

# Dersingham Village Voice

Issue No 28

May/June 2004

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## PARISH CHAIRMAN RECEIVES A CIVIC HONOUR

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On Thursday 13 May 2004, I had the pleasure of being present at a ceremony, in the Town Hall in King's Lynn, at which the Chairman of Dersingham Parish Council, Councillor George Pratt, was honoured by the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk by the title of Honorary Alderman of the Borough being conferred upon him.

This particular title is bestowed on very few people and represents an acknowledgement by members of the Borough Council that the individual concerned has rendered eminent services to the Council as a past member, but who is not presently a member. Other criteria which are taken into account at the special meeting which takes place to

determine who receives this honour are that the candidate should have held high office (Mayor or Committee Chairmanship), have held some lesser office (Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairmanship), have given some other eminent service such as being the nominated representative on important outside bodies, and that there is recognition across the chamber that the former Member has provided eminent service to the Council by virtue of his contributions over many years. The person must also have no known misdemeanours.

There is one thing that is for certain, and that is that Alderman George Pratt meets all of these criteria and is well deserving of the award, for which, at the Annual General Meeting of the Dersingham Parish Council on May 10th, he graciously thanked those Members of the Parish Council who are also representatives of the village at the Borough Council, for having nominated him. Further details of the ceremony and a brief profile of our new Alderman is to be found on page 4 of this magazine.



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## Editor's Notes



I have been more or less accused of disloyalty to the village, and to its First School in particular, by having allowed an article to appear in the last issue, which related to Ingoldisthorpe (C of E) Primary School.

Although I can sympathise with the views taken by the people concerned (see Letters to the Editor) I must take issue on one or two of the points made. Firstly, the decision to publish was not mine alone, as I took the precaution of asking for professional advice from the Parish Clerk, Kim Dunford, before proceeding, and was advised that there was no reason why I should not print the article, as it was believed that this village fell within that school's catchment area as well as that of our own two schools.

Secondly, in respect of my appreciation of the two excellent schools in the village (and I do whole-heartedly agree with our correspondents on this) I have so far had a good working relationship with the head teachers of both, and have gone out of my way to promote their schools as much as possible, as I hope they will agree. As editor of the magazine I have not had reason to restrict the amount of copy which they have provided, so if their entry in the last issue was smaller than that of the Ingoldisthorpe school it is because it was all that was supplied by them, and I must say that it was *their* decision not to have separate entries in the magazine and to replace them with one combined article. If you look back to past issues you will find that I was allocating as much as *one full page to each school* in order to ensure their promotion. If I have upset either or both of the head teachers, the School Governors or parents of children at the schools then it was unintentional, and for that I apologise, particularly as I have since been informed that promoting the school at Ingoldisthorpe could have a negative impact on the income of both schools, another matter of which I was unaware.

Whilst on the subject of young people, you may recall that I published a request in the last issue for representatives from the youth of the village to act as reporters on behalf of their peers. I also took the trouble of contacting some of the senior schools in Hunstanton and King's Lynn in the hope that they may be able to help in this respect. Result, *one person responded*, her letter being contained on the Letters to the Editor page. So impressed was I with her letter that it was raised and read out at the April meeting of the Parish Council as a link to the potential for the formation of a Dersingham Youth Council who would act as advisors to the council on youth affairs.

The editorial team would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you who have made positive remarks about our publication, and to ask that you continue to (or if you haven't already done so, then please start to) contribute articles for publication. We would also welcome dates of forthcoming functions, meetings, etc. for publication in our Events Diary, and by the way, don't forget to keep those holiday postcards coming.

*Bob Tipling*

## **Alderman George Pratt**

### **Chairman of Dersingham Parish Council**

As reported on the cover of this issue, George Pratt was presented with a medal to identify him as an Alderman of the Borough of King's Lynn & West Norfolk. At the ceremony the Leader of the Council described George as a person who has had an incredible career in Local Government (which can be seen from his potted history below), and that although he had not been born in Norfolk he had always considered himself to be a 'Norfolk boy'.

The photographs on the front cover show the badge which he received and a moment when his daughter-in law and former Mayoress, Mrs Sue Pratt, was seen admiring it.

After the ceremony, at a reception in the Stone Room at the Town Hall, George was reminded of his days as Mayor, when he was approached by Ashley Collop (11) of Reffley who asked if George remembered him, having met him during his term of office. George did indeed remember Ashley, and they spent some time together discussing the occasions on which they had met.

The well-known and popular Chairman of the Parish Council was born in Hingham, Norfolk in 1920, leaving school at the age of 14 and working on a farm until 1940, when, due to the 2nd World War, he was called up to serve in the Royal Army Medical Corps during the Burma Campaign.

On his demob George went on to nurse at Thorpe St. Andrew Hospital, Little Plumstead Hospital and Kelling Sanatorium. Then, following 3 years service on the Sandringham Estate, he returned to nursing at the King's Lynn General Hospital, becoming a Theatre Technician.

His army career did not stop when he was demobbed, as he then went on to serve in the Territorial Army for 19 years, eventually being awarded the Long Service Medal. During this period George was appointed Adult Instructor to the Norfolk Army Cadet Force (Sandringham Detachment), being promoted first to Regimental Sergeant Major, then receiving a commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and appointed as Area Staff Officer of No. 3 Area Army Cadet Force, serving in this capacity for 16 years until his retirement after his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday with the honorary rank of Major.

George moved into Dersingham in 1953, joining the Parish Council on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1961, he was elected Vice-Chairman on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1961 to become Chairman in May 1971. Not content with being concerned with Parish business, George was also a



Member of the then Docking Rural district Council for 15 years until the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk replaced it in 1974. He was elected as a Norfolk County Councillor from 1985 to 2000, was a Borough Councillor for Snettisham from 1991 to 1994, and then represented Dersingham as a Borough Councillor from 1995 to 2003, being elected Mayor of the Borough Council in 2001 to 2002.

He has served on many Authorities and Committees, both within and outside Council, and continues to do so to this day, and is certainly a person who should be congratulated for the effort he has put into the community around him, and who is well deserving of the most recent achievement, that of receiving Aldermanship of the Borough.

On behalf of all the residents of Dersingham, Congratulations George!



Councillor George Pratt introduces Councillor Michael Langwade, Mayor of the Borough Council, who officially opened the Dersingham Village Open Day on Saturday 17 April 2004

### Some Useful Numbers

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Norfolk Police:             | 01553 691211. Only use 999 in an emergency. |
| Community Car Scheme:       | 01485 544544                                |
| Carole Brown Health Centre: | 01553 692333                                |
| Hospital:                   | 01553 613613                                |
| Citizens Advice Bureau      | 01553 774719                                |
| Water:                      | Anglian Water in emergency 08457 145 145    |
| Gas:                        | Emergency hotline 0800 111 999              |
| Electricity:                | Emergency number 0800 783 8838              |
| Samaritans:                 | 01553 761616                                |
| Dersingham Parish Countil:  | 01485 541465                                |
| KL & WN Borough Council:    | 01553 616200 (emergency 01553 760671)       |
| Norfolk County Council:     | 01603 222222                                |

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## **Parish Council Report**

The March meeting of Dersingham Parish Council heard a presentation about how Brancaster Parish Council had initiated the development of new affordable homes in the village. These included houses to rent, shared ownership homes and maisonettes for single people. The project had taken 2<sup>o</sup> years and had begun with a needs survey. Only people with a connection to the close surrounding area were eligible to live in the homes. Dersingham Parish Council is now to investigate whether a similar initiative would be helpful here.

Among the issues continuing to concern the Council are the lack of proper bus stop signs throughout the village and the state of the newly resurfaced footpath in Manor Road alongside the Pasture. The bus stop signs have been promised and the County Council is to sweep the loose chippings from the footpath.

The Council has formed a Holiday Activities Committee to provide summer activities for children in the village. Volunteers who would like to help with this should contact the Parish Clerk on 01485 541465 or e-mail [DersPC@bun.com](mailto:DersPC@bun.com).

Efforts by the Parish Council to provide a temporary skateboard/BMX facility on the Recreation Ground during the Easter holidays were frustrated by the weather. However, at the time of going to press it was hoped that this facility could be provided during the end-of-May Bank Holiday. The Council hopes that this temporary arrangement will enable any potential problems to be identified prior to consideration of the possible installation of a permanent facility. The Council has agreed to consult residents before any decision is taken.

At the Council's April meeting Mr Patrick Bellotti of 16 Stanton Road was co-opted to fill one of two vacancies on the Council. The remaining vacancy has been taken up by Mrs Sandy Green of Hunstanton Road. PB

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## **Parish Council Meeting**

On Monday 26 April 2004 six pupils from St. Georges's School went to a Parish Council Meeting at Dersingham First School.

