

DERSTINGHAM VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 7

December 2000



A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to All

Christmas is once again nearly here and everyone will be busy with their preparations. A year has passed since our first issue of Village Voice and the newsletter team do hope that you have enjoyed reading it.

We would sincerely like to thank everyone who has sent in contributions throughout the year. We are also grateful to the advertisers who greatly assist the publication of this newsletter – please give them your support.

We do hope that we can continue to publish the Village Voice throughout 2001. It is intended to be a sounding-board for your comments and views, even if controversial, and literary pieces are always welcomed. This issue sees the publication of no less than 3 poems from talented villagers! Remember if you are planning a jumble sale, garage clearance or social event, let us know in time for its inclusion in the newsletter. The deadline date for the next issue is 16 January 2001.

Meantime, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Teresa Southam, Editor

Parish Council News

All meetings of the Parish Council are open to the public. The full meetings begin at 7.15 pm and are preceded and terminated by a 15-minute session for parishioners to raise any matters. The next meeting will take place on Monday 18th December at the First School

*Parish Council Office: Police Station, Manor Road
Tel: 541465 Email: DersPC@bun.com*

Dersingham Roundabout

Sponsorship of the roundabout is progressing. A copy of the proposed planting scheme of miniature gorse and heather can be viewed at the Parish Council Office.

Tree Planting Proposals

It appears it is only possible to plant trees at the junction of Wallace Twite Way and Hipkin Road, at the junction of Mountbatten Road and Earl Close, at the eastern end of Doddshill Road and within the wide grass verges either side of Mill Road within the open countryside. Licences for tree planting have been requested.

Cycling and Walking to School

Councillors have met with the Head Teacher at the First School and concerns were raised about the lack of a footpath or markings along the bottom stretch of Fern Hill. A request for funding is to be made to Norfolk County Council to put a coloured path down the side of the road to make a safe link with Chapel Road.

Children's Play Areas

Subject to consultation the Borough Council has resolved to decommission a number of playsites which offer inadequate facilities in areas where there is already better provision. The playsite concerned in Dersingham is located at King's Croft. The equipment released by decommissioning could be made available to enhance the other provision. The Council is to request confirmation from the Borough Council that they will continue to maintain the site once the play equipment has been removed.

Annual Policing Plans

The Norfolk Police Authority Annual Policing Plan for 2000/1 has been published – this set out their performance targets for the current year, their plan to achieve efficiency savings and their commitment to Best Value, and asked for views on priority areas for action from Parish Councils. The council have responded by stating that they endorse the possibility of employing retained police officers who would be able to respond quickly to urgent local calls, ie operate on the same basis as the retained firemen.

Traffic in Post Office Road

There have been repeated complaints about this problem. The Council have written to the Minister of the Methodist church regarding this matter.

New Conservation Area Designations

The Borough Council have replied to the Parish Council's interest in designating a new conservation area in Dersingham. A working party has been set up to consider the subject and they will report back shortly to full council.

Dersingham Churchyard

The Sandringham Estate Manager is reported as being sympathetic to this issue and another meeting is to take place after he has had time to give consideration to any available land and also give the Parish Council and parishioners time to put forward any suggestions. The Council are aware of the depth of feeling within the village against the possible reuse of the churchyard.

Extended hours of Dersingham Library

The County Council has approved funding for a 10% increase in library opening hours across the County. A separate notice in this newsletter sets out the new times from January 2001.

Dog Bins on Sandringham View Estate

A request has been received for an extra dog bin on this estate. This is being considered.

LingHouse/Doddshill Road Junction

Sandringham Estate are to be asked to remove a hedge and flatten a bank at this junction where vision is impaired.

MILLENNIUM MUGS

A Reminder

A large number of mugs still await collection from the Parish Clerk at the Parish Council Office.

If you registered for a mug or mugs please call in to the office as soon as possible.

Office hours: Monday to Thursday – 10 am to 2 pm



150 Years of Public Libraries

Dersingham Library is a spacious building opened in September 1974.

As well as housing a varied collection of adult and children's books there are separate reference and teenage sections and a recently introduced video hire service. Public access to the internet is also available free of charge though we do make a small charge for customers wishing to send e-mails.

