

Number 93

April/May 2015

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine

say what you will

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Editor's Notes

*Say what you will, the countryside is still;
The only place where I could settle down.*

So rings out the start of the song *Out of Town* sung by Max Bygraves in the 1956 film *Charley Moon*, and taught to me by my parents not long after that I guess. An innocent, happy song following on with such words as “*Spring starts to spring, the cuckoos start to sing a song to take the edge off winter’s frown*”, and I can still never let the season pass without breaking into a rendition of it at some point. I like to think that it sums up all that I love about living in a more rural setting, though whether I could honestly say that “*Troubles there are so much rarer*” or even “*And spring cleaning has a meaning*” I will have to think about!

Many will no doubt recognise the cover picture taken from the stepping stones across the end of the lake in Sandringham Gardens, looking across to Queen Alexandra’s Nest (summerhouse), where my wife and I have often sat looking out during many a visit over the last couple of years.

When Sandringham Head Gardener Martin Woods came to give an illustrated talk to us at *Village Voice Live* two or three years back, he exhorted us make regular visits in order to fully appreciate the variety within the gardens throughout the seasons. Since then we have become annual season ticket holders, great value over the standard day entrance fee at £45 for a couple; (application forms from the Visitor’s Centre or visit www.sandringhamestate.co.uk). So from April through to October, it has become our regular Sunday afternoon walk via Heath Road, up through the woods, past the busy crowded Visitor’s Centre, then on through the gate and around the peaceful gardens, calling in at the more tranquil and sedate Garden Tearooms by the Museum. A quick study of the notice by the gate on the way in guides us towards the nominated “Tree of the Week” and we have experienced the delights, amongst many, of the *Handkerchief Tree* and one that smells strongly of toffee apples! We look forward to resuming our regular visits come April and, who knows, we might even re-acquaint ourselves with the House itself this year, for a further supplement of just £3 per head with our season tickets.



Tranquillity aside, spring this year will be in the grip of election fever for Parliament, Borough Council and, if we dare to dream, Parish Council. I understand that both our current Borough Councillors for the Dersingham Ward will be standing again for election and, as far as I am aware, all existing Dersingham Parish Councillors too, though there are still five more places to fill. So, if you want to make a public contest of the latter, we need at least six more applications before the deadline of **Thursday 9th April** and, although the Parish Office can help you out here, everything you need to make an application to stand can be found at the Electoral Commission’s website, a link to which will be found on our Parish website (below) or, for the time being, you can use the shortcut link: goo.gl/250FpR. The BBC’s recent dramatization of JK Rowling’s *Casual Vacancy*, perhaps didn’t convey the best impression of Parish Councils, but there are certainly plenty of positive things going on with ours as you will see within these pages.

With that I’ll leave you to enjoy this issue along with all the other joys of spring, including a very Happy Easter.

Steve Davis - editor@dersingham.org.uk □



Dear Village Voice

Please email (editor@darsingham.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.



The Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes that were sent from Dersingham at Christmas went to children in Ukraine, where innocent families are suffering from the effects of the terrible conflict being waged there. Over 44,000 boxes were sent there, giving joy to children who are very poor and who, in many cases, have lost everything.

One 9 year old child said, tears streaming down his face, "How could the boy that sent me this shoe box know me? How did he know what I wanted to have? Everything he has sent me has made me so happy!"

Thank you once again for your generosity in supporting this worthwhile venture.

Carolyn Brock

FREEHOLD ESTATE
AT
DARSINGHAM

TO BE
SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY
Mr. J. BECK,

AT THE
COCK INN, DARSINGHAM,
NEAR LYNN,

On Thursday, 12th January, 1854.
AT FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON,
IN 2 LOTS,

LOT 1. THREE COTTAGES and OUTBUILDINGS with Yards and Large Gardens adjoining, next the Common of Darsingham, lately occupied by MRS. MARY GREEN, and now, by HENRY GREEN and three others; With a Right of Common over the Stinted Commons of Darsingham for 3 Head of Stock.

LOT 2. THREE ROODS (more or less) OF LAND next the Road leading from Sandringham to Darsingham Mill, and now in the occupation of HENRY GREEN.

FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS APPLY TO
Messrs. JARVIS & SON,
SOLICITORS, LYNN, OR TO THE AUCTIONEER, AT SNETTISHAM.

GARLAND, PRINTER, LYNN.

We thought perhaps that this poster dating back to 1854 might be of interest to Village Voice readers. It throws up some interesting questions, not least of which is the spelling of "Darsingham"? Is this how it was spelt in the 1800's? We do know however that the Cock Inn is now the Feathers, but who were the Green family and did Mrs Green die and leave the three cottages and outbuildings to her husband Henry and were the "three others" her children? Also where were the three cottages and the land?

Jim Batchelor and Barry Beales

We at the King's Lynn Foodbank would like to thank the residents of Dersingham for donating a total, magnificent amount of 2,823kg of food to Kings Lynn Foodbank since it began 4 years ago. So many folk have given generously, and we have received food collected by

*Dersingham St Nicholas Church,
Dersingham St Cecilia's Church,
Dersingham Methodist Church, Dersingham
Primary School, Dersingham Toddler
Group (at St Nicholas) and Dersingham WI*

Please accept our apologies for the lateness of this letter. Kings Lynn Foodbank is run mainly by willing volunteers. You may be interested to know that donations in 2014 alone totalled 28,977 kg, amazing generosity from folk in our own West Norfolk community! During this period, we supplied food to 3,905 people; this included 1,062 children. Once again, thank you. Kings Lynn Foodbank only has food available to help those in need because of generous people like you.

Sheena Pennington on behalf of the King's Lynn Foodbank

Since our last report for Village Voice we have received confirmation from Aylesford (Poppy Appeal H.Q.) that the Church Collection from Dersingham Church on Remembrance Sunday has been credited to our account. This collection was for £553.36 and was sent direct by the Church, and it now makes our total for 2014 £7114.23. Thank you all once again for your generosity to the Haig Fund. **Pamela Kendal and Karen Bushell - Poppy Appeal Organisers**



I was going through a box of things from my late aunt when I was re-acquainted with this picture. Many, many years ago, when I was a little girl, I vaguely remember her telling me that this was a club with a certain reputation located in the woods near Dersingham. Very popular in its day, it was apparently done away with when a less liberal attitude to such places came about. Can any readers remember where it was or anything else about it?

Avril Tromper

The nice cover photograph on last month's Village Voice reminded me to write to congratulate those responsible for all the new equipment on the Playing Field. Living on Station Road and walking my dog, I pass by a lot and love to see children having such fun on the equipment. I have always taken a keen interest in this area as, when we moved to Dersingham in December 1962, there were swings there. (This year also proved to be one of the coldest winters in living memory when the sea froze in Hunstanton.) My husband organised, through colleagues at King's Lynn Technical College, for a group of students to design and, as far as I can remember, to actually build a new slide as part of their coursework. I cannot remember if there was an old battered slide there or none at all. Obviously over the years this has been replaced several times on the same spot with more modern materials and new swings but little else until now. When on the Council my husband organised buying the trees along the playing field by the (then) A149 and got residents to cover the cost. The trees were planted by Mr Wallace Twite, father of Bernie Twite a regular contributor to the magazine. I was so pleased to see some of the trees with lights at Christmas and thought how festive the corner was by the traffic lights, with the huge lovely lit tree and lights around the War Memorial Garden. Several people mentioned to me how cheering it was when passing by on foot or in the car. It also gave pleasure to the bus passengers peering out as they waited for the traffic lights to change.

Joan Schorah □

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Parish Council Report by Cllr Suzy Daniels



It's a beautiful sunny day so happy smiles to you all! 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.

CHANGE TO COUNCILLORS: On behalf of the council I would like to wish David Tudor all the best for the future. David was a strong and productive Chairman achieving a harmonious relationship with the parishioners. Serving as councillor for a few months before being Chairman for a second Term, David resigned due to feeling unable to offer the time and commitment required after alterations were made to his work schedule. Cllr Sue Payne has taken up the role of Chair and Cllr Colin Hipkin is Vice Chair until the elections in May. Welcome back to Cllr Bob Tipling who thankfully feels well enough to rejoin us.

BOROUGH COUNCIL: Cllr Judy Collingham reported that the Borough Council continues to investigate new technologies which will utilize non-recyclable materials for practical purposes, but the notion of an incinerator is definitely not an option. Plans are underway to develop the bus station which will improve the visitor experience to King's Lynn. Plans are well on their way for another Open Gardens Event to be held on 24th and 25th May. If any of you keen gardeners wish to take part please contact either Judy or Tony Bubb. (*Details within Ed.*) Cllr Bubb said the traffic lights in place at the top of Post Office Rd for the installation of a new Broadband line had taken too long and were extremely dangerous. Cllr Collingham had taken it up with County and she was not happy about the information or how it was given. The Parish Clerk had not been notified.

COUNTY COUNCIL: Cllr Dobson explained, as usual with Norfolk County Council, it's all about money, pressing for budget settlement and budgets nationally. Directors were now in place and should start a comprehensive spending review and set a 3 year budget. Money will have to be saved and efficiency schemes put into place. Cllr Dobson also reported that there will be no charge for the recycling for the time being. Less reduction in the Adult Care especially with the New Care Act had also been agreed.

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

OTHER MATTERS: Cllr Edwards informed the Council that the Defibrillator had arrived at the Social Club. The agreement with Anglia Regional Co-Op has been signed and the cheque banked. The Parish Council would pay for Electrical installation.

Cllr Payne explained that an e-mail inviting the Council to take part in a Radio Norfolk Treasure Quest competition on a Sunday morning was received. Cllr Payne invited them to the Recreation Ground new play area. Cllr Daniels and Cllr Wright met with the presenter Sophie, who had a go on the zip wire which they used as Clue 3. Several parishioners who regularly follow the programme attended along with several children who were playing. A short interview was given by Cllr Daniels on site, followed by a further interview in the programme Treasure Quest Extra.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

14 Shernborne Rd...proposed garage, carport and store...recommended approval



Community Infrastructure Levy-consultation:

Cllr Payne explained that the Borough Council are proposing £60/sq m for anything over 11sq metres of which Dersingham Parish Council get 15%. If we had a neighbourhood plan it would increase to 25%. There is nothing published from any other authority to compare this with. The Doddshill development would create an income of £14,400 and St Nicholas Court £9,000 if they were to go ahead.

PLANNING DETERMINATIONS: Local Development Fund Allocation

Cllr Payne explained that two sites were listed for Dersingham, with a total of 30 houses.

According to the plan Dersingham needs 62 houses to provide for the future.

Doddshill Road: The Council accepts this development in principle, but has grave concerns on the effect on traffic and pedestrian safety, especially for children walking to the Primary school in Admirals Drive. NCC Highways have already expressed their view. The Parish Council will monitor any proposed development in this area to ensure our concerns are addressed and to ensure that any Highways conditions are complied to. The Parish Council suggests that the site of the former Community Centre at the bottom of Dodds Hill, currently derelict, should be used to help widen the road and make the junction safer where it meets Manor Rd.

St Nichols Court: The Council supports this proposal in principal, but does have concerns over access to Manor Rd.

DETERMINATIONS:

1 Hawthorn Cottages...Granted

67 DoddsHill Rd...Granted

4 DoddsHill Rd...Granted

Please come along to the Full Council meetings.....last Monday of each month at Dersingham Early Years site. And that's all for now! □

Annual Parish Meeting for Dersingham

I invite all Dersingham residents to the Annual Parish Meeting held on:

Wednesday 29th April at

St Cecilia's Catholic Church, Mountbatten Road,

Commencing 7pm—Light refreshments will be available

This is not to be confused with the Parish Council's Annual General Meeting (which will be held in May). The Annual Parish Meeting is

for the residents to raise any issues of concern or interest; in short, **you** set the Agenda.

The **Village Centre Working Group** will be giving an update on progress.

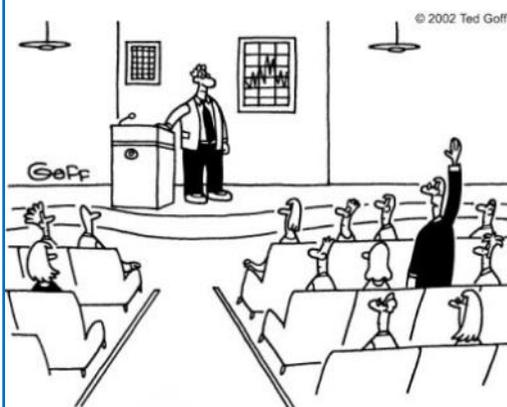
Please let me or the Clerk know of any issues you would like to discuss by **Wednesday 22nd April**, so that the Agenda can be prepared and distributed.

If you do make a suggestion, or submit an item for discussion, it would be helpful if you could attend the meeting. I look forward to seeing you on 29th April. **Cllr Sue Payne**
Chair, Dersingham Parish Council

Contact details:

sue.payne@dersingham.org.uk or

clerk@dersingham.org.uk (01485 541465)



"Could we extend the annual meeting? I still have a lot of complaining to do!"



Where did we come from?

by Brian Anderson

*Not in innocence and not in Asia was mankind born - Robert Ardrey
African Genesis*

Earliest human footprints outside Africa discovered in Norfolk

BBC News website 7th February 2014

The first quote is the opening line of a book I read about fifty years ago, which focussed my mind on a subject I'd been vaguely interested in for a while - human evolution. The second is a news item that made it locally relevant - discovery of 850 000 year old footprints in the mud off the beach at Happisburgh. The footprints were made by a species named *Homo antecessor*, a human species a little way back down our evolutionary line. The dating is quite precise (there are now many dating methods available from a number of scientific disciplines, fortunately with overlaps to allow cross-calibration) and the species was determined from stone tools of the same date known to be the work of *H. antecessor*. But, in the words of Dylan Thomas, we should begin at the beginning.

