

DERSTINGHAM VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 13

December 2001



A Happy Christmas to all our Readers

Christmas is once again nearly here and perhaps we shall have a white Christmas this year if some of the forecasts prove to be correct.

The year has passed very quickly as always and the village has been active in many directions. Events are announced in the newsletter where we have the information.

I would sincerely again like to thank the many contributors to Village Voice over the year. Some have produced articles, poems, pictures on a regular basis and I apologise if there is not always space to accommodate them in a particular issue. Also a big thank you is extended to our advertisers who greatly assist in the publication and we do urge you to give our local businesses your support.

There are plenty of dates for your diary in this newsletter over Christmas and into the New Year, including the special Christmas Services at the 3 Derstingham Churches, a Table Top Sale at First School on 18th January, WI Sausage and Mash Supper on 2nd February. Additionally, the Parish Council Meeting to be held on 28th January is emphasised as the question of burials in the churchyard will be an agenda item.

With your support the Village Voice will continue to be published and distributed throughout 2002. Copy for inclusion in the February issue should reach me by 20th January 2002. All contributions are welcomed and should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Parish Council Office, Police Station, Manor Road (Tel:541465) or you can drop them in to me at Plot 4, Mountbatten Road.

In the meantime, the newsletter team and the Parish Council wish you a Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful 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 17th December, at the First School, and thereafter on the last Monday of each month

Police Presence in Dersingham

Comments are often received regarding the seeming lack of a police presence in Dersingham. Since April 1999 Dersingham has become a beat base for officers – therefore staffing levels at the Station had increased and officers were coming and going throughout the day as well as patrolling the village. Dersingham is part of a large area covered and funding would not allow for more coverage or for the luxury of an officer on foot. The constabulary is soon to launch a mobile Police Station. This will be out on trial in November and ‘live’ in December for a day or half-day in villages in the area. This will give residents the opportunity to communicate with the police.

Village Sign

The police had reported that a local youth has been charged with vandalising the sign and he will appear before the Youth Court in King’s Lynn. Several suggestions for the re-positioning of the sign were considered but it has been decided to retain the original site.

Reactive Fibre Optic Signs for Dersingham

A map detailing the proposed siting of these signs is available for inspection at the Parish Council Office. This project is to go ahead and should be operational within 3 months.

Lynn Road Zebra Crossing

Works on site are to be completed by the end of the financial year. No objections have been raised.

Heacham & District Community Transport

This scheme is progressing well with the Countryside Agency giving consideration to grant funding. If all proceeds to plan the scheme should be up and running by January/February 2002. This will be welcomed by all users of the Community Car Scheme which had to be suspended earlier in the year. The scheme will cover 11 parishes. Anmer, Dersingham, Fring, Heacham, Ingoldisthorpe, Ringstead, Sandringham, Sedgeford, Shernborne, Snettisham and West Newton.

Golden Jubilee Celebrations

A committee has been formed and they are drawing up plans to celebrate the Jubilee on Monday 3rd June 2002. Further details appear in this newsletter and it is hoped that many residents may wish to participate in the preparations.

The Churchyard

The matter of the churchyard capacity for burials in the future was again raised at the October Parish Council meeting.

Sandringham Estate has categorically stated that the donkey paddock adjacent to the churchyard cannot be used for burials, and this is definitely not an option for the future. This means that unless reburials in the oldest part of the churchyard take place once the churchyard is full the Church would have to close the churchyard and burials would take place outside the village. If this happens the responsibility for burials would be taken over by the Borough Council.

Reburial would only take place in graves which were 100 years old or more.

It is felt that parishioners would like to participate in further discussion about this matter and the opportunity will arise on **Monday 28th January** when it will appear as an agenda item at the monthly Parish Council meeting. Dersingham residents who are interested should attend and submit their views and **take part** in any discussion.

Transport in Dersingham

Individuals and associations concerned with people with physical disabilities may be interested to learn of specially adapted transport available in the village and surrounding areas.

Local businessman, Alan Garrett, has a new purpose-built people carrier with wheelchair access. The vehicle will take a wheelchair and five passengers or seven able-bodied people and is available for hire for any length of journey.

Mr Garrett can be contacted on 01485 540329.