Books borrowed from Dersingham library can be returned to any Norfolk branch library. Additional services provided are a Books on Wheels service to housebound readers in the village and access to information on clubs and societies throughout Norfolk. There is also an Answerphone service so you can renew your books at any time – day or night! (540181)

The library opening hours are changing from January 2001. Please see p18 for details.

Old Dersingham Letters Published

"Your affectionate and loving sister"

*correspondence of Barbara Kerrich and Elizabeth Postlethwaite
1733 to 1751*

In 1732 The Rev Samuel Kerrich, Rector of Dersingham, married Barbara Postlethwaite. Barbara sadly missed her sister Elizabeth who stayed in Denton to keep house for their father. They kept in touch by letters which were taken to and fro across Norfolk. These fascinating letters have survived and are now in the library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Nigel Surry discovered them there and the result of his studies is a delightful book entitled *'Your affectionate and loving sister'*.

The letters tell of Barbara's problems, her servants, her miscarriages and her children. In 1745 she tells that Dersingham inhabitants were terrified that Bonnie Prince Charlie was about to capture King's Lynn. She writes of remedies prescribed for her various health problems. In all, a fascinating book. It is available in local bookshops, price £7.25 or it can be ordered direct from The Larks Press, Ordnance Farmhouse, Guist Bottom, Dereham, NR20 5PF – no charge for postage.

Dersingham Surgery Horticultural Society

Our October Meeting welcomed Gillian Beckett who gave a talk on "The Flowers of West Norfolk". An expert field botanist and author of a recently published book on the subject, Mrs Beckett's talk proved to be of great interest to members. Illustrated with slides, our speaker demonstrated the differing flora of the various local habitats and provided food for thought on the precarious position of many of our native species and the measures needed to ensure their survival.

Our Annual Dinner was held at The Gamekeeper's Lodge on the 27th October, some 40 members and guests attending. Councillor George Pratt, accompanied by Mrs Sue Pratt, presented the engraved trophies which had been won at our Annual Show. After an enjoyable meal, Councillor Pratt provided an ideal end to the evening by recounting some of the amusing incidents which had interspersed the more serious occasions during his year as borough's deputy mayor.

The business of the Society's AGM followed the usual pattern of these occasions with members agreeing two important recommendations from our Management Committee concerning the society's annual financial contributions to our village, namely: (1) A donation of £500 to Dersingham Surgery for the purchase of two items of equipment and (2) A donation of £650 to Dersingham First School for the purchase of a shed and tools to service its wildlife garden – this our Millennium Project.

These donations have only been made possible by the generosity of our members and those who have supported our fund raising activities combined with the hard work of our various committee members in organising these events.

Since its foundation in 1986 our society has now contributed some £4000 to the surgery and other local organisations – an achievement of which, I feel, it may be justifiably proud.

Fakenham & District Crossroads Ltd

CROSSROADS promotes, offers, supports and delivers high quality services for carers and people with care needs. Dersingham is covered by the scheme.

Contact 16 Tuesday Market Place, King's Lynn, PE30 1JN

Tel: 01553 770384 OR Helpline on FREEPHONE 80808 8089876

Dersingham First & Nursery School

As the song goes – “And now the time has come” for me to leave Dersingham School. The years have passed quickly and it certainly doesn't seem 15 years ago since I came back to my roots from Hertfordshire. I should realise as Timothy, my eldest, was 6 and has now left home and working in Norwich. It also became evident it was time to go when pupils I had taught started bringing their children to Nursery this September. Time has flown by, we have seen lots of changes on the way and I will be very sorry to leave at the end of term. I have had the privilege of knowing hundreds of children, parents, colleagues and friends in the village and the memories of them will be with me for a long time. I have the advantage that I will still be about and passing through Dersingham so will see some of you. I leave the school in good hands and I know the children's education will continue to be the top priority of the school.

Friends in the village are invited to the Carol Service which will be held at St Nicholas Parish Church on Friday 15th December at 1.45 pm. The children will be singing songs from around the world and acting the traditional Christmas Story. There will be a collection to support our sponsored child in India and a children's charity in this country. We look forward to a full church for this special occasion in the school year.

School has its open evening on Friday 15th December when again friends and families are welcome into school to see the Christmas and winter decorations.