At the end of the eighteenth century it was (for the western Judeo-Christian cultures) all so simple: the world was created in six days as described in Genesis. But doubts already existed and they grew. Bishop Ussher had calculated on the basis of biblical *begats* that the world was about six thousand years old. Geologists could not believe this as the processes in the rocks that they studied must have taken far longer than this. Some theologians had already noticed that there are *two* versions of the Creation in Genesis and they are contradictory. Natural philosophers (scientists in our modern parlance) like Lyell, Cuvier, Linnaeus and Lamarck struggled to explain the biological world and its origins. The first dinosaur fossils had been found. These were leapt on as evidence of the Great Flood but it soon became clear that the form of fossils changed the deeper you dug so there couldn't have been just one catastrophic event. Bit by bit, Genesis was being consigned to myth. Gradually the beginnings of evolutionary thought took shape, but it took until the middle of the nineteenth century for a systematic theory to emerge. Then the work of Charles Darwin and Alfred Russell Wallace burst like an intellectual bomb - at last there was a mechanism that explained how species transmuted over time. It was Darwin's second book (*The Descent of Man*) that caused outrage. He posited that mankind and the great apes shared a common ancestor in the distant past, clearly challenging the concept of Man's divinity and domination over the rest of creation.

At almost exactly the same time a skull was found in the Neander valley in Germany. It was dismissed by many as the skull of some unfortunate individual with congenital deformities but in fact it was the first example of Neanderthal Man. Other fossils followed, notably from China, this time of older and more primitive species. The process of trying to construct a human family tree began. Then in 1912 a discovery made at Piltdown in Sussex seemed to throw all the previous assumptions into chaos. Piltdown Man didn't fit the pattern. It had a big brain but an apelike jaw. It took decades for Piltdown to be exposed as a forgery. The skull was a modern human fossil but the jaw was from an Orang-utan, stained to look like a fossil and broken to conceal the fact that the two couldn't fit together. In the twentieth century more and earlier fossils were found, almost entirely in east and south Africa. I'm going to stop laying out the history of discovery at this point and deal with the current view of the human timeline.

Human beings are primates, a group that contains tarsiers, lemurs, monkeys, apes and ourselves.



Something over 7 million years ago, the human line diverged from the chimpanzee line. We don't have the last common ancestor but we do have a few fossils that predate this and share features of both human beings and chimpanzees. A little later than this we have three fossil species - *Ardipithecus kadabba*, *Sahelanthropus ichadensis*, and *Orrorin tugenensis*. I'm sorry about the Latin names but no common names have been given! All these species were adapted to living in the trees but also show changes to the pelvis showing that they were beginning to walk upright on the ground for considerable periods.

About 3.5 million years ago a new group shows up in the fossil record - the Australopithecines. These are found in several places in Africa (and *only* Africa). They lived in a savannah environment and clearly walked upright. The teeth suggest a diet that contained quite a lot of meat. At least four species have been identified. This is where things get a bit confused. Most of the species *could* be on our ancestral line. But which? Palaeontologists call this the "muddle in the middle". Some argue that one of the species could be directly in the line leading to more recent human species but others argue that other species are needed to cover the gap - an African fossil called *Homo habilis* is generally favoured in this interpretation. It's a difficult problem which I hope I can outline by analogy.

Let's assume you are given a group of words and you're told they all come from the same sentence, but there are other words in the sentence that you haven't been given. Your task is to reconstruct the sentence. You do the best you can and then you're given some more words from the same sentence. Sometimes it helps, sometimes you have to nearly start over. That's what reconstructing the fossil record is like.

After *Homo habilis* we come to another group of species, of the which the most commonly found is *Homo erectus* (pictured at the start). This was the first human species to leave Africa and fossils have been found in Europe and Asia. *H erectus* was entirely bipedal, made and used stone tools and may have made fire. In this group of species we find *Homo antecessor* (right), our footprint maker at Happisburgh. It seems to have been a family walking across the mud. It wasn't coast then as we were still joined to the rest of Europe. Most likely this was river landscape - most of the major rivers of Britain and Europe joined in this low-lying plain. *Homo antecessor* didn't stay and develop in Britain. The succession of Ice Ages saw to that, making most of Europe a frozen desert.

H. erectus in Europe is the direct ancestor of Neanderthal Man and evolved outside Europe. The last remains (not all fossils) date to about 40,000 years ago so we can use radiocarbon dating and DNA analysis. The Neanderthals have had a bad press in the past, being depicted as brutish and stupid. But they were well adapted to the challenging environment of Ice Age Europe and Asia. They made tools and fire, made quite intricate jewellery and buried their dead with rituals. They also had bigger brains than modern humans and stood a little taller. The physiology and DNA strongly suggest that they could speak. We don't know why they died out. As the Neanderthals were developing in Europe, modern humans were evolving in Africa, also from *H. erectus*. Eventually they moved out of Africa as the ice receded and we know that they interbred with Neanderthals (but not in Africa - modern human DNA does not contain Neanderthal genes in sub-Saharan Africa). Which brings us to now!

I still find some people who say to me "well, they haven't found the missing link have they?" But that's the wrong question - we have many potential links and many pathways from 7 million years ago. The problem is choosing the *right* pathway. New fossil discoveries will undoubtedly tweak the current interpretation but the general outline is clear and I would argue, indisputable. □



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Dersingham Day Centre by Alice Worth



The Day Centre has been busy since I last reported and, despite some very cold Wednesdays, most Members have been able to attend each week. Some unfortunately have been absent through illness. Hopefully, they will be back with us again soon.

On the 11th February two buses took us all to the United Services Club in Hunstanton for Lunch. This is a particularly popular venue with Members and Volunteers alike and our latest visit didn't disappoint. Tea or coffee was served



on our arrival, followed by a two course lunch at 12.00 noon. It is always good, after such an outing, to hear positive comments from everyone and I am sure we will be making another visit later in the year – hopefully when it is warm and sunny.

Our longest serving Member, Vi Woodbridge, celebrated her 95th Birthday on the 21st February but, before that, on the 18th February we celebrated this event with her at the Day Centre. After lunch she had arranged for Leigh Murfet to come and entertain us all, as he had done on her 90th Birthday at the old Community Centre in Dersingham. We all had a lovely happy afternoon singing and dancing along to Leigh's music. The afternoon finished with tea and a birthday cake, made and personalized with daffodils and, of course Violets by Alison Girling. Thank you Vi from all your friends at the Day Centre for a lovely afternoon.

On the 25th February we had a quiz afternoon, which we hope to repeat on alternate months with our Bingo sessions. The quiz proved very popular but was over in half an hour, so next time there will be more questions with a break for tea half way through.

At the time of writing we look forward to celebrating Betty Ede's 99th birthday on the 4th March, two days in advance of her actual birthday on the 6th March. Betty has asked that we have The Village Fryer come and cook our lunch at her expense. I am sure we will all enjoy the day and go home well fed and watered. Thank you Betty.

Easter will soon be with us and so the Members and Volunteers of the Day Centre, wish you all a Very Happy Easter.

Alice Worth □



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Old Picture Corner from Tony Bubb

We are leaving the parish this time with a view of the pier and the 'cross' published in 1916. There is no large pierhead building yet and the old man well wrapped up probably suggests a winter scene but on the other hand it could be mid summer.



This picture of Lynn's Tuesday Market Place looks to be taken on a much warmer spring day. The cars suggest a date of the early 70's. How much more colourful the cars were then, they are all silver or black now except vans that seem to be always white. □



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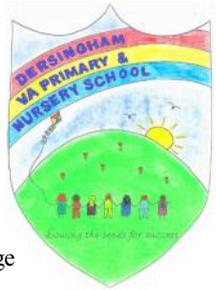


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A34

Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

We have had an exciting time since returning from the Christmas break. The builders have moved in to create a space for our new Biomass Boiler. We will be truly energy efficient and green. Our solar panels are also working well and the children are now able to see how much energy the school is using and hopefully be good Eco-Warriors and help to conserve energy!



Mr Crump has been busy creating a new area in the quad for children to engage in messy play, use the astroturf for a kick around or relax in the arbour and watch the world go by. We are hoping to welcome some new feathered friends into the quad very soon; watch this space for more information!

The Eco-Council are striving for the Green Flag award again and have some wonderful

ideas for improving the school grounds. If there are any willing volunteers in the village who could donate time to help develop our wildlife area, create vegetable beds, chop down our wilderness or help with weeding, then we would be very pleased indeed to hear from you.



Following support from Norfolk County Council, we are excited to announce that we have been able to extend our provision for Quality Early Years childcare to include 0-2 years of age.

In January we opened 'Little Berries', our baby room. The baby room has been specifically adapted and resources bought to educate the very young child to help



Little Berries

them learn and develop, taking those exciting steps through their journey of learning. Children can then transfer at two to 'Peapods', our two year old room, before



moving through to our maintained nursery. It is a fantastic accolade for Dersingham to be able to provide childcare and education in one setting from birth to eleven years of age and we are very excited about the future development of the school!

As we move into spring and enjoy the lengthening days and warmer weather the curriculum encourages us to make the most of our outside space and wonderful woodland surroundings. Years one and two are embarking on a *Green Fingered Fairy Tale* adventure, which will take them on a journey of discovery, following clues through the woods and encouraging them to engage with the wonder of nature, as it springs back to life after a sleepy winter.

Key stage 2 children will also be growing and exploring the marvel of plants and trees, both here and in faraway tropical climes, where amazing plants and creatures thrive.

Red Nose Day fun and frolics gives the children an opportunity to learn about other countries and cultures, engaging in global citizenship and raising money for a tremendous cause. It's always a popular day in the busy school calendar!

By the time the next issue of the Village Voice is due, we should be basking in sunshine and watching the fruits of our labours in the garden and, hopefully, even sampling some of our very own produce! □

PUZZLE CORNER

Answers on page 77

Where is it? What is it?
by Tony Bubb

Sudoku No. 41 by Rob

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



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

CHEYENNE	KERRY	WHO	PAWNEE
HOUSE	CROW	COMPACT	WATERFORD
TELEVISION	DISPOSABLE	CLARE	JONES
KILDARE	WATSON	COMANCHE	UNDERWATER

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Just a Thought...
from Rev Steve Oliver

“Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!”



Words sung and said throughout the Easter period, but what does it mean? It is hard for us to understand how Jesus rose from the dead. We know what happened... the stone was rolled away, the burial clothes were left inside, and an angel was awaiting those who searched. We know that when the women ran to tell the disciples Peter had to be the first to put his head in to see if it was true and after that we know that Jesus appeared to Mary in the garden. These facts we know, but what happened inside the tomb before the stone was rolled away we will never know.

Of course that leads us to a dilemma, because those who doubt need physical proof, and unfortunately we cannot offer it them. But we can tell them what it really means to know that Jesus rose from the dead, to know that death has no more hold over us and that eternal life in the love of our Lord awaits us.

That knowledge is not about physical proof, but about faith; it is not about the mental capacity to think but about the capacity of the heart to believe and to love. Our faith in Christ is heightened and strengthened by the words He spoke to Thomas when he said *“Happy are those who did not see and believed.”* And it is to those words we turn to show those who doubt that we do not need to feel the hands and feet for His wounds because we are His hands and his feet here on earth. We believe in Him because of what He did for us at Easter; the cross was supposed to be the end, but it was only the beginning and now we share in the glorious moment of new life in Christ. And the amazing thing is the infectious excitement felt by those who believed on that first Easter day

continues to be infectious today because our faith, our belief in conquered sin and death, can and will continue to bring a new challenge and purpose to our lives.

Jesus gave us all a great commission when he said *“Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.”* Well we may not be able to go out that far but just over the doorstep may be enough to awaken new life for those who search.

I wish you all a joyous and blessed Easter time. □



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John Lambert's National Service Experiences (No 3)

One of the first things they did when we started the para course was to take us all up in different aircraft for air experience, then we started the course proper. I remember saying to myself "what have I let myself in for?"

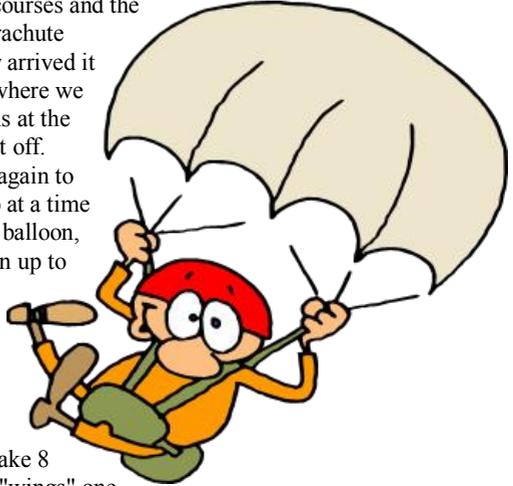
Everything they gave us to do was done with one thing in mind, to break you physically and mentally. As an example, they waited until the weather forecast was for a hot day the next day, then they had us do a 7 mile run with full battle order rifle, tin hat, water bottle, large pack and full ammunition pouches. I finished my run carrying someone else's rifle as well as mine but I was trying not to let them beat me.

The hardest part of the course was where you were divided into teams of eight; each team of eight had to carry a telegraph pole over a two and a quarter mile course, part of which was climbing over a specially selected hill, then the last four hundred yards was deep sand. I honestly thought I was going to die, my lungs seemed as though they were bursting and what made it worse was racing against another team of eight, but fortunately we just won by a few yards.

After what seemed like an eternity of assault courses and the like, they told us we would be doing our first parachute jumps the next day. However, when the next day arrived it was all foggy but we drive down to Watchfield where we saw the "barrage balloon". All of us were nervous at the thought of it but it was too foggy so they called it off.

The next day was a better day so off we went again to Watchfield, this time it was all systems go. Two at a time we climbed into the cage attached to the barrage balloon, then an enormous winch pulls the barrage balloon up to 800 feet, it is a bit eerie, all you can hear is the wind whistling through the cage. As you stand up there looking straight down, all you can see is the Red Cross on top of the ambulance.

When you jump for the first time your legs come up to meet your head then suddenly the parachute opens (what a relief!). You have to make 8 jumps to get in the regiment and to receive your "wings" one of the jumps must be a night jump. Now night jumps are a different kettle of fish altogether, the only thing they did to assist us was they put 3 lights on the "DZ" (dropping zone). If you kept an eye on these lights you could judge within a little when you were going to hit the ground, but in enemy action, you had to chance your luck that it would hold! □



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Cycle Together Sandringham



We are really proud that Cycle Together Sandringham has just won the Sports Event of the Year at this year's KLFM West Norfolk Sports Awards ceremony. Here's why we got it!

