

Dersingham Village Voice

Issue No 25

November/December 2003



**WE WISH ALL
OUR READERS A
VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW
YEAR**



Members and Representatives of Dersingham Parish Council

Member's Name	Phone	Memberships, etc
Mrs Valerie Brundle	541895	Recreation & Environment/Strategic Development Committees/Planning Working Party
Mr John Gilmour Houston	542611	Recreation & Environment/Strategic Development/Committees/Planning Working Party/Consultation/Documents Working Party. Appointed to - NCAPTC
Mr Malcolm Nurse	540833	Parish Council Vice Chairman
Mr George W Pratt	542592	Parish Council Chairman/Finance & General Purposes Committee/Appointed to - Sports Ground Committee/Appointed to - Dersingham Social Club Committee
Mrs Jean Riches	540874	recreation & Environment Committee/Appointed to - Churchyard Committee/Appointed to - Dersingham United Charities (Trustees)
Mr Donald Roy	540221	Finance & General Purposes
Mr Colin Smith	540479	Recreation & Environment/Strategic Development/Finance & General Purposes Committees
Mr Bob Tipling	541347	Communications Committee/Editor - Village Voice/Consultation Documents Working Party/Appointed to - Northern Area Road Safety Committee/Appointed to - Dersingham Community Centre
Mrs Betty Clark	543902	Communications/Finance & General Purposes Committees
Mr Paul R Burall	540289	Strategic Development/Communications/Finance & General Purposes Committees/Editor - Dersingham data/Heacham & District Community Transport Scheme
Mr Keith J Manship	541979	Recreation & Environment Committee/Appointed to - Churchyard Committee/Appointed to - Police Liaison Committee
Mr Dick Murrell	543235	Recreation & Environment Committee/Appointed to - Sports Ground Committee/Appointed to - Norfolk Playing Fields Association
Mrs Jackie Livermore	541810	Planning Working Party
Mr Tony Bubb	542638	Strategic Development/Communications/Recreation and Environment Committees/Tree Warden
Mrs Sue Payne	540538	Strategic Development/Finance & General Purposes Committee
Mr Richard Stanton	544000	Appointed to - Sports Ground Committee
Mr Kyle Brown	542329	
Mr David Benn	544725	Recreation & Environment Committee
Parish Clerk		
Mrs Kim Dunford	541465	Appointed to - Sports Ground Committee

Other Representatives

Mrs Stella Caunt	Communications Committee
Mr Alan Cross	Appointed to - Dersingham United Charities (Trustees)
Mr Terry Finbow	Appointed to - Dersingham United Charities (Trustees)
Mrs Sarah Harmer	Appointed to - Dersingham United Charities (Trustees)
Mr Michael Hayward	Appointed to - Dersingham United Charities (Trustees)



The Editor would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to this newsletter for, without these articles, etc, the publication would be a little bland, to say the least. Keep your entries coming! You may be interested to know that if your club, society, etc is holding an event that would justify an entry, and would be improved by a photograph, then it may be possible for one of our volunteers to come along to take the photo for you (perhaps of a presentation to one of your members). If you wish to take advantage of this offer, then please contact either the Editor, Bob Tipling, on 541347, or Tony Bubb on 542638

**Have a good festive season with all best wishes from the
Communications Committee and the editorial team**

Articles for publication in the January/February edition of Village Voice must reach the editor at 45 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Dersingham, or at the Parish Council office, before the **deadline date of 16 January 2004**.

Advertisements for inclusion in the same newsletter should be in the hands of Kim Dunford, Parish Clerk, Dersingham Parish Council, The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LH **by the same date**. Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling Kim on 01485 541465.

It must be pointed out that the editor encourages contributions but reserves the right to amend and edit as necessary. Any contributions received will be accepted on the understanding that, unless a specific request is made that names, addresses, etc are not used, these may be included in the publication and may be maintained on the Parish Council's database.

Due to limitations on space it is possible that some items received may not be published, or may be held for publication at a later date. Contributors should also be aware that published material might appear on the Parish Council's Internet web-site. The editor does not necessarily agree with opinions that are expressed, or the accuracy of statements made, by contributors to the Village Voice.

The next FULL COUNCIL MEETING will take place at the First and Nursery School in Saxon Way at 7.15 pm on Monday 15 December 2003. Members of the public are given the opportunity to ask questions or make comments during the 15 minutes before and after the meeting.

Dersingham Horticultural Society

October Meeting - Observant readers will have noticed that, owing to the re-organisation of the local health service, the society has changed its name. This has been done for administrative reasons and the society will continue to maintain its links with the local medical services and other local village organisations.

