



Happy Christmas 1999 and Peaceful New Year 2000 to All

Welcome to the first issue of Dersingham Village Voice. This has been compiled by members of the Parish Council to ensure that the latest news and events within the village are circulated to the community. We feel that a bi-monthly newsletter is the way to ensure that everyone is kept informed about matters that concern and affect them and that there is the opportunity for anyone to submit views. Therefore, it is hoped that, in future, the newsletter will have even more collective appeal with the inclusion of articles, comments and letters from villagers.

We are most grateful for the information which has been sent for inclusion in this first edition and we hope that village organisations will feel able to send in details of events regularly for future issues.

We very much welcome letters, reminiscences, comments, articles, letters etc. Any contributions for the newsletter should be sent to The Editor, P Mirich, Parish Council Office, Manor Road. Deadline date for copy for the next issue is 15 January 2000.

The Parish Council meets once a month. Main points that have arisen in recent meetings of the Council:

Best Kept Village Competition

Last year's position 3rd out of 10 – this year 2nd out of 10. The judges recorded that the churchyard, recreation field, war memorial, village sign, residential development, commercial premises, public buildings and facilities were all attractive. Overall tidiness was good. The children's play area was singled out as the best play area in the county and won a first place award. The judges did comment on the weight and speed of traffic and felt we should consider traffic calming. The Council resolved to refer these comments to the NCC Planning and Transportation.

Norfolk PACT Millennium Award Scheme

In February 1999, Norfolk PACT (Partners Against Crime Task Force) in partnership with the Millennium Commission and Norfolk Youth & Community Services launched the Millennium Award Scheme. This provides an opportunity for young people 16-24 to make a real difference in their local community. It encourages them to identify and tackle a local problem through challenging projects that will deliver significant benefits to the community. Individuals or groups of 3 who apply will receive up to £2000 to support their project for the parish. The closing date is 7th January 2000. You can obtain details from the Parish Council.

Mayor's Civic Awards for Voluntary Service

A person can be nominated who has either lived in the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk for at least 2 years as at 1st Jan 1999 or provided work within the borough for that period. Closing date for nominations 18th January 2000.

Mayor's Millennium Project for Schools

The Mayor has invited all primary schools in W Norfolk to take part in a project whereby today's children can pass on their feelings about life today to children 100 years hence. All work will be kept and form part of a children's archive for historians of the future but some will be buried in a time capsule. The Mayor asks we encourage our local schools to take part.

Pedestrian Crossing – Lynn/Hunstanton Road

Concern has been raised about the dangers of crossing the road at Budgen's. NCC state that the 6-year accident record has revealed only 4 slight accidents which were non-pedestrian. The Council resolved to write to NCC requesting they consider a refuge in the centre of the road if a crossing was at present impossible.

Dersingham 1st and Nursery School

The Head Teacher has been asked by the governors to seek parish support and further action on ways to ease the parking problems in the Pell Road area in front of the school at the start and end of the school day. They suggested yellow lines would be appreciated to avoid cars obstructing this area. The governors urged the Parish Council to seek adoption by the NCC of the roads off Saxon Way which give access to the school and surgery. It was felt by the Parish Council that this would shift the problem to other roads – they resolved to write to the school suggesting that ‘walking to school’ and ‘car sharing’ were promoted instead and resolved to take no action in respect of the request for yellow lines and the adoption of the roads by NCC.

Millennium Tree Planting including Sensory Garden

The millennium project that topped the popularity poll in Dersingham 2000’s original survey was ‘Greening the Village’, which aims to plant trees and carry out other environmental improvements. This project is now ready to go. Volunteers are needed to adopt trees, in particular taking responsibility to water them in dry weather until established. People are also being asked to sponsor specific trees as a way of commemorating a person or event – details will be recorded in a special Millennium Commemoration Book that will be kept for posterity.

Donations are needed towards the estimated cost of £3000 for building a Millenium Sensory Garden – the Borough Council have agreed that the garden can be sited in Orchard Close.

Footway for the Disabled

Problems have been experienced by wheelchair users with regard to footways being obstructed by overgrown hedges and brambles etc. if anyone does encounter difficulty please contact the Clerk of the Parish Council so that the matter can be dealt with.