The pupils went to hear and give ideas about the Youth Council. The Youth Council is to let young children give their ideas about Dersingham.

The children also listened to PC Keeley who talked about all the crime occurring in Dersingham. The students enjoyed the experience of going to the Parish Council Meeting and would like to become part of Youth Council.

*Stephanie Gregory and Christopher Clarke*

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## **Tree Warden**

The village Tree Warden is Tony Bubb who can be contacted at 7 Centre Vale (telephone 542638) for advice and information.

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## Letters to the Editor

**Rita Matthews, Co-opted Governor of Dersingham First School writes:** I would like to congratulate you on a very good edition of the March/April Village Voice. It is full of a variety of articles which on the whole make very good reading. However, I do have one complaint. I was disappointed to see the very small accounts of our Village Schools compared with that of Ingoldisthorpe. I am sure the Primary School in Ingoldisthorpe is good, but our schools in the village are excellent. All the staff at the First and Nursery School in Saxon Way do a wonderful job. To go into the school and see the first class work going on in the classrooms and the children's happy faces are something of which the Village should be proud. I think the invitation to visit Ingoldisthorpe should be left to the people of Ingoldisthorpe and published in their magazine.

**Hugh Mullarkey (a regular contributor of poetry to Village Voice) writes:** I am a retired teacher of English. My sincere congratulations to Tina and Simeon of St George's School for their excellent poems with some super imagery in April's 'Village Voice'. Keep writing please!

**Ainsley Rose Rix (aged 13) writes:** I speak for many other teenagers and myself when I say there is absolutely nothing interesting to do in Dersingham for our age group. For younger children there's the playground, and, while our age group could go to the playground, all there is for us is a pair of swings and a roundabout, which is hard to push. We could go play football, cricket or tennis, but most of the girls I know don't have a sporty bone in their body, so we won't do that. I know there's a Youth Club, but it only goes up to twelve years old, so teenagers are left in the dark. Really, the only regular social activity for our age group includes the Scouts and Guides, Flower Arranging Club and the Army Cadets, but they're only on specific days, and mostly not at weekends. So what is a teenager to do at the weekend if they have to stay in Dersingham? Sleep in; play computer games all day and walk around in groups annoying everyone else. Very luckily things may be looking up for us, the Parish Council are hiring skate ramps for the next half term to see how it all works. However, skate ramps would only appeal to people who can actually ride a skateboard without falling off.

**Mrs. A. Rumens, a parent of children at Dersingham First and Nursery School writes:** I am writing to say that after reading last month's issue I felt a bit confused over the aim of the Dersingham Village Voice. I thought it was to promote our village and facilities. I was therefore more than surprised that you had an advertisement for a school from another village. Is this not like Tesco's promoting Sainsbury's? We have a brilliant school of our own and as a parent of two children there, I cannot be more pleased with the education received there. Dersingham First and Nursery School provide my children with a very high standard of education. The



Head Teacher leads highly qualified teaching staff. The children learn in a warm friendly atmosphere, where the individual needs of each child is taken into consideration. As my eldest son is now eight he has been involved with St George's Middle School, to make the move there in September a more relaxed one. Although I will be sad for him to leave the first school, I think moving to a slightly bigger school before joining Smithdon when he is older will be easier to cope with. So how about promoting our own school and congratulating our own brilliant hard working teachers?

***Sue Eastmore writes about the Dersingham Task Force:***

Initially when the group was formed they were like-minded residents wanting to do their bit for the village, cuts, splinters and the odd bruise being par for the course. Unfortunately the Borough Council worried about Health and Safety issues and claims for compensation, putting a damp squib on ideas suggested to be tackled. Yet again the Nanny State won! A meeting was called and it was decided we would still enjoy doing the jobs, and each other's company, unofficially.

***June Stephenson writes;***

I don't suppose you were surprised to receive rude remarks on the returned questionnaires (p7 April issue). This always happens when anonymity is assured! Perhaps the responders had had a trying day. Most of us, I think, enjoy browsing through 'our' magazine. The "name and shame" suggestion did perturb me a bit. Surely this would be counter-productive, leading to gossip, resentment, and bad feeling generally? True, some drivers seem to feel themselves above 'petty' laws, such as parking restrictions or speed limits. And a very few dog owners may be irresponsible. But untidy gardens – ah! That is so subjective! As long as a garden owner doesn't cause problems for others, (smoky bonfires, enormously high hedges?), I believe s/he is legally entitled to do what he/she likes with his/her garden. And as far as tidiness goes, many people are beginning to see that weedy, overgrown areas are vital to the survival of species other than ourselves. As the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote, over a hundred years ago; "What would the world be, once bereft of wet and wildness? Let them be left, O let them be left, wildness and wet, Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet"

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**The Albert Victor Bowls Club**

The Club would welcome any new members at a cost of £8 per year membership and a 50p rink fee, and you are sure to be encouraged by the minimal cost of drinks in the clubroom. For example, Carlsberg Lager £1.80, Tetley's Smooth £1.70 and Ansell's Mild for only £1.50 per pint. The green opened this season at 4 pm on 17 April.

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## The Shingle Pits

One of the places that we went to a lot, especially in the summer time when I was a lad in the 50s and 60s in the village of Dersingham, was the shingle pits. Before the great flood of 1953 there were two pits and they were called the Wolferton Pit, which was to the South, and the Snettisham Pit, which was to the North, though they were accessible from the Dersingham Marsh road. Dersingham has no beach as such as the Parish boundary ends about 200 yards short of the old sea bank. Up until 1953 a firm by the name of "Etna Sand and Shingle" worked the pits. In the flood of '53 all their dredging gear and the railway that ran around the edge of the pits was destroyed and washed into the bottom of the pits, where it still remains to this very day. During the Second World War a lot of the sand and shingle was taken by road to build the runways on the aerodromes at Sculthorpe and Marham, also some would be loaded onto barges from a small jetty and taken across the Wash to be used for the same purpose in Lincolnshire. On warm summer nights you could get up to 50 people from the village swimming in the pits, although that was very dangerous with all the old steelwork laying at the bottom, but there were always some good strong swimmers on hand, like Mr Jack Bunn and Superintendent Mitchell, who would sometimes walk down to the pits and have a swim before breakfast. Most of the young boys and some girls from the village learnt to swim in these pits. In those days, long before the RSPB took over and the gates and fences were put up, anybody had access to the pits and there were by far a lot more seabirds nesting down there than there are today, even though in those days a lot of people from the village would gather up the eggs to take home to eat.

## Queen Mary (Mary of Teck 1867-1953)

After the Second World War, from 1946 onwards, Queen Mary spent a lot of time at Sandringham. Her chauffeur, a Mr Humphries, who had just retired, came to live in a house at the top of Lynn Road (now the hairdresser's). Her new chauffeur was a chap called Freddy Southgate, whose mother and father kept the Albert Victor Public House in Manor Road at the time. One day word got around that in the afternoon Queen Mary was coming down to Dersingham from Sandringham to visit Mr Humphries. At the time we lived in a bungalow opposite Freddy Waggs' Bike Shop in Lynn Road (now car sales). My mother and I stood outside on the pavement with lots of other visitors waiting for her to pass by. When she came by she sat in the back of the car with a very stern face as she did, and, as we all waved, she just raised her hand, but did not smile. Freddy Southgate, who was driving, waved his hand and smiled at us all. When Queen Mary got to her destination at the top of Lynn Road, Freddy stopped the car, got out and opened the door for her as was the done thing. Then Queen Mary turned to Freddy and said "Southgate, if you wish to keep this job you must keep your eyes on the road and not wave to the people." In the Albert that night Freddy did not half get his leg pulled, and everyone kept waving to him. I wonder why?

*These articles were contributed by Dick Melton whom we wish well after his recent illness*

## HE'S A VERY GOOD FELLOWES

When the posters first went up around Dersingham for the Friends of St Nicholas' Church's first-ever literary dinner, most people knew the guest of honour Julian Fellowes only as an actor and star of the Sunday night BBC TV serial *Monarch of the Glen*.

Film buffs who had enjoyed the 2002 Robert Altman movie *Gosford Park* might also have recalled that it was Julian Fellowes who won the Hollywood Oscar for Best Original Screenplay that year. But that was all in the past. By the time the literary dinner took place in April Julian Fellowes' fame had spread to fiction – his first novel, *Snobs*, had just been published and soared straight into the bestseller lists.

