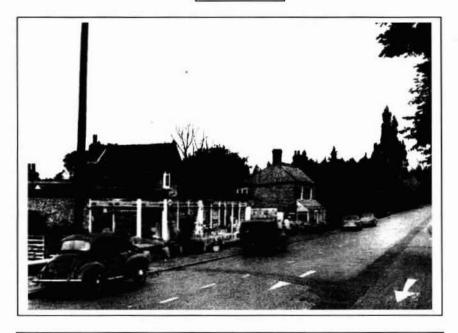
Dersingham Village Voice

Issue No 15



April 2002



Scenes of Dersingham

This is an old view of Hunstanton Road, showing Thaxter's Stores and some motor cars of the day.

We hope to feature an interesting picture in every issue for a while and if you possess a favourite scene, old or current, that you would like to appear on the front cover please send it or bring it along to the Parish Council Office, Police Station, Manor Road, or drop it in to Teresa Southam at Plot 4a Mountbatten Road.

Now that April's Here ...

April's here – hopefully without the showers! The first day of spring was a lovely day so let's hope the weather holds. Events which have taken place since the last newsletter included the opening of the sensory garden for the Orchard Close residents and the Village Open Day organised by the Parish Council as a showcase for the many clubs and voluntary organisations in Dersingham.

It is hoped that our next newsletter in June will be a special one in honour of the Queen's Golden Jubilee. If you have any memories you would like to share with the readers or any photographs from the last 50 years do send them to me for inclusion in the newsletter.

All the composition on the computer for our February issue was undertaken by Ruth Sherwood of Philip Nurse Road, without whom the newsletter team would not have been able to produce it. The team wish to express their gratitude for her assistance.

I am also grateful to all our contributors, some of whom write regularly for the Village Voice. Please send contributions to me c/o Parish Council Office to arrive not later than 24th May for the June issue.

Teresa Southam, Editor

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This will be held on Monday 13th May at 7 pm in St Cecilia's Catholic Church. It is hoped that Dersingham residents will wish to attend to listen to reports and participate in discussions. They can also bring up any points of interest to them and vote on issues.

Sue Ridgway, Field Officer for Norfolk Rural Community Council, has agreed to come along and speak to the meeting. She will be able to provide information regarding the Government's wish to give communities a bigger opportunity to run their own affairs. The Government wish to encourage communities to set out a plan for their town or village to guide its future development. The plan can address such issues as housing, businesses, recycling, renewable energy, services, village centre, transport, conservation areas. The Parish Council have logged their intention to produce a Parish Plan.

Refreshments will be served at the meeting.

~ Monday 13th May at 7 pm ~

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 29th April, at the First School.

Parish Notice Board

Our new notice board has been erected opposite Budgens on the main road in the grassed area. This should prove to be a more acceptable location than hitherto.

Siting of Seat

The Evening WI have conceded to the wishes of a resident who did not wish the seat to be sited at the Shernborne/Manor Road junction. It was agreed that the seat should now be placed in Station Road between the allotment gate and the Gas PRS.

Survey by St George's Middle School

Class 5N have carried out a survey about the traffic in Post Office Road. They came up with the following suggestions: Make Post Office Road a one way system. Only allow one side of the road to be used for parking. Only allow disabled parking outside the Post Office. Offer money to use the Library and Budgens Car Parks. Encourage walking for people who live in Dersingham (apart from the elderly). Encourage cycling. The Council congratulated the school on the survey and the ideas will be considered in the Village Plan.

School Travel Plan

Mr James Braniff addressed the last Council meeting and informed the meeting that his job was a Government designated post attached to the Planning and Transportation Department. Its purpose was to ease traffic congestion and improve the health of school children by making walking to school safer. He is talking to schools in the county to address the problems created by the increase of traffic taking children to school and to promote road safety awareness and to encourage cycle and pedestrian training. 18 schools have taken up the idea of a Travel Plan so far.

Drop Kerbs and Undergrowth Encroachment

Sites where drop kerbs were needed and sites where undergrowth requires attention have been located in the village. The matter is being referred to Mrs Eells. Norfolk County Councillor, and she will be invited to visit the located sites.

