

Dersingham Village Voice

Issue No 17



August 2002



Golden Jubilee Street Party in Chestnut Close

Photo by Bryan and Cherry Tann

Many Dersingham residents enjoyed the Golden Jubilee celebrations. Two reports and several pictures were received of a successful Golden Jubilee Street Party held in Chestnut Close, a peaceful little cul-de-sac off Old Hall Drive. The peace was certainly shattered when 27 people – residents of the Close and properties facing or backing on to it – gathered for a Sunday lunchtime celebration in warm sunshine. The tree-lined bottom of the Close was decked with flags and bunting. It was a most enjoyable afternoon, enlivened with recorded music.

There are several dates for your diary to note, including the Holiday Club for children (p16), an important Open Meeting (p9), Open Gardens Weekend (p12), Lacemaking Open Day (p18). Please try and support these if you can.

Some good news! Welcome back to Peter and Serena of Semba Trading. Their return will be appreciated by many residents.

We apologise to readers for the reduced number of pages in this issue – this is due to rising printing costs. It has unfortunately meant we have been unable to publish all the contributions sent to us this time. Articles not published will be kept for the October issue, if appropriate.

Teresa Southam, Editor

Parish 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 Council do not meet during August. The next meeting will take place on Monday 30th September 2002 at the First School.

Possible Formation of Traders' Association

92 letters were sent to village businesses regarding the possibility of forming a Traders' Association. There was a 22% response – 17 for and 7 against. The responses came from a variety of small and large businesses and it was agreed that the idea would be taken further by the Strategic Development Committee.

Beacons on Zebra Crossing

Comments had been received that the beacons do not show up in daylight. The matter was referred to the County Council who have confirmed that black backing boards with a circular hole cut out for the beacon are available. The scheme is due to have its Stage 3 safety audit and this issue will be raised with the safety audit team with a request to flag up the need for boards to be fitted.

Highway Matters

NCC have informed the Parish Council that Dersingham Ward has been promised improvements to highways over the next few years over and above the day-to-day maintenance.

Dersingham Village Website, dersingham.gov.uk

This has now been launched. It is hoped as many people as possible will access the site and provide feedback so that improvements and enhancements can be made. It is a new project which the Council hope will be a useful, readily accessible source of information and interest.

Dersingham Parish Plan

Please note an Open Meeting has been arranged for Monday 9th September at 6.30 pm in St Cecilia's Church. Please attend if possible and submit your ideas and views. More details on p9.

Local Bus Service Variation

Service 410, 411, 412, 413. Service 412 will operate to Sedgeford and Wolferton every weekday. Queen Elizabeth Hospital will have an evening visiting facility from Hunstanton. Full timetable available for inspection at Parish Council Office.

Dersingham Surgery

At the recent AGM of the Patients' Participation Group Dr Simon Hambling addressed the group regarding the situation at the Heacham Group practice.

The partners are currently working on lots of plans for the future of the practice but Dr Hambling confirmed they were going through a period of extreme turbulence. A doctor who had been appointed had pulled out at the last minute. However, a doctor to replace Dr Brown would now be starting in September to ease the situation. It was not proposed at present to replace Dr Holmes as with the new system it was envisaged that the 7 doctors in the practice would be able to manage the care of patients registered in the practice.

He went on to explain how it had been decided to sort out the situation where the 3 surgeries had been working independently. The doctors were changing their pattern of working. Every day a duty doctor would be based in Heacham who would deal with urgent appointments. Calls requesting same-day appointments would be prioritised which means that the caller would need to give a brief description of the problem to the receptionist who would deal with calls sympathetically and efficiently. A paramedic was also now available at Heacham and he could give quick and urgent assistance to emergencies. Because urgent appointments were now being dealt with at Heacham this meant routine appointments were being dealt with at the surgeries much more efficiently. Dr Hambling reminded the group that the Community Car Service was now up and running and patients unable to travel to Heacham should call **544544** to request transport.

The next step in improving patient care was to look at the way the nurses were working in the practice.

Dr Hambling was very positive about the Heacham Group Practice and assured the group that patient care would not be compromised but would be improved with the new system.

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Dersingham's Jubilant Jubilee Fashion Show

By Kathy Jordan © 2002

Being first in the line I was raring to go
As brave Maeve sang her heart out to start off the show
And those pew enclosed metres seemed more like a mile
As Britannia I walked that unique catwalk aisle.
There were minis and maxis with flower power and punk
Gowns and nighties so striking with frills down the front
And those two stunning brides who were left in the lurch
With no grooms beside them at Dersingham Church.
But fifty years of fashion and outfits galore,
And those children so charming - you had to adore.
As regal as any at Buckingham Palace
In a Union Jack dress was 'ginger spice' Alice.
And the vestry was surely a sight to be seen
With some ultra slim figures and those not so lean
All fighting to find fabulous fashions so fast
(With those belfry bound ringers just squeezing past)
And deserving a medal were 'Vicky' and Lorna
With super quick changes in so small a corner.
Eager dab-handed dressers helped models to gleam
And emerge from the chaos looking a dream
Backed by master musicians and 'magical May'
Whose mystic wand conjured a miraculous day.
The applause was astounding - they all loved it so -
Dersingham's Jubilant Jubilee Fashion Show!



