

Number 97

December 2015

Village Voice

The Dersingham Magazine



STEVEN MARTIN

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Editor's Notes

Tony Bubb



Welcome to the December Village Voice. When you read this, winter will be really getting going, if the weather predictors are to be believed. Personally, if I want to know what the weather is, I look out of the window, see what we have got and glance at the weather vane to see where the next stuff is coming from. When we first arrived in the village I can remember being cut off by snow on more than one occasion but that was a long time ago and has not troubled us lately.

Of course, there is no escaping the fact that Christmas looms and, as last year, we are running a competition. This time you need to find and count the small, identical Christmas Trees secreted about these pages, note down the score on a piece of paper together with your contact details and drop this in to the Parish Office by the 3rd of January. Email can also be used. All the correct answers will be put in a hat and the lucky entry pulled out will receive a £20 Garden Voucher kindly donated by Thaxters.

There is a recently opened path at the RSPB reserve at Titchwell. It carries on from the Meadow Hide path and takes you round the other side of the reserve. We visited on November 1st and found the car park full and people parking where-ever they could. Expecting crowds we decided to see how the path had matured since our last visit. This is obviously a great secret because we met hardly anyone, they had all gone down to the beach it seemed. Those we did meet were serious birders. Laden with gear and wearing dark green they avoided eye contact when we passed them and we got only one grudging hello. How different from walkers, who greet you enthusiastically when met and sometimes even stop for a chat. Returning to the point, this is a lovely path but only open, it seems, when the birds are not nesting and is well worth a look.

Not as many letters this time. Do keep them coming as it gives us an idea of what is catching our readers' attention or is exercising their minds. Talking of which, there are 2 mazes to give you something to do over the holiday in this edition. I have answers but you won't need them will you? Just in case I will put them in the next Village Voice.

We depend on a lot of volunteers to get VV on the streets. Articles and promotions for events fill the pages that do not carry advertising - a big thank you of course to our advertisers - but also to the team of dedicated deliverers that turn out seven times a year to do battle with your letter flaps. It's great fun, so if you would like to join them in a good walk with a purpose please get in touch - editor@dersingham.org.uk .

As I wrote above there have been widely varying reports speculating about the winter weather to come. If we get lots of frost and snow do get those cameras out and capture the Dersingham winter and send the best ones in with a view to their being published. A really good one might even be a future cover.

All that remains for me now is to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope you enjoy this, the 97th Village Voice. □

My thanks to artist Stephen Martyn for his 'Christmas Candle' watercolour that is our front cover.





Dear Village Voice

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



I am currently researching my family tree here in Leicestershire. My research has led me to Norfolk. My great great grandad was Isaac Flight (or Flite). He kept the Ship Inn public house at Ingoldisthorpe until 1869. I wonder if any of your readers could kindly help with any information, photographs etc. Any information of where the pub was sited, from newspapers etc., would be really appreciated. I will refund any reasonable costs etc. Please reply to: 2 Ellison Close, Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire LE9 4HE. Tel: 01455 273885. Email: monty.cooper@sky.com

Mr. M.J. Cooper

A little bit more about allotments. The house I lived in in Lynn Road was built in 1880. The land had been part of the Poor Allotments. These went from Manor Road to the common and from Lynn Road back to the road that goes to the Albert Victor bowling green. It seems from the deeds that land changed hands several times. One buyer was a John Asker who was a general dealer and a witness to the sale was John Goggs who was Lord of Gelham Manor. I think the disposal of the allotments was connected to the 1850 Enclosures Act. Does anybody know anything about the allotments or the Enclosures Act?



I spoke to Dick Melton about the photo of Cobbolds shop. We agree it was what is now the detached house in Chapel Road as you turn into Kings Croft. I should recognise it in later years - it was the Norfolk Stores and I spent two years there as errand boy.

An interesting letter from Arthur Coxon brought back memories of people and places from my younger days. He mentioned Mr. Houchen the grocer. This would have been Peter Houchen and he was manager at Norfolk Stores. This was some time before I was there.

My father used to talk of Dr. Coxon's love of sport, had a dig through the chest and found these photos. The football one was 1926. Dr. Coxon is front row right, front left Richard Stanton, my father Wallace was the goalkeeper. Others I know - back row third from right Stanley Bird who had the butcher's shop in Chapel Road, front row third from right Eric Riches' father George who

lived on Centre Vale. The cup on the left I think was the Snettisham Sheringham Cup.

The cricket photo was taken at Heacham - Dr. Coxon holding the cup, Wallace was the scorer, back row second right Clarence Todd, front row right Fred Rix. Again the photo was taken in the nineteen twenties.

Dick said I was going troshing at Swaffham. These days it's all combines so no troshing but I did meet an old boy who had a dicker. Fare you well together.



Bernie Twite

May I draw to the attention of the congregation of the Methodist Church the wording of the 11th commandment which states as follows” Thou shalt not park within 30cubits (20 feet) of the junction of Centre Vale and Post Office road as thou could cause a collision between a car leaving Post Office road and a car leaving Centre Vale which has to pull into the middle of the road to pass thy inconsiderately parked car”. Not only is this a commandment but it is Rule 243 of the Highway code. I am sure no one would dream of breaking such a commandment but I thought I would mention it just in case.

Barry Beales



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St Nicholas Church News



A big thank you to all who contributed to our Harvest Festival - the Church looked wonderful, thank you to all who helped decorate it and thanks to Budgen's and Thaxter's who provided fresh vegetable produce. As usual our Harvest Gifts were delivered on the Monday to the local Women's Refuge who were very grateful for all the wonderful items they received.

Our Services and Events During December are:

Christmas Tree Festival – Friday 4th to Sunday 6th December

10am to 4pm Friday & Saturday & 12noon to 4pm Sunday

20 + trees decorated by local Clubs & Societies in the Church.

Friday in the Church Hall where the Coffee Morning is followed by lunches being served and teas in the afternoon.

Saturday in the Church Hall is the **St Nicholas Christmas Fayre**

Father Christmas will be in his Grotto in the Church, please bring your children to meet him, there will also be craft activities for the children.



The Dersingham Descanters – our Handbell group will be playing on Saturday afternoon lit by only the Christmas Trees.

The Church will be open the Sunday 13th **Tea & Carols from 3pm**. An informal time of Carols & Readings for all the family and a chance to see the trees if you missed them during the Festival.

All our Services below will be held among the wonderfully decorated Christmas trees so another chance to see them. Please come and join us if you can.

Sunday 29th November, 6.30pm – Advent Carol Service

Sunday 13th December, 3pm – **Tea & Carols**, a light informal time for all the family

Wednesday 16th December at 2pm – **Carol Service** with the Mothers' Union

Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm – **Traditional Lessons & Carols**

Monday 21st December at 3pm – **Village Christingle Service**

Thursday 24th December at 4pm – **Crib Service**

at 11.30pm – **Midnight Communion**

Thursday 25th December at 8am – **Holy Communion**

10.30am – **Family Service**



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Take the Art Trail

Do you like looking at art and talking to artists? Yes, well make sure that you put the weekend of the 28th and 29th November in your diary, because there's the chance to meet no less than ten local artists when they open their studios to form the Dersingham Christmas Art Trail.

Now in its fourth year, the Trail will feature seven studios showing ten artists, six in Dersingham and one just up the road in Ingoldisthorpe. There's art and crafts for everyone in the work on show and yes, you may find something to take home with you too, even if it's only a small print or a greetings card.

Admission to all studios is free and the artists will be delighted to see you and to chat about their work. Dersingham Pottery in Chapel Road has free Trail leaflets complete with a map of the studios, or visit the website DersinghamArtTrail.org

Valerie Anckorn, Candlesticks, 2 Manorside, Dersingham, PE31 6LE

Valerie has always been creative in both art and crafts. She paints fantasy scenes in watercolour and also uses her skills to decorate candles scented with natural herbal oils.

Marty Griffin, Hollydrive, The Drift, Ingoldisthorpe, PE31 6NW

Marty's paintings are loaded with detail, accurately observed and rendered. Landscapes, pet portraits and a variety of unusual subjects. Original paintings and cards. Sharing Marty's studio will be **Lois Williams** who paints in oils. Subjects range from Fenland skies to quirky cats!

Jo Halpin Jones, 14 Post Office Rd. Dersingham, PE31 6HP

Photographs from Jo's travels both locally and around the world. Photo restoration and tuition in Photoshop. Photographic prints and cards.

Stephen Martyn, The Birches, 2 Alexandra Close, Station Rd. Dersingham, PE31 6YU

From his garden studio Steve produces atmospheric landscape paintings of Norfolk and beyond. Watercolour, ink, and oil paintings, plus prints and cards. Tuition available in watercolour, drawing and oils.

June and Ben Mullarkey, Dersingham Pottery, 48 Chapel Rd. Dersingham, PE31 6PN

Celebrating over forty years of pottery in Dersingham, June produces domestic pots and larger one-off exhibition pieces, while Ben's colourful paintings show an intriguing perspective of the landscape. The pottery is regularly open on most days.

Michael Smith, 17 Old Hall Drive, Dersingham, PE31 6JT

After a long career in art tuition Mike moved from Leicester to Dersingham in 2003 and has been painting scenes of the North Norfolk coast ever since. Original paintings and cards.

Liz Stockley, 30 Doddshill Road, Dersingham, PE31 6LW

Liz started to write books for her grandchildren and decided to illustrate them herself. Through this she discovered the art of illustration in watercolour and other media. Original paintings and cards. Sharing Liz's studio will be well known Dersingham painter **Jill Ilett**, a veteran of numerous solo shows and national exhibitions.

Don't forget the dates, Saturday and Sunday 28th – 29th November. All studios will be open from 10am until 4pm.

Any village artists interested in participating in future Art Trail events should contact the Trail coordinator Stephen Martyn on 01485 541333. Outside the dates mentioned above visitors are welcome at artists' studios but please contact them first.

DersinghamArtTrail.org



Owls Carrie Carey

Have you ever heard a Jenny Howlett or a Billy Hooter in the still of night? Chances are you have. More commonly known as the tawny owl, this is Britain's most common raptor. Children don't need to be raised in rural areas to be familiar with its distinctive "toowit toowoo" call, these birds are as much at home in city parks as they are in a pastoral setting. Apparently even in the heart of our nation's capital, a population of tawny owls is resident in the City of Westminster. Appropriately the collective noun for a group of owls is a parliament, or is that just irony?



There's probably no bird more alluded to in mythology and folklore than the owl. The Greek goddess Athena had an owl as her constant companion; a revealer of unseen truths. Certain African tribes and ancient Celts believed owls to have magical powers while Aborigines and some Native American Indians considered them to be harbingers of doom. Through modern literature such as Winnie the Pooh and Harry Potter stories, owls are seen as friends and protectors. For Edward Lear, the owl was a lovesick elegant fowl.

In reality, the owl is fast becoming an urban myth, rarely seen flying in the wild but more commonly found on the roadside after an unfortunate collision with a car. Traffic accidents are a major factor in the demise of both tawny and barn owls which prefer to hunt at dusk and dawn. In the dimming light it is easy for motorists to miss these birds as they fly low along the edge of a field searching for prey. Roadside verges are ideal habitats for voles and other small mammals. Food waste discarded by passing motorists attracts rodents, which in turn attracts owls. Swooping down on their prey these raptors are often hit by fast moving traffic or sucked into the draft of speeding vehicles. This seems to be the case particularly for young, inexperienced owls. In Norfolk and the Fens where roads are criss-crossed by dykes and watercourses, an owl may follow the water up to the road and then is hit by traffic as it crosses. Where this is a proven common occurrence land owners often screen the road with tall trees as a preventative measure.

Earlier this year, two tawny owls took unexpected journeys having flown inadvertently into stationary vehicles. One very lucky bird survived a 300 mile excursion from Glasgow to Crick clinging on to the buffers of a high speed freight train. The other owl took a ten mile road trip after becoming trapped in the roof rack of a people carrier. Sadly, most owls are not so lucky, suffering detached retinas as the result of high impact collisions, they do not survive.

So next time you are out driving in the twilight hours, keep your eyes peeled for a ghost like shadow flying low, close to the road. □



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Dersingham Day Centre Alice Worth



My report for the September/October edition of Village Voice was, for some reason or other, not included in that edition*, so I will just highlight one or two of the points it contained.

