

Dersingham Village Voice

Issue No 24

September/October 2003



Dersingham Children's Activities Summer 2003

*Left: Painting scenery for "The
Tomato Disaster" - a musical
play-in-a-day*

Below: 7-a-side Football Team

A full report on the activities will
be found on p2



Dersingham Summer Activities Group 2003

Summer activities, organised by May Davey for the fifth year running and attended by 60 children from the age of 8 to 12 years of age, were held during the first week of the school holidays from the 21st to the 25th of July.

Three outings, to a swimming session with 'inflatables' at St. James' Pool and to 'Strike's' for bowling, (both of these in King's Lynn), and to 'Planet Ice' at Peterborough for ice-skating were included in the week's activities. The 30 children on each occasion behaved beautifully and gave the accompanying adults no cause for concern, ensuring that all went well. The Borough Council provided coaches for the trips into King's Lynn, whereas the group paid for the transport to Peterborough, with support from Dersingham Parish Council.

The £250 grant given by the Parish Council also made it possible to arrange a varied programme in the village with the children taking part in 7-a-side football; a multi-sports session; line-dancing; and a nature trail, led by Liz Stockley, on the common. Mr Alan Cross of Dersingham Charities Trustees gave a historical perspective on the walk.

Helpers and supervisors during the week included members of Dersingham Evening Women's Institute; Kim Dunford (Parish Clerk); Tony Bubb (Parish Councillor); and Stella Caunt (former Parish Councillor). Parents came along to assist, and particular thanks have been extended to Tracey Melton and Lucy Batterbee. With all these willing volunteers it was possible to maintain a ratio of one adult to six children on all the outings. Thanks have been extended to all those who supported the event and to the Dersingham Sports Committee for permitting the free use of the pavilion and sports field.

A £150 grant from the Arts Development Fund of the Borough Council paid for Liz Stockley to direct another play-in-a-day in which 19 children made their own music; wrote the script; planned the dances; illustrated and edited the programme; painted the scenery; and then performed the play before a delighted audience of family and friends.

As all the costs were not covered by existing funds, the Women's Institute members attended a coffee morning, followed by a pick-your-own fruit morning held at May Davey's house. This generosity ensured that the shortfall was made up, and, thanks again to the WI members, that it was possible to make a donation of £50 to the Scouts and Guides as a contribution for the use of their hall for indoor events. The major expense this year was that of £367 for public liability insurance (an increase of 38% on the 2002 figure). This increase was not helped by a reduced income due to lack of funding from previous subscribers such as the National Lottery and Norfolk Rural Community Council, who could not assist this year as they provided grants in 2002.

The Group's funds are now exhausted and will require a lot more support from the village, even though help has been promised by the Borough Council in relation to insurance, sports coaches and transport. Perhaps you are in a position to provide sponsorship or are able to raise funds in other ways, which will ensure that the subsidised Summer Activities, which have now become a tradition in the village, will continue to flourish.

Please take note that the deadline date for receipt of advertisements or copy for the December edition of Village Voice is Friday 14th November 2003.

Editor's Notes

Taking over the role of editor of this paper from the very well known and popular Teresa Southam gives me more than a little trepidation as she will be a hard act to follow, she having brought the publication from its early stages to the bi-monthly standard of excellence which you have now come to expect.



I know that you will wish me to thank her for all the selfless effort that she has put in on your behalf, both as editor of this newsletter and as a Member of the Parish Council, and to wish her well in whatever she decides to do from hereon in, including the time which she will be spending in her involvement with the Community Centre in Manor Road.

My hope is that Teresa's departure will not deter you from sending in suitable contributions for the paper, particularly those which are of direct interest to the village community, examples being photographs and reports of important things which are happening in your family, club, group, etc, or memories reliving events from the past which others can relate to. Advance notice of forthcoming events are always of interest, but remember that these will need to meet the deadlines set for publication which, as in the past, will be notified in every issue.

I look forward to a close relationship with you all as contributors, and would like to thank the Parish Council Communications Committee for their faith in my being able to come up with the goods, and for the support which I am receiving from Stella Caunt who takes the words which I supply and makes them look good on paper.

