be holding a **“Pancake Lunch”** **£4** in aid of The Children’s Society in the Church Hall from 12noon.

During Lent we will be holding Deanery Lent Services in our local Churches, they are held on a Wednesday at 7pm, below is the dates and Churches were they will be held.

25th February - St Nicholas Church, Dersingham

4th March - St Mary’s Church, Heacham

11th March – St Mary’s Church, Old Hunstanton

18th March – St Mary Magdalene Church, Sandringham

25th March – St Andrews Church, Ringstead

We will also be holding **Lent Lunches** each Friday during Lent **£4** at 12noon in the Church Hall starting on **Friday 20th February** raising money for funds for Children’s work with the Church. Various Groups within the Church will be preparing the lunches.

St Nicholas’ Events During 2015

25th April – Grand Sale – 9am to 12noon in the Church Hall

2nd May – West Norfolk Singers - 7.30pm in the Church

24th & 25th May – Open Gardens & Village Fair

Saturday 13th June - Jazz Festival - 7.30pm in the Church Hall

17th to 20th July –Summer Festival

28th & 29th July – Music in Country Churches in the Church

4th to 6th December – Christmas Tree Festival with The Friends
Christmas Concert on the **5th**. □



Dersingham Methodist Church News from Elizabeth Batstone

2015 will be an exciting year for everyone connected with Dersingham Methodist Church as we celebrate our 125th anniversary. The continuing witness of the Church in the village is a tribute to those who first began planning to build the church. We are able, from records, to discover how the funding was raised, who built the church and who was involved.

They were people with a mission and purpose and were united in wanting to show God’s love to everyone in Dersingham. That same mission and purpose continues in 2015. Our celebrations will be marked with our annual **Flower Festival**, the theme is:

‘Come and Celebrate’, on **Thursday 21st to Sunday 24th May**. Watch out for more details.

Our Christmas Fayre was very busy and purchases of gifts, cards and cakes were soon made. Coffee, cakes and lunches also proved very popular helping to raised over **£600** which has been divided equally between the East Anglian Air Ambulance and Church funds, thank you for your support. All our Christmas activities were well attended and collections at the Carols by Candlelight and Christmas Day services raised an excellent **£304** for Ebola victims and has been sent to the Disaster Emergency Fund. Thank you for your generosity in giving to those in need.

Coffee mornings continue on **28th February, 28th March & 25th April**. We look forward to welcoming you all again. May 2015 be a year of hope, peace and blessings for you all.

For more details, please ring **01485 541068** or email pebatstone@fsmail.net □



Norfolk Wildlife Trust West Norfolk Members Group

invites you to

Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall, Austin Street

on **Thursday 26th February 2015 – 7.30pm** for

The Ramblings of an Ancient Photographer

an illustrated talk by Steve de Roeck (preceded by a brief AGM)

and on **Thursday 26th March 2015 – 7.30pm** for

Wild Breckland

an illustrated talk by David Mason

Cost of each event: £2.00 members / £2.50 visitors



Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

invite you to The Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Swaffham.

(Access and parking from Sporle Road) on

Tuesday 24th February, 7.30pm for an illustrated talk:

Operation Turtle Dove

We welcome naturalist Simon Tonkin who co-launched this project designed to reverse the dramatic decline in the European Turtle Dove population. Simon works for Conservation Grade who, along with partners RSPB, Pensthorpe Conservation Trust and Natural England are trying to address the issues affecting this iconic bird.

Visitors most welcome. Admission £2 on the night if you are not a NarVOS member.

For more information about this meeting or NarVOS call Ian Black on 01760 724092.

De-cluttering, down-sizing, or Spring-cleaning? Tidying the garage or the shed? If you do have any goods which you are clearing out we would be grateful for any items for our . . .



GRAND SALE

**at Dersingham Church Hall, Manor Road,
Saturday 25th April 2015—9:00am - 12:00noon**

**Admission Free—Light Refreshments
In aid of St. Nicholas Church**



A varied and interesting collection of **BRIC-A-BRAC**,
plus a large selection of good **SECONDHAND BOOKS**
and also a range of well-presented **NEARLY NEW CLOTHING**.

Donations will be most welcomed, but unfortunately we are not able to accept any electrical items, or large pieces of furniture or anything that is upholstered.