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Dr Andrew Fielding

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Dersingham First and Nursery School

The Horticultural Society visited our Wildlife Club earlier in the term and the children enjoyed showing them round. The success of the club has gained us an award in the Norfolk Environmental Awards for 2000/2001. We have been judged the **Best Community Project** and have won £250. Just five schools in Norfolk have received awards and so we can be very pleased with our achievement. A special thank you goes to Anne Fletcher, whose interest in the natural world has sparked off a great enthusiasm in the children and she is at the heart of the success of the group. The award also acknowledges the support that the school has from the wider community.

The family of Ernie Hargreaves kindly donated £300 to the school in memory of him. His granddaughter, Lucy, is in Rainbow class and the class had lots of ideas for spending the money. We have bought bulbs for the front of the school, trees and **plants for our Wildlife Garden**, a new violin, a set of CDs and a set of Harry Potter books. We are very grateful to the family for donating this money to us.

Our younger children have been thinking about clothes in their project work. They have come to school dressed in winter clothes, summer clothes, special clothes and even came in their pyjamas one day!

Christmas is a happy time in schools. We extend a warm welcome to everyone to join us in St Nicholas Church on Friday, 14th December, at 1.30 pm for our Christmas Nativity. Each class will be singing songs to retell the Christmas story and our oldest children will be forming the nativity tableau. I do hope you can join us.

**The last day of term is on Friday, 21st December
We re-open on Monday 7th January 2002**

Happy Christmas to everyone from everyone at the First School.

*Jackie Austin
Tel: 540022*

50 Club

Dersingham First & Nursery School needs friends and invites you to join the 50 Club. Prize draws are held every month offering a £10 first prize and two £5 prizes with an annual draw offering £50, £20 and £10. A £1 monthly subscription (paid half-annually or annually) raises funds for new playground equipment for the school and gives you a chance of winning.

For an application form call into school office and ask for Lynda or phone 01485 540022

Switzerland

On behalf of 1st Sandringham Guides I would like to thank the people of Dersingham and surrounding villages who generously supported our fund-raising events during the past year towards a holiday in Adelboden, Switzerland. A grand total of almost £600 was raised at a Christmas Coffee Morning, 2 jumble sales and 2 car boot stands.

We all had a great time, with visits including the International Guide Chalet, the Open Air Museum at Ballenberg and the popular outdoor ice rink. An amazing day by mountain railway to the top of the Jungfrauoch completed a very memorable holiday for us all.

Alex Polaine, Guider

The Dersingham Seniors' Club

After a group of willing helpers got together in October 1991 the Seniors' Club reopened with just 28 members, and this has been commemorated each year with a Bangers and Mash lunch. This year was no exception and on 5th October over 65 of its now 83 members enjoyed the meal which, as always, was prepared, cooked and served by the committee and helpers.

In November a shopping expedition to Peterborough was organised.

The next events in their calendar are the Christmas Lunch and Carol Concert in December.

During the year many different events and activities have been arranged including bingo, musical afternoons, coach outings, interest speakers and a theatre trip.

For further information ring Terry (540643) or Jean (541035).

Table Top Sale

A table top sale will be held at Dersingham First & Nursery School on Friday 18th January 2002, from 3.15 pm to 5 pm. Hall opens at 2.30 pm to set up.

To book your table top please contact Lynda in the school office (01485 540022) or call into the school. A fee of £5 per table top will be required when booking and all monies raised will go to new playground equipment for the school.

HEACHAM AND WEST NORFOLK SINGERS

welcome you to
their Christmas Concerts



Sunday 16th December at St Mary's Church,
Hunstanton
6.30 pm

Excerpts from *The Messiah*
and a selection of
Christmas Carols
(some with audience participation)

Soloists: Sheila Clark
George Braun
John Gudgeon
Conductor: Jack Fryer
Organist: Adrian Flower

Programme £2

OooOooo

Tuesday 18th December at St Cecilia's Church,
Dersingham
7.30 pm

Same programme as detailed above

Organist: Arthur Haly

From: Orchard Close Residents, Dersingham

Just a few words from all the residents at Orchard Close to say a huge **THANK YOU** to those in the village who found time to support us in October when we held two fundraising events for the local Alzheimer Support Group, especially the Hanover Court contingent! The final total raised was £325.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone in Dersingham a happy, serene and crisis-free Christmas.

Jessica

VILLAGE SEAT

Dersingham Evening WI will be 40 years old next year. To celebrate this birthday and the Golden Jubilee of HM The Queen, we shall be providing a seat for the village to be sited at the junction of Manor Road and Shernborne Road. A suitable seat and fixing will cost in the region of £500 and we have already started fundraising for this project.

