

Dersingham Village Voice

Issue No 22

May/June 2003



*More tea, Vicar? Enjoying tea in Alan and Liz Stockley's conservatory
Open Gardens Weekend 17-18 May 2003*

The weather was mainly dry for this year's Open Gardens event. There was a bumper attendance at the 14 gardens opened by keen Dersingham gardeners. This year we had 3 refreshment points - these were kept very busy throughout each afternoon. The magnificent sum of £874 was raised for St Nicholas church funds.

Unfortunately there has not been space in this issue to give a full account of Heacham and District Heartstart. The aim is to give members of the general public the skills and knowledge that they need to help save a life by giving practical based teaching over a period of 2-3 hours. For example, on one of the courses you will learn how to breathe for someone and how to keep circulation going if the patient cannot do this for himself. Also discussed is choking and what to do if someone is bleeding. The training is free although donations are welcomed. The next course will be held on 14th July at Gt Massingham Village Hall, but a full list of courses will be published in the next issue of this newsletter. You can obtain more information from the Scheme Co-ordinator, Julian Geraghty, Tel: 572890.

A reader has written to say that he was told there used to be a pond where Clayton Close has been built. Do readers know of any other ponds that used to exist?

Space in this issue has been very tight and, once again, one or two items have not been included. These will be held over until August. If anyone has an interesting picture they would like printed on the front cover this should be sent to me with covering description.

Teresa Southam Editor

Parish Council News

*The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on
Monday 30 June at the First School at 7 pm*

Dersingham Parish Councillors and telephone numbers are shown below:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Mr G W Pratt | 542592 (Chairman) |
| Mrs V Brundle | 541895 |
| Mr A Bubb | 542638 |
| Mr P R Burall | 540289 |
| Mrs Betty Clark | 543902 |
| Mr J Gilmour Houston | 542611 |
| Mrs Jacqueline Livermore | 541810 |
| Mr K Manship | 541979 |
| Mr D Murrell | 543235 |
| Mr M R Nurse | 540833 (Vice-Chairman) |
| Mrs S Payne | 540538 |
| Mrs J Riches | 540874 |
| Mr D Roy | 540221 |
| Mr C J Smith | 540479 |
| Mr R Stanton | 540455 |
| Mr R Tipling | 541347 |

There are two vacancies currently on the Council.

Litter on the Play Area

At a recent meeting concern was expressed at the amount of litter, including broken bottles, being left on the play area. The matter has been raised with the police and it is believed they are stepping up patrols of the site.

Traffic Lights at Station Road/Hunstanton Road

Complaints are being received about the time changes at the traffic lights, causing unnecessary delays for motorists. These will be rechecked and changed.

Bus Stop Hunstanton to King's Lynn

Residents and business people in the vicinity had expressed their views regarding the proposed re-siting of the bus stop from opposite Thaxters to Hawthorne Road junction by The Green. It was resolved to leave the bus stop in its present location but provide a transparent shelter. Other sites for bus stop shelters will be investigated.

Do you Need an Extra Green Recycling Box?

The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk has recently acquired funding that has made it possible to provide an extra green recycling box free of charge to those households who request one - on a first come first served basis.

Requests for an additional green box can be made by leaving name, address and postcode on voicemail telephone 01553 616777 or by sending e-mail details to greenbox@west-norfolk.gov.uk.

Green Garden Sacks

can be obtained from the Parish Council Office.

Cost: 50p each

The office is at the Police Station, Manor Road and is open Mon - Thurs - 10 to 2



THE WHEATSHEAF INN

5 Lynn Road, Heacham, Norfolk, PE31 7HU

Tel/Fax: 01485 570282

Freehouse Proprietors: Anthony & Stella

BEER GARDEN & CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

PRIVATE & CORPORATE EVENTS

MARQUEE RECEPTIONS

Bar Snacks • A La Carte Menu • Supper Menu

Table d'hôte 2/3 Course Lunches (Mon-Fri)

All Day Traditional Sunday Roasts

Tuesday is Chinese Night - Wheatsheaf Style

Afternoon Teas

Deadline for copy for the August Village Voice is 16 July 2003. All contributions should be submitted to The Editor, Parish Council Office, Police Station, Manor Road or to 78 Mountbatten Road.