We started our Autumn Session on the 2nd September and, as usual, we were pleased to see all our friends again. We have our maximum number of Members now but that shouldn't put anyone off joining our Waiting List. For further information phone me on 01485 544673.

If you think you might like to be a Volunteer at the Day Centre (any time you can spare on a Wednesday would be appreciated) contact me on the number above. Being a Volunteer at the Day Centre is very rewarding as well as good fun. If you are new to the area this is a good way of meeting people and making new friends, everyone is very welcome.



On the 23rd September we celebrated the 90th birthday of Joe Earl. Joe treated all his Day Centre friends to a "real farmer's lunch" i.e. roast beef and all the trimmings followed by a jam sponge and custard pudding. He was joined by his daughter, her friend and the Rev. Steve Oliver from the Methodist Church. The Day Centre had ordered a special cake for Joe to be made by Alison Girling (I suppose after all the cakes she has made for us I could say "ordered from our Resident Baker"). It depicted a farmer and Alison had added another personal touch – the farmer had one ankle in plaster,

as Joe had recently broken his ankle and couldn't walk unaided. A good feast was enjoyed by us all and I'm pleased to report that Joe's ankle is making good progress.

On the 7th October two buses collected our Members and took them to the United Services Club in Hunstanton for lunch. Coffees/teas were served to everyone once they were settled in the lounge and then we moved into the dining area for lunch. There was a choice of chicken or roast beef with Yorkshire puddings, four vegetables, roast and mashed potatoes and a rich gravy. There were two sweets to choose from, followed by coffee or tea. Everyone agreed it had been a very pleasant outing topped by an excellent lunch and one which we hope to repeat in the coming months.

On October 17th we held our Autumn Fair at the Dersingham Methodist Church. Volunteers had worked hard on the Friday evening getting the stalls ready for Saturday morning, and we got off to a slow start on the Saturday morning due to the fact that it was flu jab day at the Surgery. However, things did improve and the cake stall was soon sold out and the kitchen did a brisk trade with a variety of hot drinks, sausage rolls, mince pies and biscuits.. "Guess the Name of the Doll" proved a challenge and the winner was Carol Kenny with the name CHARLOTTE. It was a real team effort and, as you can imagine, we were all delighted to learn that we had raised over £400, including donations. The Day Centre Committee wishes to thank all those who came to support us on the day and all those who worked so hard to make it a success.

Volunteers and Members have already started making decorations for the tree we have sponsored for St Nicholas' Church Christmas Tree Festival in December, including some very pretty and unusual items.

We have lots of activities planned for November and December including our 34th Birthday Party in November and our Christmas party in December.

The Members and Volunteers of the Day Centre wish to thank all those in the village who have supported and encouraged them in so many ways throughout this last year, and we wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. □ * *It's still out there in the ether. Ed*

Village Voice Live

Droning over Norfolk – WW2 - October 6th

Malcolm Cooper began his illustrated talk to a well filled hall with two newspaper headlines. The first from September 2nd 1939 screamed **Germany Invades Poland** and the second from September 3rd announcing **War with Germany**. As this momentous announcement came on a Sunday Malcolm told us that it was the first time the Eastern Daily Press printed a Sunday edition. There followed many interesting pictures of the events here during those war years. We saw many previously unseen photos of the air raid shelters and Morrison shelters hurriedly distributed to everyone. Familiar scenes of children with gas masks practising air raid drills at school and the disturbing sights of the bomb damage in Norwich, Yarmouth and elsewhere. Malcolm listed what he called the three invasions of Norfolk. The first was the invasion of evacuees and many in this village still remember when such children arrived here. Then he cited the Women's Land Army as the next when women worked the farms and carried out work previously considered beyond their capabilities. The third invasion and perhaps the most telling was the arrival of American troops. Along with other members of the audience I had not realised the number of American women who also came over to carry out military duties.

Malcolm also commented on the changes to the landscape caused by the rapid construction of air bases, pill boxes and bases for the Royal Observer Corps. All these examples were amply illustrated so although the subject matter was familiar there were so many previously unseen pictures that interest never wavered. In the last part of his talk Malcolm showed us the many museums that cover this period that can still be visited. There were many knowledgeable members in the audience who appreciated the excellent slides of the wartime aircraft.



For those who were unable to attend this talk I would like to tell you that if you have a few thousand pounds to spare you can enroll on a course and learn to fly that most iconic wartime aircraft the Spitfire. If successful you would be able to fly it solo which I imagine would be amazing. Against the odds I really enjoyed this talk but I'll leave the Spitfire to others.

CLIO

Wildlife and Landscape on the Norfolk Coast - November 3rd

A damp November evening found a good crowd for this talk by Tim Venes and Sharron Bosley. Tim heads the Norfolk Coast Partnership operation and Sharron runs the Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site. These statutory bodies are in place, we were told, to protect and nurture the wonderful and unique resource of our coastline. With all the protection afforded by National Park status, the area is managed with the hope of benefiting all whilst recognising that change is inevitable, both natural and man made.

This is a small but very efficient operation that, as much as anything, brings together all interested parties to keep the coast we love for the future. Illustrated with photos and graphics, the evening went well with good applause at the finish.

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War Memorial Wreaths

Kate Hathaway



A parishioner asked me recently if I knew what the policy was on how long memorial wreaths and crosses were to remain on War Memorials. I had to admit I had no idea if there was one but would try to find out.

The War Memorials Trust website offers no firm policy advice except to suggest that the authority responsible for a War Memorial should determine what that policy should be. In the case of Dersingham War Memorial the responsible authority is Dersingham Parish Council and so far it does not have a policy. The War Memorials Trust does advise that before determining a policy consideration should be given to the views of other interested parties such as parishioners and the Royal British Legion.

The Royal British Legion website also confirms that there is no guidance as to how long wreaths and crosses should remain on War Memorials. The Royal British Legion also informs that the wreaths at the Cenotaph are removed after two weeks. Maybe one month would be appropriate for Dersingham or should they remain until the next memorial event?

I've noticed on our own memorial that the wreaths and crosses remain and over a period of time with wind and weather must deteriorate. Do we get used to seeing them there, does their impact lessen over time; do they, with familiarity, become part of everyday life, even commonplace? I do not believe it would be disrespectful to remove the wreaths after a reasonable period of time, after all those we wish to honour are engraved in perpetuity in the stonework and the War Memorial remains a focal point for all our memorial actions. The War Memorial would then remain bare, plain, unadorned for the remaining periods of the year. The impact of the return of the blood red poppies would, I believe, be so much greater and catch our eyes to remind us of the sacrifices made by those who gave their lives for us to live in peace for so long.

I raised this issue at a recent Parish Council meeting and it was agreed that parishioners should be consulted on how long wreaths should remain on the Dersingham War Memorial. Following this consultation and taking into account the views of the British Legion the Parish Council would be able to determine a policy. This would be published on the Council website and a discreet notice displayed in the War Memorial Garden.

If you have views on how long poppy wreaths should remain on the Dersingham War Memorial please send them to me by email to kate.hathaway@dersingham.org.uk titled 'Poppy Wreaths' or by letter to me at the Parish Council Office by Friday 15th January 2016. No phone calls please.
Cllr Kate Hathaway, Dersingham Parish Council. □

Old Picture Corner with Tony Bubb

Two views of Lynn this time which I found in the Marlborough Antiques Centre. The top one, of Tuesday Market Place, I guess is around 1900. No sign of the internal combustion engine yet. It looks like there is a fair in progress. The other card was posted on a January 5th during the reign of George V but "Bob" might have bought old stock to post to Willesden when he reported that there was "plenty of water and mud" to Mr & Mrs Luhman. You seldom see craft like that sailing now.



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Dersingham Walking Group

Welcome to the Dersingham Walking Group, which provides regular guided walks round the local countryside. The next section of our programme takes us through the winter months, when many of you might think 'it's a bit chilly for walking!' But actually, this is one of the best times to see the countryside, with the long shadows of winter light sketching patterns of bare trees across a landscape still often golden with colour, or maybe sometimes sparkling with frost. Some of our best walks have been winter walks and the Boxing Day one might burn off at least some of the turkey and mince pies!

None of these walks will take you too far from home and they're free, just turn up on the day wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. Note that during December and January afternoon walks start earlier than usual, at 1.30pm. The length is shown for each walk but they usually take a couple of hours or so, with a stop halfway. Dogs are welcome, provided they're well behaved. Why not get some fresh air and exercise, you'll be in good company!

Details of our next walks are:

Wednesday 9th December 1.30pm

Starting point: The big lay-by near the Ingoldisthorpe crossroads.

Grid ref: TF 683 324 Length of walk: 4.5 miles.

Smells and bells. Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham, passing the sewage works and the church!

Leader: Elizabeth Fiddick 01485 540940

Saturday 26th December 10.30am

Starting point: Near Anmer on the Shernborne to Anmer Road, junction with the track to Ling House. Car parking available on the verge.

Grid ref: TF 730 307 Length of walk: 4.5 miles.

Walk off those Boxing Day blues, with this circuit of Anmer and Shernborne.

Leader: Tony Bubb 01485 542638

Wednesday 13th January 1.30pm

Starting point: Sandringham Visitor Centre

Grid ref: TF 690 288 Length of walk: 4 miles.

A winter woodland walk, ambling through the woods of Sandringham.

Leader: Steve & Lindsey Davis 01485 543138

Wednesday 10th February 2.00pm

Starting point: St Nicholas church hall, Dersingham.

Grid ref: TF 692 302 Length of walk: 6.0 miles.

The Icknield Way or at least some of this ancient path!

Leader: Cliff Jordan 01485 541115

You can always see the full walks programme on the parish council website. 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.

Group coordinator: Stephen Martyn 01485 541333 stephenmartyn@gmail.com

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Dersingham Evening WI by Maggie Guest



Our village WI has had a busy year as we have been celebrating the Centenary of the WI . There have been many national events and locally we have made much of the

Centenary. Our August Nostalgia Afternoon was well received and we finished the celebrations with a party. This was held at St Cecilia's Church in September. Members of other neighbouring WIs attended and a light meal was enjoyed with wine and live music played by Mike Smith and his band. A wonderful cake made by Dot Goff's daughter was enjoyed by all.

October's meeting had an exceptionally interesting speaker. Charlotte Philcox , who was a Radio Norfolk and Let's Talk magazine garden journalist, spoke on natural remedies. She was so interesting that she was asked to keep speaking. If we get earache we now know we need to cut an onion in half, chop it, put it in a sock and hold it to the painful ear! You may have known that beaten egg white is good for our skin but apparently great on babies' bottoms too!



Last month saw 6 potential new members and we hope they will like us enough to join. All the smaller groups continue to thrive and I am pleased to report Sue, who is quite a new member, had a very successful coffee morning. A group went to Fakenham Races with lunch from one of the stalls. Antje told the meeting about a trip 4 members went on to Austria.

The walking group did their last walk of the year at Burnham Thorpe. This involved delving a

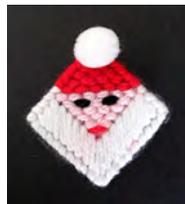
bit into Nelson's history in the Church, passing the site of his birth and having lunch in The Nelson pub. Great that so many ventured forth in the rain! The Theatre group went to see Dreamboats and Mini Skirts at the Corn Exchange.

Another of our very well organised and prepared groups is The Craft Group run by our very capable, hardworking,





'crafty' Babs. The group meets every month at Babs' house where she keeps all the equipment needed for the classes. Babs prepares lessons for a year in advance and hands out a programme. I am most impressed by the level of



preparation I have seen! Everyone has the materials they need prepared ready for the class. This year the group have recycled Christmas cards, had Fun with Fimo, made a Prick and Stitch Easter Card, Decopatch and Decorated Gift Bags, Men's Shirt Cards, Quilling and made a Father Christmas Badge. I haven't seen all the items made but I fell in love with an Owl

Doorstop I saw at Roma's house which she had made at the June Craft Group. They plan to Decorate Xmas gift tins and do a Christmas Table Flower Arrangement in the next two classes for this year. Not only do the group enjoy making the items but they all enjoy the company and chatter that goes on. A wonderful group to belong to. Well done Babs!