It was *Snobs* that Fellowes came to the Sandringham Visitors Centre after Easter to discuss with his publisher and editor, Ion Trewin, a Dersingham resident. After dinner and, before a full house, Fellowes revealed that *Snobs* was not strictly speaking his first book. When an undergraduate at Cambridge some thirty years before, he had written two 'historical bodice-rippers' under two pseudonyms, as much as anything to prove that he could write. He then went to drama school, acted – mainly in character parts including one James Bond film – with his writing concentrated on series for children's television.

*Gosford Park*, he said, changed his life. Hollywood companies beckoned, although he did film one more series of *Monarch of the Glen*. He has since worked on a new adaptation of Thackeray's classic, *Vanity Fair*, a P.G. Wodehouse novel, *Piccadilly Jim* and also made his debut as a film director with *A Walk Through the Wood* starring Rupert Everett, Emily Lloyd and Tom Wilkinson – all three films are due to be shown later this year.

Fellowes also talked about his debut in the musical theatre – he has adapted the classic Disney film *Mary Poppins* for the stage, to open in London's West End this autumn. But, as he confided to the Sandringham audience, the joy about writing the novel *Snobs* was that it remains entirely his, no directors, no producers, no actors to alter the emphasis. Only readers – and at the end of dinner the 100-strong audience showed their appreciation by queuing up to buy signed copies of his novel. No doubt about it – *Snobs* will be the Number One most read book in Dersingham this year.

For the Friends of St Nicholas' Church the event marked the tenth anniversary of a group set up to support the village's oldest building. Some £1,500 was raised by the evening, and the chairman, Keith Blythe, said that he now intended that the literary dinner would become an annual event in the Dersingham social calendar.

Ion Trewin

*To join the Friends of St Nicholas' Church and support Dersingham's oldest building contact Keith Blythe, chairman, on 01485 544866*

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*Old country saying:*

*If each outside his doorstep swept the village would be clean*

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## The Soul of Bowls

Arthur Daw (pictured) is 84 this month and has a history that is as fascinating as any book, it often having been suggested that he write his autobiography, although he says that he would not attempt to do this as in it he would have to tell the truth, and that some of what he knows and has seen is unsuitable for the public domain. Having heard some of this I tend to agree with him! His working life started as an apprentice bricklayer then as an employee of Stanton's Farm in Dersingham during which time Arthur joined the TA,

because of which, he was called up, aged 19, to serve with the 7th Norfolk Regiment.

Arthur was taken Prisoner of War in St. Valery, France, transferring to Posnan for 6 months, later moving to East Prussia (now Poland) where he was billeted with 8 others and was required to work on a farm, at first for the farmer, and then, when the farmer was called up for military service, for the farmer's wife. In January 1945, approaching Russian artillery could be distinctly heard in the distance, and the farmer's wife, wishing to meet up with her husband, came to an arrangement with Arthur that if he helped her to get to Westphalia, she in turn would assist in his escape. This agreed they set off on 18 January with two horses pulling two laden carriages (one described as a landau). As there would have been a problem in passing one of the major towns en route, and to avoid having to pass round it, they took 2 days to cross the frozen waters of the Bay of Danzig. By the time they arrived at their destination they had lost both of the horses, which had died of starvation, leaving them to finish the journey on foot, with Arthur then making his way through and past enemy lines to arrive back in England on 18 March. On his return home, due to his now fluent German, he was immediately transferred to the Military Police as an interpreter, being stationed in Ash Vale in Surrey, then Newmarket, King's Lynn and finally in Norwich.

After the war ended, Arthur returned to farming until he had a serious accident when he was run over by his own tractor! But a turning point came when the Albert Victor Public House in Manor Road became available as a tenancy in 1970 and Arthur and his wife Barbara took it over. The bowling green had become unusable, but they were determined to reinstate it, and following a lot of hard work and planning it was re-opened in 1971 by Inspector Burton of the local Police, and Paul Walsh of Watney Mann Brewery the latter was to become their mentor and guide, particularly through the period of decimalisation. The new green was perfect, except for one thing, it had only 3 rinks and the local leagues demanded that members should be able to provide 4. The committee members were downhearted, particularly Stanley Lines and Doug Goodship (Club Secretary), but decided to do something about the issue. They called a meeting of all members of the West Norfolk League who had been County Cup winners, suggesting that a new 3-rink league be formed.

Out of 15 winners attending, 8 signed up immediately and the Albert Victor 3 Rink League was founded. There are now 40 clubs who are members of the league.

Although having been very busy, Arthur and Barbara decided to tender their notice in October 1981 as the business had become unviable (their overheads had risen from £26 to £700 a week!) The consequence of this was that the brewery decided to close the pub and sell the premises. This was doomsday for the bowling green! An offer was made by the owners of Ingoldisthorpe Manor to prepare and supply a bowling green on their land, but shortly after the green was ready this fell through, owing to the major fire that took place at the Manor House. Arthur has asked me to express the sincerest thanks to Wolferton, who allowed the club to play on their greens from 1981 to 1983, during which time the new green was created in its current location on land which was owned by Arthur. This green has 5 rinks one way and 6 the other.

More recently, thanks to Arthur's wife, Barbara, the Queen gave authorisation for a new league to be formed, which is contained within the village and is called the Dersingham Village Jubilee League.

BT/04/04



The photographs on the left and below show the members of the Albert Victor Bowls Club in 1927 and 1977.

Perhaps you recognise a friend or relative amongst them and have a story to tell. If so, please write in with the details to the Editor at the Council Office in Manor Road

### 1977 Photograph

*Back Row* - Len Rose, Dick Melton, Doug Goodship, George Evans, 'Bunny' Byfield, Stanley Lines, Paul Fentom, Arthur Daw, Gordon Ellis, David Hooker, Andy Fell

*Front Row* - Jim Foreman, Herby Britton, Mervyn Chapman, Peter Nicholls, Barbara Daw, John Emerson (the present Groundsman at the Club)



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## Dersingham Horticultural Society

A warm and sincere thank you to all who supported the Society's coffee morning, which was held in March. Although the attendance seemed less than usual, this event was nevertheless very successful raising nearly £100 for society funds. As usual, the refreshments were delicious and I feel sure that all who attended enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and conversation with friends.

**April Meeting** A third visit by Bill Le Grice, this time to talk about his favourite subject "Roses". An acknowledged expert in his field – his nursery's catalogue lists some 440 varieties – Bill commenced by showing slides of the various types of rose from the humble dog rose of our hedgerows to the gaudy, scented and disease resistant forms which are available today.

He then showed us the processes by which new varieties are created from seed obtained by crossing cultivars in order to obtain the best characteristics of both parents. From seed to plant fit for trial involves a period of time of at least two years and of the hundreds of seeds sown only about 2 or 3 per cent make the grade, the others being rejected on criteria such as lack of scent, poor foliage or being prone to disease.

One of the processes in propagation is budding, which involves grafting a new bud onto a rootstock. This is a delicate, skilled operation and, like sheep-shearers, "budders" travel the world season to season, the most expert performing up to 3,000 and more grafts in a day.

The other fact that Bill told us, which I found particularly intriguing, was that at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century the royal gardeners in France amassed the largest collection of roses in the world and added to the collection wherever and whenever possible. To this end gardeners were given a special dispensation during the Napoleonic Wars allowing them to send specimens to France.

Bill finally dealt with the problems that beset rose gardeners in this area – mildew, rust and black spot. Science has recently established that there is no single strain of these 'diseases' but that they are constantly mutating, and strike when plants are under stress, usually during dry periods. His answer is:

- 1 Feed with a main course i.e: Rose food, Phostrogen or, his favourite, Vitex
- 2 Water and folia feed weekly using generous quantities of water boosted with tomato feed. Sprinkling occasionally, or even daily, is a waste of time and water.
- 3 Leave a depression in the soil around the rootstock to prevent the dispersal of water. If necessary build a mulch ridge around the already established plant to achieve this.

Endless facts and insight into the world of the much loved rose from a true expert provided an evening of hope to all rose growers and interest to all.

For further information Bill LeGrice Roses have two websites:

[www.rosebuddies.co.uk](http://www.rosebuddies.co.uk) and [www.rosesuk.co.uk](http://www.rosesuk.co.uk)

David Clark 543182

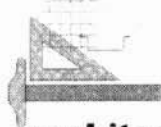


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## Dersingham Institute Bowls Club

The club is leased from the Queen and is part of the Sandringham Estate; it has been in existence for many years. It is situated next to St Nicholas Church Hall with whom we share the car park.