This month our speaker was Robin Stevenson whose talk was entitled "Man and Moss in Norfolk". The mosses and liverworts are a neglected group of plants but our speaker, by means of an informative narrative and excellent slides, demonstrated his fascination with these tiny plants, many of which, in close-up photography, are extremely beautiful in form and colour.

After a brief introduction to the types and biology of these plants, Robin concentrated on their distribution in Norfolk which is not an ideal habitat for many species because of its dryness. However, there are some rare and unusual species throughout Norfolk with some local to this area.

Throughout his talk Robin's expertise and enthusiasm for his subject was obvious to all present and persuaded his audience to take more notice of these small plants, especially in lawns. With regard to this Robin raised a health warning - "When one spring rakes a lawn every tiny piece of moss which breaks off takes root and produces a new plant!"

In Brief: Members enjoyed a sociable Annual Dinner at the Ffoulkes Arms with good food and an entertainment provided by 'The Game Birds'.

Gilly Canny, one of our Fund Raising Committee members and a regular contributor to our monthly newsletter, has won the Ottaker Poetry Area Prize for 2003.

A team from the society took part in the Docking Society's Quiz Night, receiving the usual warm welcome, generous hospitality and friendly rivalry from the opposition. Only a few points behind the winners they came a creditable second on the night.

Our Annual General Meeting was, as usual, well attended. All our serving officers were re-elected as were most of our committee members. Owing to resignations we were pleased to welcome some new faces to our committees and to acknowledge the service which those retiring members had given to the society.

The annual donations which the society makes to local organisations were as follows: £200 to the Community Nurses, £200 to the Day Centre for the Elderly, £50 to Tapping House and £50 to the First School.

Our thanks to all who have supported our society throughout the year and made those donations possible.

The evening rounded off a successful year with a presentation of slides from my collection. *David Clark (543182)*

Scouts, Guide and Scout Groups Coffee Morning 18 October 2003



The Guide (Rainbow/Brownie/Guide) and Scout (Beaver/Scout) Groups ran a very successful coffee morning, raising £200 towards the refurbishment of their HQ kitchen. Homemade sweets and cakes made by some of the group members plus bric-a-brac and book stalls, a raffle and a children's game helped to make it a most successful morning. Excellent support from unit members, their families and village members was greatly appreciated. **We are in great need in another area!!! The Cub Group is currently unable to operate because of lack of leaders! Can anyone help?** If you feel you could help please contact one of these numbers: 542885/540907/540643 for *Lynne Wheeler(1st Dersingham Rainbows and 2nd Dersingham Brownies)-Jeanette Lister(1st Dersingham Guides)-Tracey Melton(1st Dersingham Beavers)-Rod Saunders(1st Dersingham Scouts)*

1st Dersingham Rainbow Guides

The 1st Dersingham Rainbows celebrated their 10th birthday with a special party. Current Rainbows were joined by former members, helpers, leaders and associates, in all 56 people enjoyed a special afternoon. A celebratory cake was cut and each of the current members was presented with a specially produced badge and a commemorative mug. They enjoyed games, craft activities, food, "Uncle Len" the children's entertainer, and a singsong.

The Rainbow Guides would like to thank the following businesses, organisations and individuals that provided sponsorship to finance the celebrations: AJD Auto Repairs, Budgens Ltd, Burrells Accountants, Cranes Sheds, Dersingham Evening WI, Dersingham Village Horticultural Society, Flowers by Yvonne, Miss S Jones, Post Office (Mr and Mrs Lindsay), Rossiter's Ltd, Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, Sandringham Motors, Scholes Butchers (Mr and Mrs Howlett)

DERSINGHAM TEASER 2

Here are 14 pictures taken within the parish boundary. All you have to do is identify the subjects and the locations. Entries to the editor at The Parish Council Office by 31 December. The highest score (in the event of several top scores, first pulled from the editor's hat) will win a voucher for a meal for 4 people generously donated by

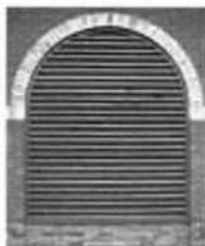
TROPICS TAKEAWAY

Don't forget to include your name and address!

1



2



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14



**DERSINGHAM FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL AND
DERSINGHAM ST GEORGE'S (CE) MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Provide quality education for children from 3 to 12 years

SCHOOL NEWS

The two schools have started working together on a new project called 'Building Bridges'. The idea began at a joint meeting of Governors and Head Teachers after discussing ways to make the transition from one school to the next smooth and successful for our children. We are fortunate to be able to offer children aged 3 - 12 years quality education in our village and we want to promote that.