On January 20th the speaker is Sally Jubb who will talk about Textile Conservation and February 17th we have Mrs Hall's Holidays by our member, Diane Hall. □

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Dick Melton from Sunny Hunny



Hi there all you good folk of Dersingham and beyond, here is some more fact, fiction and squit from the pen of Dick from Sunny Hunny for the month of December 2015.

My writing

First of all I would like to thank Bridget English very much for pointing out that in my list of petrol stations I missed out Lavender Hill at Heacham. I have written in the Dersingham *Village Voice* for 16 years, that's 96 issues; also I have written in the Hunstanton *Town and Around* for 10 years, that's 120 issues; and I have only missed writing in three or four issues of each of these magazines. I write to all sorts of people all over the world. Every December I write to the President of the United States of America wishing him and his family a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year. When I wrote to the President of Russia about a lake in that country, the Russian Embassy in London sent me a book about the history of Russia.

Since I started writing many years ago I have written to many different people in many different walks of life, including HM The Queen, princes, dukes, lords and ladies, also many members of the general public, many of whom write to me first and, of course, I write to my two favourite newspapers - the *Lynn News* and the *Eastern Daily Press*. So maybe Bridget will let me off for missing out Lavender Hill.

Sidney Hearne and Arthur Coxon

It was good to see a letter from Sidney Hearne. I hope that there are still a few people alive in the village who remember him, and what a nice story from Arthur Coxon who was born and lived up Fern Hill till 1945. There maybe not many people in the village who remember him but I am sure there must be people about who had their teeth taken out by his father. Looking through my 1925 edition of *Kelly's Directory*, I found out there were two dentists by the name of Coxon practising in Le-Strange Terrace, Hunstanton in 1925. I wondered if they could be relations of Arthur Coxon, maybe his uncles.

Old Picture Corner [*Village Voice* 96]

Now to old picture corner. I am, like Tony Bubb, almost sure that the bottom picture is of West Hall Manor. This row of cottages were also called by local people 'Albert Victor Cottages' and 'Wash House Yard' because, as Mr Coxon says in his story, Mrs Sayer and her daughter Mary Barratt, ran a wash house in the first cottage in the row; and I remember well they would tip the baths of dirty water in the nearby dyke so you would have soap suds floating right down to the marshes.

The top picture is of John Cobbald's grocer's shop, which was at No 84 Chapel Road. It was later called 'The Norfolk Stores'. After that, I think for a short while in the 1960s, Peatling and Cawdron ran the shop as a wine and spirit merchants. It has I believe for many years been a private house situated just to the west of Shanks Garage.

The Warren

Now we go to an article in the *Dersingham Data* 2015/16 about the area of land down The Drift called The Warren. First of all this land was never a warren; it was arable land for at least the last 150 years and for many years it was part of Dun Cow Farm. The nearest warren to this land was at the bottom of the 17 acres of land on the southern side of The Drift known as Ken Martin Marsh. This warren many years ago was attached to Wolferton Warren that had covered 1,000 acres taking in some parts of Sandringham, West Newton and Wolferton.

Dersingham ponds

When I read the next bit of this article I had to smile to myself when it mentions that a pond is to be developed on this site. There was a very nice pond (Bauldings Moat) on this site next to The Drift till it was almost filled in with builders' soil. It had small trees around it and reeds around the water's edge with plenty of wild life like water hens, coot, mallard ducks and many other birds.

The writer of this article also says that Dersingham has not got a pond. This is not correct. There is a large pond on The Emblems, which is an area of land opposite the Feathers Hotel and next to the old school. This is quite a large pond and, though it is silted up a lot and covered in undergrowth, it is still there. In the

1970s the then parish council wanted to buy this area of land off the Sandringham Estate as an amenity area for the people of the village. When I was a lad we used to skate and slide on this pond, also sledge down the slope that goes up nearly as far as the woods. The other pond, though a lot smaller, is on the meadow at the back of Hill House farmhouse, half way up Sugar Lane. There were at one time seven ponds in Dersingham but five of them were filled in and four of them built on or around.

The sea retreats

As many of you already know, for many years Dersingham was fishing village and the sea came up to near where the by-pass is today. The sea also came well inland at Castle Rising and this village was a busy port. In 1601 John Pell and his sons had six ships fishing out of Dersingham, one for each son. In 1607 there was a great flood which flooded all the low lying areas of the village, then in 1735 there was an even greater flood with the water going up as far as the church and the vicarage that stood where the village hall is today, getting flooded right out. This time, when the sea went back, it went back to where it is today.

Wartime fare

Now let's get away from water and the sea. We were having a chat the other day about the things that we ate during the Second World War and how you do not see many of them about today. Ox tail was a good meal. The butcher would chop half way through the joints in the tail, then he would coil it up so as you could get it in the saucepan to boil. We always had roast on a Sunday but the joint would not be very big, as it was on ration, but we had plenty of vegetables with it. My mother would make sure that we had plenty of veg left over so we could have bubble and squeak for tea on a Monday. Bubble and squeak was made up of sprouts, potatoes, carrots, parsnips and any other vegetables that were left over. This was all put in a large frying pan along with some onions and plenty of lard. It was then all put in the pan and fried up till it was crispy brown.

Other things we ate were breasts of lamb that were boned and rolled, then stuffed with sausage meat. Pigs' cheeks would be boiled first then fried, also ox cheek and ox heart. Ox heart was good if you did not like fat. My wife still makes me brawn or pork cheese as it is called; it is made out of a pig's hock and pig trotters. Then, of course, there was my favourite, chitterlings; these were made out of pigs' intestines. I still eat these but they are hard to come by these days, as butchers cannot be bothered with them because they take a lot of preparation, but they are very nice eaten either cold or fried. Then, of course, there is the good old rabbit. When I lived with my granny at East Winch you would either catch them or you could buy them for a tanner each. We would eat at least two a week and I still enjoy them today either stewed, boiled or in a pie. If you have a rabbit in a pie it is best to use a humped backed rabbit as it keeps the crust out of the gravy. Did you know that according to Mrs Beeton's cook book there's 28 ways to cook a rabbit? Just to finish off here is a little verse I found in a book.

Rabbit tender,
Rabbit tough,
Give me some more
I just can't get enough.

No doubt someone will let us know about the things they used to eat years back. One thing that I really missed from my younger days was when I worked for Ken Milton the butcher down Manor Road. The first job in the mornings was to take three or four pounds of minced beef down the road to Billy Playford the baker to put in his meat pies. Then Billy would give me a hot crust of fresh bread straight out of the oven. You can't get bread like that today. Good old days.

Well I am nearly at the end of this contribution, and I can hear the kettle whistling, time for tea. I know it's a bit early but I would like to wish all the readers of Dersingham *Village Voice* a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year, as it will be nearly Christmas by the time you read this. □



Light Up A Life

Christmas is almost here for another year. It is during this time that friends and family come together to share this special season. However, it is always difficult when we think of those who unfortunately cannot share it with us.

For many years The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House has been hosting *Light up a Life* during December. *Light up a Life* is a national appeal organised by Hospices to celebrate the memory of loved ones at Christmastime.

The hospice would like to invite members of the local community to remember a special person or people this Christmas by dedicating a light on our Christmas tree which will be brightly lit in front of the Hospice during December. Anyone who wishes to make a dedication should call the Hospice fundraising team on 01485 601701 or pick up a leaflet from one of the Hospice shops.

As part of your *Light up a Life* dedication, you will have:-

- The opportunity to attend a *Light up a Life* service during December. Guests will be able to light a candle for your loved ones during these services.
- The names of your loved ones entered into our *Light up a Life* Book of Remembrance which will be available to view at all of our *Light up a Life* services and at the Hospice during December.
- Your loved ones names entered into our *Light up a Life* Order of Service which will be available at our Services.

This year the Hospice is hosting four *Light up a Life* services. The services are open to everyone, not just people who have made a dedication.

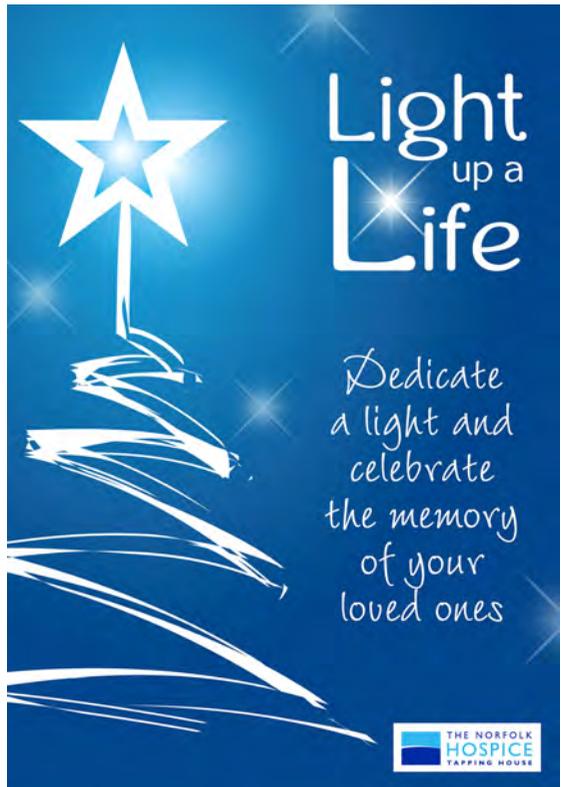
Sunday 6th December at King's Lynn Minster (3pm)

Monday 7th December at Sandringham Visitor Centre (5pm)

Thursday 10th December at The Norfolk Hospice, Hillington (5.30pm)

Sunday 13th December at St Edmunds, Downham Market (3pm)

Everyone at the Hospice looks forward to welcoming the community at the services. □



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RESCUE : WOODEN : BOATS news

Lucy Lavers trips.....

Dunkirk Little Ship and former lifeboat *Lucy Lavers* has been giving trips afloat in Wells-next-the-Sea during the summer, following her successful return trip to Dunkirk, 75 years on. 225 people have been afloat in her, with over 50 children, including some from Fakenham Academy who have been studying *Lucy Lavers*. People described the trips as 'informative; memorable; evocative; history alive; exhilarating; fulfilling; nostalgic'.

Lucy Lavers will be coming out of the water for winter maintenance at Stiffkey in November and trips should start again at Easter (as always, subject to weather). Trip dates will be on the website and notices.

Dates for your diaries....

The Maritime Heritage visitor centre at Stiffkey closed at the end of October and will re-open at the beginning of March (Saturdays and Sundays 10 – 4). **BUT** we will be open from time to time for special events:

The first is a special weekend on November 28 & 29 when, as well as the displays, artefacts and films of *Lucy Lavers* story and plenty on fishing heritage, there will be a small display of **Jack Cox paintings** and **plenty of special offers in the shop** for your Christmas shopping! Do come along and bring your friends!

We now have two DVDs of *Lucy Lavers* – one of her history and restoration and the second of her return trip to Dunkirk this May. We will be showing these, **dates to be announced**, and they are for sale in the shop.

Group bookings.....

School groups, adult groups and societies – somewhere different to hold your meetings, perhaps with a Maritime Heritage tour and talk thrown in? Groups are warmly invited to use our flexible and well-equipped Education Room. Do get in touch.

If you like messing about with boats or in boatyards or are interested in our local maritime heritage, why not talk to us about being an occasional volunteer at the Visitor Centre? Do give us a call.

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A Christmas Concert

The Bilton Silver (Rugby) Band has had another exciting year, being promoted to the Championship Section of the National Brass Band contest.

This year so far they have travelled widely over the UK with six concerts on tour. Once again we are lucky to welcome them to Dersingham, to bring us a variety of seasonal music with each piece introduced and explained by David Stowell. There will be many opportunities for different soloists on everything from the Cornet to the Trombone and even the Euphonium, to take advantage of the wonderful acoustics and Christmas atmosphere of the Church filled with decorated Christmas Trees.

We anticipate another sell-out for this 7th year, which is expected to bring in a net profit for the Friends Charity of over £1,000, all dedicated to supporting the Vicar and Churchwardens in maintaining our Church, which is the oldest building in the Village. □

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News from St Cecilia's RC Church by Patricia Nevin

We have recently celebrated three 'First Holy Communions' in the parish. Our congratulations and prayers go to Heston Appleton, Samuel Natrass and Kacey Blake. Samuel and Kacey made theirs at St Cecilia's, Dersingham during Mass on Sunday 27th September. There was a little celebration for them and their families after the service.