Community Arts 2000

The main objective of this group is to bring arts events, workshops and exhibitions to villages. The villages being targeted at Snettisham, Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe and West Newton. They have received a small amount of funding from Rural Arts East, Rural Community Council, Jarrolds and Education Extra. The Arts Education Officer is prepared to help fund willow weaving workshops in local schools. The group is approaching all Parish Councils in the communities involved to ask for financial support.

What's On in Dersingham

Our Schools

Dersingham First and Nursery School

Love in a Shoebox – By now the children will have collected items to go in shoeboxes to children in Romania. The Rev Pam Bayliss gave a talk to the children to show them a very moving video about the appeal last year and the children were inspired to bring in items for shoeboxes. The boxes were handed over to the Rev Bayliss in November and distribution will be arranged. The school's main charitable activity is to support a small boy in India called Mohan – money is collected by various means such as Harvest Festival, Children in Need, the Carol Service collection and other fund raising activities to provide money for his education. A letter from Action Aid tells the children how Mohan is getting on and what he and his family are doing.

Willow Comes to Dersingham – the children planted live willow in the school grounds in November, creating a willow tunnel and also an arbour with a seat on the school field. The project is sponsored by Friends of the School and the work was carried out by NCC grounds teams. The willow will form a tunnel to provide a play area for the summer and valuable shelter when the weather gets warmer. The school hopes to sponsor trees in the 'Greening Dersingham' project and the area outside the school gates on Saxon Way will be used to plant some new trees within this millennium project.

Christmas 1999 – On Friday 10 December, the school will open from 6 pm so that parents and anyone else from the village could come and view the school and see the work the children had done in relation to Christmas. On Tuesday 14th December the Annual Carol Service will be held at St Nicholas Church. On Wednesday 15th December the children are to be treated to a Christmas entertainment by the Toll House Company.

Dersingham Friends of the School – They continually raise money for the school to provide additional items. They have many events – Jumble Sales, Quiz Nights, Open Fayres etc. They also run a 50 Club whereby a draw is made each month for £10, £5 and once a year there is an annual draw of £50, £20 and £10. Any member of the village is welcome to join by having a £1 share in the Club.

Dersingham Nursery Class – At the moment there are one or two vacancies in the nursery both in the morning and afternoon sessions. If you know of any child who is of nursery age, between the ages of 3 or 4, or if you have friends in other villages who would like to take up the opportunity of their child attending this nursery, they should contact the Head Teacher, Mr Ward, at the school on 540022 to obtain an application form.

Dersingham St George's (CE) Middle School

The school provides a broad and balanced education for children aged 8-12 years of age.

Friends Association – This is an active organisation which is open to non-parents to join. Mr Steven Rudd (543859) is the chairperson and can be contacted for information about forthcoming events.

Parents are invited to Open Time at the school on the first Monday of each month from 3.30 pm in the school library. This is an opportunity for parents to discuss concerns and share ideas with parent governors and the Head Teacher over a cup of coffee.

Full details of school events will appear in the next newsletter.

Village Organisations

Dersingham Scout and Guide Groups

(New Members always welcome for all sections)

*All meetings take place in Scout and guide HQ, Manor Road, apart from **

Beaver Scouts meet on Wednesdays 6-7.30 pm – boys 6-8 years. Leaders: Charmaine Wilkes, David Benn (544725).

Cub Scouts meet on Mondays 6.30 – 8 pm – boys 8 to 10½ years. Leaders: Edna Thaxter (540059), Mick Bray (540067). The unit is in desperate need of new leaders – the present leaders are retiring at Christmas. No experience is necessary – just a desire to help young people. Please come forward and help!!

Scouts meet on Thursdays 7-9 pm – boys 10½-15 years. Leader: Rod Saunders (542885). Leaders or helpers required.