Children from years 3 and 4 will be working together on this project to produce a leaflet to promote the two schools. The project will cover several curriculum areas and give children the chance to develop their literacy, numeracy, art, design and ICT skills as well as learn from each other in both school settings.

We are pleased that Dolphin Graphics have kindly agreed to work with the children in our schools and we are hoping to be successful in a bid from The Norfolk Exchange to kick-start our project. Watch out for the posters and leaflets in and around the village in the coming months.

Pupils at the school have recently completed an investigation into 'The Safety of Manor Road' and they made a presentation of their findings to the Parish Council when they met on Monday 24 November 2003. Members of the public are always welcome at council meetings, thus offering any parent who wished to see the outcome of their child's efforts the opportunity to attend.

CHRISTMAS FAIRS

Get into the spirit of Christmas by coming to our Christmas Fairs.
Visit Father Christmas, buy gifts, have fun on the stalls and enjoy listening to the
joint schools choir singing Christmas songs.

ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL—5 DECEMBER 3.30PM

DERSINGHAM FIRST AND NURSERY—12 DECEMBER 5.30PM

CHRISTMAS PLAYS

St GEORGE'S presents 'A Christmas Cracker'

1.30 pm on Tuesday 9 December and 6.30 pm on Wednesday 10 December
Year 2 & 3 pupils from DERSINGHAM FIRST are invited to watch our
performance

At 1.00 pm on Monday 8 December.

DERSINGHAM FIRST AND NURSERY presents "Happy Birthday Jesus" at
10.00 am on 12 December in St Nicholas Church

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Christmas Chaos*by Kathy Jordan © October 2003*

Starting sometime in September, with cards in all the shops,
The endless rows of gifts displayed for children, Ma's and Pops,
Just buying those you can afford and hoping for the best,
The Jones's pass by loaded up, for they've grabbed all the rest.

The bird won't fit the freezer so you chop away its legs,
There's no filling for the stockings to hang above the beds,
On Christmas Eve Samantha shouts "the sleigh will pass us by,"
"You haven't left poor Santa out his brandy and mince pie."

No one has a wink of sleep as the kids are up at four,
In a frenzy of excitement the tree lands on the floor,
Poor mad Aunt Maud she has no gift; Oh! What a right to do,
You quickly wrap some perfume up that someone's given you.

Uncle Sam, beneath the mistletoe, is as usual flirty,
Aunt Em, revengeful, socks him one, kissing Uncle Berty,
Granddad's drunk on whisky as he bumps into the 'telly',
Nan's carols are like foghorns, as she's been at the sherry.

The gravy's gone all lumpy whilst the wine is corked and murky,
Then you find you haven't stuffed that wretched legless turkey,
No one seems to mind at all, slurring "what a scrumptious lunch",
So sozzled that with everything they're just as pleased as punch.

Snuggled in your warm abode, with the family at your side,
It's all been worth the hassle, this happy year's yuletide,
But think of Hugh the hermit in his icy cold bed-sit flat,
The only central heating is his gloves, worn coat and hat.

The cards he's written to himself, placed on the windowsill,
To show his friend when he returns from relatives in Rhyl.
Hugh's kith and kin left long ago or live across the sea,
He toasts their fading memory with wishy-washy tea.

A pre-packed microwave dinner is all the food he's had,
He pulls a self-made cracker, but the joke's gone rather sad,
As he lies there all rejected, dejected and alone,
Oh! How he'd love some cheery Christmas chaos in his home.

**As Christmas is a happy time for most of us, we should spare a thought for those
'home alone' at Christmas.**

(NB The names mentioned in the poem are fictitious and do not refer to any particular individual)

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**PART-TIME CLEANER REQUIRED - 7^½ hours per week -
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Hours (from Monday to Friday) will be 1^½ per day, with the exact times to be agreed between the hours of 06.45 to 08.30 am or 03.15 to 05.45 pm in term time, plus a further 30 hours to be worked during school holidays.

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The following blank verse was contributed by a former RAF pilot who wishes to remain anonymous. It is a very poignant reminder of what, at a time when Armistice Day has recently been celebrated, the servicemen went through during the Second World War

Scramble

A brave cigarette in fearful fingers,
Brave smile on lips that aren't as steady as one would wish.
A quip that is as silly as it sounds,
yet brings a roar of laughter from the 'boys'.

The dreaded yet somehow wished for sound
as the red star shoots up into the sky.
A split second when the heart stands still.
A silent second. Then the engines start, the noise which brings relief.
And fear fades with the warrior joy of flying.