All contributions can be sent to me at 45 Queen Elizabeth Drive, or to the Parish Council Office, The Police Station, Manor Road (Tel: 541465).

Bob Tipling (Tel: 541347)

Dersingham Playgroup Remains Open!

Thanks to the kind staff at the Playgroup forgoing a wage-rise this year, the playgroup will remain open, operating as before at the Community Centre in Manor Road (opposite the Feathers Hotel).

The numbers are still very low so if any parent who has a child ready to come along, we have spaces. We take children in the term in which they are three, and run on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 to 11.30 am. Any parents with younger children can also put their names forward.

The village want to keep the playgroup running, but without the children, the same problem of insufficient funding will arise next year, so please support the village and register your child as soon as possible.

*Please ring; 01485 544789 (9-11.30 Mon-Fri) or 01485 543300 at any other time
Many thanks from Mrs Reeve and Staff*

Dersingham Library

The library service offers a comprehensive range of services that is much appreciated by the community in Dersingham. Despite being a smallish library we offer free Internet access, free email facilities, photocopying, a video collection, a comprehensive children's library with access to homework materials, a good reference service and a much appreciated lending service for adult fiction and non-fiction books.

Dersingham is the library that welcomed the late Queen Mother the year of her hundredth birthday. Her Majesty spent a good 45 minutes looking at the services we offer, expressing genuine appreciation for the breadth of materials we hold. These are services that are available to the whole community and most of them are free or cost very little.

Dersingham Library also serves as a base for a mobile library and daily the mobile goes out and reaches the rural areas. Many villages enjoy the access to books, leisure and learning that this service offers. Our staff visit many housebound readers who otherwise would not be able to borrow books. Dersingham Mobile Library is a computerised service offering villages access to the county catalogue of stock.

Unfortunately over the last 11 months we have had some problems with vandalism and anti-social behaviour which has been disagreeable for both users and staff. At one stage we even had to withdraw evening opening. The Police and members of the community have proved supportive and helpful in trying to alleviate the situation. We are still working with them on measures to prevent damage to the building and mobile, unpleasant things being put through the letter box, and general bad behaviour. This is a problem that is shared by the whole community and we welcome its support and understanding in the lesser service we have had to provide by closing evening access to the Library.

The Library Service is reopening its doors on Monday and Thursday evenings until 7.30 from the 15th of September. Our aim is to provide the whole community with an accessible and comprehensive library service, and it's free to join!

Brigitte Morton, Service Manager, Norfolk Library and Information Service

Are you getting it regularly?.....Village Voice, that is!

If not, or if you know of anybody else in the village who is not receiving it (perhaps because you or they have registered with the Mailing Preference Scheme which would prevent delivery of the local free 'Citizen' newspaper) and would wish to, please let us know in order that we can make any suitable arrangements.

Contact Kim Dunford, Parish Clerk, Parish Council Office, Police Station, Manor Road Tel: 541465 - Kim is also the contact person for advertisements which you may wish to have included in future issues of the Village Voice.

The Leaning Tower of Lynn

by Kathy Jordan © July 2003

Majestically it towered above
A grand friary of renown,
Now encased in ugly scaffolding
It could all come tumbling down.

Legend says to land on royalty,
In the theatre down below,
Now a million pounds is needed,
To make its glory glow.
Its counterpart in Italy,
Enjoys such worldwide fame,
But this ancient gem of Bishop's Lynn,
Deserves the same acclaim.

Were secret, scandalous sculptures
The mason's jolly joke?
Did that 'page three' lookalike lady
Give Grey Friars fruitless hope?
Now perching so precariously,
Are revamps pipedreams too?
Or will this sensational seamark,
Soon be repaired to anew?

With only three such monuments,
Its loss would be a sin,
So stop the tilt, for a stronger built,
Leaning Tower of Lynn

Notice to Members of Age Concern Heacham and District

Rushmore's have supported us by providing a three-course lunch for two people at their superb restaurant every month. This will be the prize in a free raffle for members only of Age Concern Heacham and District. **Hurry** and check to see if your membership needs renewing, or come into our office and join as a member. £2.00 for the year or £10.00 life membership. Membership runs from 1st April - 31st March yearly. Office opens Monday - Friday 10 am - 1 pm. Telephone 01485 579077. Raffle will be drawn the last Friday of each month starting August 2003 at 12 noon.