Dersingham – a Safe Place to Live!

Chief Supt Alan Hayes, Norfolk Constabulary, who is responsible for all officers in his area, addressed the April Parish Council Meeting, and reported that Dersingham residents should be reassured to know that Dersingham is a very safe place in which to live. Dersingham, in fact, has one of the lowest crime rates in the area. Anti-social behaviour does cause a nuisance, however, but this is not necessarily of a criminal nature. The police send out letters to parents where necessary drawing their attention to unacceptable behaviour and a firm watch is kept on the miscreants. Where offences are committed these are dealt with.

The Chief Supt explained that he has concentrated policing on 3 elements of crime - victims, location and offenders, the theory being if one element is cut out, crime is automatically reduced. Victims are given advice so that repeated crime is prevented. Locations, such as car parks, where petty theft is a problem, are targeted with greater police presence assisted by CCTV. In the case of offenders, with countrywide computer links, it is easier to monitor their movements and apprehend professional criminals.

Members of the public expressed their wish for more police presence on the streets. It was pointed out to the Chief Supt that the public found difficulty in getting any action on reported incidents because the central telephone system was a major problem. The switchboard operators who dealt with calls had little knowledge of the location and this had caused major delays in response from the local police force. He promised the meeting that great improvements were being implemented and the public should see the results before the end of the year. In the past Norfolk has suffered from lack of equipment, eg computers, but this was now being addressed and greater efficiency will result overall. A patrol car, distinctly striped for high visibility, visits Dersingham daily. Parishioners pointed out they would rather see a policeman on the 'beat'.

The Chief Supt reminded the meeting that the mobile office visits Dersingham on a regular basis and so far has been underused by the public. This should be used just like a police station, and he would like to see more Dersingham residents call in to discuss any worries. *Please see notice board opposite Budgens for dates.*

His talk was very reassuring – he did emphasise that the public must report incidents so that proper action can be taken. 999 should be used in cases of urgency.

A public meeting was held by the Norfolk Police Authority on 30 April at the Gamekeepers Lodge, where the public were able to find out more about the policing of the local area, ask questions and discuss any concerns they had with members of the Police Authority and local police officers. *A report of this meeting appears on p11 of this newsletter.*

**Find out About Funding
for your Voluntary/Community Group
Funding Fair - Hunstanton 8th July 2003**

The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk and the West Norfolk Council for Voluntary Services are organising a Funding Fair in Hunstanton Town Hall on 8th July, from 11 am - 3 pm.

There will be an opportunity to talk to the funders individually throughout the day.

Awards for All
Norfolk Acorn Grants
Heritage Lottery Fund
Norfolk Rural Community Council
West Norfolk and Breckland rural Transport Partnership
Lloyds TSB foundation
Community Champions
Community Fund
Countryside Agency
Local Network Fund
You and Your Community
Millennium Award

Tea and Coffee

Just turn up!

| |
|---|
| Information Stands Grantfinder Funderfinder Other sources of funding |
|---|

OPEN GARDEN

Visit a woodland garden at Croft House, Manor Road (opp St Nicholas Church)

Thursday 24 - Monday 28 July. 11 am - 5 pm daily

Admission: Adults £1 Children free

All proceeds in aid of St Nicholas Church Flower Festival and

Campaign Care '94

(Tapping House & Bob Champion Cancer Research Trust)

Garage Sale

A very big thank you to all who gave so generously of their time, help and donations of items for sale. We made a tremendous £570 so far with a few items still to sell. The money raised will go towards funding our Flower Festival expenses of publicity, catering, flowers, etc.

Our Flower Festival is a wonderful Church and village event, looked forward to by so many people from all over the country. We would like to invite anyone who would like to help in any way to be part of this lovely event - don't be shy, come forward.

Our flower displays are to be arranged on Wednesday 24 July - anyone feeling they would like to do an arrangement or help would be welcome. Our flowers are supplied by Yvonne's Flowers. They will come from the wholesalers on Monday 21 July. They are conditioned by cutting the stems and putting in water overnight. On Tuesday the orders will be put in position of the arrangements, ready for our ladies to arrange. We would like to welcome any men who feel they would like to arrange flowers - we do have several men who are very valuable and generous with their help in many ways.