Bus Shelter

The Village Environment Committee will investigate the possibility of provision of a bus shelter for the bus stop between Thaxters and the Newsagent, and its resiting to opposite The Green.

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Office open Mon-Thurs 10 am to 2 pm

24 HP

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Community Nurses Equipment Fund

Over the years the fund has received much wonderful support from many members of the public. Bingos, raffles, coffee mornings, to name but a few events, have been run to raise money. Our main support comes from the relatives of loved ones who have passed away and money instead of flowers comes to the fund for which we are most grateful.

Not many people realise where the money goes. Some even think it is for the nurses themselves! This is not so. The only benefit to them is the satisfaction that their patients are getting the best possible equipment to make their lives more comfortable.

We, the Trustees, would like you all to see exactly how your money is spent and are having viewing days at Hunstanton, Snettisham and Dersingham where some of the equipment will be on display. (A viewing day was held in Heacham on 13th March). There will be no charge and a cup of tea or coffee will be provided.

Please come along and bring your friends and neighbours to see what your hard efforts are achieving.

On behalf of those patients who benefit from your generosity, we thank you.

Viewing days are as follows:

Orchard Close, Dersingham Wednesday 17th April 12.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Methodist Church Hall.

Hunstanton Wednesday 8th May 12.30 pm – 3.30 pm

The Paddocks. Snettisham Wednesday 15th May 11 am - 3 pm

The Trustees of the Community Nurses Equipment Fund

MAYOR'S CIVIC AWARD

Congratulations to Joan Scorah of Dersingham who was presented with this prestigious award for her tireless work for the NSPCC over 30 years. She also delivers Meals on Wheels and is a volunteer driver for Tapping House. She has always been very involved in the life of the village.

Summer Activities in Dersingham 2002

Activities will take place on 22, 23, 24 and 29, 30, 31 July as well as 1 and 2 August. Some, like swimming, will take place in other weeks in August.

A programme of activities is being arranged for the summer holidays in Dersingham. All children resident in Dersingham can take part. Information will be sent to the local schools by 28 June for reply by 19 July. Application forms will also be available at the library, newsagents and supermarkets.

This year's activities will include:

- tennis coaching
- line-dancing
- multi-sports
- swimming
- a nature trail
- 10-pin bowling.





We hope to include new activities, like 7-a-side football, a junk percussion session, a musical play-in-day, a kite workshop, and possibly a paint-balling session. An application for Lottery funds is being made to fund this extended programme and our plans to go ahead will depend on its successful outcome.

The Summer Activities are being organised this year by the Dersingham Summer Activities group, which would welcome support from parents for supervisory duties.

Please contact the Chairman, Mrs May Davey, if you can help. (540737)







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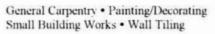
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If you are able to donate a raffle prize for the Village Jubilee Celebration Day please contact Edgar Cooper (Chairman of Jubilee Committee) Tel: 540865

SPECIAL REQUEST!

WANTED by Museum in America – 2 gasmarks from World War 2.

If anyone has one please would you want to part with it?

Sincere thanks, World War pilot.

Please contact Elaine, 20 The Green (01485 543931 or 01487 710883)

Another Point of View, Hugh June Stephenson

O splendid day! Hooray, hooray!
Our wheelie bins have come to stay!
No more sacks to drag o'er gravel,
For wheelie bins so lightly travel;
No chicken bones for cats to choke on,
No cheesy scraps for rats to gorge on;
No more bags for dogs to rip,
No more gunge on which to slip;
No chasing after baby's nappy,
No niffs to make us less than happy.
Hooray, Hooray! O splendid day!
Our wheelie bins are here to stay!

