

Dersingham Village Voice

Issue No 27

March/April 2004

Dersingham's Annual Village Garden Open Days Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 May 2004



This year the Open Gardens Weekend is to be held on 15 and 16 May. Programmes are available at £2.50 from the Church Hall and participating gardens. Refreshments will be available at the Church Hall and at a couple of gardens around the village.

All the usual attractions - quiz, bric-a-brac, etc. Gates open on Saturday from 12 pm to 6 pm and on Sunday from 1 pm to 6 pm

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Editor's Notes

First of all I would like to thank those who took the trouble to respond to the Reader Survey (the results of which are published in this issue along with comments received), and to say that we are now looking at ways of meeting some of the suggestions. For example we are now seeking a young person to be responsible for the reporting of youth affairs in the village, and are attempting to obtain fixtures and reports from the sports clubs in the area. Other items will be dealt with as we have the opportunity, but **you** could help by using your local knowledge and submitting contributions based on the type of subjects that are highlighted in the comments, or by sending us old photographs of the village (or of events in the village) which we can use for publication.

There was an error in my Sandringham View article in the last issue, to which my attention has now been drawn by more than one reader. I had written that Reg Houchen ran his coach business from the garage at the corner of Post Office Road but my informants tell me that his garage was in fact situated on the site from which AJD Motors now operate in Bank Road.

As we now approach Easter and the coming summer months it would be great to receive details and photographs of any local events which take place, and don't forget that if you have something special going on we may be able to supply someone to take photos for publication.

Finally, we are very well supported by our advertisers but would welcome any new requests for space which can be purchased for as little as £12 for a sixth of a page, up to £50 for a full page. This is very good value when you consider that we have a bi-monthly circulation figure of 2,500 copies. Details can be obtained from Clare Thomson who is the Assistant Parish Clerk, and who can be contacted on 541465.

Bob Tipling

Search for Village Voice Youth Reporters

Are you aged between 13 and 19?

Are you in a position to report on youth activities in Dersingham?

Could you express the feelings of the youth of the village?

Would you be prepared to write regular articles for Village Voice?

If the answer to all of the above is "Yes", whether as an individual or as a group, the Editor would dearly love to hear from you in order that the magazine may offer items which are of interest to everybody in the community, no matter what their background or age. Interested? Then please write to *The Editor, Dersingham Village Voice, The Parish Council Office, Manor Road, Dersingham, Norfolk PE31 6LH* - attaching a short article of no more than 300 words which you think would be suitable for inclusion, and which would be of interest to others within the 13 to 19 age group.

Saint Nicholas Church Dersingham Flower Festival

Plans are well in hand for our **Annual Flower Festival** to take place 22 to 26 July. The theme this year is "We Love To Hear The Stories". A meeting will be held in the Church on Wednesday 14 April at 7.15 pm and Thursday 15 at 10 am for anyone that would like to do an arrangement, or to help with flowers in any way.

We welcome anyone that is new to our village to come to come along and get involved with this lovely village event. A full programme has been planned, with Music in the Church, a Plant Stall by Ruth Mountain, a Craft Fair in the Barn with Lace-Making demonstrations (for more details contact Beryl Bentley), an Open Garden at Croft House, and, in the Church Hall, Raffle, Stalls, Lunches and all day Refreshments by Pat Moss.

A **Garage Sale** on Saturday 1 May at 9 am in the Church Hall for funding for the Flower Festival. We will be very pleased to take any of your unwanted items for sale, collections can be arranged.

We will also be very pleased with any help you can give on Friday 30th April with setting up, also helping to sell on the day. Please contact: *Doreen Asker 540601 or Edgar Cooper 540865*

A **May Ball** on Saturday 8th May with Supper, Wine and Live Music. A limited number of tickets, contact: *Terry and Pat Moss 540517*

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Would the person who wrote with the heading 'Don't blame the visitors' please contact the Editor supplying name and address which need not be published.

Parish Council Report

As usual, the Parish Council held a special meeting in mid-January to set its precept (the Parish share of the Council Tax). The Council agreed a tax rate of £31.04 for a Band D property, an increase of £5.14. £3.75 of this rise is due to the abolition of a 'concurrent functions' grant previously paid by the Borough Council, a change balanced by a corresponding reduction in the Borough Council's spending and therefore cutting its Council Tax demand. The Parish Council also agreed to take some £11,000 from reserves to pay for some one-off improvements.

The main January meeting heard a presentation about the work of the West Norfolk Community Transport Project, which operates the Dial-a-Bus service. People with disabilities or difficulties accessing public transport can use the service at a charge of £3 for a return trip. The Council also agreed to investigate problems caused by parking in Manor Road in the vicinity of Brook Road.