This rolling raffle will continue until further notice so hurry and join for a chance to win.

Many thanks to Rushmore's for this generous donation.

Dersingham St George's (CE) Middle School

All of the new children have settled in well, the new year 4 children from the local feeder schools as well as some older children who have recently moved to the area. It has been a busy start to the autumn term with history trips to Sandringham and Waslingham, and the Harvest Festival celebration in St Nicholas Church.

Forthcoming Events

2 Oct	Governors' Annual Report - 7 pm
	Friends AGM - 7.30 pm
10 Oct	Individual School Photographs
15 Oct	Year 5 Parents' Lunch
22 Oct	Parents' Appointment Evening 3.30 pm - 7.30 pm
12 Nov	Special Bonfire Lunch
19 Nov	Year 6 & 7 Parents' Lunch
27 Nov	Year 5 Victorian Trip to King's Lynn
28 Nov	ICT Day
1 Dec	Christmas Art Day
4 Dec	Christmas Disco 7 pm - 8.30 pm
9 Dec	Christmas Play 1.30 pm
10 Dec	Christmas Play 6.30 pm
15 Dec	Year 4 & 5 Christmas Parties
16 Dec	Year 6 & 7 Christmas Parties
17 Dec	Christmas Lunch

During the summer holidays work has started on improving the school grounds, re-seeding the eroded areas, weed treatment and a new rabbit proof fence on the roadside boundary. This has been possible because of the successful Sport England Grant bid received by the school.

St George's has some great facilities to offer the community - sports field, gym, school hall (with stage) and classrooms all of which are available for hire, just contact us for cost and availability.

Have you every thought of becoming a volunteer helper in school? Give us a ring to find out more, the school is always looking for people to help. Or if you would like to become more involved in the running of the school, we are always keen to hear from people interested in becoming a school governor. Please contact us for more information.

We hope to keep you up to date with news and events at St. George's through this regular slot in the Village Voice.

Carol De Witt - Head Teacher

Parish Council

The next full meetings of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 27th October and Monday 24th November at the First and Nursery School at 7pm

St Cecilia's Church

St. Cecilia's Church was completed in 1990 and consecrated by Rt Rev Alan Clarke, the then Bishop of East Anglia, in March 1991. Bishop Clarke has since died. The church was built with a legacy from Miss Alice Insley, who up to her death had lived in Manor Road. Miss Insley had been a prominent teacher in the area and cycled every Sunday to Hunstanton to attend Mass at which she also played the organ. In her Will she stated that all the money she left could go to the church as long as a new church would be built in Dersingham, thus ensuring that others wouldn't have to do as she had. The church was dedicated to St Cecilia as she is the patron saint of music.

Whilst the church was under construction a priest named Fr Peter Flynn said Mass in the Community Centre each Sunday for a congregation of about 20 people. Fr Flynn lived in Miss Insley's house on Manor Road. Dr Flynn was of Irish descent but had spent most of his priestly life in New Zealand. He came to Dersingham on retirement so that he could be closer to his home in Ireland. Unfortunately Fr Flynn didn't see the completion of St Cecilia's as he died in Ireland on one of his visits home. He had, however, laid the foundations for a community with a lively spirit here at St Cecilia's. When the church was opened the priest in residence at the time—who was on loan from Westminster diocese—stated that the church was a white elephant and would never be truly established. Over the last 11 years, under the leadership of the current incumbent, Rev Len Matthews, the congregation has increased to an average of just under 100 each Sunday. Over Christmas and Easter the congregation becomes much larger. The congregation of St Cecilia's participate in many aspects of village life and the church is used as a hall for some of those village activities. The 'white elephant' has proved to be a useful component in the way of life for a lot of Dersingham residents.

Evangelisation, mainly through example, will continue spreading the word of God and helping others to find the peace that Christianity can bring to all.