Cycle Together Sandringham was born at the end of 2012 when the events team at Leonard Cheshire Disability asked me to help organise a charity cycle ride for them. I'm a volunteer and fundraiser at Park House, their respite hotel at Sandringham, and also a regular road cyclist, so I jumped at the chance. And on a rainy, windy day in July 2013, the first Cycle Together Sandringham took place, with over 500 participants raising more than £18,000 for the benefit of disabled guests at Park House. Of course, a lot of work went into the six months before the event took place. We were able to enlist the support of British Cycling, who were keen to see a sportive (mass participation cycle event) introduced to West Norfolk for the first time. Then there was the invaluable support from Sandringham and West Norfolk Cyclists, who had formed only two years ago to promote road cycling, and by now were up to over 100 members. The Sports Development Unit at the Borough Council were also involved, helping with publicity. The Lynn News and other local papers got behind us with regular articles. And of course, the staff and volunteers at Park House pitched in with enthusiasm.

The day before the event was a hive of activity. There were teams putting out signage for the 10, 20, 50 and 100 mile routes in the scenic and relatively traffic-free back roads up to and along the North Norfolk coast. Feed stations were being set up at Holkham Hall, Gresham's School, Bircham Village Hall and Shernborne Village Hall. Marquees were erected at Park House for registration, refreshments and massage facilities and the start/finish arch and PA systems were put in place. On the day, cyclists started arriving from 7am, with car parking ably marshalled by the local Air Cadets. The 100 milers set off in groups of up to 20 from 8.00 am, followed by the 50 milers at 8.30 and the 10 and 20 milers from 9.00 am. All riders' start and finish times were recorded and subsequently published, with the rain-drenched finishers receiving an enthusiastic welcome as they crossed the line. Those who took part gave an overwhelmingly positive feedback on the day, despite the atrocious weather conditions. They loved the routes, the feed stations, and the overall atmosphere generated by the volunteers at every stage of proceedings.

2014 was similarly successful, as we learned a few lessons from 2013 and were able to make some small but valuable improvements. We again had over 500 entries and raised over £18,000, enabling us to make more improvements to the facilities at Park House and further enhance the quality of the guests' holidays. We are now focused on making 2015, on June 14th, the best yet.

There is a short video of the 2014 event on you tube. To view this, please go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkOgpW5cFcg&feature=youtu.be, or to enter, visit www.leonardcheshire.org/cyclettogether or text 'CYCLE' to 80878.

Phil Davies



Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny

Ponds and Dykes

Watcher all you nice people of Dersingham and beyond; once more it's time to rack my brain to think of something to write about. I see from the February issue that trees have been planted on The Warren and it is planned to make a pond in this area.

What a pity the moat was not saved when construction on this land began. The moat was a small area of water that was surrounded by trees and small bushes; it was a very good place for wildlife with plenty of mallard duck, coot, moorhens, geese and sometimes a swan or two swimming in the water and nesting in the reeds.

At one time Dersingham was a village of many dykes, ditches and ponds but most of them have disappeared or been filled in, like Bauldings Moat. How many years the moat had been there I do not know but it was there when my dad was a lad and that's over one hundred years ago. There was a nice pond in the middle of the meadow in front of Hawthorn Cottages near Linford's Corner (The Green). As you went down Chapel Road on the left near the pottery, there was a large house called The Oaks that got burnt down; right opposite, where Clayton Close is today, there was another meadow with a pond in the middle. Carry on down Chapel Road and just past the Red Pumps garage turn right into Hall Drive and then into St Nicholas Close; here was a meadow with a pond up the top corner where a Mr Jacobs kept his chickens.

The next pond is out of the way a bit so not many people know of it. If you went up Fern Hill then turn right at the top, then go down Sugar Lane, you come to Hill Farm House; just below the house is another small pond. I reckon the best-known pond of all in the village, especially for the children, was at the Emblems; this pond is situated opposite the Feathers Hotel on the wasteland right over the playground wall of the old school (Bottom School). This was a wonderful place to play, especially in the wintertime when the pond froze over; and when there was snow you could sledge down the slopes near the wood, and in the springtime these slopes would be covered with primroses. The last pond that I can remember was on the waste ground next to Parkers Stores, just before you got to the entrance to the playing fields.

Of course there were many dykes and ditches in the village. One ditch went right from Dodds Hill past Parkers Stores, along the top of Brooke Road past Albert Victor Cottage, under the main road (Lynn Road) and down The Drift to the marshes. Another pretty little stream ran from the old water works in Dersingham woods across the middle of the Shut-up Common and down to Eight Mile Stone Corner, where it went under the road and into a large dyke, then across Dersingham Fen under the railway line (now by-pass) and on into Lifeboat Creek. If any of you old Dersingham boys out there can think of any other significant streams, ditches, dykes or ponds, please let me know. Now I know some one will say, 'Hey Dick, what is the difference between a ditch and a dyke?' Well, a ditch is a long narrow trench or furrow dug for drainage or to mark a boundary line, where a dyke is an embankment of earth or rock to prevent flooding. That's why down the marsh they are called dykes and around the village they are called ditches.

Royal Norfolk Show

I was talking to an old boy who had moved down this way from Coventry and he asked me what the Royal Norfolk Show was like and what it was all about. Well I said it is okay if you don't mind walking about and spending a bit of money as it is not a cheap day out.

When the show was first started it was intended for the farmers and their workers as a day out; when I was a lad we got a day off school so as we could go to it and have a look at all the cattle, pigs, goats, horses, sheep and other animals. Nowadays it has got rather more commercialised with the emphasis on farm machinery like tractors, combines, cars and trucks, though there is still a good mix of farm animals and country displays.

When the show first started it was put on at a different location every year and it was always a two-day show, where others around the country are either on for three days or one day.

In 1938 it was held in the park at Old Hunstanton. The track to the park from Hunstanton was in bad repair so before the Show it was made up with chalk from a nearby pit. The two days of the Show were warm and windy, so all the ladies and gentlemen that went to the show dressed up in their Sunday best

complained as they got covered in white dust. The nearest the show has been to Dersingham was when it was staged at Anmer in 1950. My father had not been out of the army long and we went there on our bikes as his old regiment the Kings Troop Royal Artillery were giving a display there.

I don't think it has ever been to Sandringham. It has been to Cromer, Keswick Park near Norwich and Sennowe Park near Fakenham. In 1957 it was decided to give it a permanent home so it was held at Costessey Park on the outskirts of Norwich and it has been there ever since.

But it is not like it used to be; it used to be a good old get together once a year for all the farm workers to have a good old mardle and a few pints of beer in the most popular place on the show ground, the beer tent.



Sandringham

People often ask me how big Sandringham Estate is and how many acres it covers. Well way back in 1862, when it was purchased for the then Prince of Wales, it only covered the parishes of Sandringham, Babingley, West Newton, Wolferton and also one very good farm in Dersingham (Manor Farm), which in all extended to 7,000 acres; but over the years a lot more land has been purchased so the estate now covers 20,000 acres and now also takes in the parishes of Anmer, Appleton, the three Birchams, Flitcham, Fring, Shernborne and Harpley Dams. I can remember in 1964 when 350 acres of marshland were reclaimed and added to Wolferton Farm.

WW2 evacuees

A friend of mine rang me up the other day and asked if I could remember if there were any evacuees here during the second world war. Well yes there was, but I can only remember one family.

Their name was Egbert and they were evacuated here from London, though when the bombing started people were evacuated from many big cities like Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, Southampton and many other cities.

The Egbert family consisted of Mrs Egbert, daughter Joan and son Tom when they first came to Dersingham. They lodged with an elderly couple by the name of Bush. Mr. Bush was a retired Metropolitan policeman and he retired down here before the war. They did not stay there long; their next lodgings were at the Vicarage where they stayed until they got a cottage, one of the Church Row cottages in Shernborne Road. After the war Mrs Egbert went to work as a dinner lady at the top school (Saint George's). Tom, who was older than me I think, went to work at Billy Smith's farm (Hill House Farm), then I think he joined the RAF. Joan was the same age as me and after she left school she and her mother went back to London. If any one can remember the Egberts or any other people who were evacuated to Dersingham, please put a bit in the Village Voice, telling us what you know of them.

I will finish off this month with a well-known Norfolk saying:

Bor du yow du, as your old father used to du ou wouldn't de as yew du du.

Well we have eaten all the pheasants and partridges, except for the ones in the freezer but get another month and we shall be after all those big, juicy cockles. All the best. **Dick** □

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Dersingham Walking Group

Welcome to the Dersingham Walking Group, which provides regular guided walks round the local countryside. We're heading into Spring now, although it's pretty chilly and grey as I'm writing this. There are some good walks to look forward to with three in April. Castle Acre is a little outside our usual radius, but it's a charming village and there's the promise of a tea shop visit at the end. Our other two walks start in Dersingham, including a Saturday evening stroll to catch the high spring tide which should be good for displays of wading birds flocking in.

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! Details of our next walks are:

Sunday 12th April 2.00pm

Starting point: Ling House Road near junction with Admiral's Drive.

Grid ref: TF 570 330

A circuit round the Peddars Way and Shernborne. **Length of walk:** 4 miles

Leader: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333

Saturday 18th April 5.00pm

Starting point: The old station, Station Rd Dersingham.

Grid ref: TF 680 307 **Length of walk:** 6 miles (allow 3 hours)

A walk to the RSPB Reserve to see wading birds and a high Spring tide. (Please note that for this one dogs must be kept on a lead at all times).

Leaders: Steve & Lindsey Davis 01485 543138

Wednesday 29th April 1.30pm

Starting point: Castle Acre car park by the Bailey Gate.

Grid ref: TF 817 151

Length of walk: 5.5 miles

A Castle Acre and the River Nar walk ending at a tea shop.

Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638

Wednesday 13th May 2.00pm

Starting point: Thornham church.

Grid ref: TF 733 434

Thornham and the coast path.

Length of walk: 4.5 miles

Leader: Pat Reed 01485 540757

Full walks programme available from the announcements page of 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 01485 541333—Walking Group Co-ordinator □





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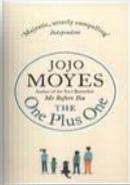
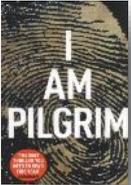


Carers' Support group

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, at Dersingham Library on the first Tuesday of the month from 1-3pm. For more information please contact **01603 763556** or

norfolk@alzheimers.co.uk

Dersingham Library's Great Big Read—Starting 23rd March



For this year's Big Read we have chosen two very different titles:

The One Plus One by Jojo Moyes

and

I Am Pilgrim by Terry Hayes.

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

Read aloud together at Dersingham Library

Join us for an hour and a half of relaxation: listen while someone reads aloud stories and poems. Share your responses over a cup of tea or just enjoy having someone read to you. Fridays from **10.30 - 12 on 10th April until 15th May**. Meet others, feel uplifted and enjoy something new. Everyone welcome. Please book your place on **01485 540181** or ask in the library.

Brave New Reads 2015

In May we'll be working with the Writers' Centre Norwich once again to promote 6 new reads:

Prayers for the Stolen by Jennifer Clement (Fiction)

Fallen Land by Patrick Flanery (Fiction)

Any Other Mouth by Anneliese Mackintosh (Fiction/Short Stories)

Badgerlands by Patrick Barkham (Non-fiction)

The Dead Lake by Hamid Ismailov (Translation)

Black Country by Liz Berry (Poetry)

The launch event will be on **Thursday 14th May from 3-7pm.**

Brave new Reads - read aloud! **Monday 18th May 6-7pm.**

Listen to extracts from the 6 reads and share your comments and reactions.

Brave new reads Book Club night **Monday 20th July 6-7pm.**

A Book Club dedicated exclusively to reading and discussing the six books involved in the programme. If you've read the books, then come along and share your views with other readers.

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Phobbies Welcomes the Queen

Phobbies, a friendly hobbies club for adults with physical disabilities, this year celebrates its 30th Anniversary. On Thursday 5th February, the Queen was welcomed to the club at its regular venue in St Nicholas Church Hall by Chairman Marguerite Wright, Vice Chairman Cyril Critchett and founding President Ann Butler. Her Majesty then met other members, viewing and discussing their many craft items on display.

Phobbies, meet every Thursday from 10am to 3pm in the Church Hall and would like to welcome you to a coffee morning on **Thursday 26th March. Marguerite Wright—01485 541484**

Parish Council Training Night

In February, the Parish Council organised a training session for all Members, provided by Di Dann, former Clerk to Holt Town Council and now a trainer, on behalf of the Norfolk Association of Local Councils.

Some newer Councillors had not yet been on any training whilst, for others, it served as a refresher.

The session covered meetings, finances, and powers, and also provided opportunities for Councillors to ask questions on general items or those more specific to Dersingham.

Whole Council Training means we all hear the same message at the same time, and is good for team building. Members were

able to socialise before and after the meeting.

Cllr Rex Makemson said *"I found the whole evening to be extremely helpful and informative. As a newbie it gave me a great insight into the mechanics of being a councillor as well as an opportunity of meeting others that I had not met previously. In an environment of this nature it was easy to ask questions without looking an idiot and listening to questions from others that I wouldn't have thought of until too late."*



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All seemed very impressed by Di Dann's confident delivery and informative, in-depth knowledge of council matters and procedures.

We hope to do some more training to cover specific subjects in more depth once we have identified further needs. A lot will depend, of course, upon the forthcoming election after which we may possibly have a brand new team of councillors to train up, or it may be just the same old faces. **Cllr Sue Payne-Chair** □

Up to the residents of Dersingham really! Ed.

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The Sandringham Newsletter

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



Spring is on the way not only in the gardens, with snowdrops and aconites blooming, but also in the pigeon lofts, where the first eggs of the season have been laid. Around the Gardens, too, birds are starting to sing and the woodpeckers are beginning their distinctive drumming – all of them advertising and defending territories.

Farm staff were busy in December loading up hundreds of tonnes of this year's grain harvest – wheat, barley and organic oats – for transport to grain merchants. They also continued their usual winter work of overhauling farm machinery in preparation for Spring. Some seventeen thousand blackcurrant cuttings of three varieties were planted as part of their continuing programme of replacing older plantings with new and more vigorous plants. The sugar beet harvest continued, helped by the weather – in contrast to last year's mild but very wet conditions which made it impossible to get farm machinery into the fields, the weather so far this year has been cold but dry.

In the Gardens, most of last autumn's fallen leaves were collected and shredded into compost. Last year's leaf mould was used to mulch the North Garden and its hedges. Gardeners continued the ongoing work of repairing turf and grass verges, and relaying gravel and carr-stone edges along the major pathways. The annual tasks of pruning the red-twigged limes in the North Garden and the wall shrubs in the Walled Garden are under way, and some groups of Rhododendron and Laurel near the Lower Lake have been pruned hard to encourage vigorous regrowth following some years when they were held back by Rhododendron ponticum.