The February meeting heard that the Council's request for bus stop signs to be installed at all the stops in the village will be met during the current enhancement work. The County Council has also agreed to improve the visibility of the beacons on the pedestrian crossing adjacent to Budgens.

The Council received the resignations of two of its members, Mrs J Livermore and Mr R Stanton. Anyone interested in filling one of these vacancies should contact the Parish Clerk on 01485 541465.

The April meeting of the Council (7 pm on Monday 26 April at the First School) is to hear a presentation from representatives of Brancaster Parish Council about how it helped facilitate the building of some affordable homes in their village. As usual, any villager wishing to attend will be welcome.

The next FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS will take place at the First and Nursery School in Saxon Way at 7.15 pm on Monday 26 April, Monday 10 May, and Monday 28 June 2004. Members of the public are given the opportunity to ask questions or make comments during the 15 minutes before and after the meeting.

The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, to which all residents of the parish are invited to attend and contribute, will take place on Thursday 27 May 2004.

Village Plan

We have now completed the input from all the returned questionnaires and have some raw data to work on. The next task is to put all this into a report and action plan, taking into account comments where applicable.

It is hoped that the report will be distributed with the June edition of Village Voice. As well as being delivered to every household, copies of the report will be passed on to all interested parties e.g. Norfolk Constabulary, Borough and County Councils, Primary Care Trust, Social Services, etc.

Results of Village Voice Reader Survey

We would like to thank the people who took the trouble to respond to our survey, the results of which are shown below (we received 43 responses which is equivalent to 1.72% of the number of magazines circulated).

Although this was quite a low response, it nevertheless identifies a direction for the future of the publication, and one which we will attempt to follow.

It would appear that there is a very high interest in issues involving local interest, local history, the surgery, local events, and police matters, with more than 50% of respondents taking at least a moderate interest in the type of article which we feature. The results below, allied to some of the comments on the opposite page will give the editorial staff an idea of what should be included in future issues of what is, after all, *your* magazine.

	No Opinion	Low Interest	Moderate Interest	High Interest
Poetry	7	12	18 (41.86%)	6
Local Interest	4	0	2	37 (86.04%)
Village History	2	0	4	37 (86.04%)
Council Reports	6	3	13	21 (48.83%)
Churches	7	5	24 (55.81%)	7
Schools	12	14	12 (27.90%)	5
Library	5	1	19 (44.18%)	18
Horticulture	6	8	16 (37.20%)	13
Natural History	4	3	16	20 (46.51%)
Scouts, Guides, etc	17	14	8 (18.60%)	4
Police Matters	6	3	8	26 (60.46%)
Local Events	3	2	11	27 (62.79%)
Voluntary Services	7	2	24 (55.81%)	10
Surgery	4	0	10	29 (67.44%)
Clubs, Associations	11	8	16 (37.20%)	8
Readers' Letters	7	2	15	19 (44.18%)

Comments made on returned questionnaires

- 'Dersingham is backward with stupid priorities. Some of the people are backward'
- 'Biased Trash' (referring to Council Reports, Churches, Schools, Police Matters, Clubs & Associations)
- 'High Interest in Editor's Notes and Comments' *would like to see* 'Items on recycling of waste and progress in provision of bottle bank'
- *Would like* 'Details of local crime'
- *Would like* 'Articles for sale section'
- *Would like* 'An item on Village Security. Are we complacent?'
- 'David Bingham's articles extremely interesting and readable. Task Force Activities.' *Would like articles on* 'Village personalities, e.g: staff in Budgens, Pharmacy, Council Members, School Staff, etc.'
- *Would like* 'Quizzes'
- *Would like* 'More women's clubs'
- *Would like* 'Local sports - fixtures for home matches - football and cricket'
- *Would like* 'Photographs of the Old Village'
- *Likes* 'Adverts'
- *Would like entries about* 'Transport - Bus services and connect (-ions from) the village with the national rail network'
- *Would like* 'Paragraph on Health and Nutrition. Where to get help for holistic medicine'
- 'Too much poetry' *Would like* 'Helpful hints/items about the village through the eyes of a resident - young/old/middle-aged'
- *Would like* 'Anything of relevance for teenagers in the village, especially 16+. They seem to be a forgotten generation, too old for schools or scouts, etc. too young for the Village Social Club'
- 'We always look forward to your magazine - keep it up, especially Neil Adams' drawings! Many thanks, 2 old uns'
- 'The last productions have been very impressive. Very well presented. A friend in Pakenham Drive does not receive Village Voice'
- 'Ads are very useful. David Bingham always interesting' *Would like* 'Reminiscences as we've had in the past' *Would like* items about '1- Farming news relevant to our immediate area - what is grown, where and why, the rearing of sheep, etc., looking after the countryside ourselves. 2 - Tips, grumbles, thank yous, all subjects'
- 'Useful to know when schools are on half-term. Thank you to the Editor and all contributors for the dedicated work involved'
- 'Name and shame owners of untidy gardens. Name and shame drivers who park illegally (i.e; on pavements, double yellow lines. Name and shame thoughtless dog owners'

CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE

T G Morris - PPG Chairman

All residents of Dersingham and Ingoldisthorpe will be pleased to hear that as from 1 April, the Gayton Road Health and Surgical Centre Practice will assume permanent responsibility for the Carole Brown Health Centre. On that date staff at Dersingham will transfer to the new practice and patients can be formally registered. Patients should note that under the Department of Health's new GP contract, patients will no longer be registered with an individual doctor but rather with the practice. Patients may, of course, seek an appointment with an individual doctor should that be their wish.

There will be four permanent doctors assigned to the Carole Brown Health Centre. These are Dr Martin Kenny, Dr Aslam Baluch, Dr Leena Deol and Dr Raj Dhumale. They will be supported by Dr Alastair Mackickan, Dr Rob Munro and Dr Zoe Barber. The availability of so many doctors to meet the needs of Dersingham and Ingoldisthorpe patients is most welcome and reflects the commitment of the Gayton Road Practice to the Carole Brown Health Centre. "Staff and patients at the Carole Brown Health Centre have had to endure a good deal of uncertainty over the past 10 months" said Graham Dickerson, the Executive Manager, "but I am sure that we will all be pleased to see that over so that we can look forward to positive and exciting times ahead".

The Patients Participation Group wish to thank all who bought "Easter Chicks" in order to raise funds to procure additional equipment and services for patients of the surgery. Particular thanks go to the Seniors Club, Hanover Court and Woodside Close residents, the Community Car Scheme and British Legion members who bought chicks who had laid a total of £201.50 worth of eggs! Without the help of Gilchris Confectionary of Fakenham who provided the Easter Eggs, of Tropic Coffee of King's Lynn who provided bases for the nests, the phantom knitter and a slick salesman, this fundraising effort would not have been possible. Of late, 6 blood pressure monitors, a pharmaceutical refrigerator, ear syringing equipment, emergency trolleys and a phlebotomist chair have been bought to enhance the healthcare facilities for patients and to ease the task of staff at the centre.

The next PPG Meeting is scheduled for 22 April. Look out for posters nearer the date for further information.

The developers of the **Gamekeeper's Lodge** have submitted a revised planning application which, if approved, would enable them to alter the property to provide 19 private dwellings instead of the 12 for which they were previously given approval.

There will be a **Grand Launch** of the all-new **Dersingham Village Web Site** on the occasion of the Village Open Day, Saturday 17 April 2004. Come along and see it and **Broadband Internet**, in action! See the Open Day advertisement for details.

Greenish Fingers' Garden Notebook

The seasons become more confusing. On 3 February the maximum temperature in our garden was 60°F and a mild 50°F at night. At the end of February there was a spell of sleet and snow and freezing temperatures. In 2002 I noted on 2 February that the frogs were stirring in our pond; yet this year, for the first time in ten years, we seem to be frogless. Cats? A heron? Surely a few of a couple of dozen frogs would survive their attention? Is the weather to blame?

Today 16 March, it's mild and sunny as I write. Our robin, which was thankful for every grain of birdseed and crumb it was offered a fortnight ago, is hopping around with fragments of dry grass in its beak. It must be starting on the several nests it builds for the female's inspection and eventual approval!

There are long-tailed tits flirting in the apple tree, goldfinches conversing in the conifer hedge, a wren scolding me yesterday just for being there at all! During the cold snap we were visited by fieldfares, which feasted alongside the blackbirds on last year's windfalls, which we'd stored on purpose. I've read that birds lose about a third of their body weight during the cold winter nights, so they do need to eat and eat and eat.

So many pretty front gardens in Dersingham! Every year I'm specially entranced by the miniature narcissi everywhere. It's wonderful how they withstand such a battering by wind, snow and hail, bending and bowing and whipping about, then dusting themselves off, smiling again when it's calmer. I am a little saddened though, by the gardens that seem over-manicured: no rough bits for all the fauna that try to share our patch of earth with us. There must be shaggier areas, of course out of sight, in back gardens. Even a proportion of lawn edges allowed to curl over, instead of being sharply "edged", will provide shelter for little creatures such as beetles, ladybirds and frogs.