Last summer we began to turn a rather wild and neglected area of our school ground into a wildlife garden. As well as involving children, staff and parents of the school I am delighted to say we have reached out into our village community. We have had support from various organisations in the village. This has included financial; donations, gifts of plants and reference materials, eg books and tapes, to help with identification of wildlife. This September a wildlife club was established for Year 3. They are helping to develop the garden and will learn how to maintain and record the wildlife we attract. During the autumn all children will be involved in planting an area of the garden and in future use it to support curriculum work. So thank you very much, Dersingham, for your support.

The children are collecting pens, pencils and exercise books to help children in Romania. Rev Pam Bayliss came to talk to the children about schools in Romania and a contact she has with a lady in Sedgeford who goes out to the orphanages and children's homes. Before children can start school they need 2 exercise books, pencil etc and we hope to collect these items to send to Romania. If you can help with any of these items or have contacts with local firms that would help, please speak to the school office – your support would be much appreciated.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas from all the children and staff.

John Ward, Head Teacher

MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION BALLOON RACE!

As part of the Millennium Celebrations on Saturday 22 July the Army Cadets organised a balloon race during the Garden Party.

As reported in the Lynn News the race was won by local school-girl, Katie Harman, aged 11, of Saxon Way, Dersingham.

Katie's balloon was picked up in Tienen, south of Brussels on 24 July and returned to Mrs Lorraine Smith at Wolferton.

Katie would like to thank the Cadets for her £25 prize and Miss Ghislaine Decal of Tienen for her lovely letter sent to Wolferton by air mail



Are you looking for a **CHRISTMAS PRESENT** for your friends and family?

Then why not buy

DERSINGHAM

Then and Now

Portrait of a Village

by Simon Massen and Walter Blaney



This book, much praised by Anglia and Calendar television and our local newspapers, is proving very popular. It is available in Dersingham shops and costs only £4.00. The authors use photographs, old and new, accompanied by full descriptions, to compare life in the village at the beginning and end of the century. All proceeds from the sales are being donated to Campaign Care '94, a local charity which supports Tapping House Hospice and The Bob Champion Cancer Trust.

Lynn News says: *"The book ... is 'selling like hot cakes'"*

So have you bought your copy yet?

Deadline date for items for inclusion in the February Village Voice - 16 January 2001

Letter from nature-lover Sue Jenkins, 29 Stanton Road. She writes in appreciation of last issue's contribution by Greenish Fingers

Dear Editor

Recently I, too, saw a flock of birds over Dersingham Nature Reserve and observed that a bird in the centre of the flock had 'fallen back' into place to help the 'stragglers'. The momentum of the flight and the distances involved make it difficult to know what is happening. Perhaps this bird was actually tiring and was caught up by others until it appeared to be joining birds to the back of the flock. My immediate reaction, as Greenish Fingers, was that for some reason this bird was showing an act of 'care' it was something I felt was important to know. I wonder if others have made any comments!

At No 29 we too observed the beautiful translucent watery green crickets clinging to windows and doors in recent months. A first for us. Also sighted in the garden this week a humming bird hawk moth in its beautiful hovering flight visiting the bizzie lizzie and fuchsia in hanging baskets. Grace Carne in her Nature Notes column of the Easter Daily Press mentioned her first sighting of this 'common' though rarely seen moth this week too.

While writing, perhaps traffic calming would help all villagers in this active village to live a safer and quieter life (reference to June Stephenson's comments about the fuel shortage)

Dersingham Flower Clubs

Our open meeting in November was a great success, with John Richmond, an area demonstrator from Wisbech. John's title was "Are we Really Christmas Crackers?" A wonderful evening was enjoyed by many visitors and members from our Junior Club, Heacham and Hunstanton Clubs. We are always pleased to welcome visitors to our meetings that are held at the Church Hall on the first Thursday of the month. We start the new year in February with our AGM. We usually have two open meetings a year with an area demonstrator, a barbeque, practice evenings and a Christmas Party.

The Junior Club have been active in flower arranging at their meetings and will be making an advent ring at the November meeting, and a welcome door wreath in December ready for Christmas celebration. In the New Year we will be planning for Chelsea Flower Show. We have again been invited to send in collages for selection. The theme is "HERALDIC EMBLEM" - these to be made from pressed, preserved, dried natural materials, seeds, etc. The Juniors meet at the Church Hall on the second Wednesday of each month. For further details of either club contact Doreen Asker - 540601.