Rainbow Guides meet on Thursdays 4.15-5.30 pm – girls 5-7 years. Leader: Lynne Wheeler (544753)

*** 1st Dersingham Brownie Guides** meet on Thursdays 6-7.30 pm – girls 7-10 years. Leader: Caroline Calderbank (543702) – Venue: Youth & Community Centre

2nd Dersingham Brownie Guides meet on Thursdays 6-7.30 pm – girls 7-10 years. Leader: Lynn Wheeler (544753)

Guides meet on Fridays 6.30-8 pm – girls 10-15 years. Leaders: Jeannette Lister (542483), Ann Saunders (542885)

Dersingham Tennis Club (affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association)

Formally established in July 1998 following development of the floodlit all-weather surface playing area. Members of all abilities are welcome – there is a healthy balance of junior and senior members. Club nights: 1/4/00-30/9/00: Wednesday 6-9 pm, Thursday 6-9 pm, Sunday 10 am – 1 pm. The first 1½ hours of each session are primarily for juniors. Membership fees: Junior - £15, Adult Single - £20, Adult Couple - £30, Family - £40. There are opportunities for social/informal tennis, access to Wimbledon tickets, formal coaching by a professional coach, matches against other clubs and in-house ladders. Contact Secretary for more information – Dr M Crowe (544998)

Dersingham Seniors Club

Activities include social and guest speakers, outings and holidays. Meetings on alternate Fridays between 2.30 and 4.30 pm. Contact Nancy Cable (540375) or Terry Finbow (540643). New members always welcome.

Phobbies Club – Hobbies for the Physically Handicapped

Contact Ann Butler MBE (542598)

St Nicholas Parent and Toddler Group

Meet at the church hall opposite St Nicholas Church every Tuesday during term time at 8.30 until 11.15 am. Babies are welcome. Refreshments are served and toys and children's activities are provided. This is an opportunity to meet other parents. The charge is 50p per family. Contact Margaret Lannest (540935)

Dersingham United Charities

Currently undertaking restoration work out on the Fen between the A149 and the B1440. The site contains grassland and woodland, wet heath land and acid valley mire which, through lack of management, have become invaded by birch and pine scrub. English Nature has provided funds for this project and maps and walkways showing types of flora found on the routes will be installed when the work is complete. Further details will be given at the Parish Open Day in April 2000.

Army Cadets, Britannia Company, Sandringham Detachment

This is a youth club of military style. Activities include target shooting, military tactics, expedition training, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Cadet in the Community and much more. Sandringham Detachment is located at Dodd's Hill opposite the Fire Station and is open to both boys and girls aged 13 to 18. Parade times are 7 pm to 9.30 pm on Thursdays. Contact Sgt Lorraine Smith (543551) or call in.

Dersingham Patients' Participation Group

The group was formed with the aim of providing a link between Dersingham patients and the doctors, which in no way affects the Doctor/Patient confidential relationship. The group as a whole are responsible for organising Health Education meetings, providing mutual help schemes, discussing the organisation and operation of the surgery and encouraging fund raising for special equipment. The next meeting of the group is Wednesday 12th January at 7.30 pm in the surgery. This will be the AGM to which all are welcome. Nominations are required for Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer as the current holders all want to stand down.

Dersingham Flower Club

The Flower Club meet at the church hall on the first Thursday in the month at 7.30 pm. Activities range from practice evenings, demonstrations, outings, annual Bar-B-Q, Christmas party and New Year supper. Anyone interested in seeing how the club works or in joining contact Doreen Asker (540601) for details.

Dersingham Evening Women's Institute

The Evening WI has been established in the village for 37 years. It has a large membership and attempts to offer a varied programme including organised walks, a dining club and many social activities. The meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.15 pm at the St Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church in Mountbatten Road. Our programme usually includes a speaker, and we cover a great range of subjects and demonstrations. We are hoping to offer an exciting programme for the millennium. The annual subscription is £15.50 and we welcome new members. Contact Dianne Neeve (540877)

The Royal British Legion

We offer support and, in cases of hardship, financial assistance to ex-Service men and women and their dependants. The Dersingham and Sandringham branch meets at The Gamekeeper's Lodge at 7.30 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month. Most months there is a guest speaker and social functions are held periodically. All ex-Service personnel are eligible to join, and also persons who have not served in HM Forces but support the aims of the Legion. The annual subscription is £5.50. Contact Mr S Spinks (Secretary) - telephone 542615

Friends of the Earth

We campaign for a cleaner environment. The King's Lynn & W Norfolk Branch holds open meetings on the last Thursday of the month at the Friends Meeting House, Bridge Street, King's Lynn, from 8-10 pm. Contact Hugh Rout, telephone 01553 772321

Wild Geese over Dersingham



One of the really special sights and sounds of winter should be taking place at this time of year in the sky above Dersingham. This is the dawn and dusk flight of skeins of wild geese as they move to and from their roost site on The Wash. It is easy to become accustomed to this spectacle, which is a shame because we are very lucky to live in an area hosting an internationally important population of truly wild birds. I hope the following information will add to your enjoyment when watching the geese fly over your house.