We very much would welcome on Monday 21 July any foliage that you have to spare from your gardens. We are looking for a large globe of the world for one of our displays, the Power and the Glory of the World. If anyone has one to loan us we will be very grateful.

If you have not been involved before and would like to get to know people, have an enjoyable time helping with catering, stalls, raffle, stewarding etc, contact

Ruth Mountain, Pat Moss (Catering) Tel 541523, 540517

Doreen Asker (Flowers) Tel 540601

Edgar Cooper (Organiser) - Tel 540865



1st DERSINGHAM SCOUTS & GUIDES FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

We urgently require a Secretary for the above organisation. The committee meets at the Scout & Guide Headquarters about four or five times a year. The meetings are usually on a Wednesday evening and last roughly for an hour to an hour-and-a-half.

If you could help us to serve the young people of Dersingham please contact:

Roy Cator 01485 540434

Terry Finbow 01485 540643

Rodney Saunders 01485 542885

Lynne Wheeler 01485 544753



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SUMMER FETE

at

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Dersingham**

Saturday 5 July 2003

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rabbits

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Are you looking after someone in their home, eg someone who is disabled, frail or ill?

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Is it difficult to find time to relax, pursue your own interests or visit friends?

If the answer is YES then you are a carer and Crossroads may be able to help.

Crossroads Care Staff are employed to provide support and practical help to enable you, the carer, to have a break when it's most needed. They are trained to provide high quality care to relieve you of your caring duties for a while. Care is tailored to individual situations and agreed between Crossroads, the carer and the person with care needs. Confidentiality will be maintained at all times.

The care service is provided free to carers through Norfolk Social Services funding, donations and fundraising.

To contact us, telephone or write to Crossroads, Fakenham & District, c/o Social Services, Fakenham, NR21 8BB (Tel: 01328 851858) or ask your social worker, community nurse or GP to make a referral.

RSPCA

If anyone has any suitable items for Tombola, Raffle and Stalls for the Summer Fete on 5 July these would be very much appreciated. Please telephone Angela Cox (541397) between 9 am and 5 pm.



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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 that would interest readers? All contributions to Village Voice are welcomed. Please bear in mind the deadline date for each issue. To save time you may email contributions to [stella.caunt2@ zoom.co.uk](mailto:stella.caunt2@zoom.co.uk)

Dawn Chorus

by Sheila Bryant

Have I told you about the dawn chorus
'Bout the birds who welcome the day
From tree and aerial and roof ridge?
They all want to have their say.
Blackbirds, thrush and robin
Starlings, pigeon and tit.
They open their throats and sing out loud
They all want to do their bit.
I love to hear the racket
I know a new day is near.

But must they sing so early
So loud, so long, and here?
It's half-past four in the morning
And I'm wide awake and cross.
I'll have to get up in a moment
And tell the blighters to get lost.
There's one good thing about it
That makes me smile while thinkin'.
I'm glad they stop when the sun is up
And I'm glad I don't keep chickens!!



Driving through Dersingham

by June Stephenson

Oh, Daddy, did you learn to read?
Of course, my darling daughter!
Then why do you drive at fifty-five.
When thirty's what you oughter?

Oh, Daddy, did you see that bird?
I didn't see, dear daughter.

Oh, Daddy, watch out for that cat!
What cat was that, my daughter?

Dear Daddy, MIND that little child!
A child? What child, my daughter?



Oh, Daddy, DID you learn to read?
Of course, my darling daughter!
Then, why DO you drive at fifty-five,
When thirty's what you oughter?

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Report on Police Community Consultation Forum (Keith Manship)

A meeting took place at the Gamekeepers Lodge on 30 April. The turnout was very disappointing as only 14 members of the public were present, 7 of these being Dersingham residents. Mr Stephen Bett, Norfolk Police Authority, Superintendent Tony Smith and Inspector Colin Williamson represented the Police. Superintendent Smith explained the role of the police in the area, stating that Dersingham was one of the safest places in which to live as it had the lowest reported crime in the Western area. On average there was one burglary every 20 days.