Dersingham Methodist Church



Christmas Season

Tuesday December 12th

- (i) Christmas Lunch, 12.30 (tickets £3.50 in advance, ring 540898) and Carol singing
(ii) Evening Guild, 7.30 pm. Christmas Medley, collection for NCH

Sunday December 17th

Children's Nativity 10.30 am All age worship

Thursday December 21st 5 pm Christingle Service

Sunday December 24th 10.30 am Carol Service

Christmas Day, 10.30 am Christmas Service

Sunday December 31st 4 pm Service and tea

Sunday January 7th 10.30 am Annual Covenant Service

A Joyful Christmas to all from the Dersingham Methodist Church

Christmas Coffee Morning – Saturday 9th December at 10 am

Come to a Christmas Coffee Morning with Sandringham Guides at Dersingham Community Centre, for a selection of hand-made crafts, cakes, raffle, tombola, bring and buy, bric-a-brac, toys and lucky dip. Entrance 20p. Proceeds to Guide funds for a trip to Switzerland next year.

(for information contact Alex Polaine on 542147)

MICHAEL YORK – Tax Consultant

Cobbly Cottage, 10 White Horse Drive
Dersingham PE31 6HL

Small Business Accounts (Non VAT)
Self Assessment Returns
Tax Repayment Claims
Personal Taxation
PAYE

Confidential Personal Service at Reasonable
Rates
Telephone 01485 540901

**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 con-
fidence and with
nothing to pay**

Dr Andrew Fielding
24 Station Road
01485 540520



The Robin

'A Robin Redbreast in a Cage Puts all Heaven in a Rage' - Extract from 'Songs of Innocence and Experience': William Blake

The robin is the most familiar and instantly recognisable of all the birds we see in the gardens of Dersingham. It has been part of English folklore for centuries, and since Victorian times has been an essential subject on Christmas cards. The robin was made our national bird in 1960 and is one of the commonest birds in the UK with something like 4.2 million pairs.

Robins are widespread throughout Europe and east as far as the Caspian Sea. Our robins do not migrate because the weather in England is, believe it or not, reasonably mild. In fact if you have a male robin in your garden the chances are that it will remain there all of its short life – they live for only two or three years. Robins from Scandinavia and Germany escape severe continental winters by flying to this country. These continental birds tend to be less perky and confident than our native robins and spend a lot of time skulking furtively in the bushes (well they would do wouldn't they).

Robins were originally birds of mature deciduous forests, favouring thick low cover in the understorey, glades and the woodland edge. This habitat is still favoured by robins over most of their range. Our robins have taken to living in gardens, a habit which probably started during Victorian times when the typical 'cottage garden' style developed.

The robin is one of the few birds that hold a territory all year round. In summer mated pairs defend territory, while each bird holds individual winter territories. The exact size of the territory depends on the quality of the habitat. On average about six robin territories would fit on an area the size of a football pitch. Territory boundaries are fluid and change frequently as circumstances change. The possession of a good territory is the key to survival because it gives each robin exclusive food supplies all year. The robin's red breast is used in territorial disputes and not courtship. Some of these disputes can be fights to the death and it is estimated that about ten percent of robin mortality is accounted for by territorial disputes.

Robins sing for almost the whole year, with just a short break during the moult when they try to be inconspicuous. Both male and female robins sing, the purpose being both courtship and territorial defence. The spring song of the male is more powerful than the melancholy winter version. Robins are active in very low light conditions and can often be heard singing in the middle of the night during full moons - or close to street lights. This often leads people to believe they are listening to nightingales. The song of the robin is sometimes described as silvery, they also have a tack-tack alarm call often made from cover.

The breeding season begins in March, or even earlier in a mild winter. The female makes the nest, usually low down in thick vegetation, and is fed by the male as part of the courtship. Robins are famous for using strange objects in which to make a nest such as old boots or discarded kettles. Robins normally raise two broods - often three - and exceptionally four. The pair stays together to raise their broods then separate to defend their own patch. Young fledged robins do not have a red breast and are all brown with streaked breasts. Robins are very attentive parents and fledged robins should not be 'rescued' - mum and dad will not be far away.

Robins are primarily insectivorous with the addition of grain and berries in the winter. They use bird tables and are partial to a bit of grated cheese, they would also probably appreciate a little piece of Christmas cake if you can spare it - and ideally live mealworms if you can get hold of any.