PS Before lighting a bonfire that you've been building up for months or weeks, or even days, check it well for said small creatures. Grass snakes/mice will probably slither/run away, but toads are not so quick, and hedgehogs may still be hibernating.

Oatmeal Porridge

Oatmeal is recommended by nutritionists for its "soluble" fibre, and much besides. It's certainly delicious and sustaining and easy to prepare as porridge. I buy it at a large health food shop, but it is probably available at larger supermarkets. It comes in fine, medium and coarse grades. I've tried only the coarse.

For each person, allow 25g/1oz oatmeal and 170ml/6 fluid oz liquid, which can be water, milk, or a mixture. I use water. In the morning, stir the mixture and cook gently for five to seven minutes. Add a pinch of salt if you like. Serve with milk and any of the accompaniments I suggested for porridge made with porridge oats.

(See February issue of Village Voice)

June Stephenson

Birdsong

I've always envied those who can name a bird from the faintest chirp, chirrup or cheep. I don't have this skill and can usually only identify very distinctive bird sounds like the crepuscular chirring of a nightjar or a yellow hammer's plea for, "a little piece of bread but no cheeeese". The exception to this is the song of the nightingale, which managed to penetrate even my dull, tone-deaf senses the first time I heard one. Their name originates from the Old English niht (night) and galan (to sing), although they also sing during the day. To add more confusion, other birds sometimes sing at night - particularly robins (prime suspect for the singing in Berkeley Square). Robins and nightingales both belong to the thrush family and they are both accomplished songsters. The song of a robin is solid silver - the nightingale's is liquid gold. The sudden pauses midway through an elaborate trill adds drama and tension to their performance - particularly noticeable when they are singing alone in the middle of the night. I was kept awake by a nightingale's melancholy song while on holiday in France last year but don't regret a minute of that enforced insomnia.

We do have local sites where it is possible to hear nightingales during their summer visits to this country - sadly, these places seem to get fewer each year. Perhaps the most reliable site is the small woodland alongside the cycle track where the old Lynn Road once swung towards Castle Rising and the Wootons. The indigenous Dersinghamites amongst you will probably know this as 'Onion Corner' - named after the powerful smell that comes from the wild garlic carpeting the damp woodland floor. If you plan to go there in search of nightingales, the best time is dusk on a calm warm day in late May or June. With patience, it is also possible to see a nightingale but they do have a reputation for skulking in the undergrowth. They are actually rather handsome birds with a chestnut tail, warm brown upper-parts and white undersides. They also have large black eyes to help them see in the dark.

Of course, nightingales are not singing for us. The song of the male is used to attract a mate and hold territory - serving the same function as the gaudy plumage of cock pheasants that do their courting in the open where vision is more important than sound. The process of natural selection can explain all of this. Why a big fat ape should be standing in the dark listening to them is much harder to explain.

David Bingham



Thou wast not born for death, immortal Bird!
No hungry generations tread thee down;
The voice I hear this passing night was heard
In ancient days by emperor and clown:
Ode to a nightingale – John Keats

Dersingham Horticultural Society

Once again I quote from the society's annual newsletter and account of an event organised by our Fundraising Committee.

"Our multi-talented members made a great success of the evening's "Sound and Light for a Winter's Night" programme. Although David's information about the music is given in a casual manner, we know that he's had to do much research for our benefit. John Horwood's slides were a joy especially combined with the music he had chosen. My favourite picture was that of a rose. As always, the Fundraising Committee's catering was delicious and generous with super 'nibbles' to suit all tastes. Peter Williams, a whizz on the keyboard, produced an attractive programme."

February Meeting On his annual visit to the society, the popular Radio Norfolk gardener, Barry Gayton, took as his topic "Drought Resistant Plants." After a few preliminaries about himself and his garden, "Desert World", (which is open to the public and is near Brandon), Barry once again demonstrated his extensive knowledge of his subject and his passion for gardening.

Dealing with various groups of plants - sempervivums, pinks, papavera, eryngiums, oenotheras, thalictrums to name but a few - Barry emphasised the need for light, well-drained soil and a sunny position for most of these plants.

Illustrated with slides taken almost exclusively in his own garden, Barry's talk was enthusiastically received by all present.

March Meeting Members who had previously seen our secretary's vivid account of a trip that he and his wife Jane had taken to India went along to this meeting with high expectations. We were not disappointed! This time Walter took us on a journey through "Peru: Land of the Inca."