Congratulations to May Davey for her dedication and hard work in producing this successful historic event at St Nicholas Church, Dersingham, on Monday, 3rd June, 2002, to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. It will always be a happy (and sometimes hilarious) memory for both the audience and those taking part.



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ZEBRA CROSSING



This crossing has black and white stripes (like a zebra) with orange flashing beacons at each end. Pedestrians must make sure that all the traffic has stopped **before** crossing and they should keep looking and listening as they cross.

The Old Railway Line and Motor Cyclists in Life Wood

A nuisance has been created to residents by motor cyclists riding around Life Wood after gaining access from Station Road. After receiving complaints from residents in the area a County Council spokesman has informed the Parish Council that he has approached the police about the nuisance and the police have said they would try to increase vigilance in that area. There is a difficulty in patrolling the area. The line itself is not a public footpath but access is granted by the County Council as owners of the land. Similarly there are no recorded public rights in Life Wood.

All legitimate users have a right to be considered and the stiles were removed to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. Obviously, if there is a safety issue arising, then the County's first consideration will be to replace these barriers. He said he would first like to establish the main points of entry to the line. He is aware that there are many entrances other than the ends of the path – therefore if it was decided to do any work it would need to be established what the effect would be.

The Parish Council have been informed that the County reserves the right to stop ALL access to the line if it is being abused. This would be a last resort but it was hoped the threat may put some pressure on local people, ie parents, to instruct youngsters as to what is appropriate behaviour. The situation is to be investigated in more detail.

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Village Voice
will appear in
October.
Contributions
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Last date for
copy:
**23 September
2002**

Please send to:
The Editor
Village Voice
Parish Council
Office
The Police
Station
Manor Road

Motorists!

Zebra Crossings. As you approach a zebra crossing

- look out for people waiting to cross and be ready to slow down or stop to let them cross
- you **MUST** give way when someone has moved onto a crossing
- allow more time for stopping on wet or icy roads
- do not wave people across; this could be dangerous if another vehicle is approaching
- be aware of pedestrians approaching from the side of the crossing.

Law ZPPPCR reg 25



IMPORTANT MEETING

What do you want to happen in Dersingham?
Do you want your say about the future of the village?
Do you want to listen to what others want?

All Dersingham residents and business organisations are invited to attend a meeting to be held in St Cecilia's Church on **Monday 9th September** at 6.30 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the **Dersingham Parish Plan**. Everyone will have the chance to submit views as to what the village needs in the next 10 years. What do you want to happen in Dersingham? Have your say about the future of the village.

The meeting will be addressed by Sue Ridgeway from the Norfolk Rural Community Council.

Come along – Monday 9th September, 6.30 pm, St Cecilia's Church

Letter to the Editor (address supplied)

Dear Editor

Please would you remind the thoughtless dog owners to clean up their dogs' mess outside 75 Manor Road, junction to Doddshill where school children cross the road.

On behalf of myself and the children we would like to say – bag it, bin it. We don't like it.

Dog bins are less than 5 minutes away, one being near the Feathers, the other near the Church.

Elaine Turrell
Lollipop Lady

Dersingham Community Centre **Change of Telephone Number!**

If you wish to book the Centre or a room in the Centre for a meeting or function etc please ring **01485 544789** between 9 am – 11.30 am Monday to Friday. For general enquiries please ring Teresa Southam, **543966**.

Fungal Fundamentals

Late summer and autumn is the best time of year to see some of the impressive fungi that grow in the woods and fields around Dersingham. Fungi are neither plant nor animal. They are in a kingdom of their own and come in many strange forms. This kingdom is very ancient and contains an estimated 1,500,000 different species compared with a miserly 250,000 species of flowering plants.

Some fungi are destructive causing diseases not only in humans but also animals and plants. A fungal disease wiped out the Irish potato harvest in the nineteenth century leading to the deaths of over a million people. Other fungi are very beneficial – penicillin is a fungal metabolite that has saved millions of lives.

Fungi also play a major role in the decay of organic matter. This is destructive to buildings in the form of dry rot. However, the decay and recycling of organic material is absolutely vital to the natural world. Wild woodland could not exist

without fungi to break down fallen timber and release it in a form that can be used by living trees.