Items of Bric-a-Brac should be delivered to the Church Hall as early as possible on

Friday 24th April, from 9.00a.m. to 12.00 noon.

Books and clothing can be received at any time during the coming weeks, and can also be delivered to the monthly Coffee Mornings at the Church Hall. Alternatively you can contact one of the people listed below.

Clothing contact: Mary Sharp, Tel: (01485) **540350**.

Bric-a-Brac and general enquiries contact: Neil Adams (01485) **540857**

Please make a note on your calendar, tell your friends

Your support will be much appreciated.

'The Friends of St. Nicholas' Church, Dersingham

by Keith Blythe, Chairman



In the spring of 1994 the Vicar of St Nicholas Church, Dersingham, the Rev Thomas Jardine and a Churchwarden approached Keith and Vanessa Blythe with the germ of an idea. Their vision was the formation of a fund raising charity which would operate independently of the Church PCC. Any monies raised would be in the control of the Charity Trustees and to be used solely for the maintenance and upkeep of the church and its fabric.

Thus the Friends of St Nicholas Church (FSN), Dersingham, was formed. The inaugural meeting held at the former Game Keeper's Lodge on 18 October 1994 was well attended. The rules laid out by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales were agreed. These rules required a Management Committee (ie Trustees) of eight, to include an appointee of the PCC.

Membership is open to all. Members do not have to be a member of the church, a regular worshipper or have any other interest in it other than the wish to preserve and keep in a good state of repair this fine historic building – the oldest in the village. Whilst many use the church to mark moments in their lives, the church is there for the general enjoyment and the appreciation of everyone. The Friends have the satisfaction of joining in the valuable task of helping to sustain this wonderful village asset.

The first working Management Committee meeting was held on 27 October 1994. Four original members including the Chairman and Secretary are still actively involved. All this took place 20 years ago and the FSN are still as active and committed as ever to the original objectives.

Funds have been generated in a variety of ways including regular events and generous bequests. There have been Quiz competitions, Antique Valuation events, Christmas Concerts by Norfolk Brass and Bilton Silver (Rugby) Band, and a number of formal Literary Dinners held at Sandringham when guests have included Julian Fellowes, Michael Palin and Earl Spencer.

The objectives are still the same. The FSN are dedicated to supporting the Vicar and Churchwardens in maintaining the Church and its contents, and this is reflected in the significant financial support which has been made over the years. Up to and including 2014 just under £70,000 has been raised. The most recent donations of £42,000, and £5,800 were contributions to the installation of a new central heating system and electrifying the winding of the Church Clock. A further £384 has covered lighting outside the North Door.

A warm welcome is offered to all to become a Friend, one of the benefits being the pleasure of actually seeing the results of support.

For further information please telephone **01553 631124, 01485 540865** or **01485 540081**. □

Answers to Puzzles

Word Wall:

- Rainbow Colours: RED, ORANGE, INDIGO, VIOLET
- Fruits: DATE, LIME, LEMON, OLIVE
- Invertebrates: CLAM, SCALLOP, SPONGE, WORM
- Forms of Transport: ESCALATOR, TRAM, TANDEM, CARRIAGE

Where is it? What is it?

This is the Dersingham Telephone Exchange appropriately on Post Office Road. Who remembers the little dark green GPO vans, with their black rubber wings, that looked after your phone (the man inside the van that is) before it became BT and the prices went up!



Sudoku No 40 solution

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

Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

We love getting your reports of events and meetings, advertisements and advance details of forthcoming attractions, but please make sure any dates mentioned fall after the publication date.

Issue	Copy deadline	Publication date
No 93 (Apr/May 2015)	Wednesday 4th March 2015	Monday 23rd March 2015
No 94 (Jun/Jul 2015)	Wednesday 29th April 2015	Monday 18th May 2015
No 95 (Aug/Sep 2015)	Wednesday 1st July 2015	Monday 20th July 2015

The amount of space available for articles is governed by the both the physical limitations of the publication as well as the revenue received from advertising. You are advised to submit items (articles and adverts) well in advance of the deadline to secure a space.