The Mother's Union are holding a Coffee Morning, with Bring & Buy Stall, at St Nicholas Church on Wednesday 24th April from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

SUMMARY OF DIARY DATES

Details of these events appear either in this or the February newsletter

13 April	Coffee Morning - Dersingham Horticultural Society	
17 April	Community Nurses Equipment Viewing Day	
19 April	The Gamebirds - St Nicholas Church	
24 April	Mothers' Union Coffee Morning/Bring & Buy	
8 May	Community Nurses Equipment Viewing Day	
11 May	Gardeners' Fair - Dersingham Horticultural Society	
13 May	Annual Parish Meeting	
15 May	Community Nurses Equipment Viewing Day	
16 May	AGM Friends of St Nicholas Church	
23 May -26	May	
50	Dersingham Methodist Church Flower Show	
3 June	Jubilee Celebration Day	

Dersingham Methodist Church



is holding its annual **Flower Festival** from Thursday 23 May to Sunday 26 May 10 am to 5 pm

The theme this year is *Come on and Celebrate* and the arrangements will depict celebrations in life and Church celebrations.

As well as the arrangements there will be a variety of stalls, lunches, cakes, coffee and tea.

We look forward to seeing you at our celebration

Have you applied for your Free Concessionary Bus Pass?

All concessionary bus passes issued in the last 12 months will have expired on 31st March 2002.

Pass holders are entitled to a reduction of 50% on a single fare on all participating services starting or finishing within Norfolk. Between 6 am and 9.30 am the maximum concession is 85p with the resultant fare being rounded to the next 5p.

Passes will be issued free of charge and will now be valid for a period of 3 years.

Applications for a new bus pass need to be made in person at Valentine Road, Hunstanton; 3 Lynn Road, Heacham; or King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn. Proof of eligibility, such as a pension book, birth certificate will need to be produced. If you are not a new applicant please bring along your photocard so that the likeness can be checked. New applicants will need a recent passport type photograph.

There are several categories of eligibility. If you are in any doubt as to your eligibility or want to know more about the scheme please contact the Borough Council on 01553 616200.

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At Fifty

By John Smart @

I had forgotten my father.
Oh! Not the bulk of the man
Not his shadow that sometimes blocked the sun
Or hid the view
But rather I had forgotten the details.

I had forgotten his smile Had lost the small stubbed flesh about his chin Which creased deep and shook into laughter.

I had forgotten his serious face When he pulled his long ear lobes And considered all the world or my misdeeds.

I had forgotten how the ladies would laugh and say "Oh! Alan".

When he joked at their expense

Knowing their woman side as they knew him to be a man.

I had forgotten all this. Until I witnessed the miracle
To see his face looking back at me from the mirror
As I shaved.

PHOBBIES - Advance Dates for your Diary - 2002

Saturday 17th August, 2 pm – 4 pm Salesof Work • Bric-a-brac • Cake Stall • Games • Raffle Admission includes tea and biscuits. 14 Heath Road, Dersingham.

Saturday 30th November, 2 pm – 4 pm
Sale of Work. Sale of Gifts for Christmas.
Decorations • Cards • Paintings • Raffle • Tea or Coffee
Dersingham Church Hall



Spring is in the Air!

This is the time of year to watch out for our returning summer migrants. They do not all arrive at the same time. Some species will already be here while others delay their migration until late April or early May. The sight of the first swallow and the call of the first cuckoo are always welcome signs that winter is over at last. It is surprising just how many summer migrants make a home within the Dersingham parish boundary.

Any clump of vegetation near a drainage ditch can provide a nest site for sedge warblers. While small groups of trees with scrubby undergrowth will support various types of warbler.

I have seen chiffchaff, willow warbler. garden warbler and blackcap in this sort of habitat within the village. Whitethroats tend to prefer to nest in hedges and low bushes and can be found in areas like the scrubby growth on the bypass banking. The larger gardens within the village may have nesting spotted flycatchers. They prefer open areas surrounded by bushes and trees - large lawns bordered by a shrubbery are ideal. Spotted flycatchers are rather dull looking birds and are not very spotted. They make up for this by their habit of perching in wait then chasing out after flying insects that are crossing the open ground. Their flight is very agile and always fascinating to watch

The buildings in the village provide

homes for a number of migrant birds. House martins nest under the eaves, swifts within the roof voids and swallows in outbuildings and stables.