Work is progressing well on the parish church in Hunstanton. The stained glass windows of Our Lady and St Edmund have been removed for cleaning and restoration before being re-installed in their new position. You can see a mock up plan of how the inside of the church will look in the parish room. Thanks go to the volunteers who turn up every Saturday to clean up and get the church ready for the Sunday service.

Unfortunately the Ladies shared lunch, which had been planned for November at St Cecilia's, has had to be cancelled. We hope to have one in the spring instead. The date for that and all our social events will be confirmed in the bulletin and notice boards.

A revised, extended parish history book is available at both churches for the price of £2.50 per copy. All proceeds go to the Parish Church Development fund.

There is a Fair Trade Stall at St Cecilia's after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of every month. For more information contact Caroline Brooks on 01553 673069.

Everyone, whether Catholic or not, is welcome to all of our services and social occasions. We have refreshments after the 11am Mass every Sunday and after 10.15am Mass every Wednesday. There are also refreshments after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of the month at Dersingham. Please come along, you will be most welcome. **Our daily Masses at Hunstanton, will be advertised on the notice boards and in the weekly bulletins as will the Mass times for Christmas week.** Wednesday mass is usually at 10.15am at St Cecilia's, Dersingham. 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



Rotary Matters Phil Newell

with sixty buffet which included rolls and cakes, donated by the two bakeries in Hunstanton. Over £400 was raised for charity. Our photo shows the winning team and their prizes, all of the participants looking very pleased, especially our Rotary Vice President, Carol Bower (third from the left) who organised the event.

The Club received an interesting talk recently at one of our lunchtime meetings. The talk was about the Sandringham Explorers, whose ages range from 14 to 18 years. Their visit to the Jamboree in Chingford, with 3000 people there, was described. The programme had numerous activities – archery, hang-gliding, canoeing and many others, all very popular. There are no restrictions to join the twenty-four Explorers here but unfortunately there is a waiting list. Clearly the members enjoy themselves! Rotarian Richard Shaw gave a vote of thanks, saying that they are to be congratulated on their fascinating programme.



Two events we think that you may be interested in are taking place in the area. The first is at Phobbies in Dersingham who have their Christmas sale on 28th November, 11.0 am – 2.0 pm at St. Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Rd. There will be crafts, cakes, gifts, children's and adults, tombola, bric-a-brac, plus refreshments including soup and rolls, teas and coffee etc. On Sat 5th December there is a Norfolk Hospice Tapping House event, a Santa Dash, 10.0 am – 1.0 pm, held at King's Lynn Football Club, the Walks, King's Lynn PE30 5PB.

By talking to various members of the public we have found that very few actually know much about our activities! A common answer is, "Oh! I think you collect money and give it to charity!" Many do not realise that not only do we work for this but we are proud to do so. But we also do a lot more than this – and particularly, we have good fun and fellowship in doing so! Recently we had a meeting to discuss how we might make people more aware of what we do. We shall be having other meetings to discuss 'Rotary Awareness'. Watch out for our advertisements! Meanwhile, if you are interested and would like to know more now, then why not come to one of our meetings. You can be assured of a good welcome. We meet on Wednesday lunchtimes, 12.30 pm for 1.0 pm. at the Le Strange Hotel, Old Hunstanton. We have more information about our Club on our website www.hunstanton-rotary.co.uk Do look at it - it is full of interesting information.

The telephone number of our President Adrian Evans, is 01485 570477, or our past President Peter Atterbury is 01485 534820 who will be pleased to speak to you or give you more information if you wish. If you are coming to a meeting please 'phone one of them or leave a message and your telephone number or web address. □

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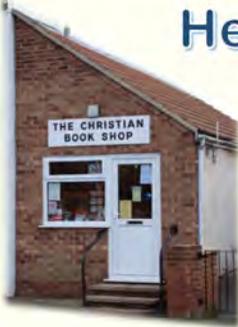
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Parish Council Report by Cllr Sue Payne (Chair)



At the moment the Council is considering our response to the County Council's proposals to help it make millions of pounds in savings in its budget. There are threats to the level of Fire Service cover in our area, the Library, and Adult Social Care.

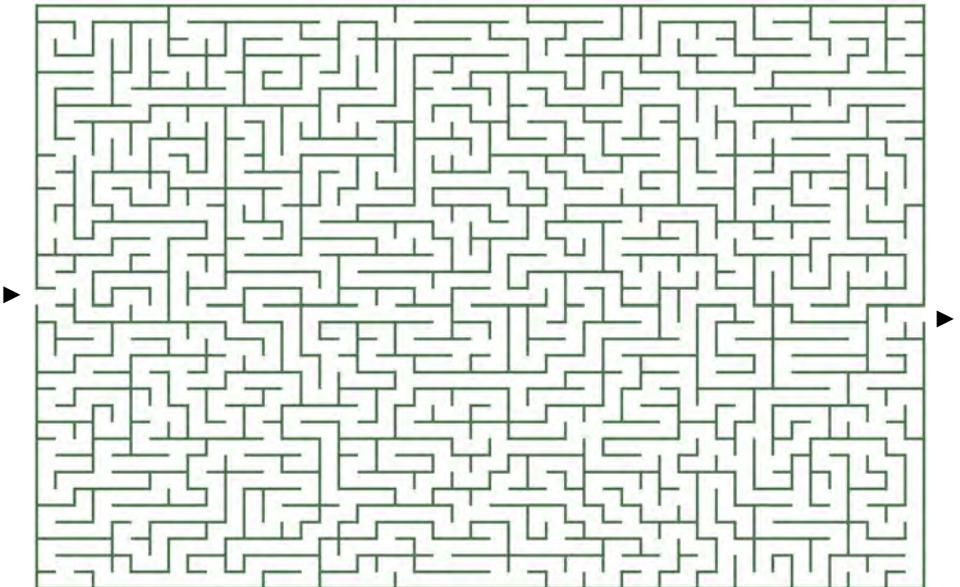
I will be writing to the County Council Chief Executive, John Dobson (County Councillor), and Henry Bellingham (MP) to express our concerns, and would ask residents to do the same. The formal consultation opened on October 26th and runs until January 14th next year.

You can find full details of the various proposals on the County Council's website. Or, you ask Sarah in the Parish Office for the information. Following our public meeting regarding the bus services, we may hold another meeting, with colleagues from neighbouring parishes, in the new year.

We did have some success re the Bus Services with the no 11 being restored although we understand that there is still no link from the Mounbatten Rd area to the Hospital. Also the bus times do not coincide with train timetables, which makes longer journeys difficult to plan. Please let us know if you have concerns with the bus service so we can keep the pressure on the providers. But, we do need people to use the services so they keep running. You know the saying – "use it or lose it".

At this time of year, the Parish Council is considering next year's precept (our part of the Council Tax) and committees are putting their budgets together. We welcome members of the public at our meetings and you do have time to state your views on what the Parish Council does and ask questions.

Details of Full Council, Committee, and Working Group meetings can be found in the Parish Office window and our notice boards at the Library, opposite Budgens, and Thaxters. You can contact Sarah, the Clerk, about Village Voice and any of the items above. Tel: 01485 541465; email: clerk@dersingham.org.uk
Please note that the office will close after December 23rd and reopen on January 4th.



Spooky Robins

David Bingham

I'm sure many of you will be receiving Christmas cards with cheery pictures of robins on the front. This increase in robin images is mirrored by an actual increase in robin numbers at this time of year - as migrants arrive to escape the cold winters of central Europe, Scandinavia and Russia. Some robins migrate further south and these birds regularly land on the Norfolk coast in the autumn where 'falls' of robins can be spectacular. In October 1998, just short of five and a half thousand robins were counted on a single day between Holme and Paston. A couple of years ago I read an article in the New York Times about recent research into how European robins navigate during these migration flights. I found the article to be truly astonishing and I will try to explain what the research is beginning to reveal. To do this I need to take a surprising detour into the weird world of quantum physics.

One of the quantum worlds many strange properties is a phenomenon known as entanglement. This is a difficult concept to explain but you can get close to an understanding if you first imagine two electrons being knocked out of the orbit of an atom. These electrons will have a property known as spin (don't worry too much about what this means because it isn't the same as our normal use of this word). Before the spin is measured the electrons don't have an actual spin value, it is the act of measuring that gives them a value. For example, they can be 'spin up' or 'spin down' and the odds are 50/50 either way. The really interesting part is that because these electrons came from the same atom they are what are known as entangled particles. If you measure the spin value of one of the pair the other somehow instantly 'knows' this measurement has taken place and will always have the opposite value if measured in the same orientation - even if the particles are light years apart. Albert Einstein called this 'spooky action at a distance' and believed it undermined the very foundation of quantum mechanics. Well spooky or not entanglement has since been shown to be real. So let's go back to our robins and see how this fits



into the story of how they find their way on their migration flights.

It has been known for a long time that migratory animals can use the earth's magnetic field to help them navigate around the globe. How they do this has been a mystery but the latest research on robins is beginning to uncover one possible mechanism for how this inbuilt compass operates. Photons of light entering the retina in a robin's eye are believed to knock electrons out of atoms in proteins called cryptochrome. These electrons move to nearby cryptochrome molecules but remain 'entangled' with electrons in the atoms they left. The earth's magnetic field affects the spin values of these electrons differently because they are spatially separated but their entangled state means the difference in values is instantly transmitted between the particles and this leads to a chemical reaction in the cryptochrome. Exactly how these chemical reactions manifest themselves isn't known but it is thought that robins may actually 'see' the earth's magnetic field as bands of light and shade.

Physicists can maintain quantum entangled particles in their sterile laboratories, using state of the art equipment running close to absolute zero. Robins are believed to do the same in the warm messy environment at the back of their eyes. The robins can also maintain the entanglement for much longer than the physicists. This is still measured in fractions of seconds but robins beat physicists by a full 20 microseconds. Until recently all this was very contentious. But as evidence mounts it is becoming accepted and the research on robins is in the vanguard of the new science of quantum biology. I just typed 'quantum robins' into Google and it came back with 397,000 results so plenty for you to look at if you would like to know more - including a video clip of Jim Al-Khalili explaining the robin's quantum compass.

If you want to see a true Christmas miracle you could do worse than to look into the eyes of the little red-breasted birds hopping around your garden. □

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The streetlights of Dersingham, quantum mechanics and saving the precept.

Brian Anderson

I hope you'll read this to the end! The first bit is a touch abstruse but I wanted to - as it were - set the scene.

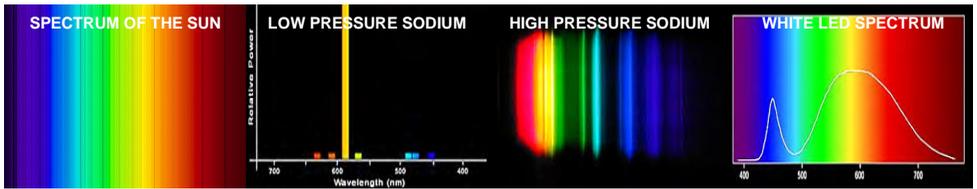
"There is nothing new to be discovered in physics now, All that remains is more and more precise measurement."

This statement, made by Lord Kelvin around 1900, was a rash and, dare I say it, arrogant statement by an eminent scientist. Even when he made it there were an uncomfortably large number of phenomena and experimental results which could not be explained by the current Newtonian system of physics:

- Classical physics predicted that as something became hotter the light emitted got bluer. This seemed to work until "white heat" was reached but then stopped - there was no further shift into the ultraviolet. Why?
- Radioactivity had recently been discovered. What was it? How was it caused?
- When some materials were heated, rather than the smooth curve mentioned above, they showed a series of sharp lines in very well-defined colours (or strictly, wavelengths). Similarly, the spectrum of the sun showed sharp dark lines where there seemed to be no emission. Why?
- Some metals, when cooled to near absolute zero (around -273°C), lost all electrical resistance. What caused that?
- What were X-rays?