Many fungi are edible including the wonderful truffles of Perigord and Tuscany. These are - weight for weight - more valuable than gold. Others are deadly poison with scary names such as death cap and destroying angel. Far fewer wild picked mushrooms are eaten

in this country than on the continent. We seem to prefer button mushrooms that need to be coated in breadcrumbs and garlic and then deep-fried, to taste of

anything at all.

Perhaps the difference is down to language. We use the unattractive generic word toadstool rather than the more alluring European names such as cep, morel, porcini and chanterelle. I can recognise some of the edible species that can be found in the open countryside around Dersingham. I'm quite partial to sautéed shaggy ink-caps with puffballs and never say no to a fairy ring on toast. The upsurge of interest in picking wild



mushrooms is of some concern to conservationists. Continental mushroom pickers have been doing it for generations and know how to harvest them in a sustainable way. We have lost this knowledge and commercial pickers can seriously damage the populations of some rare fungi. English Nature have produced a leaflet 'The wild mushroom pickers' Code of Conduct' which can be obtained free by calling **01733 455101**.

The most obvious local woodland toadstools are the large red specimens with white spots. These are fly agarics, a toxic species that can induce a trance-like state with LSD type hallucinations. Shaman priests used them in ancient religious rituals. Don't try this at home!

The fly agaric toadstools you see above ground are the fruiting bodies. In common with all other fungi, they are connected to a large hidden fibrous network of mycelia. These work away underground, or in rotting timber - breaking down and absorbing organic matter. The fruiting bodies are there to release spores and spread the fungus. The spores are released from gills,

which are the dark undersides in the familiar field mushrooms. Fungi have been around a lot longer than flowering plants and play a much bigger role in our ecosystems than most people realise. Some of them look and even taste great so it is worth investing in a good field guide and getting out into the countryside around Dersingham to see what you can find.

The woodlands in the Sandringham Country Park can be very rewarding particularly around the mature deciduous trees. Take great care if you are collecting for the pot - the poisonous ones can be deadly and remember to follow the mushroom pickers' code.

David Bingham



DERSINGHAM OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND

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Contact the **Home Watch Administrator**, Ed Moss, at King's
Lynn Police Station on (01553) 691211 for more details or visit
www.norfolkhomewatch.info.

News from the First and Nursery School

The children enjoyed the end of term activities, which included visits from local fire-fighters, P C Keeley and the RNLI to help the children think about road, water and fire safety. A group of brass players from the King's Lynn town Band also entertained us and explained about the different instruments.

We had some goodbyes to say too. Our 37 Year 3 children left us to go to the middle school. They have been a great year group who have played a big part in our school and we wish them all the best. We also said goodbye to a few other children who are moving to new places. Our Deputy Headteacher, Jill Davies, left us to start her headship at Tilney All Saints School from September and Emma Calver, the Year 1 class teacher, left as she is moving to Wales.

Congratulations were given to Hannah Mann and Matthew Dye who both received Young Citizen Awards from the Hunstanton Rotary Club. They were elected by their friends as people who think of others before they think of themselves and for their full involvement in the wider school.

We are now all looking forward to a well-earned break before starting school again on Tuesday 3rd September. We would be grateful to local residents to help us combat the problem of skateboarders using our back playground during out-of-school hours. The teenagers not only skateboard on our premises but have also been seen taking a short cut across our fields from the houses in Tudor way through to Fern Hill. The local police are involved but we would also be grateful to residents if they could keep a watchful eye and report any intruders to the police.

Finally, thank you to all village residents who have supported the school this year and to local businesses who have supported our topic 'Work' giving their time and energy so generously. Your support for your local school has been much appreciated.

Jackie Austin
Headteacher

BACK PAIN?



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(PORTFOLIO AVAILABLE)

Dersingham/Sandringham Guides - Correction

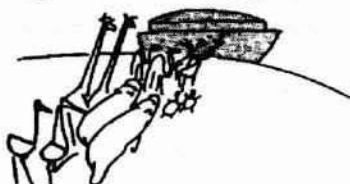
The article in the June issue referring to the change of meeting to
Thursdays at 7 pm at the Community Centre refers to **Sandringham
Guides** and **NOT Dersingham Guides**.

Editor



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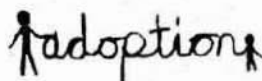
✂ -----
If you would like to join us, please complete this slip and bring it to church on Wednesday 28th August.

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~ LACEMAKING ~

Saturday, 14th September, is National Lace Day. The Dersingham and Avocet Lace Making Group will be meeting on that day at the Community Centre, Manor Road, from 10 am until 3 pm. It will be an Open Day and the group hope that interested folk will come along and see them making lace. There will be a small entrance charge in aid of the Norfolk Air Ambulance.



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