We now know where these birds have spent the winter but it was once a complete mystery. A popular theory was that swallows hibernate in the mud at the bottom of ponds. During the eighteenth century, a number of ponds were drained and dug in search of hibernating swallows! This may seem absurd to us because we know that swallows fly to South Africa for the winter. This has been proved by trapping swallows in nets and attaching identification rings to the birds' legs. A proportion of these birds are either re-trapped or found dead on their migration route. The notion that these small birds could make such a journey would probably seem no more likely than the hibernation theory to an eighteenth century scientist.

We are only beginning to understand just how sophisticated the navigation skills of birds really are. They can find their way by the sun or the stars and if conditions change - have the ability to switch to navigating by sensing the earth's magnetic or gravitational fields or the orientation of polarised light.

They do all this with a brain smaller than a grape. I have a brain the size of a melon and have difficulty finding my way around the Hardwick roundabout!

Recording the arrival of summer migrants can sometimes give valuable information about the condition of the wintering grounds of these birds. This was dramatically demonstrated in the spring of 1968 when birdwatchers failed to see anything like the usual number of whitethroats in the hedgerows. Whitethroats winter in an area known as the Sahel just south of the Sahara desert. The failure of the whitethroats to return that year was eventually explained by the fact that the Sahel was going through a drought and the sands of the Sahara were spreading south.

Man and not nature is causing the decline in numbers of many of our summer migrants. Enormous numbers of birds are killed as they migrate north every spring. Some are caught in nets or trapped on lime sticks and killed to provide small snacks in restaurants and bars. Birds caught in this way include robins and blackcaps. This is an illegal but common practice in Cyprus. Shooting pressure is also high here and I have seen migrating swallows being shot for target practice on the island. The shooting of migrating birds is also common in Italy, Malta and France, Popular targets are turtle doves. We see fewer and fewer of these very attractive birds each year and shooting is almost certainly a major factor in their decline. The RSPB and its partners in Birdlife International mounted a campaign recently to counter the

French hunting lobby that wanted to extend their spring shooting season. The hunting lobby is stronger than the conservation movement in many countries but there are signs that things are beginning to change.

Migrating birds should be seen as a resource common to every country on their route to and from their breeding sites. They are like a river flowing through many countries. Imagine what would happen if such a river were dammed somewhere on its journey to the sea.

David Bingham

Birdbrain Teaser

Q. Why do swallows fly south along Snettisham beach at this time of year?

Answer on p14



Dersingham Community Centre

The centre is used by a number of user groups as 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 N/A
Youth groups, Scouts, Guides, Brownies	£3.00	
Community groups	£3.00	N/A
Commercial/Business, aerobics, line dancing etc	£6.00	N/A
Private parties, weddings etc	£4.00	£6.00



Birdbrain Teaser

A. They are following the coast north. This means they are forced to fly south between Hunstanton and King's Lynn.

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Deadline for copy for June Issue

24th May



Monday 3rd June Celebration

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Dear Editor

Congratulations and thanks to all who have worked hard behind the scenes to get us our new pedestrian crossing. I'm sure you will receive many more letters of appreciation.

June Stephenson, Centre Vale

A Garden Notebook by Greenish Fingers

9 January. A flock of curlews landed on the field at the Shernborne Road crossroads. A pair of mallards rose from the ditch, and a sparrowhawk glided over my head, downhill towards the church. A bird at the top of a tree near the church emitted an amazingly vibrant whirring sound. A mistle thrush?

13 January. Early in the morning I watched an agile little bird in a crab apple. Noting its silhouette and movements. I pored over my RSPB books. It was undoubtedly a crested tit, "the only small British bird with a crest". It's normally confined to Scotland, the rare sightings in England probably being "vagrants from the Continent". Was I really lucky? I wonder ...

18 January. Took a first cutting of Pentland Brig, a delicious and generouscropping kale. First aconite in bud. Coal tits conversing in the apple tree, where-eet, wheet-eet. Blackbirds twittering to themselves like little old men. Dunnock singing. Male chaffinches brighter and bolder in colour.

29th January. A round moon dipped below our horizon at 6.30 am. Twenty minutes later the sky was a heart-lifting duck-egg blue. A fine day, and tête-à-tête nodding in their pots outside the kitchen door.