The first thing to know is that they are (almost all) pink-footed geese *Anser brachyrhynchus*. Fortunately, the colour of the feet is not the only way to identify them! Experienced birdwatchers can recognize the call, considered to be the most musical of all geese calls, and even their flight patterns in the sky. However, there are a number of similar 'grey' geese so playing the odds is the best way to name the birds you see in the familiar 'V' formations over Dersingham. This is because the number of pink-footed geese found in this area in winter is so large that you are very unlikely to be wrong. The entire population of pink-feet breeding in Iceland and Greenland, estimated at 225,000, winter in the UK. This population has expanded recently owing to increased nesting success in lowland Iceland. Last years peak count in North and West Norfolk was 76,355 or about a third of the world population. The record count from the roost at the Snettisham RSPB reserve was 45,925 and these are the birds seen flying inland over Dersingham at dawn and back at dusk. You may be interested to know that RSPB and English Nature wardens carry out a co-ordinated weekly count at the roost sites. We therefore have very accurate records stretching back over several years. The numbers are large but it is worth considering that they represent a significant part of the world population and we therefore have a special duty to ensure their survival during the cold winter months.

Pink-feet arrive during late September or early October in Scotland flying in their familiar 'V' formations. This is an energy saving strategy. The lead bird will frequently change giving the entire flock a chance to shelter in the slipstream of the bird in front. Geese are also known to fly at great heights during their long migratory journeys, often in excess of 20,000 feet. The winter flocks are very mobile mixing, splitting, or moving on depending on the weather, food supply and disturbance. The geese we see in Norfolk have typically arrived via Grampian, Tayside, Lothian, Dumfries and Lancashire. They are looking for a reliable food supply and safe roost site.

The food is mainly found on farmland. When they first arrive they often try to feed on newly germinating split grain, but soon move onto the aftermath of the sugar beet harvest. They eat the small but energy rich piece of leftover beet and the leaves. The habit of feeding on sugar beet was first observed at Holkham in 1966 when the Snettisham roost held only 1,348 birds. The spread of this preference probably explains the dramatic rise in the local wintering population. The safe roost sites on The Wash, Scolt Head Island and Stiffkey salt marsh also greatly improve the survival chances of the geese. There is obviously some potential conflict between farmers and geese in this area and the local farming community should be congratulated for showing considerable tolerance towards the birds. This is particularly true of farm manager Edward Cross from Abbey Farm, Flitcham who has been recording the number of pink-feet feeding on the farm for many years. He also delays ploughing in the tops for as long as possible to ensure the birds have something to eat. The geese flying over Dersingham are often going to Flitcham. Towards the end of their stay with us in February and March the geese move onto the coastal grazing marshes to feed. The return flight to Iceland in the spring follows a very similar route to the autumn journey. I had a call last year from a man in Lancashire who enjoys watching the geese fly over his house from the east every spring. We are lucky indeed to be able to see this spectacle twice every day.

Please remember that pink-feet are wild birds and if you see them in the fields when driving along the lanes of West Norfolk this winter do not get out of your car to watch. The geese could fly off towards dangers such as guns or overhead electricity lines. We organise special goose events throughout the winter where we take visitors to see the geese leave the roost at dawn. Some of these events include a full English breakfast to warm you up and then a drive to see the birds feeding in the fields, if we can find them! To join one of our 'wild goose chases' phone Titchwell RSPB reserve on 01485 210779. (Article written by David Bingham (RSPB) - Graphic - John Busby, RSPB))

Millennium News

Bonfire Party

Festivities in Dersingham for the Millennium will begin with a United Churches Service at St Nicholas Church at 3 pm on New Year's Day, followed by a bonfire to be lit in The Pastures. Everybody in the village is welcome to come along – this is a chance for all the village to get together to celebrate this special day. There will be warm drinks and snacks served in the Church Hall.