In order to raise the amount needed, we are planning a **SAUSAGE AND MASH SUPPER**, with live music, dancing and cabaret. This is open to all who would like to come and will take place on Saturday, 2nd February 2002, in Snettisham Memorial Hall.

Tickets cost £7.50 each. For more information and tickets please telephone one of the following numbers: (01485) 540737, (01485) 540877 or (01485) 540491.

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Our October meeting saw a return visit of one of our most popular speakers, Barry Gayton, who, among other things, is one of Radio Norfolk's gardening experts. Barry's dedication to the science and art of gardening amounts almost to a passion and this was aptly illustrated by his choice of subject, the genus *Passiflora* (Passion flowers).

Passion flowers occur throughout the tropics and sub-tropics but most of the more than 400 species are found in Central and South America. By means of some excellent slides and an interesting narrative our speaker covered the care and cultivation of these unique plants, of which there are only very few truly hardy species. Barry was also able to illustrate both the beautiful and the bizarre qualities of this genus's flowers.

Many readers will recall that our Society, as its Millennium Project, purchased a shed and tools for the Dersingham First and Nursery School to enable teachers and pupils to service its Wildlife Garden. Thanks to Anne Fletcher, the teacher who initiated the garden, I was fortunate to be among the members of our society who were invited to see the developments which have taken place in the garden since last year's visit.

Greeted by a group of children who then attached themselves individually to each member of our party, we then embarked on a tour of the garden. The children had obviously picked up Anne's enthusiasm for conservation being eager to show us how they are recording the various sightings of pond life, insects, birds and mammals together with the progress of the seasons and the development of the garden.

The children seemed to enjoy our visit as much as we enjoyed their company so, all in all, a very pleasant and rewarding experience.

The Annual Dinner. As I was unable to attend this year, I can do no better than quote from our General Secretary's report "Nearly 50 of our members attended this happy and relaxed dinner at the Gamekeeper's Lodge. The singing group, the Game Birds, provided entertainment after the dinner. Their harmonious rendition of folk songs was rewarded with enthusiastic applause. As usual, we must thank the organisers, Hazel Wolff and Alice Davies, for all their efforts on our behalf".

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 8th November. As usual, it was very well attended with members taking a keen interest in the Officers' reports and the affairs of the society. After the business of the society the remainder of the evening was occupied with a slide presentation "Random Shots", a slide miscellany and "A Taste of Austria" – given by me.

Unfortunately, with the limited time available, this had to be somewhat

rushed. Despite this 'the show' seemed to be well received by our members.

Late News. Congratulations to Anne Fletcher and the pupils of the Dersingham First and Nursery School in securing first prize in the Norfolk Schools Environment Awards. Our society is proud to have supported the school in this project and to have made a contribution to its success.

*David Clark
(Tel: 543182)*

A Sad Sign of the Times!



I have recently moved here with my husband. We are both so happy to be a part of this lovely village of Dersingham.

I was a little sad to take this photo as I know Dersingham people were unhappy that this vandalism happened to their sign.

Dersingham is a place to be cherished and cared for - not vandalised.

*Mrs J Bhagat
Dersingham*

Editor's Note: The village sign will be restored to the village as soon as possible. It is missed by everyone.



The Golden Jubilee

3rd June 2002

A committee has been formed in the village to try and make the 3rd June a day to remember. They are hoping to organise activities that the village will respond to. It is hoped to have a social day with

Sports

Fashion Show

Pony rides

Music

Refreshments

Country scene

and

Hog roast in the evening



Ways in which you can help

We need photographs, drawings, paintings of Old Dersingham and photographs of people who have lived in the village over the last 50 years for an exhibition on the day. Do you have any clothes going back 50 years? If so, would you model them for us?

If you feel you can support this day in any way please contact a member of the committee.