A very good green keeper and various members of the club keep the club in good condition. We are a very happy and social crowd and are involved in many of the league matches. So if there are any budding bowlers out there who would like to try, please turn up on any Saturday for a "roll-up". Anyone is welcome, with or without bowling experience, there's always someone there to help. We do have some spare bowls at the club (flat shoes only, *no trainers*). If you would like further information please contact

*The Secretary, Pat Tomkins on 544543*

## Fixtures to come – Dersingham Institute Bowls Club

### North West Norfolk League – Capt: John Bruford (542314)

|                          |                    |       |                           |                    |       |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| <b>Thursday 10 June</b>  | Hunstanton         | Away  | <b>Monday 14 June</b>     | Rudham             | Home  |
| <b>Thursday 17 June</b>  | Heacham Ex-Service | Away  | <b>Monday 21 June</b>     | Heacham Social     | Home  |
| <b>Monday 28 June</b>    | Hunstanton         | Home  | <b>Thursday 1 July</b>    | Docking Railway    | Away  |
| <b>Thursday 8 July</b>   | Sherbourne         | Home  | <b>Monday 12 July</b>     | Docking Social     | Away  |
| <b>Thursday 15 July</b>  | Bircham            | Away  | <b>Monday 19 July</b>     | Massingham         | Home  |
| <b>Monday 26 July</b>    | Wolferton          | Away  | <b>Thursday 29 July</b>   | Ingoldisthorpe     | Home  |
| <b>Thursday 5 August</b> | Rudham             | Away* | <b>Thursday 12 August</b> | Heacham ex-Service | Home* |
| <b>Monday 16 August</b>  | Heacham Social     | Away# |                           |                    |       |

### Countryside League – Capt: Gordon Fisher (600436)

|                          |                |       |                         |               |       |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------|-------------------------|---------------|-------|
| <b>Tuesday 15 June</b>   | Docking Manor  | Away  | <b>Tuesday 22 June</b>  | Old Town      | Away  |
| <b>Wed 23 June</b>       | Excelsior      | Away  | <b>Thursday 24 June</b> | Albert Victor | Home  |
| <b>Tuesday 29 June</b>   | Searles        | Home  | <b>Wed 14 July</b>      | Friendship    | Away  |
| <b>Wed 21 July</b>       | Ingoldisthorpe | Away  | <b>Tuesday 27 July</b>  | Old Town      | Home  |
| <b>Monday 2 August</b>   | Thornham       | Away  | <b>Tuesday 3 August</b> | Excelsior     | Home  |
| <b>Tuesday 10 August</b> | Heacham Social | Away* | <b>Wed 18 August</b>    | Houghton      | Home# |

### Albert Victor League Div. 2 – Capt: Eric Hill (543495)

|                         |                  |      |                         |                  |      |
|-------------------------|------------------|------|-------------------------|------------------|------|
| <b>Friday 11 June</b>   | Clenchwarton B   | Away | <b>Friday 18 June</b>   | Albert Victor A  | Home |
| <b>Friday 25 June</b>   | Castleacre       | Away | <b>Friday 2 July</b>    | Coach and Horses | Away |
| <b>Friday 9 July</b>    | King William     | Home | <b>Friday 16 July</b>   | Gayton Social    | Home |
| <b>Friday 23 July</b>   | Albert Victor BA | Away | <b>Friday 30 July</b>   | West Lynn A      | Home |
| <b>Friday 6 August</b>  | Ingoldisthorpe   | Away | <b>Friday 13 August</b> | Clenchwarton B   | Home |
| <b>Friday 20 August</b> | Albert Victor A  | Away | <b>Friday 27 August</b> | Castleacre       | Home |

### Albert Victor League Div. 4 – Capt: Sheila Walker (570094)

|                         |                 |      |                         |                |      |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------|-------------------------|----------------|------|
| <b>Friday 11 June</b>   | Terrington Mem  | Home | <b>Friday 18 June</b>   | River Lane     | Away |
| <b>Friday 25 June</b>   | bye             |      | <b>Friday 2 July</b>    | Gaywood Park B | Home |
| <b>Friday 9 July</b>    | Wootton New Inn | Away | <b>Friday 16 July</b>   | Sandringham B  | Away |
| <b>Friday 23 July</b>   | Clenchwarton A  | Home | <b>Friday 30 July</b>   | Watlington     | Away |
| <b>Friday 6 August</b>  | Runcion Holme   | Home | <b>Friday 13 August</b> | Terrington Mem | Away |
| <b>Friday 20 August</b> | River Lane      | Home | <b>Friday 27 August</b> | bye            |      |

\*Start 6.45 pm #Start 6.30 pm



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## **Dersingham Tennis Club**

The Tennis Club offers membership to anyone who is interested in playing friendly tennis, but also to those who may aspire to playing in the North West Norfolk League. The club is casual, friendly, and desperately looking for new members to play on the two fabulous floodlit courts, which are very underused. The fate of these courts is in jeopardy, as the facility is not bringing in enough income to break even, causing the Sports Ground Committee to consider the future of the area. It would be a terrible shame for the village to lose this facility. Currently, club nights are Wednesday and Thursday – 6 to 7.30 pm for Juniors – 7.30 to 9 pm for Seniors, although others may play in those times dependant on numbers. Sunday is also club day – 10am to 1 pm – with the first 1<sup>st</sup> hours being prioritised for Juniors. The fees are: Juniors £15: Single Members £20: Couples £30: Families £40. That's for 6 months, which could be as little as 30p for an hour's tennis!

The tennis club is supporting the extremely successful mini-tennis programme where, currently, there are 25 children enjoying coaching. Whilst there are no vacancies at present, we are hoping that some of these children will continue playing tennis into Junior Membership. For further information contact:

*Rosie Russell – Secretary Dersingham Tennis Club – 01485 543118*

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## **Carole Brown Health Centre Patient Participation Group**

*By Tom Morris, Chairman CBHC PPG*

Over 50 patients and staff attended the April meeting of the PPG and it was a pleasure to have Dr M Kenny, Dr L Deol and Mr G Dickerson present to express their views and to answer the queries of members. Mr Dickerson confirmed that progress was being made, in consultation with the Primary Care Trust, with plans to develop new premises at Dersingham for the Health Centre. It is their wish that the services available at Dersingham should be expanded so that procedures that would normally mean the use of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital facilities can be conducted locally. A one-stop centre providing all the health and social care facilities in one location is the ultimate aim. The community will be provided with further information on developments as and when it becomes available. Following a very favourable financial report by the treasurer, the PPG decided to allocate £6000 of its funds to acquire additional equipment for the Carole Brown Health Centre. The funds will be used to buy an additional Cardiac Defibrillator, an ECG Machine and a Pulse Oximeter. These acquisitions will considerably enhance the facilities available to the staff as they seek to provide us with a high standard of healthcare.

The PPG is grateful to Rev Len Mathews for agreeing to allow future meetings to be held at St Cecilia's Church. It is encouraging that the Health Centre premises are no longer adequate to accommodate the numbers now attending PPG meetings. Long may it continue!

The Annual Meeting of the PPG will be held at St Cecilia's Church during July on a date that will be announced in due course.

---

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A regular reader, who discovered it in the Autumn 2001 copy of "This England", has submitted the following poem, which is credited to John Rendall, who was employed as a messenger in Australia House, London, at the time of its first known publication around 1960 (40 years ago) and **before** entry into the common Market!)

### **We're Not Britain Anymore!**

Where is the British spirit that made this country great?  
Why are we lacking in prestige and losing fate of late?  
Why are we just a country that only Americans adore?  
*We're just a part of Europe – we're not Britain anymore!*

Who led the world in shipping? Who led the world in trade?  
Whose money was respected wherever it was made?  
We are no longer trusted as in the days of yore  
*We're just a part of Europe – we're not Britain anymore!*

The position now is changing, for we no longer rule,  
And to be proud of being British is just to be a fool.  
So join yourself to Europe and make our nation sore...  
*We're just a part of Europe – we're not Britain anymore!*

They're altering the money that we have known for years,  
To buy in dollars and cents near drives this man to tears.  
We'll have to drive upon the right 'ere very long I'm sure  
*We're just a part of Europe – we're not Britain anymore!*

So farewell to all things British, traditions old and new,  
The way of life we've known and loved, we bid them all adieu.  
An insignificant little island off the Continent's western shore  
*We're just a part of Europe – we're not Britain anymore!*

---

### **St George Remembered**

Neighbours in Chestnut Close, a tiny cul-de-sac of six bungalows off Old all Drive, gathered for the seventh year in succession to celebrate St George's Day with friends from other parts of the village. In a real community effort, for which the close is noted, they decorated the roadside with Union and Cross of St George flags and red and white balloons, and provided a generous lunch and wine befitting the occasion. As it was a perfect sunny day, the gathering filled the back lawn of number five.