2 February. 60° F and frogs stirring! A week earlier than last year.

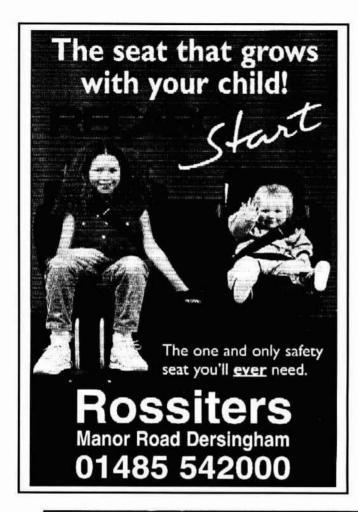
4 February. Hundred of gulls flying east at dawn over Sandringham woods. They are normally such lazily elegant fliers, but this morning they flew hard and straight, without a pause. Later today, a blackbird gathered twigs in nest-building mode. Too early.

14 February. Strawberry ice cream clouds in the west at dawn. Two robins taking crumbs – a pair, like last year's? All birds chirruping, thrushes singing, as if they know the date.

25 February. We're using bought-in organic garden compost for mulching individual shrubs and fruit trees as they are pruned, as our own garden compost produces weeds when used as a mulch. We're digging in our own compost, mostly in the vegetable garden.

25 February. Put our avocado pear tree, in its pot outside. It's hardier than you might think, and enjoys a bit of rain. Finished thinning out the spurs on the pear tree, just in time, as the tree is budding and seems to think winter is over ...





All contributions for Village Voice are welcomed. If you have something to get off your chest or you have an article, letter or poem you wish published please send items to The Editor, Village Voice. Parish Council office Manor Road

Have you a forthcoming event you wish to publicise in this newsletter? If so, please send in details well before the date of the event so that it can be placed in time.

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The Golden Jubilee

Dersingham Village Celebration Day



Monday 3rd June

The programme for the all-day celebration has now been finalised and programmes will be widely available in the village.

One of the events is a decorated Wheelbarrow push around the sports field and is designed to support people's own favourite charities. Names of anyone interested should be given to Tony Bubb (Tel: 542638) who is organising this event. He will need to know the charities being sponsored and the charity number.

Tony Bubb is also anxious to receive any photographs taken over the past 50 years for an exhibition which will be held in the Community Centre. As well as raiding some local collections, there must be lots of photos in existence of family, friends, scenes and buildings. He would like to borrow and copy these to include in the display. Please don't dismiss your photos if you think they are boring or as being of no interest to others – let us be the judges of your treasures. We also want to display any paintings or drawings you may have. As well as the content, the artist may well be of local interest.

The Jubilee Committee will also be pleased to receive any offers of raffle prizes for the day. Please contact Edgar Cooper. Chairman. Tel: 540865.

Many of the events on the day will take place on the sports field in a specially constructed marquee. The day will start with a Nature Trail at Croft House for accompanied children under 10 years. This will be followed by sports. St Nicholas Church will host a Fashion Show, and the Church Hall will offer cream teas during the afternoon. A Fancy Dress Parade will take place in the afternoon and there is a disco for 11-15 year olds from 6 – 8 pm. After a children's tea party at 12 noon, pigeons will be released to start off the afternoon entertainment. A hog roast and a live band will make a fine ending to a fun day. Prizes will be given for Sports and Fancy Dress, and there will be a grand raffle draw.

Watch out for posters and pick up a Programme.

Dersingham Surgery Horticultural Society

Bill Le Grice's second visit to our society occurred, most opportunely, on St Valentine's Day, for here was a man in love with his roses and shrubs, plants for which his nursery is justly famed.

The subject of his talk was "Trees and Shrubs for All Year Colour". Following a general introduction Bill showed a series of slides which illustrated the wide range of plants which are available to provide colour for all seasons. While showing some more unusual species (eg a rose with 1½" thorns and an Eleagnus with dark green leaves and silvery undersides, he did not eschew the more common shrubs such as forsythia, philadelphus and viburnum which are easy to grow and provide both colour and fragrance.