The answers emerged slowly over succeeding decades. And those answers were very strange indeed, defying common sense and confounding our view of reality. It started innocuously enough. Einstein showed that light was composed of particles that carried energy according to their wavelength - this was a surprise as light had been shown experimentally to be waves, not particles. But the evidence was there - it seemed that the nature of light depended on the experiment employed - and it explained the white heat problem. Then a Danish scientist called Neils Bohr proposed the planetary model of the atom where the electrons orbited the nucleus and were confined to a limited series of orbits. Dropping down to a lower orbit emitted energy, going up to higher orbit required receiving energy. This explained both spectra and X-rays. So that was all right wasn't it? Well, no it wasn't. More experiments showed that not only did light exhibit both wave and particle properties but so did matter. From there Erwin Schrodinger explained how the electrons had to be in Bohr's neat orbits as the electrons as waves had to be standing waves around the atomic nucleus. From here things got really weird and I'm pretty much going to skip it as you'll have to accept concepts like things being in two places at once, space seeming not to exist and (for example) something being alive and dead at the same time. As the American physicist Richard Feynman said: "If you think you understand quantum mechanics, you don't understand quantum mechanics."

So was it all just a theoretical game to keep scientists busy? Actually no. The explanation of spectra above meant that light could be used to identify atoms and molecules and was a useful tool in chemical analysis. It was something I used when having my first look at our street lights. But it wasn't until scientists began to look at quantum behaviour in solids that the applications really took off. Work done after the second world war led to the first germanium transistors, fairly quickly replaced by silicon transistors. It wasn't long before the engineers realised that you could put several transistors on the same bit of silicon crystal and connect them as a circuit - the first integrated circuits - or chips. Very rapidly the size of the components dropped and the number per chip shot up. Today single chips with millions of components are commonplace. What would the world today be like without these circuits? We wouldn't have desktop or tablet computers. We wouldn't have smart phones (or indeed any mobile phones) or modern televisions or radios or



indeed any of the goods and devices that depend on embedded computers for their operation - think modern cars, washing machines, freezers, central heating controls, bread-makers, cookers, digital cameras...

The odd behaviour of some metals at very low temperatures also had applications. The loss of electrical resistance meant that very large currents could be generated and therefore very strong magnets produced. This has led to a wide variety of scientific instruments but also the development of a variety of body scanners that many hospitals now use.

At about the same time as transistors were being developed scientists and engineers were working on the interaction of light with similar crystals, either to emit light (eg LEDs) or to produce electricity from light (eg solid state photocells). Development of LEDs led to lasers and these too are ubiquitous today - CD and DVD players and bar code scanners are examples.

Well, congratulations if you've got this far!

I'm now going to talk about our street lights! The remarkable fact is that without the apparently obscure theoretical and experimental work done all those years ago, I couldn't have written any of the below.

One important point to note here is that, along with most other councils, Dersingham has an unmetered supply. We pay the supplier of our electricity according to the power rating of all our lights and their operating times as certified by the network operator. When I became chair of the Parish Council's Environment Committee I was given (along with a lot of other stuff) a list of all our street lights, their power consumption and the bulb type. Most of our lights are low pressure sodium with its familiar yellow light but some are not. Some were listed as high pressure sodium which is a bit whiter and uses more electricity. I was puzzled about some of them as they seemed very yellow for high pressure sodium (which is also mercury doped). What to do? I went back to first principles and bought a spectroscope which would show the spectral lines. If they were only yellow it was low pressure sodium. And so it proved. We were paying more than we should for the power for these lamps. That was corrected by recertifying. Around this time we were able to obtain a grant to convert some of our lights to light emitting diodes (LEDs). This offered the prospect (eventually) of some quite large savings. Modern white LEDs give a pleasant light which is much "friendlier" - my view similar to natural light - than yellow sodium and use significantly less power. Why? Because using aspects of quantum mechanics and the right materials it's possible to produce LEDs that emit exactly the wavelengths (or colours) that you want and no others. Compare this to the old tungsten filament lamps where most of the power goes into heat rather than light production. After the first trial group of conversions (from which we learned much) we were keen to move onto replacing the most power-hungry lamps. There was a group of just five that were using nearly a seventh of all our street light power. Conversion of these saved over 90 per cent of the power.

The current plan is to accumulate the savings to convert more lamps with the eventual aim of providing our street lighting much more cheaply. For not only do LEDs use less electricity, the maintenance costs are lower and the lamps are inherently more reliable. Not all the lights will be changed as quite a number aren't the responsibility of the Parish Council but of the County - the main road, all of the Mountbatten Estate and the Old Hall Drive Estate are the main examples.

I'm sure none of the scientists who developed and refined quantum mechanics as a solution to some intriguing problems had any clue how it would change society and how people lived their lives. □



EXPERIENCES WHILST DOING NATIONAL SERVICE

John Lambert

I always had a liking for gymnastics and one night I met one of our Officers in the gym. We got on so well he asked me if I would become his Batman. I jumped at the idea and he said "leave it with me." Before long, I was told to report to this officer so everything was OK from then on.



We all came home on a troopship called the "Empire Ken", it was only 9523 tons gross, but it did the job. When we got to Malta, the ship was surrounded by little boats all trying to sell you something. One had some lovely white tablecloths made of silk with the "Malta GC" embroidered in the middle. The price was ten shillings which is 50p in today's money and that was all I had to last me until I got home. I really wanted to buy one for mum but I didn't. The

next morning as I took my officer his mug of tea I happened to mention this and he said "take this £1 note I won at cards last night" but it was too late then, our ship had sailed.

He and I got demobbed on the same day. He invited me to his house at Hamilton, a suburb of Glasgow, but I never went as I never had a car in those days plus I never had enough money for train fares. □

BUS RIDE

Celia Murray

How about a little excursion on the No 11 bus? We need to use it or we shall lose it! So why not enjoy a pleasant trip to Castle Rising?

Although the Castle is closed until next Spring there are several places to visit. Alight from the No 11 bus, taking note of the return stop on the opposite side of the road as it is a little obscure, then visit Unique's Castle Farm Barn. Having admired the home furnishings, fantastic stock of hats and fascinators, bags, jewellery, walking sticks, men's hats and bridal wear and maybe purchased some Christmas presents, step outside and see the collection of books at the village lending library. It's open, can you spot it? It's the red telephone box; what a wonderful idea. A stroll to the Church of St Lawrence and the Trinity Hospital almshouses stopping at Allez Chic (ladies' and children's clothes) and then indulge yourself at the Tea Rooms. □

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1st Dersingham Guides

Girlguiding Dersingham celebrate with a Longest Reigning Monarch Party



This September our Queen became this country's Longest Reigning Monarch and as the Queen is Patron of Girlguiding, the Dersingham Rainbows, 1st & 2nd Brownies & Guides held a party to celebrate and mark this occasion.

Seventy Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from the ages of 5 to 16 years and their leaders came together to party. Everyone decorated a biscuit in the shape of the Queen's profile and made a crown. There were also silly games, lots of food, singing and cake for everyone to take home. At their individual unit meetings, the girls had already been presented with special commemorative badges issued by Girlguiding CHQ.



CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE (CBHC) PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) NEWS

From: Tom Morris, PPG Committee

SEPTEMBER PPG MEETING. This was a critical meeting to determine the future – if any – of the PPG. Members who had taken a lead role on the committee had decided to retire after many years of service and it had proved extremely difficult to find replacements. However, at the 11th hour, Barry and Hilary Judd volunteered to act as joint chairmen, Mark Warrell agreed to become the treasurer and Dee Morris agreed to continue as secretary. So the PPG continues in good hands! The hard work of the retiring members was acknowledged and appreciated by all.

Esme Corner, the Lead Governor at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Trust gave a comprehensive brief on activities at the hospital and this is summarised below:

- * After the inspection in July that QEH has been released from the Special Measures regime.
- * Not all the report was glowing however, the board is aware of the problems they face.
- * Services covering Surgical, Medical and Young People were good
- * Services covering Maternity and End-of-Life Care still require improvement.
- * Due to the hospital location, almost all services will be retained at the hospital but some may be outsourced and is an area of much discussion with providers and the West Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group.
- * Stakeholders meetings held recently were very poorly attended by members of the public.
- * The new West Newton Ward provides a specialist environment for the frail elderly patients who are admitted and it has been designed to cater for the needs of persons with aspects of dementia.
- * Patients from Windsor Ward are being transferred to Necton ward during refurbishment.
- * This will be an ongoing upgrading process throughout the wards as there is no chance of a new hospital in the foreseeable future.
- * The hospital is now 'zoned' and areas are colour coded accordingly.
- * There is a new Registrar Office dealing with Births and Deaths.
- * The Discharge System requires updating and means of speeding discharge are in progress with e-letters of discharge, although the delay in provision of medication is still ongoing.
- * Wi-fi is being installed in various areas.
- * Partial Booking system – not effective.

OPEN DAY. On 23rd October patients in the over-75 bracket were invited to attend an Open Day at the St Nicholas Church Hall when a variety of statutory and voluntary health and care services representatives were present. The aim of the event was to make attendees aware of what services were available to them in old age. It was a useful and very well supported event, and during the day Dr Steve Summers, who has retired as a GP from VIDA Healthcare but is taking a lead role in what is known as the Pyramid of Care in the community, was presented by Hilary Judd with a gift from the PPG in recognition of his long and devoted service to the patient community of Dersingham. The next PPG Meeting will be at the Carole Brown Health Centre on 3rd December at 7.00 PM. □



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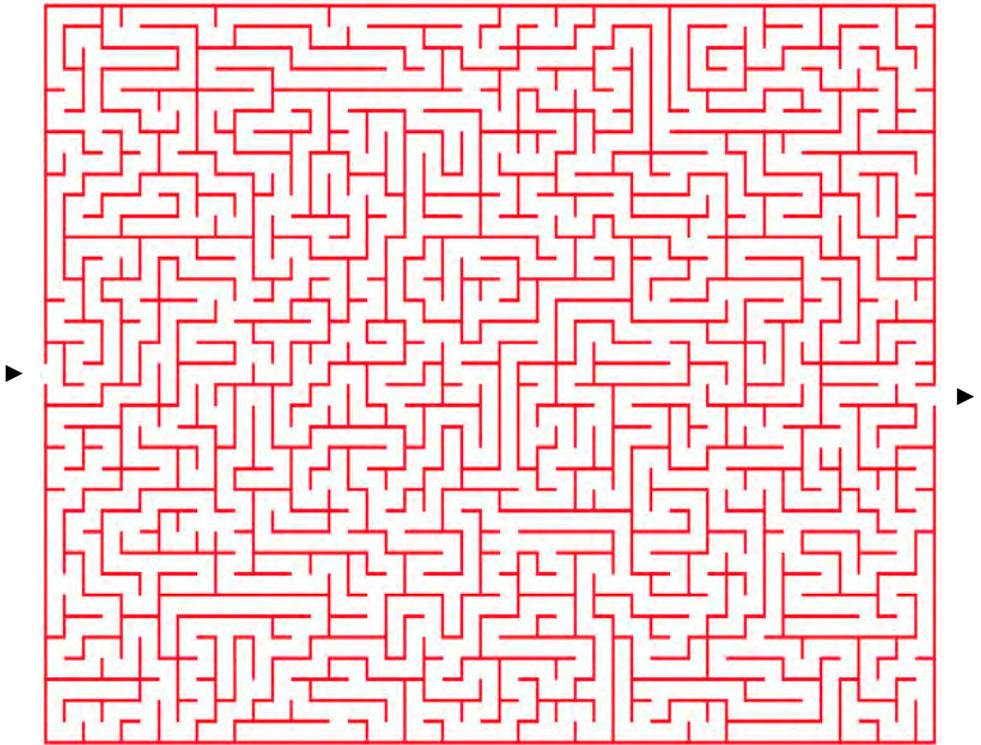
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Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)



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Access and parking from Sporle Road.

Slugs!

with Chris du Feu

Tuesday 24th November, 7.30pm

Chris du Feu is a self-confessed slug enthusiast. He hunts, records and preaches about them whenever and wherever he gets the opportunity – even on holiday. Chris, a retired Maths teacher, is an amateur limacologist – meaning he loves slugs. Please come along for Chris's talk. You never know, you might end up becoming a slug fan!

There is no meeting in December.

Visitors most welcome at our meetings. 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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Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School

The Autumn term has got off to a flying start with the children enjoying a Dragon Drama Workshop. The corridors are now teeming with stories, facts and fabulous dragons, exploring all sorts of Dragonology information.