The vicar, the Rev Ron Elverson, who had earlier conducted a special St George's Day Holy Communion service in the parish church, was among the guests. He gave a short talk on the significance of England's much-neglected patron saint, who "The Chestnutters" feel is worth honouring every 23 April.

*Bryan Tann*

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### **Rogue Telephone Callers**

At the April meeting of the Parish Council attention was drawn to the fact that many people have been 'conned' by giving information on the telephone to unsolicited callers. Police advice is that you should **NEVER** give any personal details to **anyone who may ring you**. NO BANK will ever contact you to request your name, address, account number, PIN, password, etc. and if you are asked for **these by somebody who has called you**, do not give this information! Many of those who have fallen for this approach have discovered later that their bank accounts have been raided, often finding that they have lost the bulk of their life savings. If you DO receive such a call it is advisable to notify the Police.

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### **Street Lighting in the Village**

The Parish Council have been undertaking a survey of the street lighting around the village and are in the process of undertaking necessary repairs, etc.. Having said this, it would be greatly appreciated if you could report any damage to the light fittings, or when you notice any particular lamp which is not working. Any comments, giving the location of the post in question, should be notified to the Parish Clerk on 541465.

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### **Norfolk Constabulary Western Mobile Police Station**

Staffed by Public Enquiry Officers Linda Forder, Peter Duncan and PC Christopher Howes, the Mobile Police Station will be stationed in Budgens car park on the

**18 June, between the hours of 10.00 am and 12 noon.**

Services include; Advice, Crime recording, Information, Lost and found property, Crime prevention advice and literature and Liaison with community groups.

Useful contact telephone numbers are;

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### **Carpet Bowls Don't be a Couch Potato**

A Carpet Bowls Club is being started on Tuesday Nights from 7 pm till 9 pm at the Community Centre in Dersingham.

A coffee evening is planned for Tuesday 15 June so that you can come along, have coffee and watch the game being played. You can also try it out for yourself. There are no restrictions - anyone can play.

The club will start up on Tuesday 29 June.

*For further information contact Alan 01485 544883 Angela 01485 541397*

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## **Sandringham View - What's in a Name?**

### **KERRICH CLOSE**

**SAMUEL KERRICH** was rector of St Nicholas Church from 1729 to 1768, being one of three members of the Kerrich family to have served in this post during the 18th and 19th century, and all of whom are buried in the chancel of the church.

Samuel's son, Thomas, is noted for the fact that he was a watercolour artist whose sketch of the font in the church (held with others in the British Museum) was used when it became necessary to restore the font.

Further details of the family can be found in the Dersingham Reference Library (on request) in a book entitled "Notes on the History of Dersingham", which were contributed to the Parish Magazine by W M Lewis MIA, who was the vicar of Dersingham from 1910 to 1923, and whose notes were brought together in a typewritten manuscript in 1937. This is a fascinating book which offers an absorbing insight into the history of the village and its church, and includes many items such as extracts from wills and accounts during the period which was researched.

### **THE WEST NORFOLK CARERS PROJECT**

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**Young People of Dersingham-**  
**We know you are there and we want to hear from you!**

**Are you aged 11 to 18?**

**Would you like to have a say in what happens in Dersingham?**

It would help with future plans for Dersingham if you could take the time to answer a few questions.

Where do you go for fun/leisure/sports activities?

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What should be provided for young people in Dersingham?

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How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you male/female?\*

(\*Please delete as appropriate.)

Would you like to be involved in the decision making process in Dersingham?

If you are interested, please let us have your name and address, and a contact telephone number. These details will only be used for the purposes of the questionnaire and to arrange a meeting for the young people who express an interest in forming a Youth Group in Dersingham.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed forms to: The Parish Council Office, Manor Road, Dersingham.  
If you have any queries on the content of this questionnaire, please telephone Sue Payne, Chair, Strategic Development Committee, on 540538

## The War of the Shrubs

The big blousy purple flowers of *Rhododendron ponticum* make a colourful display in our local woods in the early summer. They are not a British native plant and are found in the wild around the Black Sea with isolated populations in Iberia. They were introduced to large estates in this country from Spain or Portugal in the late eighteenth century for ornamentation or, more recently, game cover. It could be claimed that they are merely re-colonizing old habitats because analysis of pre-glacial pollen from Ireland has shown that they were found there between thirty and forty thousand years ago. Unfortunately, they are far from innocuous members of our flora and should be seen as aggressive thugs rather than exotic beauties. They are particularly troublesome on some of our richest wildlife sites such as the heath and bog of the Dersingham Nature Reserve. *Rhododendron ponticum* grows well on the impoverished acidic soils of the reserve because the roots are supplied with extra nutrients by symbiotic fungal mycorrhizae normally associated with their ericaceous cousins the heathers. Heathers are a major part of heathland habitats and provide a plentiful source of this fungus for the invading rhododendrons. The main threat to wildlife comes from the shading effect of the dense stands that can soon destroy the diverse heath and bog ecosystems. Shading is not the only weapon in their armoury because the plants also produce poisons (phenols in the buds to discourage invertebrates and deterpenes in the leaves to ward off herbivores). There is a human illness that goes by the glorious name of 'Mad Honey Disease' (a short term cardiac and intestinal condition rarely fatal) caused by eating honey produced from rhododendron flowers. This illness was first recorded nearly two and a half thousand years ago – worth considering if you keep honeybees in the village. It is also believed that the toxins actually poison the ground and can prevent other plants from growing even after the rhododendrons are removed. The spread of *Rhododendron ponticum* accelerated with the decline of the large country estates and the loss of staff to control them following the First World War. Killing rhododendrons is not easy, as any of the Dersingham residents who have been involved in the backbreaking 'slash and burn' days on the reserve can testify. New growth soon sprouts up after the rhododendrons have been cut down. The use of powerful herbicides is the only sure way of killing them and even then complete coverage is required and the chemical needs special additives to break through the tough waxy coating of the leaves.

In the interest of balance, I should end by saying something nice about *Rhododendron ponticum*, particularly since complete eradication is unlikely. The local rhododendrons by the roadside do not do much harm and actually provide a home for more foreign imports - some spectacularly coloured golden pheasants. These shy birds are always a treat to see and it would be a shame if they were to become homeless.

Perhaps the lesson to be learnt from this tale is that beautiful flowers aren't always good and toxic chemicals aren't always bad.

David Bingham

**VILLAGE VOICE HOLIDAY PRIZE COMPETITION**

**A reminder that you can win a prize for sending a holiday postcard  
You have the opportunity to win one of three prizes donated by local businesses.**

A £20 voucher for a meal for two at the Feathers Hotel will go the person who sends to the Editor what is considered by the Judges to be the most BORING postcard of the season! The runner-up will win a box of chocolates supplied by Dersingham Post Office. A £10 voucher to use at Thaxter's Garden Centre will go to the sender of the postcard which is judged to be sent from the furthest point from Dersingham. Entries should be addressed to Village Voice Postcard Competition, Parish Council Office, The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LH to arrive by Wednesday 8th September 2004. Winners will be announced in Issue 30 dated 13th October. It has been arranged that all the entries will be displayed at the Library following the selection of the winners.

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**SUMMER FAYRE & GARDEN SHOW**

**PARK HOUSE SANDRINGHAM**

**SUNDAY 11 JULY 2004io7**

Park House at Sandringham will be opening the house and gardens to everyone for their Annual Summer Fayre & Garden Show on Sunday 11 July, from 2.00 pm

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a good fun afternoon for all the family, all ages. Side stalls, Tombola, Games (and Prizes), a Street Organ, Sandringham Fire Engine (and crew!), a Display Team from King's Lynn Gym Club, and a Refreshment Tent are all lined up – with more to be organised.

***Especially for children under 12 years.***

A Garden Show is being run jointly with two local schools. Anyone interested in further details of this for their children or grandchildren should contact Lorna Dady at Park House.

Look out for further news later in June. There will be posters on notice boards and shops everywhere in the village.

*Or you can contact Reception at Park House by ringing (01485) 543000.*

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## A Bit of a Scorcher

*by Dick Melton of Sunny Hunny*

Phillip (Joe) Painter was not a tall man, about 5 foot four, stocky, with a weather-beaten face, he lived with his wife, Edna, and family, just after the Second World War, in the end cottage of four called Pleasant Place, right next to the open common in Lynn Road, Dersingham.

Joe was a real handyman, bricklayer, plumber, carpenter and, most of all, chimney sweep. He swept the chimneys at Sandringham House, all 365 of them, and every day he could be seen from dawn to dusk going around the village with his tools and brushes, going off to do a job for someone.