Tel: 01485 543168

Phobbies Club

Christmas Sale of Work

Saturday 29th November
2pm

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Butcherbirds



I was very interested in Dick Melton's article on the post war commons in Dersingham. The fact that red-backed shrikes were living in the village then said a lot about what the commons must have looked like because they are birds that like open areas with scattered bushes and trees. They would have built their nests in the bushes and perched on high points to keep watch for their prey. Red-backed shrikes feed mainly on large insects such as bumblebees and beetles. Their old country name was butcherbird due to their habit of impaling their prey on thorns, which reminded people of meat hanging in a butcher's window.

Male red-backed shrikes are striking looking blackbird sized birds. They have rich chestnut backs and fierce looking grey heads with a black mask and black hooked beak. This is rather incongruously set against a delicate pink breast – like The Lone Ranger in a tutu. The females are less colourful and they don't have a pink breast.

Red-backed shrikes used to breed as far north as Cumbria and Yorkshire. Their decline in the twentieth century was dramatic and the post war Dersingham birds were probably on the northern edge of their range in this country. The last English red-backed shrikes returned each summer from their winter home in Africa to raise a family in a few square metres of hawthorn scrub - right in the middle of the Swanton Downham riverside picnic site. It was sad to see the solitary male return for the last time in 1994, he stayed around for a while but the female did not join him and that was the last of them.

It is not clear why the red-backed shrikes disappeared from England but habitat loss is likely to have played a major part in their decline. The landscape around Dersingham has certainly become less attractive to shrikes over the years and these changes are mirrored in the rest of the country. The commons became covered in dense gorse and birch scrub and the surrounding heathlands have been planted up with conifers or overgrown with rhododendrons.

Red-backed shrikes are doing better in other parts of their range with, for example, around 100,000 pairs in France. I normally see red-backed shrikes in the south but their range spreads north into Scandinavia. At this time of year, an easterly wind often blows migrating red-backed shrikes from Scandinavia onto the north Norfolk coast.

I don't know whether red-backed shrikes will return to breed in England but there are some reasons to be hopeful. After years of neglect, the commons in Dersingham are being opened up and are regularly mown. Heather seeds, which had lain dormant in the ground for decades, have germinated and are doing well. Look to your right when driving into Dersingham past the village sign and you will see the purple heather spreading across the common. The heathland on the Dersingham Nature Reserve is also being restored with the removal of large blocks of conifers and the re-introduction of grazing. This type of initiative is underway in other parts of the country and may one day result in the return of the red-backed shrike to their old haunts.

The Dersingham commons were at their best when they had an economic value to the villagers. The grazing and wood cutting that took place in the post war years were just what were needed to create a rich mosaic of wildlife habitats. We live in different times and prefer to buy what is often available for nothing. The future of our commons is likely to be driven by our desire for open spaces and wildlife conservation rather than economic need. They should, nevertheless, have a future - heather seeds are in the ground just waiting for the light.

David Bingham

Dersingham Surgery Horticultural Society

August Meeting - From the age of 3 our speaker, Jenny Sparks, had wanted to be a farmer. At 39, after she and her husband had retired from teaching, she acquired her first cow, an in-calf Dexter, so soon there were two! These were kept in a one acre garden. Their livestock continued to increase and they moved to a farm. Jenny's talk was entitled 'The Complete Cowsbody', a cowsbody being the bovine equivalent of a dogsbody!

Jenny's talk was a delight, during which she produced many interesting facts about her animals (e.g: With a good voice one can train a cow to obey commands within a week or two. Rams are more dangerous than bulls, with the important proviso **never run or turn your back on a bull!**). Now retired from full time farming she still cares for some of her old charges and has provided a home for some needy donkeys. Her final thoughts on the natural world and the human condition confirmed her Christian beliefs and sent her enthusiastic audience on its way in reflective mood.