The Committee

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Lyn Reeve | Dersingham Playgroup |
| Ann Saunders | Guides, Scouts & Day Centre |
| Eileen Lister | Dersingham Flower Club |
| Doreen Asker | Dersingham Flower & Junior Flower Club |
| Lyn Wheeler | 1 st Rainbows & 1 st & 2 nd Brownies |
| Tracy Melton | Dersingham Playgroup |
| Jayne Blaney | Horticultural Society |
| May Davey | Parish Council |
| Terry Finbow | Seniors' Club |
| Don Burrell | St Nicholas Church |
| Tony Bubb | Parish Council |
| Teresa Southam | Community Centre & Parish Council |
| Edgar Cooper | Parish Council & St Nicholas Church |



Christmas in the Churches



St Nicholas Church

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Wed 12 December | 2.30 pm Mothers' Union Carol Service |
| Friday 14 th December | 1.30 pm First School Carol Service |
| Monday 17 th December | 7 pm Smithdon School Carol Service |
| Tuesday 18 th December | 8.30 am Parents & Toddlers Christmas Celebration |
| Thursday 20 th December | 9.30 am St George's School Carol Service |
| Sunday 23 rd December | 6.30 pm St Nicholas Carol Service |
| Monday 24 th December | 11.30 pm Midnight Holy Communion |
| Christmas Day | 10 am Christmas Celebration Service |

✠Dersingham Methodist Church✠

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Saturday 15 th December | 10-12 noon Carols & Coffee (Church decorated. Come and join in informal carol singing and then enjoy a drink in the hall. Christmas stalls) |
| Sunday 16 th December | 10.30 am Family Christmas Service |
| Thursday 20 th December | 5 pm Christingle Service |
| Sunday 23 rd December | 10.30 am Carol Service |
| Christmas Day | 10.30 am Family Service |

✠St Cecilia's Catholic Church✠

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 18 th December | Heacham & West Norfolk Singers Concert (Excerpts from The Messiah and Carols) |
| Monday 24 th December | 8.30 pm Christmas Carols 9 pm Vigil Mass |
| Christmas Day | 9.30 am Mass |

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who gave a contribution to our Operation Christmas Child Appeal. We collected a record 700 boxes and £1,373.83 which will go to make children happy this Christmas.

Rev Pam Bayliss
Dersingham Methodist Church



Some Like It Hot!

Dartford Warbler

If a pre-war birdwatcher were to travel in time to today's Norfolk, he would be amazed to see how things have changed. At Titchwell RSPB Reserve he would see birds that to him were exotic rarities from southern Europe but are today common visitors and, in some cases, regular breeders.

They include little egrets – Titchwell had over forty of these small white herons this summer – together with avocets, spoonbills, Mediterranean gulls and a resident black-winged-stilt. Travelling a little further a field, he would find Dartford warblers - which were formerly confined to Dorset and Hampshire - on the Suffolk heathlands. In the Broads the explosive song of Cettis warblers would be a startling accompaniment to a springtime walk. If he stayed for the winter, he would be surprised to see the occasional blackcap and chiff-chaff that used to be purely summer visitors. The birds to cause the most confusion would probably be the collared doves that visit every garden in Dersingham. Collared doves have had a very rapid expansion of their

range. They spread out from their homeland on the Indian sub-continent across Asia and Europe, eventually arriving in Britain in the 1950s.

There would be disappointments with the surprises. For example, he would not find red-backed-shrikes at their usual breeding grounds in the Brecks. They held on until the mid 1980s but are no longer a British breeding bird. In addition, some familiar birds, particularly on farmland, have greatly decreased in number.

If asked to explain the increase in birds from the south our Dr Who of the birding world would probably guess that the climate has changed. England is either becoming warmer in general or the winters are less severe than in the past. He would see some evidence to the contrary, particularly the new colony of fulmars - which have a northern distribution - on the Hunstanton cliffs. Nevertheless, he may rightly guess that this could have another explanation, such as the increased fishing activity in the

southern North Sea.

Birds are mobile and very good indicators of environmental change. We are likely to see more birds that are new to Britain in the near future. I saw a crested lark in a M'Donalds car park near Calais last year and every town park in Northern France holds breeding serin. Several species may cross the channel and establish themselves in this country; predicting which ones will make it is difficult.

This all sounds like very good news. However, there is a downside to the story. In early summer, I was on the Cairngorm plateau in Scotland. This is a wonderful arctic wilderness at an altitude of over 3000 feet. It has permanent snowfields and a unique plant and animal community. There are no trees up there and the ground is covered with mosses, lichens and short grasses that grow amongst the rocks and boulders. Rare birds breed on the plateau including snow buntings, ptarmigan and dotterel. I went properly equipped with plenty of warm clothing because the Cairngorms can be a dangerous place. However, I need not have bothered because it was

very hot and sunny. The ptarmigan are well adapted to cold and they looked uncomfortable, panting in the heat. The problem is that if things warm up as predicted and trees begin to colonize the high tops then this unique ecosystem will be lost - it simply has nowhere to go.