Dersingham Tithe Barn

The Dersingham 2000 Association has been granted temporary usage of the Barn – a Grade II Ancient Scheduled Monument - during Millennium year. The barn will be used as a drop-in centre where news of Millennium events will be posted. Displays will include photographs and artefacts about the history of the village. It is planned to open the barn to the public from Easter to October at weekends and during the Flower Festival in July.

Dersingham 2000 Association

A recent 1940s dance in the village, *Jitterbug to Jazz*, raised £340 towards the cost of insurance and preparing the Tithe Barn for access. The leader of the History Group, Mrs May Davey, said: "There has been an awful lot of red tape to cut through. We are confident everything will be ready for our Millennium Drop-in Centre and hope everyone in the village will come to see inside the barn – one of the most striking buildings in Dersingham".



The church hall was packed with dancers in wartime fashions at the "Jitterbug to Jazz" event

☆ Dersingham Community Centre ☆

Established in the early 80s after the primary school moved to St Georges, the Centre has flourished ever since. The County Council developed it as a Youth & Community Centre. In 1998 the county announced it was to close all such centres – the Parish Council called a meeting to see if there was sufficient support locally to take over the running and management. A Management committee was set up charged with the role of keeping the Centre open and available to all sectors of the community. The Parish Council has become the new leaseholders with the Management Committee becoming a Charity Trust – total responsibility was finally transferred to the Trust on 1 August 1999.

The Centre consists of 5 rooms of varying sizes including a good-sized main hall. There are excellent kitchen facilities. A special feature is the coffee room with its own small kitchen attached. This can be used independently of the other rooms and is ideal for committee meetings etc. The Centre is in use every weekday (see list of regular users below). Charges are very reasonable given the high costs of running and maintaining such a building. As regular users are invited to have a representative on the Committee it is very much the users who fix the level of charges!

Why not come and see if there is a room to suit your needs – especially for those small committee meetings. For any bookings or viewing please telephone the Chairman, Ian Stockwell on 540638 and make arrangements.

Monday	Morning (9-11.30)	Playgroup	Main Hall
	Afternoon (1.30-2.30)	Keep Fit	Main Hall
	Afternoon (1-3)	Adult Education	Games Room
	Evening (7-10)	Senior Youth Gp	All Centre
Tuesday	Morning (9-11.30)	Playgroup	Main Hall
	Evening (7-8)	Aerobics	Main Hall
	Evening (7-9)	Adult Education	Games Room
Wednesday	All day (9-4)	Day Centre	All Centre
	Evening (5.30-7)	Junior Flower Club*	Games Room
	Evening (7-9)	Dog Training	Main Hall
Thursday	Morning (9-11.30)	Playgroup	Main Hall
	Evening (6-7.30)	Brownies	Main Hall
Friday	Morning (9-11.30)	Playgroup	Main Hall
	Morning (10-12)	Adult Education	Craft Room
	Evening (6.45-8.15)	Guides	Main Hall
	Evening (7-9)	Dog Handling	Games Room
Saturday	All day (10-3)	Lace Making*	Craft Room

* Monthly meetings

NOTE: Most of the above do not operate during the main school holidays
Residential bookings are available then

Miscellany

Parking in Norwich this Christmas?

For a free 'Where to Park in Norwich' telephone 01603 212424

Dersingham Library

There is to be an exhibition 'Photographs of the Queen Mother' from 17th to 24th January 2000.

Advance Notice of Summer Garden Party

A Garden Party is to be held on the Saturday of the St Nicholas Flower Festival – 22 July 2000. A range of activities is being planned for this afternoon – it will be a FUN DAY for all. An Open Meeting will be held early in the New Year so that anyone can bring forward ideas for activities.

Planning a jumble sale, garage clearance or social event? Why not tell the readers of Dersingham Village Voice. For inclusion in the newsletter send details to P Mirich, c/o Parish Council Office, The Police Station, Manor Road or telephone Peter on 543190

~ 20th Century Remembered~

We hope to run a series of articles for the above from our next edition. If you are able to help with a memory or two please let us know. Some possible themes are:

Wartime Memories in Dersingham

School Days

Shops, Pubs, Meeting places (eg those that have disappeared)

Sports

† The Vine Prayer Fellowship †

Our meetings are at 24 Station Road, Dersingham and are basically informal and friendly.