Normally the strength of the sector comprises 1 Inspector, 3 Sergeants, Det/ Constables, 22 Constables, 2 support Staff and 1 Traffic Warden. The traffic warden will cover Hunstanton and Dersingham, but because of the amount of work in Hunstanton most of his time will be spent there.

Questions from the floor included concerns about illegal rave parties. The panel answered by stating if previous knowledge of the event was forthcoming then extra police could be drafted in to prevent the damage and mess and noise from occurring but if the rave was in progress there was little that could be done except to seize the equipment if the manpower was available.

Concerns were raised about the difficulties in contacting a local officer. The meeting was informed that the process had been improved and is still being so, although at present the caller still had to use the Central Telephone system but can be put through to the 'opened' police stations at any time.

The question of vandalism in the village was raised and although some of the problems had been resolved this still occurred especially in the children's playground at night, involving broken bottles of drink smashed and left around the various apparatus which someone has to clear up on a regular basis. There were also problems in Bank Road, the Catholic Church car park and the schools when closed. Inspector Williamson told the meeting that extra attention will be given and offenders brought to justice, letters will be sent to parents of the offenders explaining the actions of the police and the children involved. He stated that his officers visit the schools in the area to try to build up a relationship with the youngsters, also other groups within the sector including a letter drop to all households involving the older children.

It appears that the gun amnesty was successful in that 192 weapons were handed in to the police station in the Western Area during the month. When asked "Did these come from the right source", the superintendent replied "Yes, any weapons that are unavailable to the criminal is of great help in stopping armed criminals from committing crime". He further stated that at all times during the day there were two armed response vehicles in the area.

When asked whether the higher taxing in the area was justified, the reply was Yes, as the Government had reduced the budget to the police and that if we wanted a better service we had to pay for it. Not only were more officers on the street needed but also better resources and equipment were required.

A Walk Around Dersingham National Nature Reserve



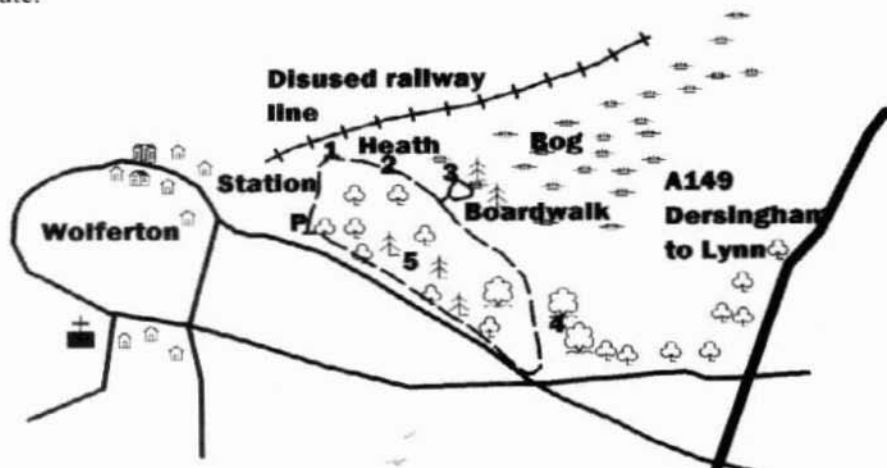
"Once in his life a man ought to concentrate his mind upon the remembered earth. He ought to give himself up to a particular landscape in his experience; to look at it from as many angles as he can, to wonder upon it, to dwell upon it.

He ought to imagine that he touches it with his hands at every season and listens to the sounds that are made upon it.

He ought to imagine the creatures there and all the faintest motions of the wind. He ought to recollect the glare of the moon and the colours of the dawn and dusk."

N. Scott Momaday

Walk duration one hour, two sets of steps, boardwalk slippery when wet. Ground nesting birds - please keep dogs under control. Park in lay-by 100 yards up the hill from the Wolferton village sign. Go through the gate then turn left to the cliff top vantage point. Continue around trail following marked route.