The shops and restaurants at the Visitor Centre were very busy in the run-up to Christmas. Staff there were very pleased to welcome guests to the Norfolk Hospice's annual Light Up A Life service held in the main restaurant, and the Ormiston Trust, which works to support children and young people, held a carol service in Sandringham Church, with mulled wine and mince pies served in the main restaurant.

Things are quieter at the Visitor Centre now, and staff are using the lull to get refurbishment works done, including repainting, deep cleaning and work to upgrade the Restaurant toilets, to be ready for what looks likely to be a very busy season ahead. □



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Dersingham Open Gardens and Art Trail 2015

by Stephen Martyn

Preparations are well in hand for this year's Dersingham Open Gardens, which is all set to be a great event. Make sure you put **Sunday and Monday 24th – 25th May** in your diaries, because there is plenty to entice you out.

There'll be around fifteen gardens to wander round and see what the owners have been doing on their plots. Some are new for this year and some are old familiar friends. Several of those gardens will belong to members of the Dersingham Art Trail, so that you can pop into their studios and view paintings, photography, crafts and pottery. Art and craftwork will be for sale and most artists will have prints and greetings cards available too.

There will be a variety of stalls selling plants, foods and more. Some of these will be clustered round the Church Hall, which is the hub of the event, and some will be in the actual gardens themselves. All gardens and studios will be clearly signposted and you will get a new full colour guide and map with your ticket.

With such a grand tour of the village you will certainly need some refreshment, and the

catering team will be on duty in the church hall. Lunches are available in addition to the usual delicious cream teas, and some of the participating gardens will also be serving light refreshments. If it's too much to walk round all the locations, there'll be a free hop-on-hop-off bus service, which was very popular last year.

For all this, the price of a ticket is only **£5** on the day, or **£4** if you buy yours in advance from the Post Office. All gardens and studios will open from 11am until 5pm on the Sunday and Monday. It's a grand event not to be missed!

The website DersinghamOpenGardens.co.uk has the latest on everything happening and will be regularly updated over the coming weeks. There are still opportunities for artists or craft workers to join the Art Trail, new gardens to come on board, or maybe for selling your wares at a stall. □



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The Lucy Lavers Return Update

In early May 2015 *Lucy Lavers* will leave Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, calling at Lowestoft, Aldeburgh, Levington, Harwich, Ramsgate, and finally crossing the Channel to Dunkirk. The aim is to tell her story in each port and to encourage people, especially young people, to learn about the Dunkirk evacuation and maritime history. At each port, visitors can board *Lucy Lavers*, experience being on this 1940 lifeboat and feel the enormity of the events she took part in.



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ALDEBURGH	MAY 11	(Arrives), 12, 13,
LEVINGTON	MAY 14, 15	
HARWICH	MAY 15, 16	
RAMSGATE	MAY 18, 19, 20	
DUNKIRK	MAY 22, 23, 24	



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We're seeking support - the voyage from Wells-next-the-Sea is 385 nautical miles and will cost £90 per mile. To donate text **LLDQ01 £3 to 70070** or for more information visit:

rescuewoodenboats.com.

Her story will continue to be told, through films, photographs and displays at the Rescue Wooden Boats Visitor Centre in Stiffkey, Norfolk, NR23 1QF – open at weekends, 10am – 4pm throughout the winter months and online.

For further information contact: Lucy Geering, Dunkirk Voyage PR

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Dersingham Institute Bowls Club



With the arrival of the lighter evenings and slightly warmer weather, bowlers are eagerly anticipating the start of the new season. Weather permitting the green will open at 2.00pm on Saturday 11th April 2015 with the usual Saturday roll up. Prior to the opening Saturday two working parties have been arranged for Saturday 28th March and Saturday 4th April commencing at 9.00am on both days. Any member who can spare a couple of hours to tackle the usual pre season jobs would be most welcome.

There will also be an opportunity for members to pay their membership fees on Saturday 4th April between 10.00am and 2.00pm. Fees remain the same as last year.

Although there is currently a short waiting list for new membership the Club always welcomes visitors and anyone interested in finding out more can call in on a Wednesday or Saturday afternoon where they can be assured of a friendly reception and even a cup of tea! **Helen Young** □



Community Access Defibrillator

Thanks to a donation from the East of England Co-operative Society the village will shortly have a community access defibrillator which will be sited at the social club. Installation will take place in the coming weeks.

The idea is that, in a medical emergency, anyone will be able to access the defibrillator and use it if required. Apparently if someone is having a heart attack their chances of survival reduce by 10% every minute until they receive medical assistance.

Defibrillators are becoming much more common nowadays and they can often be found in large supermarkets, train stations and football stadiums. By having the equipment in a reasonably

central location it is hoped that if it is ever needed then it can be accessed quickly.

The social club are hoping to run some taster sessions in the next few months aiming to give people a very brief insight into how it works, and already there has been a number of groups interested in taking part.

If you would like to know more about these sessions you can contact **Angie Mitchell** at the social club or email paul.edwards@dersingham.org. □





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Outdoor Learning at the Heart of Ingoldisthorpe Primary School

Learning outdoors is at the heart of the local school, Ingoldisthorpe C of E Primary. Come rain or shine, the children get the opportunity to learn from their environment beyond the classroom.

Every child has a pair of wellie boots in school. KS1 children have wet weather suits, so that they can brave the elements. Some of the school's attractive outdoor facilities include a trim-trail, sports' field, and quiet areas with natural wooden benches.

Part of the outdoor experience includes bug cities, a willow arbour and amphitheatre cut into the grass so

that children can watch and perform plays outdoors.

The outdoor learning theme begins as soon as the children join the school, with a wide range of outdoor equipment used during the early years. These include a fully-equipped wooden Wendy house, trikes and tractors, outdoor musical equipment, digging and planting areas, a beautiful hand-crafted story-tellers chair and tractor tyre seats for children to use sit on during story time.

Learning outside provides children with many cross-curricular opportunities, including Maths, English, Science, Geography, PE and RE. We use our outdoor reflective areas for quiet time, where children can relax and think.

The school is well-known for its links with Titchwell Nature reserve, and each year hosts a Birdwatch Week. The children are expertly led by Mr and Mrs Bysouth, volunteers from the RSPB Titchwell

Nature Reserve. Most bird watching revolves around the school's specially designed bird hide, equipped with binoculars and bird identification charts. Many children demonstrate impressive knowledge of birds.

As well as tally charts, graphs and tables showing the numbers of different types of birds spotted, the children upload the results of their observations to the national Bird Watch campaign. This helps track the kinds of bird life in the local area.

It is key to get the children outdoors, fully-engaged with their environment and we are proud of our outdoor provision and the links we have with Titchwell Nature Reserve. The children love to learn from nature, and love the fun activities on offer.

Sean Wright – Headmaster □



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The Story of Appleton—Part Two

by Elizabeth Fiddick

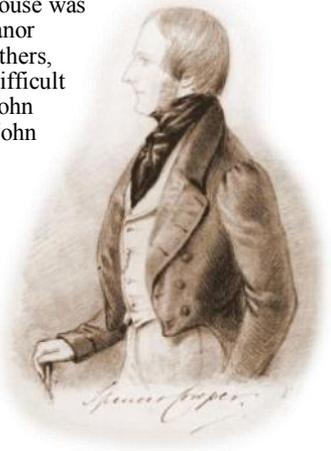


I start the second part of my story of Appleton in the nineteenth century. The early years of this century were a turbulent time in our history when we were fighting against the forces of Napoleon Bonaparte or “Boney” as he was usually called here. He was the bogey man held up to keep unruly children in order as the constant threat of invasion by his forces filled everyone with dread. In early 1899 the vicar of Dersingham wrote in the church magazine that Maria Hudson of Dersingham, who had died in 1898 aged 94, could remember when the inhabitants of this part of Norfolk had looked anxiously out to sea for the fleet of ships with which “Boney” had threatened to invade England. She remembered that people kept their “bits of silver” packed up ready to hide or carry away at a moment’s notice. In 1807 it is recorded that 30 men from Dersingham were liable to be enlisted. There was constant news of the victories and defeats of the army as Wellington battled in Portugal and Spain. Reports of the naval battles under the great Admiral Nelson were eagerly sought culminating in the bitter sweet victory at Trafalgar when Nelson lost his life. Dersingham residents collected £6.16s. 6d. for “the relief and benefit of the brave men killed and the wounded sufferers in the battle of Waterloo.” However it was not just the effects of this war the ordinary people had to endure for several severe winters had meant harvests had failed causing immense suffering to the poorest of the nation. The date stone on the Snettisham water mill records that it was erected in 1800 during a “time of great scarcity”. Elsewhere in the Northern industrial areas there were thousands out of work depending on very inadequate poor relief. It was the time of the Luddites and the destruction of the new machinery which they considered robbed the workers of their jobs.

At the start of the nineteenth century the small village of Appleton recorded in the Domesday Book no longer existed. The fine Tudor house of the Pastons had long since burnt to the ground and weeds, undergrowth and even farm animals invaded the crumbling ruins of the once small but beautiful church of St Mary. In all the records now it is referred to as an “ancient decayed Parish” that has no separate entry but is linked with Flitcham. The small estate of the Pastons became part of the larger Sandringham estate when the Paston-Bedingfields sold their holdings in Appleton to the Cobbes of Sandringham who subsequently sold them on to James Hoste in 1686. James Hoste’s daughter married Cornish Henley of Leigh House in Somerset and they made Sandringham their home. When Henley died his son Henry inherited the estate and, on his death in 1833, the estate was bought by John Motteux. Motteux never lived there and finally left the estate to the Hon. Charles Spencer Cowper the step son of the Prime Minister Lord Palmerston.

When Spencer Cowper took over the Sandringham estate Appleton had just two farms and a couple of cottages. One farm of 280 acres was run by William Griggs. He employed 8 men and 4 boys. He lived there with his mother Maria, Emily Greenacre, the cook, and Catherine Flegg, the housemaid. Catherine was a Dersingham girl, daughter to John Flegg a wheelwright. The other farm is of greater interest to us as the farmhouse was the one built among and from the ruins of the Pastons fine Tudor Manor after it was destroyed by fire in 1707. This farm was run by two brothers, John and William Wetherell. It seems from the records, which are difficult to read, that they had 900 acres and employed 6 boys and 26 men. John and William lived with their niece Ann who acted as Housekeeper, John Long a nephew, plus two servants, a housemaid and a dairy maid.

It was in 1862 that Spencer Cowper decided to sell the estate and, as we know, Queen Victoria was keen to buy it for her son Edward, the Prince of Wales. Edward caused Victoria more trouble than the rest of her children put together as he pursued pleasure of all kinds. He frequented racecourses and casinos, enjoyed lavish entertainment and frequent mistresses. Prince Albert once commented “I have never in my life met such a thorough and cunning lazybones.” Sandringham it was hoped would provide him with a home far from the excesses of London life. Edward visited Sandringham on the 3rd February 1862 and, as what he saw pleased him, he bought the estate for “shooting purposes” on



22nd February. Spencer Cowper then decided action needed to be taken at Appleton before the Prince moved in. So he evicted “two mean old men” from what was described as the run down rat infested Appleton Hall. This would have been the 155 year old farm house run by the Wetherell brothers. Spencer Cowper now looked around for more suitable tenants.

The story now shifts to Sedgeford Hall just a few miles from Appleton where Gerard Cresswell a tenant farmer worked about 160 acres. He was just 24 years old and lived at the Hall with his mother Rachel, and Charlotte and Edith his two young nieces. Also living there were his brothers Samuel, a Captain in the Royal Navy, and Oswald a Lieutenant. The Hall was a substantial property and the family employed a housekeeper Harriet Lancaster, two housemaids, Susan Youngs and Elizabeth Duffy and Henry Adcock a footman. John Green was their coachman and Sarah Shore was nursemaid to the two young girls. On the 24th April 1862 Gerard married Louise Hagge and they settled to live happily at the Hall. Spencer Cowper clearly thought they were the right sort to live on what would be a royal estate so he offered Gerard the tenancy at Appleton. The Cresswell family were impressed by the idea and persuaded Gerard and Louise that they should take up the tenancy. Thus a short time after their marriage they left the comforts of Sedgeford Hall to spend a very dark uncomfortable autumn and winter at Appleton Hall. Meanwhile Edward had become engaged to Princess Alexandra and he came to Sandringham for Christmas 1862. He went over to Appleton with the Queen’s land steward from Osborne House. Edward just laughed when he saw the state of Appleton Hall but the land steward was horrified and insisted that it should be demolished and rebuilt according Gerard and Louise’s plans. Edward married Alexandra in March 1863 and Appleton was rebuilt that summer. A request was made by an old lady, a member of the Paston family, that the ruined church should be preserved to honour the memory of the Pastons who were buried there and because it had been a place where pilgrims to Walsingham had stayed. Edward agreed and had the iron railings placed around the church and the remains of the Holywell to protect them.

Louise and Gerard moved into their newly built home which was a very pleasant though not very grand house. It had twenty rooms, four of which were sitting rooms, and there was also a conservatory. It was situated in parkland and over the coming years the garden was improved and landscaped.



However life at Appleton was going to prove far more difficult and contentious than they could have imagined. Tragedy struck on the 10th April 1863 when their baby daughter died at just 9 months. In the autumn of that year, with the arrival of the railway line from King’s Lynn, Edward hosted his first shooting party for his birthday. He had a perfect passion for shooting and nothing was allowed to interfere with it. Gamekeepers in uniform, the “velveteens” from Germany tramped over the whole estate. Farmers like Gerard were not allowed to question them if they destroyed crops, rearranged hedges and created mayhem over their farms. On partridge and pheasant driving days village boys trampled down everything in their path. This happened every year and Gerard’s farm was so badly affected that he became seriously depressed and ill. On 9th October 1865 Louise gave birth to a son who was also named Gerard but in spite of this happy event Gerard Senior died of a fever on the 27th October aged only 28. He was buried at North Runcton. The farm was then managed by a Mr Broome.