The early years site has had a fabulous half term, welcoming many new families and children. The highlight of the half term was a bat evening hosted by a local volunteer. A huge number of families attended and were treated to a superb flying display at dusk by our resident Pipistrelle bats.

Year 1 began with a curious start. The Land of Toys received a letter from the magical Nutcracker. He explained that this year, the children will be helping him solve the mysteries of Toyland! Quickly the children set about completing their first challenge; researching a box of old toys, which had become lost in Toyland, they found out where the toys were from and sent them back home. Each child wrote their very own information book, saving the day! I wonder what other challenges will be sent their way?

Year 2 dived into the wonderful depths of Water World. Their wow starter involved going on a fact finding mission at Holme Dunes Nature Reserve, where they found out about how dragon teeth are acting as sea defences and the different habitats that protect a wealth of wild life. They continued their science investigations back at school, setting up experiments to see which objects and materials degrade quickly in the sea and looking at the smallest animals in the ocean, using a microscope. They also enjoyed a football session with Jamie from Kings Lynn Soccer School and learnt about Sports Hall Athletics with Mrs Bower.



The West Norfolk Members Group invites you to:-

A Christmas Miscellany

Short presentations by members followed by a 'just for fun' wildlife quiz and seasonal refreshments.

Thursday 10th December - 7.30pm
and

Birding the Horn of Africa

Nigel Redman, co-author of the Helm Field Guide to the Birds of the Horn of Africa, will show us some of the rare and endemic species of this area.

Thursday 28th January - 7.30pm

Venue: Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall, Austin Street
Cost: £2.00 members / £2.50 visitors





Years 3 and 4, Aquatica and Atlantis, kicked off their Blue Abyss topic with a really exciting trip to Hunstanton's Sealife Sanctuary, where they enjoyed the feeding talks on offer, touched crabs and starfish, then conducted their own research. Back at school, the children have loved finding out more about various marine animals, writing deep sea stories and a biography about Jacques Cousteau, who co-invented the aqualung, and they have also considered the pros and cons of coastal tourism. The topic culminated in writing factfiles about a chosen bioluminescent animal, and presenting class

art galleries to parents. They were able to look at 3D artwork and a whole range of work in their fantastic floorbooks...it was really pleasing to see how many parents (and grandparents!) flooded the classrooms to view the children's hard work! In the run up to Christmas, as well as rehearsing for our festive performance, the children will be learning about where food comes from, visiting Tesco, writing and following recipes and of course, tasting lots of different foods! Look out for our French Café experience in December!

If you have time to spare and would like to be part of our vibrant, happy school, helping us

move forward in the fast moving world of education, we would love to hear from you. We are looking for governors to join our committee, or if that is too much of a commitment, simply come along and volunteer to help us in the school grounds or listen to children read. Please phone 01485 540308 or contact us at office@dersingham.norfolk.sch.org. We look forward to hearing from you! □



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We are looking for five people who know what's going on in their area, have an ear for current issues and a feel for what their community is thinking. So if you live in or close to the Norfolk coast, have knowledge of and love for the area and can commit a small amount of time, please consider getting in touch.

How to apply

The deadline is Friday 15th January 2016. The application process is very simple, with no forms to fill in. The AONB's 69 parish councils will have the chance to vote for the successful five individuals, and roles will begin in June 2016.

More information and guidelines for applicants can be found at www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk (follow the link from the 'Latest News' page) or contact Kate on 01328 850530 or email kate.dougan@norfolk.gov.uk.



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USE IT OR LOSE IT

Kate Hathaway



I'm sure we are all familiar with the phrase 'use it or lose it'. It is frequently used with reference to our brainpower, which Sudoku, crosswords, bridge, quizzing etc help to maintain, or fitness levels that exercise helps to improve rather than turn into couch potatoes. But I'm talking about the facilities within our village. We moved to Dersingham because it had so many facilities, for instance shops, medical facilities, a post office (now that's another story), churches, a library and opportunities for social

interaction and importantly buses. Buses to Lynn with links to other areas, up the hill to glorious Sandringham and to Hunstanton and onwards along the beautiful Norfolk coast. I met a man on the bus recently on a day trip to Hunstanton; he had come all the way from Corby by regular bus services just for the fun of it. Dersingham has been well served by public transport but as many of you know and much to everyone's consternation, the No 11 bus was cut and No 12 introduced. Only it no longer went to Sunny Hunny and the timetable was a bit confusing.

A very well attended Parish Council meeting was held, which representatives from Stagecoach, Lynx, Norfolk County Council, Borough and County Councillors, parishioners and those from other villages attended. Many of the problems that irate parishioners had experienced were raised and discussed. Fortunately, following negotiations between all parties Stagecoach reconsidered their position and have reintroduced the No 11, even if with an amended timetable.

Back to the 'use it or lose it' bit. Our bus companies are losing support from local and national government and they are commercial enterprises out there to run at a profit.

The Stagecoach Group Annual report for 2015 advises its shareholders that,

'The level of Government investment in the UK Bus Industry has come under pressure in recent years with reductions in Bus developments Service Operators' Grant (a rebate of fuel tax) and constraints on the payments made by Government to bus operators for carrying the elderly and disabled free of charge to the passenger. Funding of tendered services by local government has also reduced. The Group is therefore gradually becoming less reliant on Government and a greater proportion of its revenue is coming directly from passengers.'

That's you and me but does go on to say,

*'The strategy of the UK Bus (regional operations) is to deliver value over time driven by organic growth in revenue and passenger volumes as a result of providing **safe, reliable, good quality, customer-focused bus services at a reasonable price to customers.**'*

So to keep all our buses and especially the No 11 running through our village we must use them. If you have the time take a trip into Lynn on a bus especially the No 11, it is a lovely ride up around Sandringham to West Newton and on to Castle Rising and sit upstairs if you can and look at the views they're delightful. Did you see the amazingly colourful pumpkin fields on Knights Hill - best viewed from a bus! Or go for a jolly to Hunstanton, take a stroll along the prom, have a toot around the town, then tea and cake and home again. Such simple and cheap pleasures and we have so many buses to choose from. **Please use all the bus routes through our village or be prepared to lose them. I really believe we will not have a second chance.** Your Parish Council

is hoping to introduce an incentive scheme to encourage more regular usage, so watch this space for further news.

I appreciate too that there are a number of passengers at the far reaches of the Mountbatten estate that are having difficulty getting to the QE2 Hospital, it is quite a walk up to the Lynn Road to catch a No10. Further actions are being undertaken by your Parish Council to see if there is a solution to be found. In the meantime to those affected please see the Travel Solutions article on page 9 of Village Voice No 96. The Heacham & District Community Car Services and the West Norfolk Community Transport are there to assist the less mobile and elderly to get about.

Cllr Kate Hathaway, Dersingham Parish Council

DERSINGHAM CENTRE - PROGRESS UPDATE

David Collingham
Chairman, Dersingham Centre Association

In the last Village Voice we reported the progress of the Dersingham Centre Project since its inception in April 2014. We have made good further progress in the past two months, with the key objective of Big Lottery Stage Two application having been achieved in the past few weeks.

PLANS: Architects' plans have been widely circulated, discussed with user-groups and amendments made where relevant. These are available from the Parish Council office.

FUNDING: As previously reported the Working Group submitted a Stage I application to the Big Lottery for funding which would cover approximately two thirds of the build costs of the new Centre, which will replace the existing Church Hall.

This application was successful, and we have recently submitted the second stage application. We are told we will hear back from Big Lottery within three months. Meanwhile, we are embarking on a series of fund raising initiatives throughout the village and surrounding areas, as there is no time to lose.

FUND RAISING

* Cinema Club: we have so far screened 5 films with further plans for "Still Alice" on November 13th, followed by "Scrooge" on December 11th and Cinderella on December 12th.

* 200 Club Lottery and "Buy A Brick" campaign. These will be launched in early 2016.

* Business Sponsorship: We will be approaching every business in Dersingham to ask for financial support for the project, in return for publicity and recognition with an engraved plaque on the new Centre.

The Dersingham Centre Project is now a going concern, managed by the newly formed Dersingham Centre Association. We also have a website - dersinghamvillagecentre.org.uk The Constitution of the Association was approved at a village meeting on November 3rd. The officers of the Association would like to thank all those in the village and beyond for their support, past and present. We would be delighted to accept any offers of help from the community for fundraising activities – whether it's a cake stall or a Grand Ball! With your help we stand a great chance of having a fabulous new Village Centre for all to use by 2017. □

1st Sandringham Guides Winter Term 2015 (Sep – Dec) Carlas Andrews

We started this term by planning for the term ahead and the girls have decided they would like to work towards the ‘Film Lover’ and ‘Confectioner’ badges. We have been having cinema evening and eating cakes the guides made at home, we even had popcorn cakes. As part of the ‘Confectioner’ badge the two patrol were set the challenge of building a ‘cake’ house and this is what they came up with:

Starfish Patrol (Madeline, Caitlin, Jenna, Aimee, Maisie and Alex) – Train Overload: *“This is a super-sweet edible train. We went through hard times as it collapsed continuously, but being the fabulous ‘Starfish’ we are, we soon picked it up. It was meant to be a house, then it grew jammie dodger wheels and became a caravan, then a greek temple and finally it turned into a train. It was good fun making it, however we couldn’t wait to demolish it!”*



Panda Patrol (Leonor, Lydia, Nicole, Ellie, Issy, Holly, Kaja and Emma) – House called Kevin: *“We decided on our design and picked who would do each job. We tried hard and had fun but our tongues and teeth were all BLUE with the food colouring!”*

During the first half of the term we took part in a joint camp at Wolferton Scouts Campsite organised by the Sandringham Explorers. Some guides went to the 2015 Big Gig at Wembley Arena in October.

In November/December, we are planning to make our annual Christmas cards for our traditional Christmas Card competition, the gift boxes for the ‘Shoebos Appeal’ and our decorations for the Guiding Christmas Tree for the Festival. We will also join other Guiding and Scouts groups at the Remembrance Service and other Christmas festivities.

In our Guide Section we have girls aged 10 to 14 and in our Senior Section we have young ladies from 14 onwards. We meet every Thursday evening from 7.15pm to 8.45pm at the St Nicholas Church Hall in Dersingham. You are welcome to join us on our adventures in 2016. For information on our unit contact unit leader – Carla Andrews (07776 355350 or carla_andrews@hotmail.co.uk).

We would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy 2016. □



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Dersingham Library News

Alison Thorne



What's happening.

Peer support group for Carers - Tuesday 1st December

If you care for someone with dementia, or would like to talk about your experiences with others in a similar situation to you, then come along to our peer support group. Meets the first Tuesday of the month from 1-3pm.

NEW - Colour yourself calm - Wednesdays 10.30-12

Colouring in is an easy way to calm the mind. If you've never tried it, come along to our colouring group for adults on the first Wednesday of the month. Just bring along your colouring books! Colouring pens and refreshments will be provided. There's no need to book, just come along. For more information please call on 01485 540181

The Joys of Pinterest! - Tuesday 8th December 10-12

Are you a crafter/fashion follower or book lover? Do you collect recipes/holiday ideas/or wallpaper designs? Instead of cramming them all onto a notice board with drawing pins, why not discover how the Pinterest website can help you sort images and ideas online. You can set up your own boards, organise them how you want and then get Pinning! Places are limited so please book by calling 01485 540181.

Winter Village Read - Throughout December

Not sure what to read this winter? Then why not join in our library community read? We have chosen three very different books...

The Zigzag Girl by Elly Griffiths

Brighton, 1950. When the body of a girl is found, cut into three, Detective Inspector Edgar Stephens is reminded of a magic trick, the Zig Zag Girl. The inventor of the trick, Max Mephisto, is an old friend of Edgar's. They served together in the war as part of a shadowy unit called the Magic Men. Max is still on the circuit, touring seaside towns in the company of ventriloquists, sword-swallowers and dancing girls. Changing times mean that variety is not what it once was, yet Max is reluctant to leave this world to help Edgar investigate.

Divergent by Veronica Roth

Society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue, in the attempt to form a 'perfect society'. On her Choosing Day, Beatrice Prior renames herself Tris, rejects her family's Abnegation group, and chooses another faction.