You're off. Wheels up, flaps up,
then up and up and up into that beautiful birdflight sky.
Which suddenly, bewilderingly, in lightning speed
turns itself from placid summer to a
wheeling, whirling world all upside down
and inside out and round and round,
full of streaking lights and flying flames
which grow smaller as they drop off the sky.

Then, a swirling peace returns,
only the streams of crisscross smoke are left.
But they are fading fast.
The 'boys' gaggle together. Not all of them.

Now with still trembling hands
back to a nerve shredded safety,
of quips and quietness.
tea and quaking memories.
More brave cigarettes
Waiting the next scramble.



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**Would you be interested in visiting the theatre
On a regular basis once a month?**

A small group -16 persons - have been doing so for at least the last 8 years, on a Thursday evening, travelling by local minibus (pick-up and set-down at your door) to the Maddermarket in Norwich. Plays this season have included: E.M.Foster's 'A Room With a View'; Agatha Christie's 'A Murder is Arranged'; Alan Ayckbourne's 'Chorus of Disapproval' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', plus Tom Stoppard's 'On the Razzle.'

An annual season ticket (Jan-Dec 2004) would cost £70.00 (12 plays for the price of ten) and travel costs £8.00 per trip, payable 6 months in advance. eg first payment in January, second in July. Plays anticipated next season are 'The Ghost Train', 'The Go Between', and 'As You Like It', plus others. You would be very welcome to join us for the coming season! If you feel you would like to join us, or indeed need further information, *please telephone Mrs Hazel Symonds on 01485 600139.*

**Norfolk Constabulary
Western Mobile Police Station**

The Mobile Police Station will be in attendance at Budgens Car Park in
Dersingham on

Friday 23 January, Friday 20 February, Friday 19 March

On each occasion the office will be open from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

**SANDRINGHAM LODGE
Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes**

On Saturday evening 27 September 2003, at the Community Centre in Dersingham, the members of the Sandringham Lodge of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, led by Brother Ken Conley (one of the founder members of the lodge) presented £1,000 to Mr Peter Mendham representing the East Anglian Air Ambulance. The majority of the money was raised by weekly donations by the lodge members over the last twelve months, and £200 was a gift by Mrs Winnefred Conley by saving her 5p/10p & 20p coins. This is the second time that this small lodge has made a sizeable gift to the East Anglian Air Ambulance as £600 was donated at this time last year. This is a wonderful effort by all concerned, since the average membership of the lodge is only 7 per meeting.

The lodge meets at 8 pm every Tuesday at the Community Centre in Manor Road. Should you be interested in joining, the lodge always welcomes new members and details can be obtained by contacting *Mr A Bridges on 01485 541364.*



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St Nicholas Church Christmas Activities

Sat 6 Dec	2.00 pm	Christmas Fayre in the Church Hall (Christmas decorations, gifts, books and cake stall)
Sat 6 Dec	7.30 pm	Christmas Party in the Church Hall (Live entertainment and buffet supper) Tickets £5.00 (*see below)
Wed 17 Dec	2.30 pm	Mothers' Union Carol Service in Church Open to all (followed by warm mince pies and a 'cuppa' in the Church Hall)
Sunday 21 Dec	6.30 pm	Carol Service in Church
Christmas Eve	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	10.00 am	All Age Celebration
Sun 11 Jan	12 for 12.15 pm	Christmas Lunch in the Church Hall Tickets *£5.00

* Tickets available from a member of the Social Committee or contact Edgar Cooper (540865)

St Cecilia's Church - Services during Advent and the Christmas Period

30 Nov	1st Sunday of Advent	Holy Mass	9.30 am
3 Dec		Eucharist Service	10.00 am
4 Dec	Advent Service of Reconciliation		
7 Dec	2nd Sunday of Advent	Holy Mass	7.30 am
10 Dec		Eucharist Service	9.30 am
14 Dec	3rd Sunday of Advent	Holy Mass	10 am
17 Dec		Eucharist Service	9.30 am
21 Dec	4th Sunday of Advent	Holy Mass	9.30 am
24 Dec	Christmas Eve	Nativity Mass	9.00 am
25 Dec	Christmas Day	Holy Mass	9.30 am
28 Dec	Feast of the Holy Family	Holy Mass	9.30 am
31 Dec		Eucharist Service	10.00 am
1 Jan	Feast of the Holy Mother of God	Eucharist Service	10.00 am

Dersingham Methodist Church Christmas Services

Sun 21 Dec	10.30 am	Family Nativity Service with the children
Sun 21 Dec	6.30 pm	Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Day	10.30 am	Family Service - bring your favourite present!