Louise took Edward and the land agent Edward Beck to court for the widespread damage to her crops. The case was heard in Lynn and Louise won with damages awarded against the estate, but they paid only half. This was raised in Parliament by her MP Clare Sewell Read and relations between Louise and the Prince were very strained. Beck accused Louise of killing 70 pheasants with the fox cubs he had asked her to rear but this was proved to be false. The Prince of Wales then “forgave” Louise and the relationship between Appleton and Sandringham improved.

In 1870 Sandringham was rebuilt and Louise attended the opening Ball. In 1871 Princess Alexandra lost her baby Alexander, who lived only twenty four hours and was buried near the

church. Louise felt a kinship with Alexandra as they had both lost infant children and they became good friends. Alexandra often went to Appleton to relax with Louise whose son Gerard was the same age as Alexandra's children and often went to the birthday parties at the "big House". Edward loved Sandringham and held three annual Balls, one each for the County, the farmers and the servants. Louise was invited to every one and danced so much with the Prince that tongues were soon wagging and rumours flying.

However the happy atmosphere between Appleton and Sandringham did not last as Louise fell out of favour again. The owner of a nearby estate had refused the Prince permission to shoot over his land and, as he was a friend of Louise, Edward thought she was behind the refusal. This could have been George Brereton who ran the neighbouring farm in Appleton of some 800 acres. The allegation was not true but then Edward, afraid of the typhoid that he had in 1870, tapped a freshwater spring on Louise's land so that pure water could be piped to Sandringham. This may have been from the Holywell mentioned in the last article and although it caused great inconvenience to Louise she put up with it. Nevertheless Prince "Eddy" caught typhoid and nearly died. Although he recovered Louise was blamed and Alexandra although sympathetic could do little to help and the people who had previously supported Louise now avoided her so that she felt very isolated and alone. To add to her problems and to all the local farmers the harvests of 1876, 77, 78, and 79 were terrible and, as the Prince's shooting parties still ruined what ever crops survived, Louise eventually went bankrupt. All her effects were sold on October 1st 1880 and Louise left Appleton and sailed to America. She travelled widely there but returned in 1886 to publish as book, "Eighteen years on the Sandringham Estate". Beck the agent tried to buy up all the copies so that the story did not become public but a few survived. Louise returned to America and died in Abilene Texas on July 2nd 1916 aged 86. Wells Fargo brought her body back and she was buried at North Runciton with her husband.



We now come to the last chapter in the story of Appleton House. In 1896 Edward's daughter Princess Maud of Wales married her first cousin Prince Carl of Denmark. Edward gave the couple Appleton House so that Maud would always have a base in England to which she could return which she did three or four times a year. Maud loved the house and wrote, "Our little house is a perfect paradise, it all seems like a dream, that we are here at last, that it is so beautiful and light, every single room is so clean and fresh and such wonderful care has been taken of my things as we have two very able maids who are here year round." Maud and Carl were living at Appleton when she gave birth to their only child Prince Alexander.

The story of Appleton now becomes part of the history of the Scandinavian counties particularly that of Norway. It is not possible in this short article to explain the changing relationships between Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland over the centuries. Norway was not always a fully independent country but had been united with Denmark. After 1814 and the defeat of Napoleon, Denmark ceded Norway to Sweden and the Swedish King appointed a *stadtholder* or governor for

Norway. However by 1905 Norway was determined to gain full independence and negotiations were underway with Sweden for this to happen. There were many thorny issues to be decided about the new constitution and the head of state. The Norwegian government made contact with Prince Carl of Denmark to become the King of Norway, However many wished to abolish the monarchy and Prince Carl declared that he wanted to know where the people of Norway stood before he would accept the crown. A new *plebiscite* was held and a vast majority voted for the monarchy. Prince Carl took the name Haakon VII and the following year he and our own Princess Maud were crowned the new King and Queen of Norway in the ancient cathedral of Trondheim. They also changed the name of their son from Alexander to Olav and in due course he became King Olav V. The present King Harald of Norway is his son. The family continued to visit Appleton regularly. Queen Maud died in London on 2nd November 1938 and King Haakon returned Appleton House to George VI. In January 1939 Crown Prince Olav visited the house "to

express his gratitude” to the Appleton House staff for their faithful service to Queen Maud.

During the Second World War the royal family often stayed at Appleton House rather than opening up Sandringham. Queen Mary stayed there in 1946 and 47 but after this it ceased to be a Royal residence and fell into disrepair. It had been surrounded by an air raid structure during the war but it was considered too expensive to remove so finally in July 1984 Appleton House was torn down. So if you are travelling on the road to Hillington why not take a few minutes and drive up the narrow road to St Mary’s Church. Walk through into the church and, to borrow a phrase from Shakespeare, “*Let us on your imaginary forces work.*” Restore the church to its former glory and look through the North door to see again the Pastons Tudor Mansion or Queen Maud’s house just opposite. Pass through the porch on the south side, look at the lush pasture land and imagine the waters of the Holywell supplying the residents of the small village spread below you as they tend their pigs and sheep. Perhaps in the distance you will see the orchards that gave this little place its name. □

The Lavender Lacemakers Revving it Up!

Throughout 2014 the Lavender Lacemakers of Dersingham had an ongoing fund-raising effort for the *Blood Bikers*, a worthwhile cause, who deliver blood, vaccinations and other lifesavers items from one hospital to another often in the early hours of the morning. Every time we went out demonstrating our craft, we laid out a table of all our wares to sell. The final amount raised, which was announced at our Christmas Dinner, was an amazing £1,100, much to the Bikers’ delight too.

In the two previous years we supported *Help the Heroes* and the *Lifeboats of Hunstanton* respectively, but this year are having a break from this time-consuming work. **Lynn Hallifax** □



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Delicate Wash!

Life on earth is heavily dependent on its oceanic ecosystems. But our seas are under attack! Overfishing, habitat loss and climate change are all challenging the sustainability of our marine environments and their future.

Rising global temperatures are warming the oceans. As the oceans warm they expand and sea levels rise. This precipitates increased wave-tide action along shorelines and accelerates erosion of natural structures such as the cliffs and sand dunes of the north Norfolk coast.

Wind, wave and surge action may increase in intensity in conjunction with coastal storms, as seen in the winter of 2013. Where possible, strategies are in place to reduce the impact of storm surges along the north Norfolk coastline and to protect low lying inland areas from flooding during storms. But this can still leave oceanic inhabitants vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

In recent months, a number of sunfish have been seen washed up on local beaches between Heacham and Titchwell Marsh. This bony fish is a deep sea inhabitant usually found in waters more temperate than the north sea. Primarily feeding on jellyfish the sunfish will dive to extreme depths returning to the surface periodically to sunbathe, hence its colloquial name of sunfish.

Scientists remain bemused by the sporadic appearance of these unusual ocean inhabitants as they are not itinerant by nature. However, it is possible that warming seas mean sunfish are moving their feeding grounds further north. The increase of stronger oceanic wind and currents may also be pushing the sunfish off course into the cooler waters of the Wash where they are vulnerable to cold stun.

The Wash is historically an important breeding ground for shellfish such as cockles, mussels and shrimp as well as common terns. The shellfish and marine invertebrates provide a staple diet for both endemic and migrating birds which drive the biannual birding spectacles at RSPB Snettisham. However, it is possible that these internationally renowned events are attracting less avian visitors.

Conservationists believe that numbers of wading and seabirds around Britain's shoreline are declining and that climate change could be a contributing factor. Studies show that wintering populations of some species are shifting northwards probably in response to milder winters.

There is increasing scientific evidence to show that burning fossil fuels and natural gas is altering the earth's climate. The contribution of any energy source to global warming is measured by its carbon emissions and in the UK more than 15% of carbon emissions come directly from the residential sector. We can all reduce this figure by using energy saving devices, turning the central heating thermostat down and by turning off lights in empty rooms.

On 28th March millions of households across Britain will be turning off their lights between 8:30 and 9:30 pm in support of Earth Hour. This may seem one small step in our battle against the impact of global warming, but maybe spending one hour in the dark is worth it if we can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Carrie Carey, Visitor Experience Manager □



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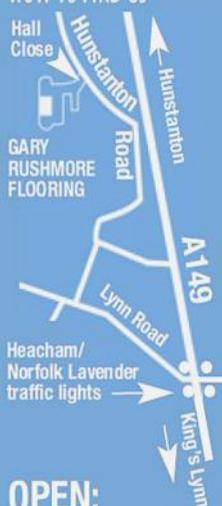
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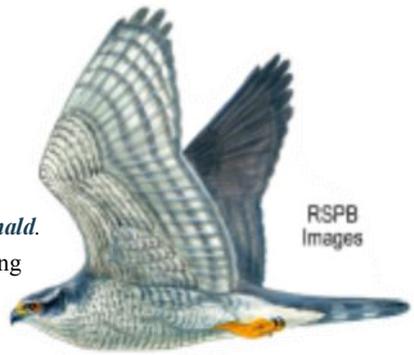


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Dark Grail by David Bingham

“In real life, goshawks resemble sparrowhawks the way leopards resemble housecats. Bigger, yes. But bulkier, bloodier, deadlier, scarier and much, much harder to see. Birds of deep woodland, not gardens, they’re the birdwatchers’ ‘dark grail’”. H is for Hawk: Helen McDonald.



I’ve just finished reading Helen Mc Donald’s award winning book ‘H is for Hawk’. The cover caught my eye before it had won any awards. It is in the style of a flip card, like the ones young children use when they are learning to read, with a picture of a menacing looking hawk staring out at the world. I flicked through the pages but put it down when I realised it was about falconry - not something I’m very interested in because it seems to involve a lot of shouting and swinging around a lump of fur attached to a washing line. I decided to buy a copy of the book when I saw one with a label on the front advertising it as the winner of the Samuel Johnson non-fiction prize (and more importantly it also had a ‘£4 off’ sticker). Since then it has gone on to win the Costa book of the year award. I’m not a literary critic but I can say that it is an excellent book and if you aren’t into birds don’t worry because it is about other things and the bird bits are metaphors rather than boring science stuff. In particular it is about the death of the author’s father and the life and works of TH White – author of ‘The Once and Future King’ – and his attempt to train his goshawk, Gos. I have a vague memory that White’s book was one of those tomes we had to read out loud in class when I was at school- taking it in turn to read a paragraph at a time. Unfortunately, I didn’t go to school with Richard Burton or Brian Blessed so I can’t say that I really got the gist of what the book was about because of the constant mumbling and stumbling over words with more than two syllables (my classmates didn’t make a very good job of it either). The central character in Helen Mc Donald’s book is her goshawk, Mabel. The trials and tribulations of training Mabel to hunt for rabbits and wood pigeons in the fields around Cambridge was a more interesting read than I had expected and I learnt a new word - ‘austringer’. I don’t feel too bad about not knowing this word because the wavy red line that has just appeared under it in my Word spellchecker means that Bill Gates doesn’t know it either. Apparently, falconers fly falcons and austringers fly hawks.

If you do read the book you may get an urge to go out to see a goshawk in the wild so here are a few facts that might help in your quest. Goshawks are close relatives of sparrowhawks and both belong to the family *Accipiter*. Just like sparrowhawks, they are specialist woodland hunters with short broad wings evolved for flight through trees. However, goshawks are much bigger and if you are in any doubt about which species you are looking at it will be a sparrowhawk - like seeing an eagle or hearing a nightingale for the first time, the real thing is absolutely obvious. In recent years I have seen a goshawk fly across the Dersingham by-pass and also, rather surprisingly, through the streets of Snettisham. These birds were massive and there was no way I was mistaken. You may be fortunate enough to have a chance encounter like this but you need to be very bird aware and for most people something more proactive is needed. Helen McDonald took an early morning drive from her home in Cambridge to the Norfolk Brecks in search of wild goshawks and was fortunate enough to see a pair. She doesn’t reveal the exact location but a good place to try is Mayday Farm near Thetford. They have a car park and bird hide and have, optimistically, named one of the woodland paths the ‘Goshawk Trail’. This was once a reliable place to go looking for goshawks but seems less so in recent years and there are no guarantees you will see anything. To increase your chances the key piece of information you need to know is that goshawks perform courtship flights above their woodland home on fine mornings in early spring. Sparrowhawks and buzzards can also be seen above the trees of Breckland – look for buzzard sized sparrowhawks because this neatly describes the first impression of a goshawk in flight. Female goshawks are

noticeably bigger than males and this is common amongst birds of prey. A possible explanation for this is that the size difference means the pair will exploit different food resources within their home range and won't be competing with each other – this phenomenon is sometimes called the 'Jack Spratt Effect' after the well known nursery rhyme.

Goshawks are making a comeback in this country after being exterminated in the nineteenth century. The original British race of goshawk were smaller and darker than the birds we see today, which are descended from escapees - or deliberately released birds - imported by falconers from the larger and paler goshawk populations of central Europe, Russia and Scandinavia. They have been a popular, although notoriously difficult to train, falconers' bird since the Middle Ages.



Hawking is probably the correct term because falcons belong to a different family characterised by swift, thin winged birds such as the peregrine, saker and gyr falcons. There was once a social hierarchy to falconry and goshawks came some way down this pecking order. Goshawks were generally seen as a bird suitable for a yeoman – sparrowhawks were traditionally flown by priests and kestrels were at the bottom of the social scale, flown by knaves. The higher nobility tended to fly falcons and right at the top emperors flew eagles.

Goshawks are fully protected by the law in this country. They aren't popular with all, Helen McDonald's description of the havoc Mabel caused when she accidentally found herself in a pheasant rearing pen suggests that not everyone will be too pleased to see goshawks re-colonising our countryside. I for one am very pleased to see them back where they belong and getting a glimpse of a goshawk powering its way through the air is always a thrilling sight that connects us to a wilder world we are in danger of losing. □

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Docking Wednesday Market by Michael Strutt

The Wednesday market at Docking continued through the winter despite the economic slowdown that has closed at least two other markets in Norfolk in the past 18 months. The warmer weather brings a return to its more than a dozen stalls offering both local foods and a variety of crafts.

With stalls outside and inside the village hall (Ripper Hall) in Docking High Street each week, the market has become a fixture in the village – it was closed by bad weather on only one week last winter. It also provides a useful shopping stop for those passing through or living within an easy drive.



Food stalls include a greengrocers with better than supermarket prices; a butcher's van offering Suffolk saltmarsh lamb, free-range pork and variety of sausages; a fish van with wet fish, local shellfish and Norfolk crab, "some of it straight off the boat".