David Bingham

Goose up-date: - The pink-footed goose count at the Snettisham RSPB reserve on 20 November was 4,435. This is well down on the record count of 46,950 and we don't know until the other counts come in where the geese are at present. There is still time for the numbers to build up - so fingers crossed for some spectacular fly-overs this Christmas.

27th August. We're replacing old compost bins, making new ones from old fencing, etc. Too late, I read the latest advice from HDRA (organic gardening), to leave no gaps in the sides. So our new bins have gaps, but we've lined them with bubble wrap to compensate.

28th August. On uncovering our oldest heap (left undisturbed for three years because it consisted of twiggy prunings), I find a frog sitting in a channel inside it, surrounded by empty hazelnut shells. Seems the frog's taken over a mouse's hidey-hole.

8th September. I've made a hedgehog house from a slatted wooden box, the kind we used to get from the greengrocer's to chop up for kindling. I turned the box upside down, stood it on bricks, gave it a roofing felt cover, and draped it with old carpet. A couple of bucketsful of leaves and twigs over that, and it looks snug enough. It's in a quiet spot under the nut tree, well away from garden traffic.

9th September. A lot of birds about; I'm wearing a hat from now on, when gardening under trees! The great spotted woodpecker still visits the apple tree. Watching it from twenty feet away I'm amazed at the force with which it strikes the bark, drawing its head right back, then letting fly, hammering away at a tremendous speed.

13th September. Picking plums. Nothing quite beats eating plums straight from the tree!

17th September. 20 mm of rain in the last two days. The soil is properly watered at last, just right for our new autumn-sown onion sets, which I space at 4" each way.

22nd September. Rambler rose pruning today, rather late, but it's a job you put off because of the thorns. Clematis Montana alba and honeysuckle are growing away strongly through the escallonia. The robin's song has become lyrical, as sweet and pure, and I swear as inventive, as the blackbird's in spring. Starlings are returning to the vicinity of houses, croaking and whistling their castanet conversations. Their silhouettes as they swoop over hedges remind me of the paper darts we made at school, long ago.

9th October. Coldest night since last spring. 37 °F. We've tasted some of our new season's leeks, Lyons prizetaker, robust plants with a good flavour. This year I spaced them out, 6" between plants and rows 12" apart. Room for earthing up and weeding.

20th October. Outdoor tomatoes have developed blight, and no wonder, it's been so wet. 30 mm rain last night. To cheer myself up, I've chosen a dwarf rhododendron. Snipe, from our local Garden Centre, along with a small bag of ericaceous compost to give it a good start.

St Nicholas Church

**From: The Bishop of Norwich
Bishop's House
Norwich NR3 1SB**

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE REVD. RONALD PETER CHARLES ELVERSON, MA

Vicar of Dunchurch in the Diocese of Coventry to be Vicar of Dersingham, Shernborne and Anmer in the Diocese of Norwich.

He will be instituted by the Bishop of Norwich on
Thursday 1st March 2001 at 7.30 pm
at
St Nicholas Church, Dersingham.

St Nicholas' Christmas Services

Sunday 24th December

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Service of the Word
11.30 pm Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Family Service

AGE CONCERN

16 High Street, Heacham (Tel: 579077)

No appointment necessary

Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays – 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

We are grateful to Joan Schorah for her recollections of the village from her arrival in 1962. This account is to be continued in the February Issue.

Part 1 - New Arrivals, Station Road, Dersingham – December 1962

What a different place the village and Station Road were then. No Valley Rise or Mountbatten Road – just fields and woods. Centre Vale's new estate was in the very early stages of development. No street lights – only a few cars on Station Road – one owned by Dr Shaw who moved in about the same time as we did, and another by Mr Bunn, the village taxi man. There was only one house and one bungalow between the allotments and the station, both down long private drives with the property hidden behind trees. On the other side of the road after the council houses there were only two properties before the row of station cottages. The wonderful sunsets helped light the way home on winter evenings. We had trains which were very good for commuting between Hunstanton and King's Lynn and very convenient for taking the family off to the beach. The kindly porter would always help you into the luggage compartment with large pram and children – never a problem.