A Tribute to Dr Carole Brown

by Len Matthews



It is a great honour to have been asked if I would write a few words in tribute to Dr Carole Brown. When I first met her at the surgery I wasn't quite sure what to make of her - her straight talking took me by surprise. I was not registered on her patient list so I didn't see her very often, but when I did it was always a pleasurable experience, given that I was there with some sort of concern or problem.

Carole was a very hard working doctor and administrator, as shown during one of the cycles of the Dersingham surgery being undermanned, as it was she who kept things going, this being on top of the work she carried out at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Fermoy Unit. Carole was totally selfless in her attitude to her career. Having said that, she was an ambitious woman, as any of the doctors who worked with her when she joined the practice will tell you. She had the knack of achieving her objective without it being obvious that others had been manipulated. Despite her forthright manner, Carole was always prepared to listen to other opinions. Carole drove through the idea of having a Patient Participation Group at the surgery and welcomed the thoughts that were aired during the process. Her acknowledgement of other people's point of view, whether she agreed with them or not, was one of her appealing assets, as was her great sense of humour, she welcomed stories, especially those against one's own pomposity, and it was very easy to get her into a fit of giggling.

Despite the arduous work of being a GP, Carole found many ways of relaxing. She once decided to help the environment, and also her fitness, by doing her rounds on a pushbike. After a short while she gave in to the inevitable and reverted to the car. In the few short years I got to know her I found that her great loves in life were

her car, her dog, her caravan, and walking, not always in that order. I once watched her parking the caravan (which was kitted out with all sorts of gadgets) in the grounds of her house and was very impressed. I have since found that, in the caravan, one of the gadgets she had was a gizmo that told her just how far she was from any obstruction. Not having a great affinity for animals I didn't share her love of the dog, a love that was so strong that during the last few months of her life she found it difficult not having the animal around her, although she understood the situation. As to walking, we spent many happy hours discussing the places she had visited, some to which my wife and I had also been. Carole had a great joy in describing the arboretum at Westonbirt in Gloucestershire, the Eden Project in Cornwall, but it seemed to me her greatest pleasure was in the Peak District, especially around Castleton and the High Peaks. Her manner was such that you could easily visualise the place she was describing.

Carole will be greatly missed and it is with great joy that I can say that I am glad to have met and been associated with that very wonderful lady. The world will not be quite the same without her. Carole professed to not being at all religious, but her spirituality often showed through in her work with the 'Friends of St Nicholas Church'. I am confident that Almighty God will have recognised her style, her kindness, her concern for other people's well-being and has welcomed her into his heavenly kingdom with open arms. God bless Carole, with much love and affection.

Accolades for Parish Council Chairman



Dersingham Parish Council Chairman, George Pratt, receiving tribute from John Houston on behalf of The Norfolk Association of Parish & Town Councils. George retires from the Association as Vice President, having served on the Committee for over 25 years.

George, a former Mayor of King's Lynn, is also likely to be honoured by the Borough Council who are considering making him an Honorary Alderman of the borough in appreciation of his services to the council. A special meeting of the council planned for January could see him receiving an aldermanic badge at a meeting in May.

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Task Force News

The idea of a village task force seems to have struck a chord with the good residents of Dersingham. At the time of writing we have 12 volunteers who, after a little safety training, will be out there getting stuck in. Now we need to know what needs doing. Let the parish council know what you think needs a wash and brush up or a good clipping back. Share with us that irritating nuisance you encounter about the village, the neglect that needs attention. We wait with bated brush.

The Countryside And Rights Of Way Act 2000

This Act proposes to extend the right of public access to mountains, moors, heaths and downs; plus allowing additional access to certain areas of private landowners' properties. Consultation is currently in progress with the objective of obtaining the views of all interested parties, which will include local councils such as ours, landowners, members of the public and such organisations as The Ramblers Association.

The Countryside Agency has already identified some areas of Dersingham as being accessible common land. The types of right of way for which the agency are looking are those which will allow access for walking, sightseeing, bird-watching and picnicking, etc., but these will be covered by separate regulations in respect of the walking of dogs. Landowners are being encouraged to make new parts of their land available for access, but there will be no obligation upon them to do so. If they believe that they have cause to complain about the decisions made, they will have the opportunity to challenge the agency's rulings, both during the consultation period **and** afterwards, a privilege not extended to those who wish to use the rights.

The consultation period expired at midnight on 2 December 2003 which is why it had been previously been drawn to the attention of the residents of the village (at the Council Meetings in September and October and on the Parish Notice Boards) in order that they could have the opportunity to comment on the maps and other documents which were available for inspection at The Parish Council Office.