Outside there is also a stall with a good range of pet food supplies, while a knives and scissor sharpening service visits once a month. Stalls inside the hall offer a good range of bread and cakes; many kinds of cheeses; and a French foods specialist offers produce direct from the south of France. These include olives, jars of paté and dried herbs.

Other stalls in the hall have flower arrangements and table centres; affordable jewellery and paper flowers. Another sells handmade greetings cards. A further stall sells books on local history and fridge magnets to support Docking Heritage Group, which is researching the history of the village. Another raises funds for a local charity that offers young children the experience of working with farm animals. The market was started two years ago in part with a charitable purpose, to help support the village hall. Teas, coffees, cake and rolls are available in the cafe area inside the hall, so visitors can take a break. Market hours each Wednesday are 9am to about 1pm. □



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1st Dersingham Rainbows Celebrate World Thinking Day by Lynne Wheeler

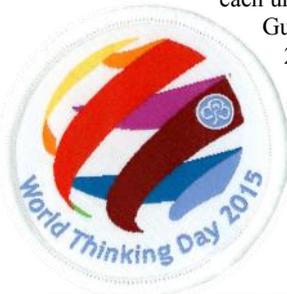
The 1st Dersingham Rainbows joined the Brownies and Guides from Dersingham, along with those from Snettisham, Ingoldisthorpe, Sandringham & Gayton for their annual Thinking Day celebration on 23rd February. Thinking Day is celebrated by

Guides all over the world on or around the 22nd February - the birthday of both Lord and Lady Baden-Powell who founded Guides & Scouts, and is an opportunity to celebrate that we are members of a worldwide family of Guides.

Our celebration this year was organised by the Gayton Groups and each unit performed a song or sketch from a Guiding country - 1st Brownies Portugal, 2nd Brownies Holland and 1st Guides France.



The Rainbows had Australia and performed their favourite song all about Australian animals - *Cuddly Koalas*. They made masks of the animals in advance, Koalas, Wallabies, Wombats and Kangaroos, to wear at the performance. All those who attended received a special World Thinking Day 2015 badge to wear on their uniform and a certificate. □



Easter Time at The King William IV

The King William at Sedgeford is a great place to relax on warmer, spring days. Whether you're strolling in the countryside, cycling past or pottering about in the car – call in for a refreshing Norfolk Posh Pop or sample one of the excellent cask ales – the Inn is the proud holder of the Camra Good Beer Accolade for 2015. With the garden bursting into life, the pretty pergola is a delightful spot for lunch and the comfy, new seating area in the cosy bar is an inviting place to gather in the evening for an aperitif. Owners, Nick and Lili Skerritt, have just launched



their new summer menu packed with seasonal ingredients and quality, local produce boasting a tasty blend of innovative, new dishes alongside The King Will's popular pub classics and Daily Specials. From Monday, 30 March, dinner starts at the slightly earlier time of 6pm every day. Families are always welcome at the Inn – the cosy gallery restaurant with its local art display, caters for children and there's even room for the family dog in the bar area. Pop in and get your little ones involved in The King Will's fun Easter Colouring Competition with a selection of edible prizes! □

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We welcome new and returning members to the two recently refurbished courts on the sports ground. Adults and juniors welcome on club sessions which are:

Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6-9pm (Juniors have priority until 7pm)

Sunday mornings 10am to 1pm (Juniors have priority until 11am)

The club will be entering 5 teams to the West Norfolk League having had our most successful year ever in 2014 - one men's, two mixed and two ladies teams.

We hope to have coaching again this summer, contact **Kate Charnley:** kr.chnrnley@gmail.com.

Outside club sessions courts can be booked from **Adam Seal** (Manor Road Fitness): **01485 779014**

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Dersingham Evening WI by Maggie Guest



Recent speakers at the meetings have been Chris Tansley from Coastal Vets at Snettisham and Walter Blaney. Chris gave a most informative, illustrated talk that was of great interest to all members, not just those with animals and Walter spoke of his train trip across America. It is so good to hear about subjects first hand and both speakers gave us a good insight into these subjects.

The coffee mornings and other smaller groups continue to flourish and the Theatre Group enjoyed the 'live' screening at the Majestic Cinema of Swan Lake by the Royal Ballet Company and a visit to the Corn Exchange to see 'Blood Brothers'. In January we held a fashion show with sale items from Allez Chic raising money for our funds. In February, Olive held a Pancake Day at her home which was enjoyed by all who could make it.

The 'Walking Group plans the following; all welcome:

- Tues 21st April—Fakenham Waterside**
- Fri 15th May—Castle Rising**
- Thurs 4th June—Brancaster to Deepdale**
- Fri 10th July—Wells Beach and Town**
- Tues 8th September—Heacham to Hunstanton**
- Wed 7th October—Burnham Thorpe.**



Peg Hunter, a member and qualified dance instructor, runs our Keep Fit Group known as 'fit 'n' dancin' on Monday mornings. I have just had a regular Monday morning commitment changed to another day so I decided to join them. About fifteen members make the effort to 'work out' together in the Dersingham Social Club. We started the class standing and doing various bends and stretches to assorted parts of our anatomy. The music was very lively and most got the toe points, squats and arm reaches going well with Peg counting for us. (OK so I cheated and took a photograph so missed a bit!) Next came exercises balancing on one leg. Well, I tried hard but wobbled rather badly and thought 'Time for another photo' then I realised some of the others were in the same boat and the matter was resolved by us getting a chair to steady ourselves! Whew! I must tell you though that some members were 'as steady as a rock' on one leg. Lucky them!

The keep fit aspect came to an end and the dancing began. We will be learning some dance moves to historical dances. The Gavotte, Minuet and Mazurka are set to be featured in our repertoire. Could we be seeing 'Strictly Dersingham Evening WI' featured somewhere? On a jolly note I got the ladies to pose with their 'Cheerleader Pom-Poms' showing Peg on the floor at the front. Peg enjoys doing these classes and if any local groups would like to contact her, her number is 01485 541162

Events in the future include a visit to Tutbury Castle to see Nell Gwyn, a trip to Gressenhall for the special Centenary Exhibition, a Nostalgia Day and a trip to Salzburg is being planned. Forthcoming speakers are:

- March—The life of a Paramedic**
- April—Divided by a Common Language**
- May—Elizabeth 1 in person**
- June—Time at a London Fashion House**
- July—Talk on Rescue Donkeys**



All are welcome to our meetings. No need to join until you have attended a couple of times. □

Village Voice Live

The History of Roads and their

Archaeology—Tuesday 3rd February

James Albone, an archaeologist and historian with Norfolk County Council, talked to a reasonably sized audience (considering the weather!) about the history of roads in Great Britain from prehistoric times to the present day, with special reference to East Anglia.

He began, understandably, with the prehistoric and the early trackways that mainly ran across chalk uplands in the south of the country and of

the Icknield Way, or Street, running through the Parish of Dersingham. He explained the archaeological difficulties involved in identifying these tracks and of establishing whether some may have determined the course, and formed the base, of later Roman Roads. Not only was the surveying accuracy of the Romans then illustrated by the straightness of their roads, but also their pragmatism, by deviating from the straight to avoid obstacles and steep gradients.

The decline in the use of roads following the departure from these shores of the Roman was then described, but with the enclosure of land and the advent of the stagecoach the need for something better than a rough track across heath or common was needed and so Turnpike Roads were established. The railways then led to a decline in road use for a while until the motor car revived their use and largely determined their future development during the twentieth century and to the present day.

The talk concluded with a description of the continual and frequent changes to roadside architecture, big and small, during the recent centuries. From roadside inns to “Little Chefs”; garages for car parking only to garages for service and repair and petrol filling stations; bus shelters of various designs; and not forgetting the increasing clutter of roadside signs and a nostalgic look back to some the older, more discrete, predecessors to these which still lurk undisturbed in some of the remoter areas of this county.

An informative and well illustrated talk. A lot for the speaker to fit in to one evening, but with a few deviations and short-cuts he managed, just, and this was appreciated by the audience.

Whiffler



Another Evening with Chris Knights—Tuesday 3rd March

It's always nice when popular speakers return and Chris Knights did not disappoint on his second visit.

Starting with a tour round the landscape and wildlife of Breckland, he gave us intimate views of his local “friends” with, of course, really close up shots of Stone Curlews. Benefitting from huge machines that take out all the stones from a field, the farmer can grow tons of straight carrots and parsnips and the birds get very stony areas to nest in – win win then!

After the break and raffle (it's always the bottles that get picked first – discuss) we were transported to the Cairngorms. Hares, ptarmigan and grouse, both black and red were on the menu together with capercaillies and reindeer. With lots of snow in the pictures we were grateful that the heating did not fail in the hall on this cold night.

I am sure that Chris will be asked back again next year judging by the audience requests at the end of the evening.

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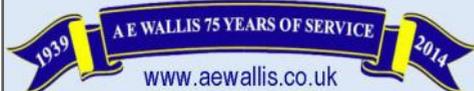
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Random Jottings

by Tony Bubb



By far the thickest book on my bookshelves is my copy of Kelly's Directory for Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk for 1937. I was looking at this mighty tome the other day to see if any of the now frequently occurring village surnames figured in its listings. Surprisingly they did not. As I was leafing through the subsequent pages I discovered a press clipping telling of an inquiry into British farming for the Daily Express being carried out by Sir William Beach Thomas. It describes a farm near Lynn where the farmer had "the best lambing season in his chronicles." It then goes on to describe his private garden detailing its abundant production. The reason for its being cut out is written in ink at the bottom. "*The above is about Daddy & our garden, so take care of this.*" The cutting was between some "S" pages and it probably related to the entry for Stow Bardolph. Who "Daddy" was we shall probably never know but, as with a lot of cuttings, the other side was far more interesting.



So what was it all about? Well as far as I can trace this took place in 1923 when, after a tour of America, Miss King was quoted in the "Glasgow Daily Record" as having been less than complimentary about the USA. She filed for action against the editor seeking £3000 in compensation but as we see she only got £500; still this was a goodly sum in those days. The most alarming bit is the last paragraph; how often does that happen?

There is lots about Hetty on the internet including some YouTube clips of her singing. Back then to Kelly's. If this is a cutting from around 1923 where had it been until it was put into my book some time after 1937?

I was relieved to see today (27th Feb) that chocolate covered ice cream Christmas Trees were on sale in Sainsbury's. No need to hurry whilst

stocks last - there are loads of them, perhaps the ideal accompaniment to hot cross buns?

I've tried to make compost for over 45 years. Dry, wet, with air, without air, turn it, leave it, all methods had the same results - if you want to preserve plant matter for perpetuity then compost it. Five years on the leaves I put in the heap came out almost the same so I gave up, resorting to the much more satisfying bonfire. How pleased was I then when the brown bin appeared on the scene. Once a fortnight those nice men with a big lorry took away all my garden rubbish. I cannot have been alone as the system eventually became over subscribed and required a waiting list. Well, with a bit of rejigging, there is now more capacity in the system. If you want one, you can apply now to the Borough Council and you should receive a shiny new bin ready for the spring.

I've just got a binful of Periwinkle out of a small bed in my garden, representing a good morning's work. Next to Convolvulus and Ground Elder this is probably my worst garden thug. Every time a stem touches the earth it roots. Bed nicely cleared and raked, it was off to Thaxters for something attractive for the revealed patch. What did I see in pride of place, a good display of Periwinkle! Needless to say, I left those specimens on the bench! □



Rotary Matters from Phil Newell & Rene Rooth

In the last 'Dersingham Village Voice' we mentioned that an exciting programme was arranged for the Rotary Club. All three of the talks described below were concerned with people disadvantaged in different ways. The first talk was on '**A Change of Scene for Children**'. The title suggested something new to us and we weren't disappointed. Pauline Daisley-Brown (see the photo) told us how her charity helps any young person (typically aged seven to eighteen) who is, in some way, disadvantaged. For instance, a child may be excluded from school, have learning difficulties, or perhaps be ignored by his or her family. Pauline told us how she and her volunteers can help. For instance, a teenage boy causing a problem can be given interesting work to keep him occupied. Each young person is considered individually. A local field is rented and has ponies, former battery hens and rams. The hens were pitiful to see, having few feathers, yet they were still able to lay eggs! Most of the children in her care love being outside, especially the older ones. They are introduced to careers that they may never have thought about – such as tractor-driving or sheep-shearing or caring for the chickens. Working outside, children can easily get involved in interesting work.



The advantage of charity work of this nature is that children can learn that they can influence situations and learn to control other events that happen to them. Besides the activities mentioned above, others can include, for example, animal grooming, gardening, painting, bird watching and craft work. Eventually it is hoped to have alpacas and bees. Useful products may be fertiliser, knitting yarn, eggs etc which can be sold to raise much-needed income. If anyone feels they are able to help with this very useful work, contact Pauline on 01485 512759 or 07584 192846.

The second talk was from Charlotte Hitchings whose subject was the '**National Autistic Society**'. Most of us will have either met, or been told about children who are considered to be 'difficult' and that they can 'help' it. Autism was formerly thought to be a psychotic problem and those suffering were simply being 'naughty'. Far from this, it is now known that it is a neurodevelopmental problem. Autistic people – child or adult, have problems with social communication and interaction. Frequently they have sensory problems such as balance and movements, which may be difficult to control. Autism may take as long as one year to diagnose. Activities such as swimming, gym, roller skating etc can have an important role in treatment. Charlotte gave us numerous examples which opened our eyes to the problem, and showed us what can be done to help those who suffer from autism. We learnt that there may be several factors leading to autism, one of which is genetic. One person in sixty eight in the UK is autistic. Not all are severely disabled however and adults may be able to marry.

The third talk that our members have received was an interesting one from Councillor Richard Bird, well known to us. He told us about a worthy cause that he is supporting, namely '**Women in Distress**'. The local refuge caters for both women and children who need homes. Their stay lasts from six to twelve weeks. One disadvantage is that there is no funding from local authorities. His talk covered a number of different facts, such as how many women are typically accosted each year and the cost of children in care. The Salvation Army helps out with clothing and uniform for the children. There is now a real priority for duvet covers and any bed linen.

The other photograph shows our two Associate Members, Mark and Sam Sexton, receiving their lapel badges from our President Peter Atterbury and being applauded by several Rotarians. The Associate Membership category, fairly new to Rotary, is a good way for busy people who,

perhaps, have not the time to be a full member, but wish to get involved in some of the work that Rotary does.