We arrived in early December, my husband and I, with a 6-month old baby girl and a son who would be two years old a week before Christmas. The first evening midst packing cases and general chaos having arrived mid-afternoon with children and dog and no other help, there was a knock at the door. Much to our amazement there stood a young policeman. Having seen the lights, he was investigating as the bungalow had been empty for 6 months it was his duty to keep an eye on it. I think he was a little disappointed we were not criminals. We invited him in and made a cup of tea and he told us how bored he was here with no crime for two years, other than a stolen bicycle and some chickens gone missing. He came from the big city of Norwich and found Dersingham something like the last place on earth. He would find himself kept much busier these days I fear.

How lonely those first few months were. My husband, a lecturer at Leeds Technical College, was only here for weekends until the end of term and then he was teaching full time at the College in King's Lynn, and working two or three evenings a week. So he was gone from 8 am until 9.30 pm. I remember so well my son's birthday sitting with the baby and a birthday cake singing Happy Birthday to You on my own. There were no houses nearby, a lovely view across the fields to Sandringham Woods and behind down to Life Wood and the sea from the kitchen window. Very, very nice, but how lovely it would have been to have just had someone to say Good Morning to now and again. I could see Mrs Bunn across a field feeding her chickens but she was nearly 90 years old and dressed all in black – a little daunting. Her husband, Mr Bunn, the taxi man, was a real Norfolk character and made us laugh with his stories of life in the village. He always seemed to start his conversation with 'Cor blast ...' and then went on to say 'Excuse me, Madam'. He had a lovely turn of phrase.

We had chosen to live in Dersingham and we were very excited and happy to be here. Rural life was no stranger to my husband or to me. Both of us had been brought up in a Yorkshire village, although not the same one. My grandparents were farmers and all their sons and grandsons. Other relatives were the family butcher and local publican. Although I was any only child there were always lots of cousins around and a feeling of belonging which I really missed.

I had visited Dersingham as a very little girl as an uncle of mine, Leslie Goldthorpe, started his police career in the village as the local bobby around 1936, I guess. By the time we arrived he had moved on to Police HQ in Norwich.

It was very cold that December and got much colder – in fact during the winter of 1963 the sea froze in Hunstanton and they said it was the coldest winter for 50 years. I didn't really believe them and began to think if this is moving south I am going back north!! I don't think the sea had ever frozen in Hunstanton before. It was an incredible sight. Great chunks of ice were floating around the pier in Hunstanton and the road from the Green to the lighthouse was impassable for vehicles – just a solid sheet of ice. We walked along pushing the children in a pushchair which helped keep us on our feet. I had never been so cold in my life. Everywhere looked very picturesque as long as you hadn't to travel.

(to be continued)

ASHDENE HOUSE

Guesthouse & Restaurant

60 HUNSTANTON ROAD • DERSINGHAM • NORFOLK PE31 6HQ
TELEPHONE 01485 540395



Ashdene Guesthouse

Welcoming B & B accommodation offering twin-double and family rooms – all en-suite with TV tea/coffee facilities, spacious lounge.

Ashdene Restaurant

Open for lunch Wednesday to Sunday. 12-2 pm. Sunday Roast £4.95
Senior Citizens' lunches Wednesday to Saturday – choice of 2 courses £4.75

Dinner Friday and Saturday 7-9.30 pm

Other evenings by arrangement (not Sunday or Monday)

All dishes home cooked using fresh and, where possible, local ingredients.

For reservations phone 01485 540395

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING IN NORWICH
For free Where to Park Guide – tel: 01603 212432

What Shattered Dersingham's Peace?

by Kathy Jordan

What on earth was that
shrieking?

I heard piercing the peace,
Maybe wild cats were
screeching?

How I wish it would cease

It started all the dogs barking
And the horses to neigh,
Youngsters began their
skylarking
And babes screamed in the
fray.

Was it bikes, lorries or buses
Now that petrol is plenty?
Or a mad road rager's cusses?
It sounded like twenty!

Was it Red Arrows sound-
breaking
Zooming over Dodds Hill?
It can't be Concorde creating,
Their engines are now still.

Were rusty wheelbarrows
squeaking
Mowers blasting the ear?
Ground Force team should
come peeping
Great gardeners live here.

Were frantic handy-men nailing?
With drills at the ready,
Did their impatient impaling
Shake houses unsteady?

Were builders driving loud
diggers
For homes that folk need?
Or gunmen aiming their triggers
Shooting pheasants for feed.

Were marsh winds rolling and
roaring

Round defence banks until
Sea surges once more went
soaring
And old gravel pits fill?