What's been happening in Hunstanton Road?



Work has been carried out to the pavements on either side of Hunstanton Road (opposite Torc Motors and Thaxters) making raised areas to enable easier access to buses for disabled people. At the same time an underground route had been put in place for the future installation of electronic signs which will advise passengers of timetables and the estimated time that the next bus is due.

Burrells.

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Why do they have to spoil the village in this way?



Photographs of mindless damage done recently to toys in the Recreation Ground and to the telephone box in Manor Road



Furniture Recycling

How often have you been at a loss as to how to dispose of a piece of furniture which you have now replaced, but which is nevertheless in usable condition, and sadly ending up by taking it to the local amenity tip?

Well, the Borough Council have now published a booklet which will be of interest to those of us who find that we have items of furniture and other household goods which, although they are still in a good state of repair, are surplus to our own needs.

The objective of the booklet is to ensure that, wherever possible, items for disposal are offered to another home where there may be a need, at the same time reducing the amount of household items which end up on landfill sites.

Entitled 'Furniture Projects in West Norfolk' the booklet not only identifies items which can be recycled but also the names and addresses of contact organisations who would be willing to accept furniture, toys, linen and white goods, or to supply such items to those who are in need, these organisations include: CSV Vocal, Fairstead Area Neighbourhood Group, North Lynn Family Aid Centre, St Vincent de Paul Society, West Norfolk Mind, Mini Scrapbox and West Norfolk CVS.

Further details can be obtained by contacting The Community Development Team of the Borough Council on 01553 616554.



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Festive Season

Patricia Youngs 1996

Christmas puds upon the hob
Cooking away, bobbity bob.
Cakes in the oven, it smells sublime
Only hope that it turns out fine.
Hang the decorations around the room
Write the cards and post them soon.
Presents are next, wrap them in paper
Tangled up in tape, what a caper!
Christmas tree stands in the hall
And pretty lights hang around the wall.

Turkey and the puds all been eaten
Washing up things I won't be beaten.
As Aunts and Uncles all join in
Soon the kitchen is clean as a new pin.

Grandparents nod off to sleep
So as not to wake them we do creep.
The children's faces all aglow
Couples kiss under the mistletoe.

Teatime comes around, in no time at all
But most of us said we were still full.
We still had bits of this and that
Afterwards we all said we felt quite fat.
The tree's stripped of its presents and decorations
Heralds the end of the Christmas celebrations.



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The Simple Song (In a world where you can stay)

Hugh Mullarkey © 2003

When Jesus was a little baby, Herod was a king,
But Herod was a jealous man and he heard the Angels sing,
He heard the Angels sing.

The Angels' song was simple, they sang for everyone,
The Angels song was telling them that God had sent a Saviour,
That God had sent his Son.

Now Herod didn't like this message, Herod was the king,
He didn't want competitors, he wanted everything.
He wanted what he wanted NOW, he wanted everything.

And Herod's song was simple, 'What I don't have I'll take'
A simple, sinful, selfish song, that Herod was a Saviour,
And he'd prove it - no mistake.

Now passing through his territory were three wise old men,
They'd heard a distant melody that seemed from way back when,
A simple haunting melody, that called again and again.

Their song was now eternal, a simple song of love,
A yearning, burning, simple song,
That called them from a distance, that called them from above.

They visited King Herod saying: 'Please what is the way?'
He answered: 'What's the way to what? A Saviour did you say?'
More information you must give, please tell me more I pray.'

The wise men were suspicious, they'd heard it all before,
This man was spinning spiders' webs,
No simple song for Herod, no gifts for him that's sure.

The wise men left him to his spinning, following their song,
It led them to a starlit scene, where peace and love belong,
Little Herods of the human race, how can you be so wrong?

The wise men's song is simple, don't turn yourself away,
From the simple joy of giving love, the simple joy of living,
In a world where you can stay.

Join in with the 'BIG READ' at DERSINGHAM LIBRARY

Do you prefer Potter to Pooh?
Are you more into Dickens than Darcy?

**This month Norfolk's libraries are celebrating the BBC BIG READ
and we want to know your favourites.**

In March this year, the BBC launched its Big Read survey, to discover the nation's best-loved book. After frantic voting across the country, the BBC announced the Top 100 titles, and encouraged readers to catch up with the titles they might have missed over the summer. The list was very diverse incorporating classics, popular children's authors, sci-fi and fantasy, and great twentieth century reads. The long list prompted much discussion and debate about what makes a truly 'great' read.