We are glad to answer questions about Rotary. If you are interested in coming to a meeting as a guest please let one of us know. We have both Associate and Full members and further information can be obtained from either Club President Peter Atterbury (tel 01485 534820) or Rotarian Phil Newell (tel 01485 533864) or any Rotarian.

www.hunstanton-rotary.org.uk □



Poetry & Pot-Pourri

By popular request we are running a social evening at St. Edmund's Church Hall, Hunstanton on **Wednesday, April 29th at 7.00 for 7.30 pm**



This is an open invitation to all who would like to attend. All will be welcome – you do not have to be a Rotary member to attend. The meal is Beef Lasagne, a selection of breads and home-made desserts, tea/coffee; vegetarian option is available if pre-ordered. Soft drinks provided at the meal. If you prefer wine please bring your own (a few bottles will be available with a donation). The price for the evening will be **£12** per person.

Bring along your favourite poem (or two!) Limericks encouraged!

Order your tickets (not later than Fri, April 25th) from Phil Newell, tel 01485 533864, email phildory@talktalk.net or collect from Witley's Shop, High Street, Hunstanton.

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News from St Cecilia's RC Church

by Patricia Nevin



Our next parish social event will be the Ladies shared lunch on Saturday 18th April. This will be at St Cecilia's starting at 12 noon. It is an ecumenical occasion and all are welcome. It is always very well attended and there is always a delicious selection of food.

The pancake supper was again well attended and raised £125.87 towards the Restoration and Development Fund. It also included a surprise visitor, Fr James Fyfe, our former parish priest, who is now at Our Lady & St Charles Borromeo church in Wisbech. Another celebration during the evening was to congratulate Mr and Mrs Grant of Heacham on their Golden Wedding anniversary.

There was a Mass with anointing for the sick at St Cecilia's on the afternoon of 4th March. The ecumenical Stations of the Cross followed by a simple Lenten lunch has again been celebrated every second Friday at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Edmund's, alternating with St Edmund's Anglican church, Hunstanton. Proceeds of these Lenten lunches will be shared between CAFOD and Tear fund.



Our parish and diocese Lenten collections will go towards two charities, 'Aid to the church in need' and 'Cenalcolo' which rehabilitates people with addictions.

The Burns night supper was a very enjoyable social evening at St Cecilia's, Dersingham. A total of £169.50 has been added to our Restoration and Development Fund from the event.

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. There are 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 10am 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.

The Parish telephone number is **01485 534675**. If you require a Priest urgently please telephone **Fr Peter Rollings** on **01553 772220** or email parishpriest763@gmail.com.

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org **Email:** parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org □

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Dersingham Bog News

from Tom Bolderstone, Reserve Warden

As winter turns into spring, the days of driving to and from work in the dark have all but gone and plants and wildlife begin to show a bit more activity.

We have now finished the vast majority of our winter scrub removal on the reserve. The scrub has all been chipped and removed from site and the areas we have worked in are looking very free from scrubby trees.

During the spring and summer our work switches from scrub removal to maintaining the reserves infrastructure. I mentioned in the last article that we were beginning to check the 4km of fence on the site. Since then the volunteer team have walked and checked almost half of this, every single post for movement and rot. They have also had to replace quite a few posts that are getting to the end of their usable life. It is only when you start replacing posts you realise how many there are on the reserve boundary and we have replaced nearly 100 in the last two months with a few more still to go. The volunteer team have also been working on checking and repairing steps by the John Denver seat and scissors car park. Volunteer help is invaluable in managing the reserve and without them it would not be in such good condition. The team also checked and replaced the footpath marker posts which enable the visitors to see a wide variety of the site.

I also mentioned that the Woodlark were imminent in beginning to sing and set up territories on site and the first birds were heard on the 9th February, some two weeks later than in 2014. The birds will soon begin to build and nest on the site so a brief reminder that dogs should be kept on a lead on the reserve at all times to allow them to nest in peace.

As part of our monitoring of bird species we have been “ringing” some of the key heathland species. Why ring them, I hear you ask? Ringing is a scheme administered by the British Trust for Ornithology. It is essential if we are to learn about how long they live and when and where they move, questions that are vital for bird conservation. Placing a lightweight, uniquely numbered, metal ring around a bird’s leg provides a reliable and harmless method of identifying birds as individuals. Bird ringing has taken place in Britain since 1909 with the aim of seeing where our summer visitors spend the winter and where winter migrants bred. The scheme has evolved since then and looks at more in-depth information on the survival, productivity and movements of birds, helping us to understand why populations are changing. More information can be found at

www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/ringing-scheme.

Ringing is undertaken by volunteers licensed by the BTO and we have been ringing Dersingham Bog species to learn more about their movements and habitats. One of the species is the Stonechat,

which we have been colour ringing. Colour ringing allows the bird to be identified more easily in the field and the pattern of coloured rings on its leg will individually identify it. Recently we managed to re-trap a bird originally ringed on the nest in July 2013. This was the first adult Stonechat to be re-trapped on site since we started ringing in 2012. Through sightings of the coloured rings we knew that the bird had spent most of its time moving around the site and wasn’t really settled but, more recently, we had identified this bird as a male. Even more exciting, a few weeks before re-trapping it the bird was seen with a female Stonechat so hopes are high that it may breed onsite this year. Interestingly birds ringed at the same time as this one have successfully bred at Roydon Common NNR in 2014.



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If anyone sees a colour ringed Stonechat on the reserve please send me an email to Thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk and information will be sent by return.

As the spring progresses, the days get warmer, and we head towards April, it will again be time to be thinking of the return of the spring migrants that breed at Dersingham Bog NNR. □



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We're having a Party!

Dersingham Parish Council is planning an event on **Saturday June 13th 2015** to celebrate the completion of refurbishments to the Play Area, and to mark the Recreation Ground being granted 'Fields in Trust' Status. The event will take place between 12noon and 4pm.

We are planning a variety of activities including music, fairground rides, and games.

We also wish to offer any local groups the opportunity to do some fundraising, perhaps by selling refreshments, organising games or other fun activities. Stalls will be free of charge but groups will have to supply their own gazebo/awning, tables etc.

Please contact the Clerk to book space and let us know any requirements you have – eg how much space, access to electricity or water. More details will follow – so watch this space!

Look out for more information in June's Village Voice, the Parish website/noticeboards. Flyers will be distributed via the Primary School and key locations.

To book space for a stall and for more information, contact the Clerk at the Parish Council Office: 4a Post Office Road, tel 01485 541465; email clerk@dersinghampc.org.uk □



Big Lunch 2014



Collection Box Volunteers Needed



We are in desperate need of Collection Box Coordinators in King's Lynn and the surrounding area, to help raise funds for The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House. In the last five years we have raised over £25,000 from the generosity of individuals that have donated loose change into our collection boxes, located across North Norfolk, West Norfolk and The Fens. Every penny really does count!

The role includes monitoring collecting boxes that may already be in your local area and also seeking new locations such as pubs, shops and restaurants to expand our existing database.

Volunteering is a fantastic opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills and help your local community. Full training and support is given.

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



Hopefully by the time this magazine is published the gardens will be colourful with daffs and snowdrops and all those lovely harbingers of spring, when you know that the warmer weather is just around the corner. I haven't really noticed winter much because I just haven't been out of the house, what with 'the leg' and all. Eventually I asked for pain killers, something I have steered clear of for as long as possible, but after a week or so of wonderful pain-free days and nights, I became a zombie, sleeping all night as well as the day, with a mind completely blank, eyes glazed and my brain shut down. As you can imagine, I decided I would prefer the pain, so once again *compos mentis*, went up to the doctors this morning for my diabetic blood letting to meet up with one of my friends I hadn't seen in an age, and she too was walking with a kind of nautical roll, aided by a trusty stick, and waiting for a date to have a knee operation. We do moan about the National Health, waiting for so long and all the rest of it, but it is still thankfully FREE. An American friend I correspond with tells me how much such operations cost over there, and it is absolutely astronomical and well beyond ordinary people's means. You either have really expensive insurance (which many folk cannot afford) to cover medical needs, or die on the streets. There is no in-between.

Another problem of getting older is, of course, getting in and out of chairs. Even Remote Control Man, who is younger than me, can no longer get out of a chair without difficulty, so we decided to do away with our sagging armchairs and sofas and get matching granny and grandpa 'throw you out' chairs. Well, once in the shop, I hated them all and didn't want my rather nice designer room spoiled by such monstrosities, and told him that no, he couldn't have the huge square (almost a shed) chair with remote controls that he craved, but that we had to compromise on something reasonably attractive. We ended up with what look like posh swivel office chairs with footstools. We can't get thrown out of them, which is a shame, because those type of chairs look really useful with no need to struggle, but we are very pleased with our new ones that are so very comfy with no more Urgh, ouch, ooh, ahh, and other grunting noises any more. However, being so comfortable, we fall asleep easily in them, so gentle snoring is now the norm, occasioned by loud snorts that wake both us and the dog causing us all look around bemused.

The dog was not pleased by this new two-chair arrangement – he no longer has a sofa to recline on between us for cuddles and he didn't like the cushion I had put on the floor for him. So, having an old state of the art retro bucket chair in my studio I brought that in, so now we have a row of three chairs facing the TV, the dog's being in the middle and everybody happy. I have to say that 'designer wise' it does not look good – but it could be worse – and comfort is at last assured, though the dog, (a long-legged Lurcher) has to contort to fit in his seat.

I think I mentioned I've been going down memory lane a lot recently, and to my surprise another memory popped up in my head from nowhere. I, having always been quite egotistical, thought when I was young I was destined to be a movie star, and hoped to be discovered by a leading movie mogul, so in order to progress this eventuality, would cycle down to the village for toffees hoping one (mogul not toffee) would pass by in some posh American car, screech to a halt, leap out and sign me up immediately for his next film. This, alas, never happened, so I joined the amateur dramatics instead. I was cast for the next play as a sexy typist in a murder plot. Although nobody told me I was rubbish, I realised I was – I went through the motions, remembered my words, but knew I just didn't sound natural – so decided acting was not for me after all, (except for being Prince Charming in the pantomime) but at least I could help out with the make up.

How funny, looking back along the years. The cast, feeling important, would line up seated in front of 'flyblown' mirrors in a tiny room at the back of the dusty village hall (with a tin roof and corrugated walls), while my mother (a trained beautician) and I - also feeling important - applied grease paint to the actors' faces. All this thick grease was smeared over their faces in bright

colours, and while I tried to make it more natural and also eased it down their necks so there wasn't a tide-line, it all looked so very silly. The 'producer' would insist on the 'whole bit' being done, with red cheeks and a prominent red dot in the corner of each eye. Why? It looked ridiculous – but that 'was the way it should be done' – because the spotlights supposedly bleached out the face colours if not. Well, in a village hall in those days the spot lights were far from effective, and just showed up a lot of unnatural painted faces with incongruous red spots at the corners of their eyes – but it was all fun and large egos were gratified.

I continued doing the make up for a while, but got really fed up with all the arguments between the various posturing egos. I mentioned that I had/have an ego, but not in the way where I feel that I am the best, should be in charge and nobody else is right! Erm...is that strictly true, I ask myself? Remote Control Man would probably beg to differ! The problem with my ego is that I believe I will be able to do all things easily and am always so surprised when I find out that I can't! The pantomime, by the way, was a farce. I looked splendid, (of course) in tights and feathered hat but unfortunately caught a terrible cold that left me barely able to talk and definitely not sing. I told the producer that I wouldn't be able to, so could we leave out the song, but he said, 'Certainly not, the show must go on' and I wondered at his stupidity. As the tinny piano struck up the chords for my mellifluous melody, I was almost panic-stricken, so appealed to the audience, in croaking tones, to sing for me please, because I was unable. Luckily it was something they all knew – *'If you were the only boy in the world, and you were the only girl'* - so the disaster was averted and I think the jolly sing-song was actually better than my toneless warble would have been! My ego, by the way, was wise enough to recognise I would never be a singer and who knows, I might have unconsciously conjured up the situation so that I didn't have to!

My next chance for fame and fortune was decades later, when 'Revolution' was filmed in King's Lynn. So many of us locals were cast as extras and had such fun, when the town was transformed into medieval New York.

Because I thought it would be amusing, I asked to be cast as a tart - like you do - and was given the role and suitably attired in revealing low décolletage and a long wig. Make up was as awful as my attempts at the village hall in the fifties, with white paint over my face and awful round red rouged cheeks. Strangely, the soldiers didn't seem to mind...



All the extras were supposed to be there at the crack of dawn, but (with my ego) I felt I was the star and needn't be there so early and consequently wafted in around nine o'clock. One morning, one of the lads rushed up saying that 'they' wanted me in the office. I thought I was to be given the heave-ho for being tardy, but no, they introduced me to some American Coast-to-Coast News camera crew and reporters, as they had asked for the best actress to follow around all day and film. I was the one the Producers felt would fit the bill. Wow! I felt very giddy with success, believing that my previous thoughts of being an actress were not in vain after all and my illusions of stardom were valid. In retrospect, I realised that the producers would not have wanted the real stars being inconvenienced all day. Nevertheless, this was very heady stuff for me, and as I was interviewed on camera for the whole of America to view, I thought I had done quite a 'professional' job and wished I could have seen the subsequent news film.

A few weeks later, I had some American B&B visitors come to the door, and the man looked at me, his eyes lighting up. "Gee, I know you – no, don't tell me, don't tell me". I looked at him a little nervously while his wife did not look amused. A huge smile lit his face a short while later,

and he said, “I know – you’re a whore aren’t you! I saw you on the Coast To Coast show, with Al Pacino and Donald Sutherland. I looked coy, and said, ‘That’s right – did I appear professional?’ “Oh, gee, yes, you were wonderful. You’re a true Renaissance woman, and should be on the Johnny Carr show!” I simpered with delight, but by now the wife was getting ready to call a taxi and leave, until her husband explained that I had only been acting – but it made me and my ego’s day that by chance, an American came to stay that had seen the news film and confirmed that I’d done a good job. I also felt that my secret ambitions had been satisfied. I had achieved ‘my acting career’ on one fell swoop and been recognised and while I enjoyed the filming experience immensely, that hanging around all day long waiting for the camera and ‘action’ seemed an awful waste of time and is not something that I would particularly want to repeat. I was not unduly sorry that I was not asked to do another film, though surprised, of course, that I wasn’t! Such vanity...