- 1 This ancient sea cliff was formed at a time when sea levels were rising during the Palaeolithic – probably because of interglacial icecap melt. The high ground at Ken Hill to the north was part of the same coastal feature. The sandstone itself is much older and was deposited in a marine environment in the Lower Cretaceous 65-135 million years ago. The arable land between the cliff and The Wash would have been a vast wetland of saltmarsh and reeds before the sea banks were constructed.
- 2 The open heathland on the reserve is the result of human activity over millennia. Wood was taken for fuel or building and livestock was put out to graze on the heath. Silver birch saplings can be seen at this point and without active management through cutting and grazing the heath would soon be covered in scrub woodland. Sparks from the old steam trains that ran past here on their way to and from Dersingham station often set fire to the heath and inadvertently helped to preserve the habitat.
- 3 The first section of the boardwalk transects a damp ecotone where cross-leaved heath replaces heather - the dominant plant of dry open heaths. The wetter areas have sphagnum moss, bog asphodel (an attractive little yellow lily) and carnivorous sundews. The stunted Scots pines have seeded from the adjoining plantations but this species would have been a part of the natural postglacial vegetation here. This is the southern end of Dersingham Bog - the largest acid valley mire in East Anglia. Look out for black darter dragonflies - a special insect of acid bogs. Rhododendrons are a major threat to this acidic habitat and the numerous dead stumps show where they are being controlled.
- 4 The steep sided valley feature at this point has some large oak and Scots pine trees and is the best place on the reserve to look for hole nesting birds such as tits, treecreepers, woodpeckers and nuthatches.
- 5 This dense secondary woodland of conifers, birch and rhododendrons has a sheltered moist microclimate ideal for fungi. This is the best place on the reserve to visit in search of toadstools in the autumn.

David Bingham

Surgery Communications

by Tom Morris, Chairman, Dersingham Patients' Participation Group

Most of us in the village are aware that the shortage of GPs locally is placing a considerable extra burden on the staff at your surgeries as well as being, at times, inconvenient to patients. It would help reduce the workload on the surgery staff and reduce inconvenience to patients if the guidance and advice below is heeded.

The surgeries within the Heacham Group Practice are still encountering problems with the telephone numbers given by patients wishing an urgent 'on the day' consultation. When seeking advice on the telephone from the duty doctor it is vital that the contact telephone number given is correct and one on which you can be contacted at any time of the day. Depending on the priority of the advice being sought, the duty doctor may call back at any time during the day. Time is often wasted by staff and doctors trying to contact patients who are not available on the telephone number provided and, equally important, patients may miss out on important medical advice. Only in exceptional circumstances can mobile phone contact numbers be accepted because calls to mobile numbers are expensive and cost the practice money that could be better spent on clinical services.

Change of Address. If you change your address, please ensure that you provide your surgery with an updated address and telephone number.

Patient Confidentiality. Surgery staff are not authorised to leave messages for a patient on an answering service. To do so could breach patient confidentiality rules and result in litigation. For the same reason, doctors, nurses and surgery staff are only allowed to discuss medical conditions with, or provide information, advice or test results to the patient involved. It cannot be done through a third party.

Note: The Dersingham Surgery Patients' Participation Group conveys the views of patients to the medical, nursing and administrative staff of the surgery, to the Primary Care Trust and to the King's Lynn & Wisbech Hospitals NHS Trust. It does not deal with individual complaints, for which there is a formal procedure but it does reflect to the appropriate authority local opinion on health facilities and services. The PPG meets regularly at the Dersingham Surgery and is open to all patients of the surgery. Please look out for notices of the next meeting or contact the Chairman or Secretary on 01485 541450.

If you wish to place an advertisement please contact

Kim Dunford,

Parish Clerk

Parish Council Office

Police Station, Manor Road. Tel:541465.

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Monday 28th 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

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or Pat Moss 01485 540517

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If the Foolscap Fits ...

by Hugh Mullarkey (copyright 2003)

For we are the Paperwork Fools
Don't you know?
Yes, we are the Paperwork Fools.

Your future is secure and bright
You'll weather all the storms
Just so long as the Paperwork
Monster
Is fed with its diet of Forms (not
Worms)
Is fed with its diet of Forms.

For we are the Paperwork Fools
Don't you know?
Yes, we are the Paperwork Fools.
In a room in Whitehall
Where there's no room at all
Lives a Monster surrounded by
Paper.

And although it can't read
It continues to feed
Turning sensible thought into
vapour.