Joe had a very long garden, about 80 yards long, each side of the path he grew the largest pansies you had ever seen. If you said to him "how do you grow them like that?" he would say "Soot!" In a shed in his garden he kept a collection of over 300 goe"sunders (sic) (chamber pots). But the thing that Joe was most famous for were his terrific bonfires on the 5 November.

Joe would start to build his bonfire at the top end of his garden just after Easter, his recipe for success was old rubber tyres, opposite Joe's house was Eric Hyner's Garage, so Eric would let him have all his old tyres, and by the time the big night got here the bonfire would be huge, taking up the whole of the top end of Joe's garden. Once it was alight it could be seen everywhere and people would come from all over the village to look at it. Of course us boys knew what would eventually happen, a spark from the fire would set light to the common! The fire brigade, which had its station in Miss Mann's old barn at the top of Heath Road, would be called, but first they would stop at Joe's and have a cup of tea (or something!), then they would set to and put the fire out in the common.

On most bonfire nights the wind would be from the North, keeping the flames away from the houses, but I remember one year the wind was blowing from the South, and when Joe got up next morning the heat from the fire had put a crack in his outside wall from top to bottom, but this did not worry Joe, when he got time he filled the crack in with cement, shingle-dashed over it, and it looked quite nice.

Over the years we had a lot of fires on the common, fen and 'shut-up' common, but that's another story.

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## ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL NEWS

In September St George's will become a junior school and its new name will officially be Dersingham St George's (CE) Junior School. Although we will be sorry to lose our year 7 pupils and will miss all that they have contributed to the life of the school we are excited at the prospect of becoming a junior school and admitting year 3 pupils.

The school at present is a hive of activity getting ready for September with classrooms being decorated, carpeted and new furniture and resources being purchased. The teachers are well ahead with planning the curriculum for our New Year group. Policies and strategies are being reviewed so that everything will be ready for September.

This term in school is always a busy one with examinations, sports activities, creative arts day, sponsored walk, science theatre in school, visits, a summer musical performance and much more. Parents are invited to join us for many of these events and are sent information in the monthly newsletter. Parents and the local community are invited to join us at our annual end of term celebration, Midsummer Madness, on Monday 12 July starting at 6.30pm, when the children will be singing, dancing and performing in a talent show. There will be a barbeque, a bouncy castle and many stalls. This is always a very popular family event.

### Dates from St George's

7 July year 6 pupils visit Smithdon

7 July year 2 and 3 pupils visit St George's

8 July year 7 pupils visit Smithdon

16 July school closes for the summer holiday

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## Sandringham Lodge No 10499

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On Tuesday evening 20 April 2004, at the Community Centre, Dersingham, King's Lynn, the members of the Sandringham Lodge of the King's Lynn & District Province, led by Bro' Ken Conley ROH (one of the founder members of the lodge) presented £634 to the Norfolk & Norwich Association for the blind represented by Mrs Joan Thomas and Mrs Sue Bird. The majority of the money was raised by weekly donations by the lodge members over the previous six months. This is a wonderful effort by all concerned, since the average membership of the lodge is only seven per meeting. New members are always welcome and can make enquiries by contacting *Alan Bridges on 01485 541364*.

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The next full Parish Council Meeting will be held  
on Monday 28 June in First and Nursery School at 7pm

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## Driving for the Heacham & District Community Car Scheme

M Mann describes what is entailed as a volunteer driver for the Community Car Scheme:

As one of a team of drivers, I may be contacted once or perhaps several times a week, asking whether I am available at a particular time and date, to provide transport. I always have the right to say yes or no, according to what suits me. In fact I frequently say no! However when I have time to spare, I volunteer happily and surprise, surprise, helping someone is rewarding and at times fun!!

This is the strength of the scheme. the drivers only work when convenient to them. Provided there are enough of us, the co-ordinator on duty will almost always find a driver that is available. Travel arrangements are normally agreed only up to 24 hours ahead, so we do not have to commit to 'days' in advance and we are paid expenses. Why don't you join? You never know when the need might be yours and not someone else's!

*The office telephone number is 01485 544544*

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## "What's On" for children this summer at Dersingham Library?



This year's Summer Reading Game Theme is the "Reading Rollercoaster", so watch out for the **special themed** events.

Children can collect stickers for their special game folders, as they read books throughout the summer. As always the aim of the promotion is to encourage children to read and to have fun. Last year 99 children took part in the game, and this year we want to beat that figure!

Storytimes will be held on 5 August, 2.30 to 3.30 pm and on 26 August from 2.30 to 3.30pm. Under 7s must be accompanied by an adult.



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## News from the First and Nursery School

There are lots of very special things happening this term for our children. Our Year 3 children have just had a super time at How Hill Field Study Centre on the Broads where they had the opportunity to learn about the environment, the traditional Norfolk crafts of thatching, reed cutting and weaving and enjoy time away together. Our Year 2 children visited Houghton Hall Education Centre as they took part in a new environmental project there and our Year 1 children have enjoyed a day of arts and crafts connected to animals, which was lots of fun. Our younger children visited Park Farm, Pets at Home and Dinosaur World as part of their topic work. There are also a number of special things planned for our Year 2 and 3 children in preparation for their transfer to their new school in September. It's good to work so closely with St George's School to make their transfer a successful and seamless one. Congratulations goes to Harry Sutton who designed our new school logo ready for when we become Dersingham Infant and Nursery School in September and to our five runners up too. Watch out for the new logo on our school sweatshirts, it is a lovely logo depicting our children enjoying the environment with their friends.

*Jackie Austin, Headteacher*

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## Dersingham Junior Flower Club

Our Junior Flower Club recently entered the East of England Area Association of Flower Arranging celebration – “50 Golden Years” at a flower show held at Newmarket.

The results were extremely good with **8-12 years Gold Award** to Hannah Redwood and **Best in Class Silver** Charlotte Reeve, Georgina Mulligan, Charlotte Boughen. **Bronze** Fennella Thompson, Page Havers, Madelaine Hodges **Special Mention** Laylar Holland, Emily Holt, Olivia Hodges, Bethany Perry, Charlotte Dady.

**Class 12-16 years Silver** Jasmine Boughen. They entered a decorated fan that had to be made from card and decorated with natural plant material in the form of a collage. Hannah Redwood was awarded a cup to be held for 1 Year. The collages were on show at the Parish Council Open Day in April.

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## Annual Parish Meeting

A balmy evening did nothing to attempt the residents of Dersingham from their homes to attend the Annual Parish Meeting held at St Cecilia's Church on 17 May. Keeping company with 15 members of the Parish, Borough and County Councils were just 4 members of the public who received reports from all the council Committees, Dersingham United Charities and an update on the Village Plan. Questions asked and answered included the subjects of: the Churchyard upkeep, waste disposal, uncompleted works by the County Council and the progress of the Village Website. The poor attendance suggests that the vast majority of residents are completely satisfied with the performance of the Parish Council.

*AB*

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## Personality Profile



I read with interest the feedback from the Village Voice questionnaire and noticed that someone said they would like to see more articles about village 'personalities' for example school staff. Well, although I wouldn't call myself a 'village personality' I thought I would respond to that request and start the ball rolling by offering a pen portrait of myself with the hope that others may follow suit in future editions.

I have been Headteacher of Dersingham First and Nursery School since September 2001, a job that I am thoroughly enjoying. Prior to coming to this village I was Headteacher of The Norman Church of England Primary School in Northwold for six years. I have always wanted to be a teacher ever since the day I started school at the age of five when I first saw the inside of my teacher's stock cupboard and I have been fascinated with stock cupboards ever since! I have been a qualified teacher for 30 years but took an eight-year career break when my two daughters were born. They are now in their mid twenties and have flown the nest, but both live in Norfolk so we see them regularly which is lovely.

My job takes a huge amount of my time but I strive hard to maintain a healthy work/life balance and have always encouraged my colleagues and the children to do the same. My largest out of school commitment is in my work connected to the church as a Christian. I am a Methodist Local Preacher and regularly take services in the King's Lynn Circuit and indeed have also taken a service at Dersingham Methodist Chapel too. I am the Christian Aid co-ordinator for my church and also work on the Outreach and Fund Raising Committees. I keep physically fit by exploring the cycle paths of the area and getting up for an early morning walk before school, well most days! I enjoy reading travel and local history books, doing crossword puzzles and collecting old education books especially Janet and John reading books. I am a member of the Eddie Stobart Fan Club, which involves logging vehicle names and number plates and visiting depots to watch lorries being washed and repaired! Sad, I know! To my knowledge there is only one other Eddie Stobart fan in the village, but maybe there are more! I also enjoy holidays off the beaten track in the remoter areas of Britain especially the Scottish islands.