As you know, and at a tangent, I am endeavouring at the moment to become a famous painter and still continue to receive complete silence from those who are invited to view my work. Funnily enough, this doesn’t put me off, though I realise that it indicates that it is highly unlikely that I will achieve any fortune from my daubings, nor fame, of course – but I am ‘getting there’ in my own eyes. I am reasonably pleased with most that I have painted, but unfortunately it seems my talents lie mainly with Poultry Portraiture – which was not my main intention. But everyone has to have a forte, and this, it seems, is mine.

After writing thus far, on leaving my office, I tripped on the dog’s blanket and fell heavily flat on my face. In my youth, I used to fall gracefully like a ballerina and emerge upright with no damage, merely applause for the entertaining choreography I had achieved. This time I fell like a tonne of bricks onto our hard limestone flooring. I was like an injured and beached whale, unable to rise. It took me ages to get into a sitting position, grunting and panting (I am very large and

heavy) my heart going lickety-split. Because of my knees I can’t kneel and therefore can’t hoist myself up. Eventually I bum-shuffled over to some steps with a grab-rail, and after many attempts at trying to pull myself up found, with no strength in my arms, I was stranded. I pulled a duvet from a nearby laundry basket, intending to curl up in it until Remote Control Man returned home from work, but then wondered if I could back myself somehow up the steps. After a few failed attempts I got myself onto the first, then second step, then was able to haul myself up with the aid of the grab rail. Gracious! I realised how very vulnerable we are in our dotage. I don’t feel that I am actually at the wrong end of the spectrum yet (despite my moans) but realised that I do need to be even more careful than I am at present. What must it be like to be really ancient and all alone, struggling to do the simplest thing? Although Remote Control Man was concerned when he found me shivering under a blanket sipping a cup of tea, he roared with laughter at the description of my travails upon the flagstones – as I knew he would.

With that thought in mind, I shall leave you, and totter off to my studio to render yet another fowl to paper, with visions of being awarded the ‘Chicken Of The Year Art Trophy’.

Bye for now from a bruised and battered but still smiling Mrs. Dolittle. □



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Please think before you pavement park!

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Dersingham Methodist Church News from Elizabeth Batstone

On two recent Saturday mornings the church hall was a hive of activity with chattering and clattering of cups! You may recognise this description of our monthly coffee mornings. The January and February mornings were to fund the forthcoming flower festival and between them raised £680. We look forward to seeing you for the next coffee mornings on **Saturday 28th March** when funds will be divided equally between *Action for Children* and *Methodist Homes for the Aged*; and **Saturday 25th April** when funds will be divided equally between *Diabetes UK* and Church funds.

Easter services are: **Good Friday 3rd April** 10:00am meditation, followed by joining, if desired, the Walk of Witness round the village. **Easter Sunday 5th April** services at 10:30 and 6pm.

Plans are in progress for the Church's 125th anniversary and flower festival with the theme 'Come on and celebrate', from **Thursday 21st to Sunday 24th May**. Thursday to Saturday we will be open from 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and there will be stalls selling books, cards, cakes, gifts, Fair Trade products, plants, as well as serving coffee, tea, cakes and of course lunches.

The 10.30 a.m. Sunday service will be led by the Chair of the East Anglia Methodist District Rev Julian Pursehouse. We will be open between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. for people to see the flowers and enjoy a cup of tea. The final celebration will be at 6.00 p.m. for an ecumenical Songs of Praise Service led by our minister Rev Steve Oliver.

Please make a note of this in your diaries and support our celebrations. We hope to raise funds for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Wheel Appeal and Church funds.

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



Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

invite you to The Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Swaffham.
(Access and parking from Sporle Road) on

Tuesday 31st March, 7.30pm for an illustrated talk:

Urban Birding with David Lindo

We are delighted to welcome David Lindo of TV fame to NarVOS for the biggest event in our calendar, namely this talk from the Urban Birder. David describes himself as: "A broadcaster, writer, naturalist, photographer, public speaker, tour leader and oh, I have been known to do the odd bit of birding!" We hope you can join us for what promises to be a fabulous evening.

Tuesday 28th April, 7.30pm

Wader Quest with Rick & Elis Simpson

The sub-title of this talk is 'In search of waders around the world'. Many people are fascinated by wading birds but there is more to Wader Quest than looking at waders across the globe. Many waders are under threat and Wader Quest was formed in 2012 to raise money for and awareness of wader conservation. Rick and Elis are certain to demonstrate their passion for waders through this talk.

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.

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St Nicholas Church News from Pauline Martin



Our final Lent Lunch will be held on Friday 27th March 12 noon in the Church Hall, all monies raised from these lunches goes towards funding work within the Church for Children in the area.

Easter Services:

Sunday 29th March – 10.30am Palm Sunday Service.

Monday 30th, Tuesday 31st March and Wednesday 1st April there will be a short Compline Service in Church at 7pm.

Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday there is a Communion Service at 7pm.

On **Good Friday (3rd April)** there is a short Service in Church at 9.15am followed by a Walk of Witness round the Village with the other Churches in the Village, we finish our walk at the Church Hall where there are Hot Cross Buns and a welcome cup of coffee/tea. At 2pm there is a Service The Cross of Christ with the choir in Church.

Sunday 4th April – 10.30am Easter Sunday Communion in Church and at 3pm there will be a Easter Tea with music and games for all the family.

As the 3rd April is Good Friday our usual **Coffee Morning** will be held on **Friday 10th** instead.



Other Events During Spring/Summer 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 7.30pm- **Jazz Festival** in the Church Hall

17th to 19th July – **Summer Festival**

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

Dersingham Horticultural Society

Fed up with the long winter evenings and all those TV repeats? Maybe you have recently moved to the village and would like to make some new friends? Come along for a cup of tea and chat about gardening with a friendly group of people. Most months we have a visiting speaker.

Sometimes the subject could be about plants, other times it will be about wildlife or travel to exotic places.

In April last year members enjoyed a coach trip to the National Hyacinth Collection and Cambridge Botanical Gardens. It was an ideal time to see many rare hyacinths at their very best. In May there was a five day trip to Cornwall to visit The Eden Project and many of the area's beautiful gardens. This year there is a coach to Bletchley Park, a world-class heritage site.



This year there is a coach to Bletchley Park, a world-class heritage site.

The Dersingham Horticultural Society (affiliated to the RHS) was established over 25 years ago by Carole Brown, a local doctor, who thought that gardening would be a good way to get people out into the fresh air. We think so too - come and join us.

Meetings are held on 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in St Cecilia's Church, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham. Contact: Steve Carden (General Secretary) on 01553 670151. **Robert Lambert**





Norfolk Wildlife Trust West Norfolk Members Group

invites you to

Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall, Austin Street

on Thursday 23rd April 2015 – 7.30pm for

Holkham Nature Reserve—its management & wildlife

an illustrated talk by Sue Penlington

and on **Thursday 28th May 2015 – 7.30pm for**

New Zealand—the ecology of a young country

an illustrated talk by Tony Leech

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



Dersingham Youth Club

“Dersingham Youth club are looking for volunteers to help with the weekly 2 hour sessions. As it stands, some volunteers currently work shifts which is occasionally leaving the number of helpers short. The group meets on Tuesday from 6-8pm at Dersingham social club with around 25 members attending per week. Throughout the year the group takes a few trips, maybe bowling or to the cinema, these evenings usually last slightly longer than the 2 hours. Volunteers would be needed on a roster basis, so this may only end up being once a month. All volunteers will be DBS checked at the expense of the youth club. If you would like to help or would like further information please contact **Maria Lambert** on **07771 675342.**”

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.

Gingernuts and a New Gadget from Caroline Bosworth



Last week I called to see my great friends Bob and Margaret and they had made the most wonderful Gingernut biscuits. They're so simple to make so I just had to share the recipe with you.

- 4oz (110g) SR Flour
- 1 generously rounded tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp Bicarbonate of soda
- 1.5oz (40g) granulated sugar
- 2oz (50g) butter
- 2oz (50g or 2 tbs) golden syrup.

1. Heat the oven to 190°C, gas mark 5 and line 2 baking trays – I love the magic paper that you can reuse – but baking parchment works well too:
2. Sift the dry ingredients, rub in the butter and then stir in the syrup to form a stiff paste.
3. Divide the mixture into 16 balls, squish them a little with a spoon and leave plenty of space between the dough.
4. Bake for 10-15 mins, leave to cool the baking rack for 10 mins or so before cooling properly on a wire rack.

Last Christmas I bought a *personal blender* – a sort of a smoothie maker whereby the drink is made directly into a sports bottle. I make two basic smoothies, full of goodness and keep me full of energy for most of the day. The recipes are by way of suggestions – see what you have in your fridge or freezer and try adding different things.

The first one is a protein one – a great start to the day – it has a base of milk, then 4 spoons of porridge oats, a banana, a handful of sunflower or pumpkin seeds, a spoon of honey, 2 spoons of peanut butter and then as many frozen red berries as I can squish into the bottle. The measurements are a little vague – but I sort of use what I have at home and adjust to taste – it started off as a drink for me – but now I seem to make endless ones as the children love them too. Fresh fruit can be used – but frozen fruit is relatively inexpensive, always available and keeps your drink nice and cool.



The second one I like to make for later in the day has a fruit juice base – apple or something with a yellow/green base. Then chop up 2 sticks of celery, a banana, juice of a lime, handful of fresh spinach and kale and then yellow frozen fruit – my favourite has apples, pineapple and mango in.

If you are out and about, do have a look for the sports bottle blenders – I love mine...otherwise have a go at making these in your normal kitchen blender. (Or look on Google or Amazon. Ed.) □

Answers to Puzzles

Word Wall:

1. Cameras: UNDERWATER, COMPACT, TELEVISION, DISPOSABLE
2. Irish Counties: KERRY, WATERFORD, CLARE, KILDARE
3. TV Doctors: HOUSE, WHO, (Hilary) JONES, WATSON
4. Native America Indians: PAWNEE, CROW, CHEYENNE, COMANCHE

Where is it? What is it?

The clock on the old Wolferton Station.



Solution to Sudoku No. 41

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

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 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
No 96 (Oct/Nov 2015)	Wednesday 2nd September 2015	Monday 21st September 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. Our new advert prices are £17.50 for an eighth page, £27.50 for a quarter, £50 for a half and £95 for a full page. Discounts are available for block bookings paid for up-front and VAT is no longer payable since we are de-registered for VAT as from 1st April 2015.

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 29th April 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 29th April 2015 for publication by Monday 18th May**. (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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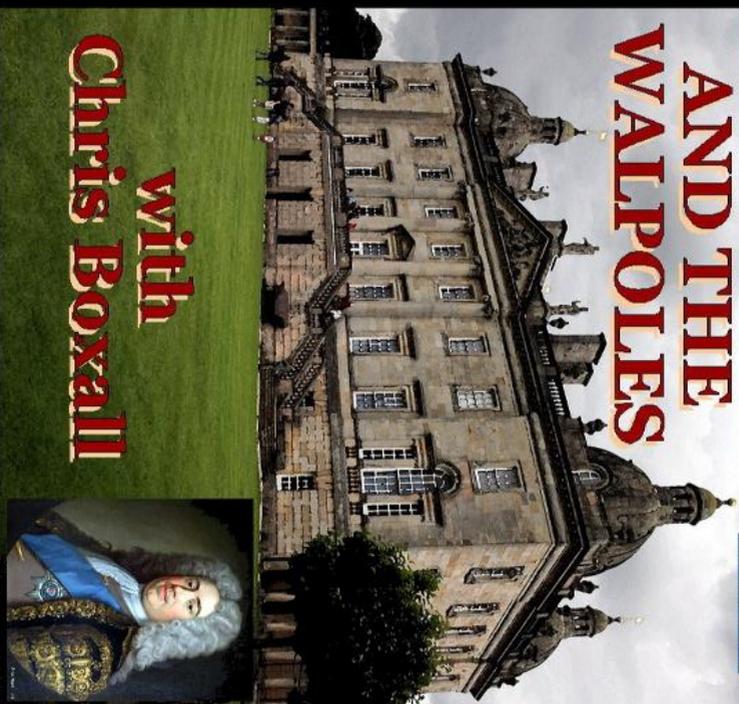
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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

HOUGHTON AND THE WALPOLES

Tuesday
April 7th



with
Chris Boxall

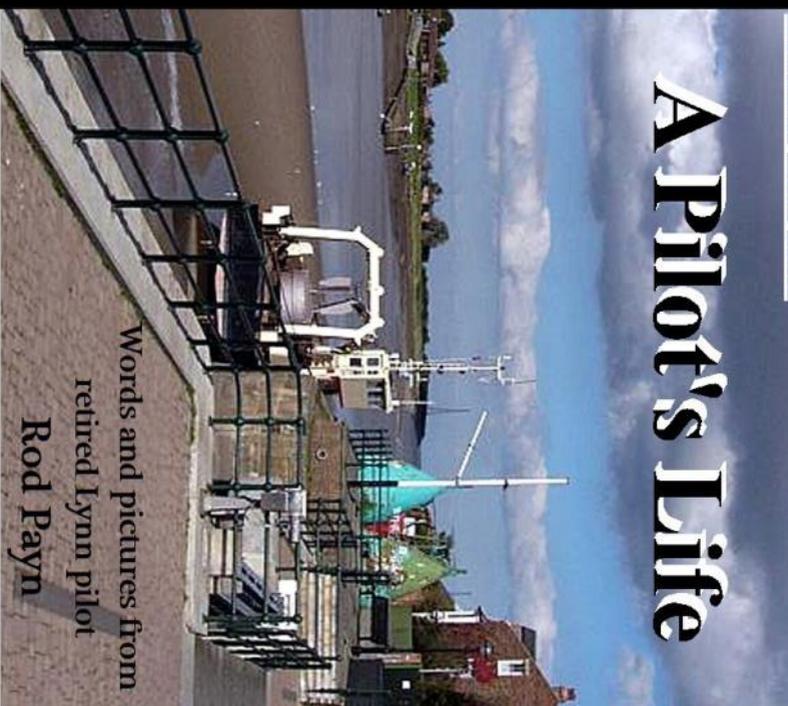


St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £3.00 including refreshments & raffle

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

A Pilot's Life

Tuesday May 5th



Words and pictures from
retired Lynn pilot
Rod Payn

St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £3.00 including refreshments & raffle