We have no set pattern or liturgy and people pray as and when they feel able.

Our prayers include personal, local, national and world-wide situations according to the needs at any particular time.

We aim to finish by 9 pm.

Tea and coffee are served at the end of the meetings.

You are warmly invited to come to any of our meetings – 7.30 pm Every Tuesday
For further details contact: Dr Andrew Fielding (540520)

† The Friends of St Nicholas Church †

The committee meet to raise money to contribute to the upkeep of the historic St Nicholas Church. They meet every couple of months, mainly to organise the next fund-raising effort.

AGM	Thursday 18 May 2000
Country and Western Evening	24 September 2000

Any further information – contact Mr Nigel Sisson, Treasurer, Skerryvore, Woodside Close

† Dersingham Methodist Church †

Sunday Services:	10.30 am and 6.30 pm plus Sunday School
Monday	9.45-10.45 am Puddleducks: Mums & Toddlers Group
Tuesday	1 st Tuesday in the month, Community Lunch
Wednesday	Alternate Wednesday mornings – Bible Study First Wednesday in the month – Ladies Network Meeting 2.30 pm
Thursday	Every Thursday – coffee morning – 9.45 am Alternate Thursday evenings – Bible Study One Thursday per month – Games Evening
Friday	9.15-10.45 am Puddleducks: Mums & Toddler Group 6-7 pm JMA (Junior Missionary Association) 7.30 pm Choir

For further details contact John Moorhouse (540325)

† Christmas Services †

St Nicholas

12 December	6.30 pm	United Carol Service
19 December	5.30 pm	Carol Praise - Informal Carol Service
24 December	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion
25 December	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Short Service for all the family
	11.00 am	Holy Communion
26 December	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
31 December	11.30 pm	New Year's Eve Service
1 January	3.00 pm	United Service to celebrate the Millennium

By now most people will know that our Vicar and his wife are heading for pastures new in the year 2000. Tom and Ann Jardine will be sadly missed when they move to Southport in February/March next year. They have both worked hard for the good of the church and community since coming to Dersingham 9 years ago and have touched many lives. At St Nicholas we have seen positive changes for good and although we are sad to see them go we recognise that our loss is a gain for their new community

Christian Life Fellowship

12 December	10.30 am
19 December	10.30 am
25/26 December	see other churches



† Christmas Services †

Methodist Church

19 December	1030 am	Family Carol Service with Nativity by Children
23 December	5.00 pm	Christingle Family Service
25 December	10.30 am	Family Service
26 December	10.30 am	Family Service
31 December	11.30 pm	Watchnight Communion Service

St Cecilia's Church

12 December	9.30 am	Holy Mass
19 December	9.30 am	Holy Mass
24 December	9.00 pm	Nativity Mass
25 December	9.30 am	Christmas Mass
26 December	9.30 am	Holy Family Mass

***Please note the United Churches' Services to be held in
St Nicholas Church***

Sunday 12 December at 6.30 pm Carol Service
to hail the coming birth of Jesus

New Year's Day at 3 pm Millennium Service
to celebrate the start of the 2000th year of Christ's life
followed by a Bonfire Party on the Pastures

**Do You Have
Difficulties Worries Uncertainties
- in your life
- and no-one to talk to?**

I am prepared to see you and listen to you

- to see if together**
- we can work out the way ahead for you**

**All in complete confidence and with
nothing to pay**

**Dr Andrew Fielding
24 Station Road
Dersingham
Tel: 01485 540520**

Useful Telephone Numbers

Parish Council Office	541465
The Surgery	540463
Moss Chemists	540792
Social Services (W Norfolk)	01553 613613
Citizen's Advice Bureau	01553 774719
Samaritans	01553 761616
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	01553 613613
Careline	01553 760671

As this is our trial edition of Dersingham Village Voice we would value feedback from yourselves to help us in the future to make this newsletter informative and worthwhile to the community. Please send any comments or suggestions you may have to P Mirich, c/o Parish Council Office