My philosophy both in teaching and in other areas of my life is that 'only the best will do' and I strive hard to maintain that standard in my personal and professional life. It's a joy to lead the team at Dersingham First and Nursery School as we focus on giving the children the best possible start to their education and to make this village school a place to be proud of. A special thank you to all those who give of their time and talents to support everything we do, it is much appreciated.

*Jackie Austin    Headteacher of Dersingham First and Nursery School*

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June Stephenson asks me to point out an important omission in her recipe for Oatmeal Porridge in the April issue which was that the oatmeal should be SOAKED OVERNIGHT IN THE LIQUID, otherwise the result will be inedible!



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## A Love Affair With Norfolk

Valerie Goodsell © 2002/3

It must be nearly thirty years since I emigrated from Kent to Norfolk, and yet I still feel as if I am on holiday. It is such a wonderful county and I never fail to appreciate the ordered farmland. I love to watch a plough turning the land, which gleams black and wet in the wintry sun. Scores of gulls wheel and dive into the neat furrows, screeching joyfully as they plunder. I still feel excitement at the first glimpse of the sea as I drive into Hunstanton, but the biggest thrill of all is to hear the honking of geese which announce the imminent arrival of wobbling skein, after skein of birds – sometimes in their tens of thousands – as they fly home across the vast and amazing sunset skies. Every time I hear their sound, I rush out to watch, always feelings tingles of awe, and wonder how men can shoot them.

We had been informed by a southernised Norfolk man prior to our move that we would not be welcomed and never be accepted, so I was prepared for hostility. At first, we received polite reserve, which lasted a few weeks until suddenly, gifts were left on our wall, smiles, and huge warmth, were wrapped around us. I have never known such kindness in my life and it never stops. Our first home was an old carrstone property at the back of Snettisham quarry – a place lost in time. Part of the old works of the quarry – gone now – had become overgrown and the cliffs (wonderful illicit climbs for the children) hung garlanded with flowers, while tangled ivy dripped from gnarled trees. It was a magical place where we were sure elfin folk lived, so left out saucers of cream just in case. Once, Billy, our neighbour's goat, slipped off the edge of the wooded cliff and dangled on his chain overnight. After his rescue, he carried on browsing, as if his dive into the abyss was par for the course, his weird devil eyes searching for succulents, his stench rank in the midst of the fairy glade. In the village stood a large chestnut tree, under which each day a number of cheery Norfolk centenarians lay recumbent in their ancient bath chairs – the kind with the curved iron stick up the middle. They 'oohed' and 'ahhed', in accents I couldn't understand, while they watched the ebb and flow of village life around them. Their cackles were muted by the stretch of chestnut leaves shading them from the hot noon sun.

When I went to order some coal, I was ushered into a miniscule kitchen, to be confronted by a surreal cameo: Propped up by pillows, sat 'Granddad' – well over a hundred – in his cast iron bed that was wedged in between an ancient 'butler's' sink and an equally archaic cooker. He grinned toothlessly at me, keen for flirtation, and I obliged, delighted to be part of this lost-in-time scenario. This was the first of many a friendship with old sages, who regaled me with fascinating stories of their childhood and country lore, lost now to modern living. Nowadays real longevity in these parts does not seem so common – pollution taking its toll, I guess. I have a love affair with Norfolk, which to me is gentle, kind and always beautiful, with constant surprise up its colourful sleeve. I believe this essence will always remain, whatever else time may change.

## Not So Boring After All

by Kathy Jordan © 6 May 2004

“Oh! It’s all so flat and boring”,  
Outsiders often say,  
But Norfolk has such hidden heights,  
To take your breath away.

From ‘Beeston Bump’ at Sheringham,  
View poppy fields galore,  
Or climb Dodds Hill at Dersingham,  
To watch the Wash’s shore.

The sunsets there go unsurpassed,  
With Sandringham below,  
There’s much to please the visitor –  
A craft or country show.

From the Wind Turbine at Swaffham,  
Survey superb terrain,  
Soon from Yarmouth’s Nelson’s Column,\*  
See silver sands again.

The gentle slopes of Peddar’s Way,  
Can have great impact too,  
Like wildlife filled salt marshes near,  
Seasides with lots to do.

A scenic boat trip on the Broads –  
How horizontal’s that?  
For those old peat ‘digs’ ooze wonders,  
To make you ‘eat your hat’!

Think all those drab and dreary still?  
(And I’ve only named a few),  
Well then **you’re** the one that’s boring,  
So good riddance now to you!!!

---

\* I used to climb Nelson’s Column at Great Yarmouth as a child, on holidays from Northamptonshire, and the views were outstanding. I believe the column is to be restored with Heritage Lottery money, so hopefully everyone will be able to enjoy this uplifting experience. Every place, anywhere, has much of interest, if only you dig below the surface.

## Greenish Fingers' Garden Notebook

On 17 March I planted my first early potatoes through black polypropylene sheeting, cutting a cross slit for each tuber, dropping it into a 15cm hole, and filling up with soil as usual. Today, 9 May, the potato plants look healthy, good and green and about 30 cm tall. Fingers crossed for a good crop!

Robins have been in great voice for weeks. After reading David Bingham's 'Birdsong' (April issue), I tried to convince myself one evening at dusk that I heard a nightingale. But then I saw, through the gloom, that it was a robin which filled the air with sweet, ebullient song. It was like listening to the pure notes of a boy soprano, making one catch one's breath.

Our broad beans, The Sutton, are laden with fading flowers. I spent many fascinating minutes, sometimes sitting for half an hour, watching bumblebees taking nectar and pollen from them. (The joys of being a pensioner!) The most popular flowers in our April garden have been those of grape hyacinths, forget-me-nots, broad beans and blackcurrants. In the apple blossom red-tailed and buff-tailed bumblebee queens have been buzzing, assiduously searching for pollen to place beside their eggs in their nests, and nectar to build up their strength for further egg production. Soon we'll see mostly the smaller worker bees, all being busy until they drop.

In summer the garden is full of wild marjoram, which seems to send all kinds of bees into ecstasies! It's an easy plant to establish, a great self-seeder and spreader, especially in the sun. I've noticed that gatekeeper butterflies prefer its small flowers to even the fattest, most deliciously scented buddleia davidii.



## **Days of Destiny in Dersingham**

Hosted by King's Lynn Christian Fellowship

**June 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

**Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> – Destiny for Youth** at Dersingham First School (next to surgery)

Fun Night including band, decks, dance and drama and also featuring 'Bob & Daisy'!!!!

**Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> – Destiny Barbeque and Fun Night** for everyone at Dersingham Recreation Ground 6.30 – 9.00 pm. Fun, games, music and meet the team

**Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> & Fri 25<sup>th</sup> – 'Destined to Win' Celebrations** at Dersingham First School (next to surgery)

God has a plan for our lives, come and join people who's lives have been transformed by the saving and healing power of God. Jesus Christ can do the same for you.

Great music, guest artists, interviews, drama and life-changing message.

### **Day time events in conjunction with 'Days of Destiny'**

**Ladies Lunch**, 12 noon – 2.00 pm, Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> at 68 Mountbatten Road, Dersingham with guest speaker, Anneice Buckman, Florida, USA.

**Alpha Taster.** Find out more about the Christian faith – Thurs 24<sup>th</sup>, 11 am – 12 pm at 26 Duck Decoy Close, Dersingham.

*For more information, telephone 01485 544553 or 01553 766333*

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## **VILLAGE PLAN**

The Steering Group met on Wednesday 12th May, to approve the draft report. With a few changes to layout, and the addition of some photographs, it will be ready for presentation to the Parish Council at the June meeting.

I would like to express my thanks to Peter Box & Walter Blaney for their efforts in writing the report, and also to the volunteers who helped form the questionnaire, deliver and collect them, and lastly to the band of in putters who got the information onto the computer programme. Without the help of these people, we could not have produced the report and action plan.

Also at the meeting was Kevin Harrision, WPP Architects, who is working on the feasibility study for a new Village Centre. He displayed outline plans for each of the three sites considered in the questionnaire, which had been submitted to the Borough Planners for comment. Each site has limitations, and a lot will depend on what the residents of Dersingham want from a new centre.

A copy of the final report will be delivered to every household in August. We then plan to hold an open day in September this year to celebrate publication of the report and action plan, and to ask the community what they would like to see in any new Village Centre. This will enable us to get detailed plans drawn up for comment by the planners, and potential user groups.

*Sue Payne, Chair Village Plan Steering Group*

## Open Gardens 2004



Perfect weather meant that this year's event was the best attended yet, with the streets full of gardeners, roaming around with their maps, eagerly visiting the 11 gardens generously opening their gates to an appreciative public. The 3 tea points all did a bumper trade - many thanks to those who catered for the visitors! A splendid figure of approximately £1180 was raised for St Nicholas's Church by the horticultural efforts of the participating gardeners.