Though its greed is insatiable
Being untraceable
It's free to make up its own rules.



Is its appetite growing?
There can be no knowing
for we are the Paperwork Fools
Don't you know?
Yes we are the Paperwork Fools.

It's the Paperwork Dragon
That breeds as it feeds
And keeps us all signing away.

It has plenty of minions
In reams and dominions
Who prevent us from having our say.

Its only ambition
Is our total submission
By reducing us all to a pulp.

So with maximum ease
And no-one to please
It can swallow us all in one gulp.

For we are the Paperwork Fools
Don't you know?
Yes we are the Paperwork Fools.

But if we surrender
To this awful agenda
We'll end up as lackeys and tools.

For we are the Paperwork Fools
Don't you know?
Yes we are the Paperwork Fools.

(Music Available)

News from Dersingham First and Nursery School

What a short half term it is! We have had just four weeks between Easter and the May Bank Holiday so it has been a busy time for everyone. Our new extension is now completed giving us a disabled toilet and shower room and the back corridor is much more spacious. It is ideal for our children and also provides extra facilities for people who hire our hall.

Our Year Three children enjoyed a lovely three-day educational visit to the How Hill Field Study Centre. They took part in a range of environmental activities including dyke dipping, food chain games, orienteering and meeting Eric the marshman. It was also a really good social occasion too, no-one had a great deal of sleep though!! Our classrooms are looking really lovely, there is a jungle in the nursery full of animals, a super How Hill display in the corridor and lots of art and craft work around the school. Do pop in and see us if you are passing.

Thank you to everyone who supported our end of term disco. We raised about £300 towards our playground seating and it was a lovely community event. The children enjoyed a 'wear play clothes to school' day in April and the lively, noisy end of term disco. Later this term we have our Summer Fete, which this year is being held on Saturday 12th July. Watch out for more details nearer the time.

Jackie Austin Headteacher

Greenish Fingers' Garden Notebook

(A welcome return of Greenish Fingers. Unfortunately, due to lack of space this is a shortened version. Apologies to the author. Editor)

20th April. Flowering cherries in the vilalge in magnificent bloom. Our potatoes, Juliette, first earlies, are emerging. A lone goose flew over.

28th April. I've set a new clematis, Pink Fantasy, on the north side of an old pillar rose. The creamy-white roses and deeper pink clematis promise a pretty combination.

30th April. The robin pair are feeding together on the bird table, he presenting her with choice crumbs. They enjoy a little crumbled cheese. They still flit in and out of the leylandii. We've seen several different butterflies this year. Two peacocks, and one sighting of each of the following: red admiral, orange tip, white admiral, common blue, comma. Several whites, too.

4th May. A brief glimpse, delighting me, of a newt nosing about amongst the oxygenating weeds in the pond. Reminder to myself to thin out the "lagarosiphon major" which I bought as "elodea crispa". (I wouldn't have guessed if I hadn't consulted Dr Hessayon! I'm a great believer in learning from the experts!

5th May. Everything burgeoning. Fledgling greenfinch with parent. Young blackbirds squeaking for food. Bumblebees everywhere. And, at last, the leek seedlings are unfolding their tiny hoops!

DERSINGHAM, ST GEORGE'S (CE) MIDDLE SCHOOL

Admiral's Drive, Dersingham, King's Lynn, PE31 6LR

Tel: 01485 540308

E-Mail: office@st-georges.norfolk.sch.uk

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- * A large assembly hall with a stage for meetings or even local amateur dramatics.
- * Classroom facilities for talks with the use of TVs/videos/overhead projectors.
- * A very substantial sports field with a youth football pitch and 5-a-side pitches and the use of changing rooms.
- * Outdoor hard surface marked for netball.

**Interested? Then please phone for details of availability and
costings.**

THE PLAYSCHOOL

The Dersingham Under Fives Playschool which meets at the Community Centre has announced that it is to close at the end of July (as reported in the April Village Voice). This is due to financial problems which the voluntary organisation has been unable to overcome.

However, a number of parents of young children have expressed concern about the loss of the facility and various sources of potential help are being investigated. It is likely that the Borough Council will convene a meeting for everyone concerned to discuss ways of keeping a Playschool going at the Community Centre.