My glance flightily fled up to
Norfolk's vast skies,
A spectacular sight greeted
My stunned, wide staring eyes.

With unique 'V' formations
Tough migrants led the trail,
With their skilled aviation
The strong shielded the frail.

From The Wash shores to
'lunch venues'
On farm fields near and far
Sugar-beet tops on the menu
Of their huge 'Burger Bars'.

At sunset – and in the morning
What had shattered the peace?
The truth suddenly dawning –
'Twas those pink-footed geese.



From the Arctic they came
prancing,
Now endeared to their 'din',
I'll miss their winged ballet
dancing,
When they leave in the spring!

The Nativity

By Hugh Mullarkey

Where is Baby Jesus
Does anybody know?
Without the Baby Jesus
We haven't got a show!

Someone's nicked the baby
We've got an empty manger.
Mary's now in floods of tears
Her veil's in serious danger.

Joseph's looking innocent
That's always a very bad sign.
The Magi are fighting over the gold
And each one claims - "It's Mine!"

But where is Baby Jesus?
Does anybody know?
Without the Baby Jesus
We haven't got a show!

The shepherds seem to have lost their sheep
Their tea-towels all have slipped.
Most of the angels have lost their wings
And Gabriel has flipped.

Herod seems quite happy
As if all is going to plan.
And I've just been told it's half past two.
It's high time we began!

Oh where is Baby Jesus
Does anybody know?
Without the Baby Jesus
We haven't got a show!



SEMBA TRADING CO

Building materials supplied

BRICKS
BLOCKS
SAND
SHINGLE
PAVING SLABS
PAVERS
FENCING & POSTS
GUTTERING
UNDERGROUND PIPE
TIMBER
SHEET MATERIALS
DECORATIVE WALLING
ROOFING FELTS
AND much more

OLD STATION YARD
STATION ROAD
DERSINGHAM

TEL: 01485 541394



Changes to Library Opening Hours from 1 Jan 01

Monday	2 pm to 8 pm
Wednesday	10 am to 1 pm
	2 pm to 8 pm
Thursday	2 pm to 5 pm
Saturday	10 am to 1 pm

MILLENNIUM YEAR



Much has happened in this year
In home and chapel, church and club
Little children and their elders
Led their life the best they could.
Everyone feared bugs and hardships
No one knew just where they stood.
Now this special year is ending
I have blessings understood.
Useless to deny some problems
Make the best of all we can!
Yearning for a better future
Everybody has that dream
All our hopes and aspirations
Revolve the world and make stars gleam



Sue Jenkins



European Languages

LANGUAGE CONSULTANCY

**TRANSLATING INTERPRETING
PRIVATE TUITION**

John R Moorhouse, BA, DipEd
Telephone: (01485)540325

**Why not
advertise in
The Village
Voice?**

The Village
Voice is
delivered to
2000 addresses
in
Dersingham.

Contact the
Parish Council
Office
Tel: 541465

GUY PLAYFORD'S SUPREME CARPETS

THE HOME SELECTION SPECIALISTS

FREE
Underlay
Fitting
Door bars etc on
ALL pattern book
ranges

FREE
Delivery
Measuring
Planning on all Roll
Ends and stock
ranges

SHOWROOM OPEN MON TO FRI
11 am – 4 pm, SAT 10 am – 2 pm
FORESTER'S HALL, MANOR ROAD, DERSINGHAM
Tel: 01485 542384

For home selection phone 8 am – 8 pm

The views published in this newsletter do not necessarily accord with the opinions or beliefs of the newsletter team or the Parish Council.

Burrells.

Chartered Taxation Advisers
Chartered Accountants
Chartered Certified Accountants
Registered Auditors

We are a local firm specialising in taxation and financial matters
for individuals and families

Jubilee House, Jubilee Court, Dersingham, PE31 6HH

Tel: (01485) 540295

Fax: (01485) 544469

E-Mail: advice@burrells.demon.co.uk

ROUNCE & EVANS

3 JUBILEE COURT, DERSINGHAM

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

ESTATE AGENTS * RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS

**IF YOU ARE THINKING OF SELLING OR
LETTING YOUR HOME**

**PLEASE CONTACT US FOR
PROFESSIONAL AND FRIENDLY ADVICE**

Telephone: 01485 541843