The plant identifying competition was won by Mrs E. White of Dersingham. She wins a prize of a portrait photograph, taken by local photographer Jo Jones, which we hope will give her much pleasure.

Once again thank you to all those who made it such a good weekend.

**Watch out for the announcement of 2005's dates  
in this magazine.**

# Sandringham Windows

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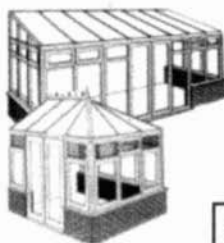
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## Age Concern

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The local Age Concern Information Centre is at 16 High Street, Heacham (telephone 579077, and is open Mondays and Fridays 9.30 am to 12.30 pm)

## DIARY OF NOTIFIED EVENTS

between this issue and the next

Full details of some of these events will be found inside this magazine

| Day   | Date       | Organisation                     | Event                      | Venue              | Time            |
|-------|------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| TBA   | TBA July   | Carole Browne Health Centre PPG  | AGM                        | Surgery            | TBA             |
| Tue   | 15 June    | Carpet Bowls Club                | Coffee Evening             | Community Centre   | 7-9 pm          |
| Fri   | 18 June    | Norfolk Constabulary             | Mobile Police Station      | Budgens Car Park   | 10 am - 12 noon |
| Tue   | 22 Jun     | King's Lynn Christian Fellowship | Destiny for Youth          | First School       | pm              |
| Wed   | 23 June    | King's Lynn Christian Fellowship | Ladies Lunch               | 68 Mountbatten     | 12 - 2 pm       |
| Wed   | 23 June    | King's Lynn Christian Fellowship | Destiny BBQ & Fun          | Recreation Ground  | 6.30 pm - 9pm   |
| Thurs | 24 June    | King's Lynn Christian Fellowship | Alpha Taster               | 26 Duck Decoy      | 11 am-12 noon   |
| Thurs | 24 June    | King's Lynn Christian Fellowship | Destined to Win            | First School       |                 |
| Fri   | 24 June    | King's Lynn Christian Fellowship | Destined to Win            | First School       |                 |
| Mon   | 28 June    | Dersingham Parish Council        | Full Council Meeting       | First School       | from 7 pm       |
| Tue   | 29 June    | Carpet Bowls Club                | Club Opening Night         | Community Centre   |                 |
| Wed   | 7 July     | St. George's School              | Year 6 Pupils to Smithdon  | Smithdon           |                 |
| Wed   | 7 July     | St. George's School              | Year 2 & 3 to St. George's | St George's        |                 |
| Thurs | 8 July     | St. George's School              | Year 7 Pupils to Smithdon  | Smithdon           |                 |
| Sun   | 11 July    | Park House Hotel                 | Summer Fayre               | Park House         | from 2 pm       |
| Sat   | 12 July    | St Nicholas Church               | Phoenix Singers            | St Nicholas Church | 7.30 pm         |
| Wed   | 14 July    | Dersingham Village Voice         | Deadline for copy          | Council office     |                 |
| Wed   | 16 July    | St George's School               | School Closes-Summer Hol   |                    |                 |
|       | 22-25 July | St Nicholas Church               | Flower Festival            | Various            | 10 am - 7.30 pm |
| Sun   | 25 July    | National Gardens Scheme          | Open Gardens               | 6 Dodds Hill Rd    | 11 am-5pm       |
| Mon   | 26 July    | St Nicholas Church               | Flower Festival            | Various            | 10 am - 4 pm    |
| Wed   | 11 Aug     | Dersingham Village Voice         | Next Issue                 | In 'Citizen'       | Delivery        |
| Mon   | 25 July    | National Gardens Scheme          | Garden Open                | 6 Dodds Hill Road  | 11 am - 5 pm    |
| Mon   | 26 July    | Dersingham Parish Council        | Full Council Meeting       | First School       | from 7 pm       |
| Mon   | 26 July    | Dersingham Parish Council        | Full Council Meeting       | First School       | from 7 pm       |
| Thurs | 5 Aug      | Dersingham Library               | Storytimes                 | Library            | 2.30-3.20 pm    |
| Wed   | 11 Aug     | Dersingham Village Voice         | Date of publication        | Citizen Newspaper  |                 |
| Thurs | 26 Aug     | Dersingham Library               | Storytimes                 | Library            | 2.30-3.20 pm    |

### Darren Does it Again!

It was reported in the Lynn News of 18 May that Darren Poucher had another successful singing evening at a major charity event in Ipswich, the title of the event being A Night in Las Vegas. 13-year old Darren of Station Road performed two Elvis classics singing 'The Wonder of You' with Paul Wranek (Elvis impersonator) and singing solo the song 'Burning Love'. Once again Darren had been invited to appear in this event by the Make-a-Wish Foundation.





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## Kurtis-Ross Green



Kurtis-Ross, aged 10, of Dersingham was so proud to have been chosen 'Super Kid 2003'. He was rewarded with a certificate and shield at a prestige award ceremony at the Town Hall on 6 June 2004, he was greatly impressed by the Lord Mayor and his helpers! He was grateful for his cheque of £200 for himself (deposited in his savings account) together with a cheque for £150 for the King's Lynn new Diabetic Clinic at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Kurtis is a keen fundraiser and in the past has raised £50+ at his school (St. George's), taking part in a Skip-a-thon for Healthy Heart Campaign, also £200+ for Air Ambulance with his yard sale and raffle, 2002.

Photo by permission of Maurice Jones

He can be seen with his mean sweeping machine cleaning the War Memorial most Saturday mornings, together with his cones, brushes, bags, etc. Kurtis was most fortunate to have been able to take part in the Remembrance Service last year and has been invited to take part in the D-Day Parade on 6 June at Hunstanton, wearing his grandfather's medals.

He thanks the Parish Council for nominating him to represent Dersingham, I also thank them for having the confidence to put him forward.

*Sandra J. Green – A very proud parent*



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## Damage to Churchyard Memorials

Dersingham Parochial Parish Council were accused of 'desecrating' around 40 graves in St Nicholas Churchyard, when it was discovered in early April that their headstones had been laid flat, and, in some cases, damaged.

The reason given for removal of the headstones was that they had been found to be 'unsafe' during a "health and safety" assessment, which was done at the insistence of insurance companies, following the death a few years ago of two children when a gravestone fell on them.

The Archdeacon of Lynn, the Ven Martin Gray, apologised for the fact that, although guidelines were in place requiring it, no consultation had taken place with relatives before action was taken. It is reported that the Vicar of the Parish, the Rev Ron Elverson, has since spoken to the relatives involved. Discussion is also understood to be taking place regarding repair and reinstallation of the headstones.

As a matter of interest, this issue was broadcast nationally and an article is known to have appeared in the 'Leicester Mercury'.

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## Green Garden Sacks

can be obtained from the Parish Council Office

Cost 50p each

The office is at the Police Station, Manor Road, and is open Mon - Thurs 10 - 2

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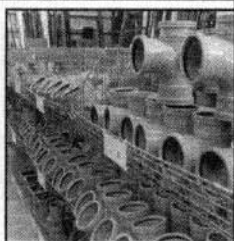
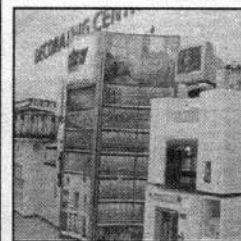
**Articles for publication in the July/August edition of Village Voice** must reach the editor at 45 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Dersingham, or at the Parish Council office, before the **deadline date of Wednesday 14 July 2004. Advertisements for inclusion** in the same newsletter should be in the hands of Clare Thomson, Assistant Parish Clerk, Dersingham Parish Council, The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LH **by the same date.** Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling Clare on 01485 541465.

**This edition will be inserted in the free 'Citizen' newspaper on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2004.** (Contributors who are promoting events should take note of this earliest date of publication).

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

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

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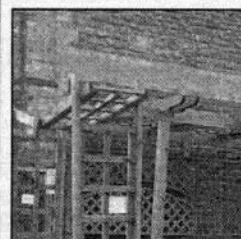


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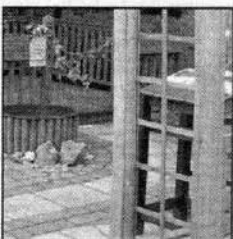
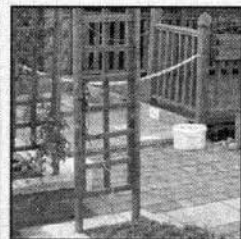
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