This problem is also faced by a habitat much closer to home. Dersingham Bog is susceptible to damage by climate change, particularly if this affects the water supply. Sites like Dersingham Bog would at one time have been able to creep slowly north or south as conditions changed. This is no longer possible because it is isolated and hemmed in on all sides by farmed and suburban landscapes. Just like the Cairngorms Dersingham Bog has no escape route.

David Bingham

The pink-footed geese count at the Snettisham RSPB Reserve on Monday 26th November was 19,500. These are the geese that fly over Dersingham each day. The geese are birds of the far north. They would not come here if the local farms grew vines and olives instead of sugar beet and potatoes.

2nd September. All day up to our elbows (it seemed) in plums, preparing Victorias for freezing.

Mid September. A day spent "jamming" plums. We've tried a new method (new to us, anyway) of sealing the jam jars, using jars with those "tamper-proof" lids with central buttons. Fill the clean, dry, warm jars to the brim with hot jam and immediately screw on the lids. Fun to listen for the pops as the buttons retract on the cooling jars! And no more fiddly waxed discs and rubber bands. Just hope the method works.

When not jamming or freezing we've been watching the birds. One warm day a robin bathed by itself in a 6" plastic saucer; a wood-pigeon tried the same thing later. Comical! A thrush, a starling and a cock sparrow sparred for possession of the bird bath. The starling won the first dip! The thrush was last, but splashed most! Thrushes have been visiting during most of September ...

2nd October. A beautiful full moon shone at dawn on our wandering hedgehog.

3rd October. The robin tried to send our early-morning hedgehog packing, taking daring little runs at the spiny "intruder". They each wanted a share of cat food, you understand.

There's so much to do in the October garden. Roses to be pruned, too-tall shrubs to be cut back by a third or so to prevent wind rock, and the cuttings laboriously shredded with secateurs for the compost heap and as a mulch. Composting, weeding, last hedge cuts, the planting of autumn onion sets for an early summer harvest, the sowing at month's end of garlic cloves and Aquadulce broad beans. Last month I sieved the contents of the last quarter of one of our home-made compost bins, ending up with two barrowloads of friable compost, as good as any you might buy. Now I'm using this to pot up seedlings we might want next year. The garden is always bursting with self-sown foxgloves, hollyhocks, toadflax (*linaria*), *lychnis coronaria* with its grey-green leaves and crimson, five-petalled flowers, (for all the world like scatterings of beetroot slices!). Larkspur and feverfew, too, are generous to a fault with their seed. And every year we save some corncockle seeds: though this self seeds as well, we'd hate to lose it.

So much to delight in. Orb webs, delicate yet strong, a wonder to behold. The great spotted woodpecker's looping flight. The robin taking vertical jumps to reach sunflower seeds hung up for finches. Majestic clouds. Awesome rainbows. It's a magical month ...

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Dear Editor

Speed limits in the village? What speed limits? I continue to be saddened by the selfishness of many drivers, both of private cars and trade vehicles. I'm not completely anti-car; I accept lifts gladly in an emergency. I do acknowledge that cars have a place in our society. But it should be regarded as a privilege, not a right, to own one. Cars harm well-nigh everything they come into contact with, and that, according to recent reports, includes their occupants, who, along with the rest of us, breathe in their own vehicles' toxic fumes. In this despondent mood, I wrote the following:

Ballad of our Times

Build me a Park, says the great God Car,
Build me a Park multi-storey,
Raise it in concrete and plastic and steel,
Let it stand high in its glory.

I have given you Choice, says the great God Car,
I have given you Freedom, surely,
To shop far and near, to sight-see at will,
To come and to go securely.

Cut me a By-pass, says the great God Car,
Lest my speed be restricted severely,
Let there be Lanes, dual, triple and more,
Let there be Fly-overs, clearly.

I have lent you Wings, says the great God Car,
In return I ask but a pittance:
A patch of sky, a woodland green,
An ancient hedge – good riddance!

But what will you give me, asks the great God Car,
In return for your Freedom and Choice?
I merely ask for your wasting limbs,
Your failing heart, your subservience.

Who needs the sky? says the great God Car,
Who needs the green grass growing?
Who needs the means to walk and to breathe?
Who needs peace to come flowing?

Build me that Park! roars the great God Car,
Build it me multi-storey!
Surrender your life, says the great God Car,
Surrender your life for my glory!