Annual Show - On Friday 5th September 5 pm 'our team' arrived to set up the Church Hall for our Annual Show the following day to find that, due to a misunderstanding, the hall had been double booked for a party that evening. This meant that the team had to turn out at 6 am on Saturday to prepare the hall. From then on all went well, thanks to the organisational skills of our Show Secretary, Derek Asker, and his wife Doreen. With over 300 entries and the usual quality exhibits, the village put on an excellent show, maintaining the standard of previous years, and, for the first time our society was able to present the Royal Horticultural Society's Banksian Medal, this was won by John Hannant, with the Thaxter Rose Bowl going to Neville Warnes for his Top Tray of vegetables.

All exhibits were of the highest quality, but particularly noteworthy were the entries in the children's classes. In the absence of our President it became my privilege to present the trophies and awards, and it was most rewarding to see the pleasure that winning gave to the children. Our thanks to all who supported the show.

September Meeting - Tony Leech's talk 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly' dealt with the world of fungi. Tony dealt with some of the intricate breeding patterns of these plants. All produce spores, as opposed to seeds, which are scattered on the wind, some species producing 20,000 spores a second over a period of days. Nomenclature is difficult as many species have only Latin names. However, a scheme has been started which will provide 1,000 species with English names. Let us hope that the experts come up with some imaginative names to equal those already in existence in the countryside (e.g. Slippery Jack, Wood Hedgehog, etc.)

Finally, our speaker dealt with the varieties that one may eat and those which should be avoided. His advice was to ignore what the cookery books and field guides tell you as this can be misleading. Only eat what you are sure of, and, if unsure, eat only the tiniest portion and assess the result. Our speaker touched on many other aspects of this group of plants and his fascinating insights into their world was of great interest to all present.

David Clark - 543182

Operation Christmas Child

Do you enjoy watching your children opening their Christmas presents? Or maybe you haven't any children in your family at present, but you are a child at heart and love buying toys (and having a quick play with them too!) Operation Christmas Child, run by the charity Samaritan's Purse, helps children in deprived areas of the world to have joy at Christmas. The Dersingham Methodist Church has been sending gifts through this charity for some years, and plan to do so again this year. We believe as a church in joining with the community whenever we can, and in this project we are asking you, the community, to help us in providing for these children. If you would like to help you will need:

1. A shoe box. Cover it with Christmas paper - the lid **separately** for Customs purposes.
2. Decide on the age of the child you would like to help, and either a boy or a girl.
3. Collect together small gifts to fill the shoebox. These can include small toys, sweets, hat, gloves, scarf, costume jewellery, school stationery (exercise books, pencils, etc.), toothpaste and brush, soap, flannel, picture books (English may not be understood), etc., a Christmas card, photo of yourself or short letter can also be included.

Please do not send: war toys, battery-operated toys, liquids, glass bottles.

4. When you have completed your box you will need to label it with the labels on the leaflets, or stick a label of your own on the lid stating **boy/ girl aged**. Leaflets can be obtained from the Shoe Shop in the village, the Methodist Church or myself.

Secure your box with two strong elastic bands.

5. Bring the completed box to the Coffee Morning at the Methodist Church on **5th November** between 10-12 noon. A donation of £2 towards transport will be appreciated. This is **the last possible date**, as the boxes have to be collected in time for delivery at Christmas. They are taken personally by volunteers to ensure that they reach the children that they are intended for. Many will go to Eastern Europe, Romania, Albania, Croatia, Afghanistan and other countries that may have come into the news through disaster or war.

At the Coffee Morning there will be stalls and the proceeds will go towards our appeal too. If you have any cakes, bric-a-brac, books, etc. for the stalls, please let me know, or bring them early on the day.

This will probably be the only gift the child will receive. We send each box with our love - as we celebrate the birth of that special child given for us all at Christmas - Jesus. Please can you find it in your heart to help in this practical way? And remember we are here for you too if you need us at any time.

Rev. Pam Bayliss - Methodist Church - Tel: 543337

Dersingham Task Force

It is proposed to set up a Dersingham Task Force. Initially it would meet once or twice a month, 10 am to 12 noon then back to the pub, and comprise volunteers keen to do jobs around the village that are left undone by the authorities - keeping footpaths clear of brambles, cleaning algae from road signs, tidying the War Memorial, etc. If you would like to help please contact the co-ordinator, *Bob Tipling (541347)* or the *Parish Clerk (541465)* to indicate your interest and availability.