Advertising in Village Voice

The Editorial Team would like to thank all of those who so generously support our magazine by placing advertisements in it, for without the income so generated there would be a possibility of the publication ceasing to exist. With this in mind it would be helpful if you were to support those who do advertise, and to then let them know that you used their services because you saw their promotion in our magazine. Normal prices for a (colour) advert start at £20 for an eighth page, £30 for a quarter, £55 for a half and £108 for a full page. (Prices inc. VAT).

To include an advertisement in the next issue, all details together with completed application form and payment should be with the Parish Office:
Dersingham Parish Council, 4a Post Office Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HP
by mid-day on Wednesday 4th March 2015

Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.
E-mail — villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk

Articles for Publication in the next issue of Village Voice

must reach The Editor, % Dersingham Parish Council, 4a Post Office Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HP or e-mail: editor@dersingham.org.uk before the **deadline date of mid-day on Wednesday 4th March 2015 for publication by Monday 23rd March**. (Contributors who are promoting events should take note of this earliest date of publication). Should you be providing graphics to accompany advertisements or articles, it would be appreciated if these could be in JPEG format and commercial printing requires 300 dots (pixels) to the inch (about 118 per centimetre).

It must be pointed out that the editor encourages contributions but reserves the right to amend and edit as necessary. Any contributions received will be accepted on the understanding that, unless a specific request is made not to use names, addresses, etc, these may be included in the publication and may be maintained on the Parish Council's database.

Due to limitations on space it is possible that some items received may not be published, or may be held in reserve for possible publication at a later date. Contributors should also be aware that published material will appear on the Parish Council's Internet web site. The copyright of all articles remains with the author. The editor does not necessarily agree with opinions that are expressed, or the accuracy of statements made, by contributors to the Village Voice.

Copies of most of the photographs published may be made available. Please enquire.

Village Voice is the bi-monthly magazine of Dersingham Parish Council

The Production Team for this edition consists of
Editor: - Steve Davis. Editorial assistant: - Rob Smyth
In the office: - Sarah Bristow. Distribution: - Steve Davis
Advertising: - Tony Bubb

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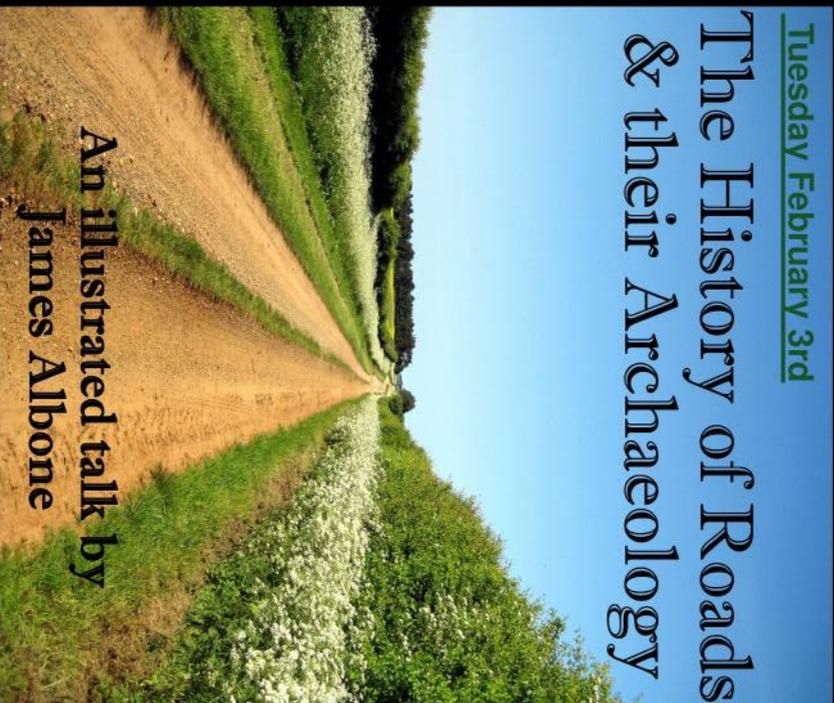
Email: budgensdersingham@jamesgraven.com

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday February 3rd

The History of Roads & their Archaeology

An illustrated talk by
James Albone



St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £3.50 including refreshments & raffle

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday March 3rd

ANOTHER EVENING

WITH

WILDLIFE

PHOTOGRAPHER

CHRIS KNIGHTS



St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £3.50 including refreshments & raffle