The love song of Miss Queenie Hennessy by Rachel Joyce

When Queenie Hennessy discovers that Harold Fry is walking the length of England to save her, and all she has to do is wait, she is shocked. Her note to him had explained she was dying from cancer. How can she wait? A new volunteer at the hospice suggests that Queenie should write again; only this time she must tell Harold the truth. Composing this new message, the volunteer promises, will ensure Queenie hangs on. It will also atone for the secrets of the past. As the volunteer points out, 'It isn't Harold who is saving you. It is you, saving Harold Fry.' This is that letter.

The read will run until the end of December. Simply pick up the books from the library and tell us what you think!

For more information please contact the library on 01485 540181



Reading group night at King's Lynn Library - Friday 4th December 6-8pm

group members for a night of book recommendations.

* Discover the most popular book club books of 2015

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* Find out how you can share your favourite reads with others

Tickets are £5 per person payable in advance and include a free glass of wine and mince pie.

Places are limited so please book early.

Tickets will be available at Dersingham, Downham Market, Gaywood, Hunstanton and King's Lynn Libraries.

New books coming our way soon :-

Cecelia Ahern - The Marble Collector

David Baldacci - The Guilty

Janet Evanovich - Tricky twenty-two

Tess Gerritsen - Playing with fire

Elly Griffiths - Smoke and mirrors

Stephen King - The Bazaar of bad Dreams

Jo Nesbo - Midnight sun

James Patterson - Cross Justice

Simon Scarrow - Britannia

For these and more, why not browse Norfolk's online catalogue at: <http://ow.ly/Td3VT>

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Baby Basics - West Norfolk

FGT (Fried Green Tomatoes - a group of younger women associated with St.Nicholas Church, who meet monthly for a mixture of social activities and quiet reflective times together), are supporting the launch of Baby Basics in and around the West Norfolk area. FGT member Davina Barrett was so moved by the extraordinary work of this charity that she felt inspired to set up a local extension, here in Dersingham. Baby Basics responds to the growing need to provide basic baby essentials and equipment to new mothers who can not afford to do so themselves. Please read more about the wonderful work of the charity on their website at www.babybasics.org



In order to get the charity up and running, **FGT would like to invite you to join us carol singing on Monday 21st December.** We will be meeting at Budgens at 6.30pm. All monies raised will go to Baby Basics.

Baby Basics provides Moses basket starter packs to those in need. All items are generously donated and so we would gratefully receive any of the items listed below:

Good condition second hand items

- Moses baskets
- Newborn clothing
- Bedding
- Towels

New items only please

- Maternity pads
- Sanitary towels
- Hand soap
- Baby soap
- Baby shampoo
- Mum shampoo
- Knickers for mums
- Breast pads
- Newborn nappies
- Baby wipes

If you have any of the items listed, which you would like to donate, please contact Davina on 07867411714.

The advertisement for The Surefoot Clinic is set against a solid blue background. On the left side, there is a white graphic of a hand gently holding a foot. To the right of this graphic, the text is arranged as follows: "The Surefoot Clinic" in a large, bold, white serif font; "S.Beech and associate chiropodist" in a smaller, white sans-serif font below it; "Total Foot Care" in a very large, bold, white sans-serif font; "Surgery at: 4 High Street, Heacham PE31 7ER" in a white sans-serif font; "Tel: 01485 579411" in a large, bold, white sans-serif font; and "Home Visits Tel: 01485 518112 (Answerphone)" in a white sans-serif font at the bottom right.

Bog News Tom Bolderstone

In a contrast to the last article the weather as I'm writing this is very autumnal and the morning temperatures are quite cold. It doesn't seem like many months ago we were looking forward to spring and summer starting and now autumn is here and winter seems very close.

The breeding season has been very successful on the reserve this year, with at least 13 of the 18 pairs of Nightjars raising at least one successful nest and brood this year. Stonechat numbers have reached a record high on the site with ten breeding pairs confirmed this year. This is a 100 percent increase on 2014. Stonechat are particularly vulnerable in cold winters so it has taken a few years for the numbers to reach this level and we hope that the 2015/16 winter is kind to them.

Since the last article and the high of 30 Celsius the weather seems to have taken a turn for the windy and wet and this has had an impact on some of our survey works on the site. It seems this year that numbers of butterflies and dragonflies are down but this may also be due to reduced surveying as the weather hasn't produced the right conditions for surveying.

The volunteer team have been continuing on with a second check of the fences and infrastructure and we are now caught up with the fencing works. Some of the volunteers have been out keeping on top of the invasive rhododendron and spraying off the regrowth from the cut stems. Rhododendron, whilst a pretty plant when it flowers, is very invasive and restricts the growth of the natural flora in the wooded edges. By keeping on top of the regrowth we will encourage plants such as bramble and small scrubby trees to regrow in place of the rhododendron, providing a more diverse woodland understorey for the birds and insects that are dependent on it. Many of you will have noticed in the woods some fenced off enclosures. These are plots to monitor the regrowth of the understorey and the effect that deer have on the rate of growth. Many of these are now full of bramble and scrub regrowth and we plan to install some more of these throughout the woods over the winter period before the plants start growing again in the spring.



Stonechat



Softrak – Helping with scrub clearance

The 1st of September saw us begin our winter scrub (small tree) control across the reserve. This is an essential part of maintaining the habitat here at Dersingham Bog and we tend to go back to a previously cut area every three to four years. This is quite a labour intensive job but each year that we go back to an area the amount of regrowth of scrub is definitely reduced. During the winter months we will be working in the middle of the heathland near the dragonfly pond and the long nose of heathland running out into the mire area. The main scrub that we will be removing from these areas is birch and pine and they will be cut using a metal blade on a strimmer, the

stump will be treated with a herbicide to prevent it growing next year and the material will then be chipped and removed from the site to prevent any nutrient deposition in the soil. Heathlands generally tend to like nutrient poor soil so by removing as much of the cut scrub as possible we are creating better conditions for heather to grow.

Since I started on the reserve as a volunteer nearly ten years ago the amount of scrub on the site has significantly reduced and the amount of heather and mire habitat has increased significantly.

The heather has looked particularly stunning in the few weeks it was out in flower and after the August bank holiday the first signs of the plants going to seed could be seen. The seasons seem to come and go far too quickly for my liking but when they are here they are all particularly stunning in their own way. I particularly like the colours in autumn and winter and find the contrast of the greys and browns as exciting as the pinks and purples of the summer.

For the autumn and winter visitor to Dersingham Bog there can be the chance to see some interesting wildlife. This can include deer such as Fallow and Roe and a vast array of Fungi. Also there is the chance of seeing some winter bird visitors such as Crossbill, Redpoll and Siskin. One bird to keep an eye out for is the Great Grey Shrike a grey medium sized bird with a black robber's mask, which will normally be perched in the top of the trees. It feeds on insects, small mammals and even the odd songbird and sometimes will store its food in a larder impaled on a thorn! The Great Grey Shrike is quite a rare visitor and some winters we don't get a visit from one. This year one was seen on the 25th October but hasn't been seen since so it may still be lurking on the site.



Autumn on the boardwalk

I hope that some of you will be able to come and experience the different colours of the site and experience some of the autumn and winter wildlife over the next few weeks. □

Thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk



OPEN GARDENS DERSINGHAM 2016 Sunday 29th and Monday 30th of May

I know it is November, the nights have drawn in and the garden is shutting down, but now is the time to think about next year and your garden springing back into life. This is a roundabout way of asking for volunteers to open their gardens over the late May Bank Holiday, Sunday 29th and Monday 30th May.

We already have a core of gardeners willing to open, and we shall again have the support of the artists in the village who will organize the Art Trail over the same weekend and open their gardens. We are, however, always on the look out for new talent; so be your garden small or large or something in between, do contact me. It is fun to meet the large number of visitors who appreciate the chance to have a look over your hedge!

By way of background, in spite of indifferent weather. 2015 saw record numbers even improving on 2014. Open Gardens seems to be an increasingly popular activity and visitors are so complimentary it makes the whole thing feel really worthwhile. Funds raised for the upkeep of the Church and various outreach functions associated with the Parish. □

Judy Collingham Tel: 01485 540271 – email: jcairnscol@gmail.com

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The Sandringham Newsletter

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

Showery weather in August and early September extended the Farm's grain harvest, but yields have generally been good. Autumn drilling of the next crops has started and green manures have been sown in some fields; green manures are fast-growing plants which cover bare soil quickly and help suppress weeds.



In the Gardens, the same showery weather meant that the need to irrigate eased and the gardeners spent more time on hedge cutting and on mowing and clearing the longer grass areas. Staff have also been trimming and shaping hedges and topiaries both in the Gardens and at the Visitor Centre, as well as in the Walled Garden.

Two signs that autumn had started were the return of the pink-footed geese to overwinter by the Wash and the apple-picking season in the orchards. It was a very good apple year, with good-sized and well-coloured fruit; pick-your-own finished in early October, but ready-picked apples are still available in the Plant Centre, along with an extensive range of spring bulbs, Sandringham's range of heritage flower and vegetable seeds and all sorts of gifts for gardeners.

The miniature Citroen car returned to the Museum in August from Balmoral, where it had formed part of their exhibition this season. The Museum and the House were very busy all season – with the exception of August Bank Holiday Monday, which was very wet and cold all day. Unsurprisingly, few people ventured out that day.



In the Park, Marie Curie Cancer Care held their Walk to Remember at the end of August, and the Game and Country Fair, with activities including gundog trials, fishing, falconry and clay pigeon shooting, took place a couple of weeks later. Both events managed to dodge most of the showers and were very well-attended.

It may be a little early yet to be thinking about Christmas, but in November the Christmas Craft Fair returns, with its usual mix of all sorts of craftspeople offering some unusual and unique ideas for Christmas gifts. The Visitor Centre Gift Shop has now extended its ranges to include Christmas gifts and decorations, and their range of hampers, either ready-made or assembled to order, is once again proving popular, and the Visitor Centre Restaurant will be serving Christmas lunches daily from 20th November. Finally, the Light Up A Life service organised by the Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House, will be taking place at the Visitor Centre on Monday 7th December.

The start of autumn seems also to be the signal for cases of Seasonal Canine Illness (SCI) to occur, continuing usually until the first frosts. Dog walkers should be aware that SCI is a mystery illness affecting dogs during the autumn, which can prove to be fatal. Cases have occurred at Sandringham as well as in woodland in other parts of the country. SCI can affect dogs of any size, shape or sex and it causes dogs to become very ill, very quickly after being walked in woodland. The most common clinical signs are sickness, diarrhoea and lethargy typically experienced within 72 hours of walking in woodland. If dog owners suspect their dog is showing signs of SCI then they should contact their vet immediately. □

Just a Thought from Rev Steve Oliver



When I was a young boy living in the depths of mid Wales, this time of year always brought about electricity cuts. It was guaranteed that immediately the wind got up the lines would go down. Of course these cuts came mainly in the evening when it was dark, causing the frantic search for the candles to enable us to at least see something of the room around us. Whilst looking for those candles I remember feeling a little scared as the darkness seemed to touch me, not knowing when the light would return to make those fears disappear.

And it can be like that in life sometimes. Matters of personal or worldly concern can crowd in, enfolding us in darkness, causing us to become frightened not knowing what the future may bring.

But Jesus tells us not to be afraid, and in John's gospel He tells us 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life'. Following Jesus does not guarantee you will have no more worries, but when they do come you can be assured he will be walking with you, lighting your darkness and enfolding you in his peace and love.

At the beginning of December we will have begun the journey into Advent. It is a time of expectation and of hope; a time when we once more wait in anticipation for the coming of the light who will dispel our fears and take away the darkness. It is a journey which will eventually lead to Bethlehem, the cross in Jerusalem and the glorious resurrection.

About 750 years before the birth of Christ, Isaiah spoke the following words:-

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness... on them a light has shined.

A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God...Prince of Peace. His Royal Authority will continue to grow; his Kingdom will always be at peace. He will rule as King David's successor, basing his power on right and justice from now until the end of time. "

May your journey through Advent and Christmas be one which will bring you closer to Christ than you could ever imagine, and that any darkness you may feel surrounding you be dispelled with the coming of the light. *"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out.(John 1:5)*

I pray you will find peace and joy this coming Christmastime. □

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



Well, I've joined the Dersingham artists and will be opening my studio on 28th and 29th November from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with ten other artists and crafts people around the village. Have a look on the Dersingham Art Trail website – there is some really good work to see and maybe you will find some individual Christmas presents for your nearest and dearests if you trawl the various studios. That's quite a few artists in one village, isn't it and all with some wonderful work and talent – maps will be available from the Pottery in Chapel Road, and each studio will have a sign outside their place.