The library has the complete Top 21 books, and nearly all the Top 100, so why not pop along and pick up a good read and make your vote count.

**Now Dersingham readers can make their votes known, by voting
online at www.bbc.co.uk/bigread on any of our library's internet
computers.**

Throughout November and December we will be having special themed displays to stir your imagination and perhaps get you reading something different. Lists of the Top 100 and Top 21 are available free from the library.

Watch out for the BBC's library focus week during the first week of December - when there are special events planned. Throughout the week staff will be dressed as characters from Winnie the Pooh, and on Saturday from 10.30-11.30 am there will be a special Winnie-the-Pooh Storytime with activities. Children are encouraged to come dressed up as one of the characters from the story.

Happy Reading

Alison Thorne and all the staff at Dersingham Library on 01485 540181

Calling all Painters and Decorators
Can you help brighten the homes of the elderly?

Age Concern West Norfolk is setting up a register of professional painters and decorators. The aim of this register is to ensure that the elderly have the reassurance of employing decorators who have been approved by Age Concern, thus helping to stamp out bogus callers. We shall put workers in contact with clients but, again for security, I shall introduce clients to their workers where necessary.

For further information, please contact *Jane Murchie* on 01553 777764.

Goose News

I'm often asked why the geese we see over Dersingham in the winter fly in V formations. Whether or not the ones in front are the leaders seems to be of particular interest - presumably because the formations are reminiscent of squadrons of fighter aircraft or company organisational charts with the goose equivalents of squadron leaders and departmental heads. The answer is that the geese are using the upwash generated at the wingtip of the bird in front to gain extra lift and the lead bird changes from time to time.



All wings generate what are called wingtip vortices, the strength of which is related to the wingspan. Jumbo jets produce such powerful vortices that a safety gap is needed before a following plane can take off. It is possible to calculate the position a pink-footed goose would have to maintain in order to maximise the benefits from the vortex generated by the wingtip of the bird in front of them. This is known as the optimum wingtip spacing (WTS_{opt}) calculated from the equation $WTS_{opt} = 0.5b(1 - 0.89)$, where b is the wingspan. Pink-footed geese have been photographed in flight from below and they do indeed attempt to maintain this wing spacing. This leads naturally to the familiar V formations. The theoretical energy saving from flying in formation could be as high as 70%. However, this depends on the geese keeping in line and flapping their wings in unison. Pink feet are small light geese and, as you will see if you watch the formations, they have trouble keeping in line and in step. The average benefit each goose gets from formation flying is therefore much less than the theoretical maximum and has been calculated at around 2.5%. This may well be very significant on their long migrations to and from their breeding grounds in Iceland.

Pink-footed geese mate for life and they migrate in family groups with the parents leading this year's offspring. The skeins we see over the village are a gathering together of these family groups. Some say it is possible to distinguish individual families within the formations. I'm not convinced of this but you might like to try.

David Bingham

Co-ordinated dawn pink-footed goose roost counts 17th November 2003.
Snettisham (10,768) Scolt (42,400) Wells (47,750) Total **100,818**.
This is a new record count for the area.
The world population of pink-footed geese is c250,000.

Carole Brown Health Centre

Tom Morris, Chairman, Patients Participation Group - 01485 541450

It is now nearly four months since the Gayton Road Health and Surgical Centre (GRH&SC) was asked to manage the Dersingham surgery on behalf of the Primary Care Trust (PCT). Before August of this year when the staff of the GRH&SC undertook to operate the surgery the situation was at crisis point. Due to a shortage of doctors, patients were often being asked to travel to Snettisham or Heacham for their health services. The available doctors worked hard for extremely long hours to maintain service for their patients and all were seen within the maximum time stipulated by the Department of Health. Since 4 August, when the late Dr Carole Brown unveiled the sign renaming the surgery in her honour, there have been considerable improvements to the service. There have been some problems, for patients and surgery staff, but the service now appears to be most satisfactory.

Dr Balluch, Dr Hambling and Dr Kenny man the surgery for most sessions, (the good news is that Dr Hambling will now stay with us until the end of March), Dr Zoe Barber attends on Wednesday mornings to provide specialist women's services and Dr Mackichan is at the surgery on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The GRH&SC hope to introduce podiatry and physiotherapy sessions at the Centre in the near future. The PCT will shortly determine how the surgery will be manned after 31 March. Local residents will be asked for their views on how well the GRH&SC are meeting healthcare needs. From soundings taken to date, it appears that most patients are satisfied with the service provided.