If you would be interested in attending such a meeting, please let Borough Councillor, Paul Burrall, know so that you can be invited: his address is 3 Sugar Lane, Dersingham, PE31 6HR.

Tel: 01485 540289; e-mail: paulburall@prburall.demon.co.uk

The Setting of the Sun

by Patricia Youngs

Sitting on a beach watching the sun go down
It was big and bright, it made us frown.
We threw some pebbles into the sea,
It was peaceful and calm, just you and me.
We watched the ripples getting wider and wider
Then in the distance came a horse and rider.
The horse seemed to enjoy the trot on the beach.
Seagulls were flying, just out of reach.
A boy was flying a colourful kite.
Higher and higher it went, nearly out of our sight.
The sun had gone down and dusk fell.
The tide was on the turn, as well.
Time to go home, it had been fun
Just to see the setting of the sun.



June

by Joan Adams

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Blessed are they who were born in June | In June, young couples meet to stroll |
| When nature's at her best | Slowly down Lovers' Lane, |
| When roses adorn cottage walls, | Where buttercups and daisies grow |
| And young birds leave the nest. | Kissed by warm summer rain. |
| | |
| In June, we take tea on the lawn | Days are long and sunny in June |
| With strawberries and cream. | And green, the fields of corn. |
| And everywhere bright flowers bloom | Was there ever a lovelier time |
| And life is like a dream. | In which one may be born? |

Hunstanton & West Norfolk Lifeboat Guild Calendar of Events

Wednesday 16 July 10.30 am Summer Fayre at Hunstanton Town Hall
Wednesday 6 August 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning & Cards at Tanglewood Main Road, Thornham
Thursday 14 August 2.30 Sandcastle Competition, near Lifeboat Station
Wednesday 15 October 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning & Cards at 10 Astley Crescent, Hunstanton
Wednesday 12 November 10 - 12 noon Christmas Fayre at Hunstanton Town Hall
Thursday 20 November Fishermans Supper at Lifeboat Inn, Thornham
Tickets £12.50 RSVP to 512236

Dersingham Surgery Horticultural Society

The report from the Society's monthly newsletter on our April meeting reads "David Clark treated us to a well-researched, illustrated talk on garden ponds. He described how to choose a site, prepare the ground, the different types of liner and the best bit, the planting. We also learned which species of fish and invertebrates could safely be put into the pond. We all appreciated the practical demonstration given towards the end of his talk".

In brief. In early April three groups of members from the society visited the Dersingham First and Nursery School. The first group were able to see the results of the older children's continuing work on the wildlife garden and their enthusiasm, inspired by their dedicated teachers, for caring for the environment.

The two remaining groups visited the Foundation Stage Unit (ie the younger nursery children) who are doing a topic called "Gardens and Growing". The children put on their own Horticultural Show with the plants and sunflowers which they are growing and then served refreshments to their visitors. All agreed that their visit provided a most enjoyable and rewarding experience.

A team from the society took part in Clenchwarton Gardening Society's Annual Quiz Night. They and their supporters enjoyed the usual very pleasant evening enhanced by the fact that they were outright winners.

The Society's "Gardeners' Fayre" raised over £500 for the society's funds. As usual this will form part of the donation to local good causes which the society makes each November.

Our sincere thanks to all who provided items for sale and to everyone who so generously supported "the cause".

May Meeting. I felt that I was not alone in appreciating Toby Gipp's entertaining and informative talk on "Gardening with Disabilities". Toby, who has long experience with his subject, demonstrated various commercial tools but, more importantly, others which he had designed for himself and his wife to use in their garden but which, subsequently, had gained a much wider usage. Simple, but ingenious, many of the tools used ordinary kitchen items such as spoons and forks and a potato masher which converted into a very useful hoe. Tony's tools and methods have given many disabled gardeners a new lease of life and, at the end of his talk, the response from his audience reflected its appreciation of his work on their behalf.

David Clark (543182)

Kathy Jordan of Stanton Road would like to know if any gardeners know of a cure for sawfly. She had trouble last year, sprayed with insecticide and cut the gooseberry bushes down in the autumn, but the sawflies have returned this year. She tried diluted washing up liquid to no avail.

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