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Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly

When I moved to Dersingham four years ago I didn't know anyone locally until a neighbour invited me to go along to the Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly, as a Volunteer helper. Looking back on that first visit I realise that whatever help I have been able to give has been repaid many times over in friendship, learning about our village from people who have spent all their lives here, taking part in various celebrations throughout the year, and just being with our elderly members each Wednesday. The club was started over 22 years ago by a few 'young ladies' who, to their great credit, are still running it. They realised that there were a lot of elderly villagers who were unable to get out and about and who had very little social contact. The Day Centre is needed even more these days when elderly people are encouraged to remain in their homes rather than go into care.

The Day Centre is held every Wednesday at Dersingham Community Centre, and membership (for the over 70s) is drawn from those recommended by Social services and the Doctors. It is run entirely by Local volunteers. A specially adapted mini-bus, which can accommodate wheelchairs, collects members from their homes and returns them at the end of the day. A hot meal is also provided each week. An aromatherapist and craft teacher visit regularly and Bingo is played monthly. Members are taken out for lunch on special occasions and professional entertainment is provided from time to time. The members, some of whom are unable to get out and about on their own, enjoy the chance to meet and chat to one another and be looked after for the day. Indeed, for some, it can be the only time they leave their homes.

Why am I writing this? Because the Club urgently needs more Volunteers. Volunteers are welcome for any time they can spare during those hours. I feel there must be someone out there who could spare even as little as an hour on a Wednesday. As we don't meet in the summer holidays, perhaps there are some young mums too who would be willing to help in term time. I can guarantee you won't regret it. **PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP IT GOING**

If you want to help or need more information contact Alice Worth on 544673

"Does anyone recognise the two boys?"

(Front Page of the July/August edition of Village Voice)

In response to the above question, the editor has received responses from both Dick Melton and his sister Janice Gatherwood, who inform us that the two boys in the photograph are (on the right) John, the son of Vic Greyson (the then owner of the Heath Garage in Lynn Road) and Roy, youngest son of Ivy and Eric Cross (Eric being a local builder who lived in Lynn Road about 50 yards from the garage). Janice lived opposite and was best friends with John's sister Vivienne, who also had an older sister, Valerie. The photograph was taken in 1960 or 1961 when Janice was about 8 or 9 years old. She was surprised to see it in the Village Voice, not having been aware that her brother had submitted a selection of family photographs for publication, some without full information regarding their content.

News from Dersingham First and Nursery School

I was delighted when I opened the door for the children to come into school on the first day of term to be greeted with the words from a year three girl who said 'I can't wait to get back to school'. A long line of happy smiling faces followed her into school and the children were eager to show me their new uniform, lunch boxes and new shiny shoes. In fact the only tears we had on the first day were from a toddler who cried because he wanted to stay with his brother!

It's lovely to welcome the forty new children who have joined our school this term and we look forward to working in partnership with their parents over the coming years. We also welcome back Mrs Stanton to the staff team who will be teaching Blue Class this term; she is a familiar face to many children and their parents already. There are lots of exciting plans for the Autumn term including violin, French and swimming lessons for our children to enjoy. We are also privileged to have been invited to the opening of the Houghton Hall Education Centre following the involvement of Anne Fletcher, one of our teachers, in establishing this exciting new venture in West Norfolk.

We welcome village involvement in our school and school involvement in the village and are always keen to further develop these links. Thank you for working with us last year and we look forward to working with you all again this school year.

Jackie Austin - Head Teacher

October dates for your diary

- * 15th, 16th and 17th October - 2.45 to 3.30 each day. We are hosting a sale of new children's books. The sale is open to anyone in the village, so please come along and browse or buy at your leisure.
- * 24th October - school closed for staff training
- * 27th -31st October - Half Term

St Nicholas Church

As the flower festival in July becomes a happy memory, our thoughts turn to autumn and forthcoming events.

With the closure of the Gamekeepers Lodge, the Men's Group now meet in the church hall on the second Wednesday of each month and Roy Henry (544786) will be happy to give more details - or just turn up at one of the meetings.