Well, that is the advert over, but I have to just say that what with my new aqua curtains, teal walls, turquoise rug and walls full of mermaids in blue water, my sitting room resembles an underwater cavern. A bit OTT, but rather lovely, none-the-less. I needed 55 meters of curtain material for my windows, plus the same of lining. I am still making them...so much billowing material to shove under the sewing machine, and inevitably I get a couple of seams on the wrong side and have to unpick them all. Remote control man groaned when yet another Amazon parcel turned up with a turquoise kettle and toaster to add to the underwater cavern effect. I suppose I can always rent out to Octopus Anonymous.

In my old age dippyness, I am getting rather good on Spoonerisms. I don't mean to of course, but when Remote Control Man parked all skew-whiff the other day, I primly said, "I tark pidilly" – you can work out what is should be – while he roared with laughter as I tried to get my statement in the right order. This seems to be happening more and more these days – but hey ho, if it causes laughter, it can't be bad. Which reminds me what my dear old Mum used to call The Dun Cow pub (Budgens now). She rechristened it, "The Cow Dung". I don't really think anyone can beat that, though I did get nine out of ten for renaming my daughter and son-in-law, calling them Sick and Nindy... It would, perhaps, be fun to have a Spoonerism day, when you were fined for charity if you didn't comply.



I may have mentioned I've been vamping up my fence by creating a landscape and sunset effect, which gives a sense of distance in a poky dark corner of the garden. As usual, it isn't finished (I never seem to complete any of my projects) but the idea was to merge colours

together to make the sunset, and then paint the bottom black, with some trees and so on in silhouette. It looks good, so far, but as I have somewhat run out of passion (and paint) it might just stay as it is. I am pleased with it, nevertheless. As you can see from the photo, the tree silhouettes are rather sparse, but if and when I get back to it, there might be a pheasant or two and some skeins of geese flying across the sky. I have a friend who has painted each of her fence panels different colours, and I must say that it looks lovely. She feels on a dull rainy day she can look out of her window, and get a nice and jolly rainbow effect to cheer her up.

I'm at the age now when my friends are sadly popping off their mortal coils. I had a message the other day that my first boyfriend had died, and I was surprisingly upset about it. I recalled how we had jived at the village hall on Saturday nights, he flinging me over his back and me landing precariously with my frilly petticoats flying asunder. How we played badminton together in the same hall, how I hoped for marriage, how we argued too. He was a photographer, and was asked to do a shoot in a jazz club in London. He asked if I would like to go too, as his assistant. London to me was posh. In those days we were very fussy about our outfits, with co-coordinated shoes and handbags, and hats had only really just gone out of fashion. I decided to wear my smart suit – a pencil thin skirt, with a fitted jacket, in black, with black high heels and a blouse, the colour of which I don't remember. But, I felt I was elegant and smart and a worthy 'assistant'. We arrived at the vaulted underground location early, to set up shop, which took quite a long time, with lights and trailing wires and so on. When the band arrived, it was exciting to hear them practise, and then the jazz enthusiasts turned up – what we called 'beatniks' in those days with bushy beards and hair and scruffy clothes, baggy corduroy trousers and thick crepe soled shoes. I felt such a fool in my lovely smart outfit – if only I had worn my jeans, I'd have blended in and I would have been far more comfortable too. Anyway, I mourned the loss of my boyfriend for a brief span, soon remembering the arguments and the narrow escape I surely had from his spiteful ways. He was a Scorpio, with the sting in the tongue, and always knew how to wound me with sarcasm. Ah well...

Then, a friend from childhood who lives near London and suffers from emphysema yet manages to talk for an hour non-stop on the phone, telling me how she can't walk, drive or hang her washing on the line, can't get upstairs to bed, so lives on the sofa (that I used to sleep on sixty years ago when I slept over as a teenager at her home!) This, all in a small kitchen, cluttered with, amongst myriads of other items, margarine pots by the thousand that she collects, together with folded newspapers that reach the ceiling, going back to the year dot. They line the walls leaving only a narrow space for her to squeeze through. She is a hoarder and will not let anyone into the house to help her, as she is so ashamed of her living conditions. Yet, every item is precious to her, and she won't be helped. I tried to help once, but she wouldn't let me throw anything out, and my visit was a waste of time, other than seeing her. She told me she feels sorry for the people on the TV program Hoarders, for she knows how she would feel if interfering people came and took her 'rubbish' away. It is difficult to chuck things out that hold memories, or that 'might' be useful, but when I have done so, with much difficulty and heartbreak, the 'weight off the shoulders' is wonderful. When we are getting near to the Pearly Gates Time, I think we should all begin to chuck out our 'stuff' while we still can. It's not fair to leave it to someone else to do so.

Christmas is, of course, just around the corner, so do enjoy yourself. I saw a nice idea on Facebook Pinterest the other day. Someone had made a lovely Christmas arrangement with baubles and fir in an outside flower basket. It looked great, and something we could all do with our empty baskets at this time of the year. With that thought in mind to get your creative juices flowing, I wish you a Happy Christmas and all the best for the coming New Year. Oh, another sign of ageing: a friend told me he spent ages trying to get through to someone on his phone. He kept dialling the numbers and got really fed up – until he eventually realized he was trying to phone with his remote control! □



Marty Griffin *paintings*
Hollydrive, The Drift,
Ingoldisthorpe



Lois Williams *paintings*
c/o Hollydrive, The Drift,
Ingoldisthorpe



Valerie Anckorn
Paintings and candles
2 Manorside



Michael Smith *paintings*
17 Old Hall Drive

Dersingham Christmas Art Trail

Sat/Sun November 28/29

10am - 4pm



Jill Ilett *paintings*
c/o 30 Dodds Hill Road



Jo Halpin Jones *photography*
14 Post Office Road



Stephen Martyn *paintings*
2 Alexandra Close



June Mullarkey *pottery*
48 Chapel Road



Ben Mullarkey *paintings*
48 Chapel Road



Liz Stockley *paintings*
30 Dodds Hill Road

www.DersinghamArtTrail.org

PUZZLE CORNER

Sudoku No 45

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

Where is it What is it?



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

BACK	OLYMPIA	BOXING	EPHESUS
WEDDING	EAR	BULB	FLOOD
LIGHT	TRIPOD	ZOOM	RHODES
HOT SHOE	BABYLON	SHUTTER	HER



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Dersingham Methodist Church News from Elizabeth Batstone



The month of September was exciting and busy for us all at Dersingham Methodist Church. Our church electric organ had been unwell for a while, it was 25 years old – a good age for an organ, and we decided to purchase a new one before it gave up entirely. Our two organists, Christine and Heather, after visiting other churches to look at their instruments, recommended the purchase of a digital piano. The new instrument was delivered at the beginning of September, the old one taken away and the organists began learning how to be ‘digital organists’! They have done extremely well and their playing enhances the services in a new way. The digital piano was purchased with part of a legacy left by Mrs Rennie Bristow. Rennie taught in the Sunday School for many years, helped at coffee mornings, and we are very pleased to have this tangible reminder of her.

At the end of September our harvest coffee morning was extremely busy, we raised over £300 for the King’s Lynn Food Bank and Church funds. We also had a car load of all kinds of food products and toiletries for the Food Bank, who were slightly overwhelmed when they saw all the boxes and bags. Thank you all for your generosity and care for others.

We look forward to welcoming you to our **Christmas Fayre on Saturday 28th November from 10.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.**, running a little longer than usual to enable you to buy Christmas gifts, cards, cakes, Fair Trade products, books etc., and also to enjoy as well as coffee and cakes, bacon rolls and jacket potatoes. Funds raised will be divided equally between the ‘Sense’ charity for the deaf/blind, and church funds.

Christmas services -

Sunday 20th December 4.00 p.m.

Carols by Candlelight, followed by tea and mince pies.

(Please note the time)

Christmas Eve 11.30 p.m.

Christmas communion.

Christmas Day 10.30 a.m

Christmas Day Service.

All services led by Rev Steve Oliver. We look forward to welcoming you to our services and celebrating this wonderful time of the year.

The first Christmas took place in poverty with a stable and an animals’ trough, the young couple had very little and yet the kindness of strangers – an innkeeper and shepherds gave them something intangible and wonderful. As you consider what you will be doing this Christmas remember love is the greatest gift and came in the form of a tiny baby. □

pebatstone@fsmail.net. 01485 541068

A yellow poster for 'The Chalk and Cheese Christmas Food and Crafts Fair'. At the top, there are logos for 'mind' (with 'by local people for local people' and 'West Norfolk' below), 'CHALK & CHEESE' (with a pig and cheese icon), and 'Lifeboats' (with a lifeboat icon). The main text reads: 'The Chalk and Cheese presents a Christmas Food and Crafts Fair'. Below this, it says 'venue Chalk and Cheese 1 Eastgate Street, Shoultham PE33 0DD'. The date is 'Sunday 29th November 2015' and the time is '10am to 4pm'. It says 'All welcome, come along and visit us' and lists 'Crafts, antiques, jewellery, Xmas gifts, stationery stalls' and 'Mulled cider and hot rolls available'. It also says 'For further details and to book a stand call Bridget on 01355 348039' and 'Supporting West Norfolk Mind and RNLI'. At the bottom, it says 'We look forward to seeing you there'. There are small illustrations of a Christmas tree and holly leaves.

Forthcoming Village Voice Deadlines and Publication Dates

For articles, reports of events, meetings, advertisements and details of forthcoming attractions:

Issue	Copy deadline mid-day on	Publication date
No 98 (Feb/Mar 2016)	Wednesday 13th January 2016	Monday 1st February 2016
No 99 (Apr/May 2016)	Wednesday 2nd March 2016	Monday 21st March 2016

Advertising in Village Voice

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Articles and Non-Profit Making Promotions for Village Voice

These should be preferably emailed directly to the Editor: editor@dersingham.org.uk or posted to **The Editor, % Dersingham Parish Council Office** (address below), ideally well ahead of the above copy deadlines to stand a better chance of inclusion. Available space for articles is governed by both the physical limitations of the publication as well as the revenue received from advertising. We like Village Voice to be special for our primarily Dersingham readers, so articles should try to be customised accordingly and not just part of a round-robin Press Release to all local publications. Dates of forthcoming events mentioned must take place after the publication dates listed at the top of this page. Items/flyers purely to advertise non-profit making events should aim to fit (and be readable) within a quarter page slot. We hope you will provide photos/graphics/logos etc to accompany promotions or articles. Digital pictures need to be 300 dots/pixels per inch (about 118 per cm.). Most Office document and picture file formats are accepted.

The Editor reserves the right to amend and edit as necessary. Any contributions will be accepted on the understanding that, unless requested otherwise, names, addresses, etc, may be included and maintained on the Parish Council's database. Published material will also appear on the Parish Council website. Copyright of all articles remains with the author. The editor does not necessarily agree with opinions expressed, or accuracy of statements made, by contributors. □

Dersingham Parish Council Office

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The Production Team for this edition consists of

Editor: Tony Bubb. Distribution Co-ordinator: Cliff Jordan. Editorial assistant: Rob Smyth
Administration: Sarah Bristow (*Parish Clerk*) Advertising: Tony Bubb

Word Wall

- 1 Rings: Boxing, Wedding, Ear, Her
- 2 Camera Parts: Zoom, Hot Shoe, Shutter, Tripod
- 3 Flash... : Back, Light, Bulb, Flood
- 4 Seven Wonder sites : Rhodes, Babylon, Olympia, Ephesus

Where is it? What is it?

There are several of these boats converted to holiday homes just south of the South Beach at Heacham. Presumably floated there when there was less silting up of the Wash they provide a bit of interest for passers by. Handy in a tidal surge possibly.

Sudoku No 45s

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

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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE 

Tuesday December 1st

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with
Alan Polaine

St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm, admission by £3.00 donation
including festive refreshments & raffle

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday January 5th

D-Day

Breaking the Atlantic Wall

With popular local historian

Chris Boxall

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