To finish Bill produced a sack of cuttings collected that day from his garden and nursery. These admirably emphasised all that he had been saying and some members went home clutching certain goodies which they hoped to propagate and subsequently introduce to their gardens.

Barry Gayton, the Radio Norfolk Gardener, has by now become a regular guest speaker at our Society. From the vast range of topics on which he speaks, the choice for our March meeting was "Sink Gardens and Alpine Plants".

He began by showing members how to make a cheap, artificial tufa sink using a mixture of one part each by volume of cement, sharp sand and sifted (this is essential) peat. Then, emphasising the necessity of using well drained soil at the required PH value (ie acid or alkali) for their individual needs, he described some of the most suitable families of alpine plants for cultivations in these containers and terracotta pots. These included the saxifrages, gentians and alpine primulas, all suitably illustrated with slides which demonstrated the delicate, fragile beauty of these miniature plants which, amazingly, are able to withstand the harshest conditions and, consequently, can remain outdoors all year round provided they are given good drainage.

The society continues to grow – membership now stands at around 145.

13th April Coffee morning at Orchard Close Community Centre

10 am - 12 noon

11th May Gardeners' Fair at Dersingham Surgery Car Park

Details later

7th September Annual Show at church Hall, Manor Road

Schedules should be available shortly

David Clark

Making Norfolk Safe

NORFOLK CONSTABULARY

The Mobile Police Office, one of three in the county, performs exactly the same role as offices in Police Stations, where members of the public can make general inquiries and produce documents etc.

The office is staffed at all times by two specially trained Public Enquiry Officers. A Police Officer also patrols the parish whilst the mobile unit is in the village.

The mobile office will be on Budgens Car Park on Tuesday 16th April. Unfortunately at time of going into print we have not acquired the follow-on dates. These will appear, when known, on the Parish Council Notice Board opposite Budgens.

Bobby Charlton Soccer Schools & Soccer Theme Park

Coming to Dersingham

Venue:

Dersingham Pastures

Date:

Mon and Tues 19th and 20th August 2002

Time:

9 am to 4 pm both days

Price:

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More information: Karl Bowman (01485 543228 and 07946 281720)



Please arrive dressed ready to play each day. You will need:

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- Suitable footwear.
- A packed lunch and enough drinks to last the day
- Spare kit and a towel



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The service is confidential and free to users as we are funded mainly by grants from Social Services, although donations are always welcome. If you think you could benefit from our help or would like to know more about our service, please contact the Manager. Ros Attridge, on 01328 851858 (Monday/Wednesday/Friday am) or write to us at Fakenham & District Crossroads Ltd. 28 Norwich Road, Fakenham, NR21 8BB.

Our Care Support Workers are paid employees, not volunteers, and receive full training and support. If you are interested in doing a worthwhile job in the community and making a real difference to someone's life, please contact the Manager for an Application Pack.

We are a registered charity (No 1078788) and affiliated to the National Association of Crossroads – Caring for Carers

THE MOTHERS' UNION

We support and uphold families especially in times of difficulty. As an international organisation we have projects going on in many countries, eg helping with literacy needs.

Our Dersingham Branch meets on the second Wednesday of each month, except August, in St Nicholas Church Hall, at 2.30 pm.

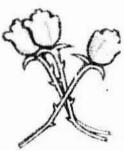
Men, women, married or not, with or without children – all are welcome. Do come and give us a look.

Jennifer Adams Branch Leader

Farewell to Margaret Rose

By Kathy Jordan © 2002

A budding rose so full of life. But tinged with sadness too. For thorns appeared to blight the way Yet still her smile shone through To rise above adversity And bloom to beauty rare. With wit and charm she set the trend And trod where few would dare She loved the ballet, song and dance. In fashions she was first. Yet wilting with such dignity. When seizures did their worst A doting 'Gran' and Mother too. A sister next to none. A daughter full of love and care For her courageous Mum. Who struggled to the funeral How apt the name she chose. To fit this fine and fragrant flower. Farewell to Margaret Rose.



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losing - or has it lost - all

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- To see if we can find a way ahead for you where you can reclaim what has been lost and move into a more confident and positive future.

Dr Andrew Fielding

24 Station Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn, Norfolk

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