The Parent & Toddler Group is up and running again after the long summer holiday. The group meets each Tuesday morning in term time, between 8.30-11.15 am. We welcome parents, carers, and children 0-3⁺ years. Tea and coffee are on offer all the morning, with juice and toast for the children around 10 am. Plenty of toys for the children and a chance for the parents to relax and meet others. 50p per family.

Our Social Committee are organising another of their popular 'Bangers, Beans and Beetles' evenings in the church hall on Saturday 11th October. Tickets are £5 each and can be purchased from a member of the Social Committee, or by 'phoning *Edgar Cooper (540865)*.

The 'Backbone' of the Parish Council

Many people may consider that it is the Parish Councillors of a local community who are the driving force behind any village, and they would perhaps be surprised to discover that the people who volunteer to make decisions on behalf of the electorate would not be able to carry out their duties without the support of paid professional officers such as Kim Dunford and Clare Thomson, who are the Dersingham Parish Clerk and Assistant Parish Clerk respectively.

These two individuals are the main support for the elected Members, giving their time to providing guidance on new legislation, legal matters, procedures and financial issues of which the Members may not be aware, and also to preparing agenda and minutes of meetings, and carrying out the policies made by Members at their meetings.

It is therefore a pleasure for Village Voice to introduce these individuals to you.

Hunstanton born **Kim Dunford** began working for the Dersingham Parish council in 1988 when her daughter Peri was three years old. It all started with a local advert for a Clerk/ someone to take minutes and give administrative support to the Council.

From being based at home she was then moved out into a garden office, (some less imaginative people would have classified this as a shed). Even this eventually became too small and in 1992 enquiries were made to small businesses in the area to find new premises, the Police Station was amongst them. It wasn't until August 1995 that the union with the Parish Council and Police came together.

Since then, Kim has studied diligently for the Council, her latest achievement being a Higher Second BA Hons Degree in Local Government Policy.

Kim also takes time for her interest in drawing, working in the garden and is often seen walking Max - the family's golden retriever.

Clare Thomson is the latest addition to the Dersingham Parish Council team and assists Kim for 10 hours a week.

Originally from Saffron Walden, Clare moved to Dersingham in 2000 following a job promotion for her husband.

Children feature strongly in the Thomson household, Fenella (7) and Brody (5).

Psychology is amongst Clare's interests and she has recently attended a basic course in Hunstanton. As a qualified Reflexologist Clare hopes to build a client base locally in the future. In the meantime, the Parish Council has planned some additional training in the form of home study.

Under the watchful eye of Kim, Clare will become more involved with village developments in her position as Assistant Clerk. Topics to include Law, Local Government, Accounts, Legislation and Committee meetings which should lead to an interesting new career.

See the photo (top of page 20)



Clare (left) and Kim prove that it can be fun working for the Parish Council

(see article previous page)

Dersingham Village Plan

The Steering Group have worked extremely hard to produce the questionnaire, which will be delivered to every home in the village. The finished survey contains 74 questions and is, at this moment, being piloted in 20 households. Once this exercise has been satisfactorily completed, the full distribution will take place; we hope this will be during the first week in October.

The person delivering your questionnaire will collect it one week later, or it can be left at one of the collecting points around the village. Thanks to those people who have volunteered their time following the article in the last issue of VillageVoice.

I hope that all eligible residents of Dersingham will take the time to answer the questions. It is important that the people who live here are involved in plans in the future.

Consultant Architects, Wilkinson Pratt Partnership of Ipswich, have been appointed to carry out a feasibility study to select the most appropriate site for any new Village Hall/ Centre. If anyone has any queries, please telephone *Sue Payne* on 540538.

How Women Can Protect Themselves

Police Crime Prevention Advice

The Police have issued a paper which gives advice to women on how to prevent themselves from becoming victims of crime by taking sensible precautions when at home, out on foot, on public transport or when driving.

Copies of this paper are available from the Community Safety Section at King's Lynn Police Station on 01553 665037. The Community Safety Section can also arrange for a Police Crime Prevention Officer to come out and give a talk on personal safety to any women's group or place of employment where several women are employed. For an appointment please contact the group at the above number.