*A trio of
photographs
from the
past!*

*Kindly provided by
Eric Riches*



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Dersingham Community Centre would like to warmly thank all the people who supported us at our Christmas Bazaar. £228.60 was raised for Children in Need, most of which came from the Raffle (for which local Businesses donated prizes) and the young lady's face painting, which was a great hit with the youngsters. Our main thanks go out to the two women whom organised the event, but wish to remain anonymous. Once again many thanks.

Dersingham Community Centre

The centre is used by a number of user groups, diverse as could be reflected in a community the size of Dersingham. The age of the groups is also as varied, with the play group at one end of the spectrum and the Day Centre at the other end, which incorporates the more mature members of our village. The user groups comprise mainly voluntary youth and community groups, as well as some commercial/business groups. Over 400 people use the centre in a week. The centre is suitable for courses, meetings, hobby groups, clubs and social functions. There are 2 halls, the larger of which will seat over 100 people, the quiet room (comfortable seating – an ideal meeting room), craft room (including pottery wheels and kiln), a coffee bar and 2 fitted kitchens, plus a large car park/playground and raised grassed area.

New users are welcomed. For further enquiries or to view, please ring Andrew/Rhona Seal on 540234.

Rates are very competitive as the following scale of charges shows:

| Classification | Rental Charges per room hour Monday – Friday | Weekend room rental per hour |
|---|---|---|
| Youth groups, Scouts, Guides, Brownies | £3.00 | N/A |
| Community groups | £3.00 | N/A |
| Commercial/Business, aerobics, line dancing etc | £6.00 | N/A |
| Private parties, weddings etc | £4.00 | £6.00 |

Bus Services

Service No 410. Hunstanton/Lynn. has introduced its winter Sunday timetable. The Parish Council Office holds a copy of the timetable.

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All contributions for
Village Voice are
welcomed. If you
have a poem or
article to submit the
readers of Village
Voice are most
appreciative. If you
want to see your
work in print please
send items to The
Editor, Village Voice,
at the Parish Council
Office, Manor Road.

Have you a
forthcoming event
you wish to
publicise? Do you
want to get
something off your
chest? Have you any
comments about the
village or the
newsletter which
would interest
readers? All
contributions
welcomed.

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PRESS RELEASE
GOING HOME



***Remember where you grew up? Your first home?
Where your children grew up and left home? Where
your parents retired? Ever wanted to go back and
see what its like now? NOW HERE'S YOUR
CHANCE.***

Norwich based Eye Film & Television are looking for people to take part in a new series for Anglia Television, **GOING HOME** which begins filming in January.

What makes this different from other property programmes is that it doesn't try to change, improve or even sell a place, but it's about the emotional attachment we all have to a home. A home could mean a children's home, a residential home, a caravan or a castle", stated producer, Charlie Gauvain. "We want people with strong emotional reasons why they want to go back to a previous home". Each episode will follow three separate stories and take those involved back to the home they once lived in and it will not always be an easy journey. Photos and cine/video footage will help provide a social history feel to the programme, which is due to air in June.

Anyone who thinks they have a story to tell should contact Eye Film and Television on 01603 762551.

CONTACT:

TEL: 01603 762551

Bring Us a Little Heavenly 'Peace of Christmas'

By Hugh Mullarkey © 2001

As the 'neighbourhood-friendly' Diesel

Before the break of dawn
A-chuntering, a-chuntering
Beneath the Bedroom Windows
Of the Street

The 'family-friendly' adverts
Before the summer's out
Nagging, nagging, nagging
On the Telly – in the Papers
Repeat, repeat

The Present-hungry Children
Before the Adults
A-hinting, a-hinting
Heat-seeking messages
Unerringly indiscreet

The cards – the cards
Before the last post goes
Scrabbling, scrabbling, scrabbling
Change of address – no stamps
Defeat on defeat

The food, the booze
Before the Shops run out
A-hurtling, a-hurtling
The trolley with the wobbly wheel
The lost receipt

'Look what I found!'
Before the family, the jester and the fool
Taunting, taunting, taunting
A tatty home-made dusty Crib
'Now isn't that sweet!'

A silence fell
Before the Clock struck twelve
A stirring, stirring, stirring
Not of pointless mockery
But of feelings incomplete

A silence fell
And when the Clock struck twelve
A stirring, stirring, stirring
Not of chaff, but memories
Where minds can meet
At peace.



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