**To overcome the inadequacy of the telephone
system the number to obtain appointments has
been changed to
01553 692333.**

Should you have any issues to raise regarding the service provided, critical or complimentary, please bring them to the notice of the Patients Participation Group so that they can be addressed as soon as possible. For individual complaints, however, there is a formal procedure for which advice can be given by the receptionists.

**The date of the next meeting of the PPG is available on enquiry at
the Surgery**

The Village Plan

By now every household should have received a copy of the surveys, which have been delivered, and collected, by a team of volunteers. The Steering Group is grateful to the people who gave up their time to help with this project. If anyone has not, by now, received their questionnaire and would like to participate, please contact me at the number shown below.

As at 3 November, some 800 surveys had been returned. This is a good response by any measurement, and proves that residents of Dersingham do care about their village and what happens in it. We now have the task of inputting all the responses to the questionnaire via the computer program. At present there are five or six people who have volunteered to undertake some of the work. It can be done via a home PC, once the program is loaded. If anyone would like to help, please contact me on the number shown below.

Kevin Harrison, of WPP Architects, has visited the village on several occasions to look at possible sites for a new Village Hall or Centre. The choice has been narrowed down to either St Nicholas' Church Hall or the Sports Field. Both of these have positive and negative elements and discussions have taken place with local planners, the Church of England and other interested parties. We are well aware of how important these places are to village residents and full consultations will take place before any final decision is made.

If anyone has any queries on the appraisal or would like to help, please telephone me on **540538**.

Sue Payne, Chair, Dersingham Village Plan Steering Group

Methodist Church Christmas Shoe Box Collection

May I say a very big thank you to everyone in the village who supported our "Christmas Shoe Box" appeal for deprived children. We collected 754 boxes - which is more than ever before. And donations amounted to £1342.40, which we will be using towards the cost of transporting the gifts.

Your thoughtfulness will enable children in other countries to enjoy Christmas, and to know that somewhere in the world they are thought of with love.

So as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and eat our Christmas lunches, let's spare a thought for them too.

Thank you, Rev Pam Bayliss

The Rights of the Villagers of Dersingham

I have been investigating whether the people of Dersingham still have the rights to dig, cut and cart away, to let, sell and graze, on the area of land that is to the south/west of the bypass at the southern end and which stretches down as far as the Dersingham/Wolferton boundary, some 55 acres in all. This area was known as the Dersingham Fen (Cranberry Fen, Dersingham Bog). My findings are that in the 12th century this land was owned by the Lord of the Manor of Castle Rising who gave all the land from Babingley Cross to Snettisham and from the sea to the Chalk Ridge to a man called Dersing(ham). In 1244 the Prior of Binham acquired 26 acres of heath and 62 acres of land with a marsh and granted the rights of this land to the people of Dersingham. The land then was much closer to the sea and Dersingham was a port. On 12th September 1671 there was a great flood the area of Dersingham changed, Snettisham and Wolferton were joined together, and Dersingham had no beach or foreshore. In 1779 George the Third again granted the people of Dersingham the rights to this land, and in 1862 the Prince of Wales bought the Sandringham estate (7,000 acres) for £220,000, and somehow, over the years, another 13,000 acres have been added to make the estate its present size of 20,000 acres. Much of this land being of no agricultural use was swallowed up by the estate. In 1875 a piece of land was given for a school to be built at the corner of Dodds Hill Road, and another piece of land for the Forester's Hall. All this land came under Pakenham Manor. The Manor House, which stood at the top of the school gardens, was demolished by order of the King in 1934. In 1930 the Dersingham Parish Council had a dispute with the Sandringham Estate over Dersingham Fen when they were told that the Sandringham Estate owned the freehold to the fen, and, on 24th February 1933 six posts were erected at the boundary between Dersingham and Wolferton on the fen. Burnt into these posts were the initials D.P.B. to settle the dispute between the estate and the council. Then the King once again granted the rights for the people of Dersingham to dig, cut and cart away, to let, sell and graze on this fen. On the new countryside maps this area of land is coloured yellow, which means that this is open land and therefore should not be fenced in, but when I got on to English Nature and asked them if I could go and get a ton of sand from the pit they gave me a definite 'No!' Therefore, in my opinion, the people of Dersingham still have the rights identified, (if they can get on there) on this fen forever.

I would just like to thank the following people who helped me come to this conclusion; Bernard Twite, Mrs Ruth Mountain (Dersingham United Charities), Julie Wright, Rob Cooke (English Nature), Sandringham Estate, Norfolk County Council and Kim Dunford (Clerk to the Dersingham Parish Council).

Dick Melton of Sunny Hunny

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