Sandringham Fire Station

The Royal Sandringham Fire Brigade amalgamated with Norfolk Fire Service in 1968 and in 1970 the station moved to its present site at Dodds Hill. The station's officer at that time was Jack Bensted, who was later replaced by George Bushall, and, on his retirement in 1985, Trevor Mace took over the command. Trevor Mace retired in 1999 and was replaced by myself.

The fire fighters were mainly made up from the Sandringham estate workers, however when the amalgamation took place and the station located to Dersingham, the local residents of the village had the opportunity to enrol. In those days we were known as part-time firemen and are now known as retained fire fighters.

The station at present has twenty-one fire fighters - this is the largest number for many years. Twenty men and one woman are at the station with its two fire appliances. This number is really good for the village; this gives us a greater chance of attending an incident quickly. We are called out on a regular basis to deal with local incidents, also supporting neighbouring village stations and King's Lynn.

We are not only here to deal with emergencies; we are also available for free advice on fire safety and are very willing to help with advice and installation of smoke detectors. In our opinion these should be standard fire safety precautions in every home. No home should be without one; the cost in money is so small but a very high price in the loss of lives without.

Many of the villagers have supported us with fund raising through the years, one of the most recent being the calendar which raised money for our thermal imaging camera, this was recently presented to the station on our open day that was held in September.

As a thank you to all the local people who have supported us with our own fund raising, we are now looking to do more fund raising for local charities. A car wash at Budgens raised money for Riding for the Disabled Magpie Centre. We are open to suggestions from the public for our next fund raising event; we are open for the challenge, as long as it's legal.

For those of you that missed the chance to look around the station on the open day, just contact us and we can arrange a visit. We are also available to arrange visits for local organisations.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on any issue with regard to fire safety or if you need help with installing your smoke detectors. We also look forward to hearing from you if you have a suggestion for our next fund raising event.

Contact us on 01485 542509

Dennis Wright-Station Officer-Sandringham Fire Station

A Statement from the Primary Care Trust

The PCT has supported the Heacham Group Practice during the past year and once the decision was made to split the practice into two was keen to ensure that there were two viable and stable practices providing good quality services to patients. The foundations for this are now in place and the PCT will continue to support the Heacham practice over the next few months as it implements the changes proposed by the GPs.

A Statement from Heacham Group Practice

Following the decision to split Heacham Group Practice into two new practices, the GPs at Heacham have had to decide on their staffing requirements to provide services to the 8,000 patients in the Heacham and Snettisham areas. The existing staff budget was split on a fair basis to ensure that both practices could continue to provide services to patients.

The partners wanted to ensure that existing front-line services such as nursing and reception were maintained. All such staff have been offered new roles, either at Heacham or at the new Carol Brown Health centre in Dersingham. With a smaller practice at Heacham, the GPs have reviewed the need for management and administrative support and decided to reorganise. This has meant the loss of some posts and some individuals have been made redundant.

They would like to thank staff and patients for support during these difficult times. The new structure is now in place and the partners are keen to work closely with staff and patients to improve the services provided.

The Rescue - RNLI

by Patricia Youngs

The wind was blowing, a gale force nine,
For man and beast, it was a very bad sign.
The raging seas crashed against the walls,
Seagulls flew inland, to escape the squalls.
The dark angry clouds scurried across the sky,
Waves were rolling in, at twenty feet high.

A little boat was being tossed about,
A figure on board saw me and began to shout.
Suddenly a lifeboat roared into sight,
Already aware of the poor man's plight.
In no time at all he was winched safely aboard,
With great relief, I could only stand and applaud.

Library Opening Times

Monday	10.00 - 13.00	14.00 - 19.30
Tuesday	CLOSED ALL DAY	
Wednesday	10.00 - 13.00	14.00 - 17.00
Thursday	10.00 - 13.00	14.00 - 19.30
Friday	CLOSED ALL DAY	
Saturday	10.00 - 13.00	
Sunday	CLOSED ALL DAY	



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