Lima, the capital city of modern Peru, Cuzco, the city at the heart of the vast Inca empire and Machu Pichu, "the lost city of the Inca" were the focal points of Walter's Talk. However, his wide-ranging, fluent commentary delivered without notes and laced with gentle humour covered many aspects of his subject.

Inca agriculture, architecture and art - its savage law: there were no prisoners, all transgressions of the law were punishable by death.

From a brief account of the conquest of Peru by the conquistadors and their lust and obsession for gold, to the culinary delicacy which turned out to be guinea pigs, through native crafts to the problem of altitude sickness - Lima is some 11,000 feet above sea level - Walter's talk was full of fascinating fact and impressive images, both verbal and visual, and proved an engrossing delight to all present.

David Clark (543182)

Good Luck to **Emma Bonnett** of Mountbatten Road who is in the final stages of training for the **London Marathon** on Sunday 18 April. She hopes to raise at least £1,200 for the St John Ambulance, of which she is a member at Hunstanton.

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DERSINGHAM SCHOOLS NEWS

Have you seen the leaflet that our pupils worked together to produce?
It's in the local shops and can be obtained from the schools.

News from Dersingham First and Nursery School

It has been a busy but enjoyable term at our school. The Road Safety week early in March gave us the opportunity to increase safety around our school as part of our Safer Journeys to School Project. Sandy Reid, our Road Safety Officer, trained all our Year 1 children using the 'Step on it' scheme and we are grateful to the five parents who were trained to be trainers too. There were several other special events too; PC Keeley patrolled outside the school, Tim Edwards our chair of Governors, and a local firefighter, led an assembly and our younger children had a special talk from Benjamin and Bethany Bunny. Looking ahead to the Summer Term our special events so far include; our Year 3 children enjoying a residential visit to How Hill, exhibiting a local history exhibition at the library and taking part in two village Flower Festivals. More news of other events next time!

Dersingham St George's

The recent cold weather and dark nights have inspired our pupils to use their imagination to write poetry.

Snowman

by Tina

The snowman stands fit and strong,
His cold existence won't last long.
He stands proud as a king
His glistening kingdom is a beautiful thing
His regal wear and towering crown
A jolly man – you'd never see frown.
But his reign can't last forever.
He's weak and ill,
He stands helpless and still,
He looks slightly sickly and grey
At the sight of the coming day.
And his fixed smile starts to droop
As the children outside troop.
In the morning he's gone
But he's left his mark,
A puddle in which the children lark.

The Night

by Simeon

She wakes in the evening
When everyone is going to bed,
And tiptoes from the sky,
To cover half the world,
In her deep blue robes,
Spangled with jewels.
Her sweet gentle breath,
Blows her dark hair,
Across her lovely face,
Her shadow sweeps
And she breathes creeping mist
over the fields
In winter she goes to sleep late,
And covers herself in a duvet
Of thick white snow.

Dates from the Dersingham Schools

5 to 16 April - Easter Holidays

3 May - Bank Holiday

31 May to 4 June - Summer Half Term

16 July - Schools close for the Summer Holiday

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Mobility problems? Find it Difficult getting into King's Lynn?

The West Norfolk Community Transport Project operates the Dial-a-bus service and the Shopmobility scheme in West Norfolk.

The Dial-a-bus operation involves easily accessible minibuses providing door-to-door rural and urban bus services answering the transport needs of those people who have mobility problems and those who have difficulty accessing public transport. At this present time we operate a weekly Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday service into King's Lynn. We also bring people into Hunstanton from the Docking area on a Wednesday.

The Shopmobility scheme is specifically for those people who have difficulty accessing shops and services because of long term or short term limited mobility. Members have free use of powered scooters, wheelchairs, walking frames and self propelled wheelchairs. This scheme is now available 5-days a week in King's Lynn.

The project is always looking for volunteers to help in the provision and expansion of its current services.

If you have mobility problems and cannot access public transport then please let us know.

If you would like to help or obtain further information on the above services please telephone WNCTP on 01553 770310

DERSINGHAM PARISH CHURCHYARD

I was picking over rubbish on the churchyard compost heap. "How long is it going to take you to find that 10 pence piece that you've lost?", said a passer-by. Well, I wasn't finding anything as interesting as that. I was doing the weekly tidy up of the huge compost heap beside the Tithe Barn.

If the heap is kept clear of non-compostable material the Church Council can have it removed without cost. However, if it contains plastic bags, flower pots, synthetic flowers, "Oasis" (blocks of a solid green sponge-like material used by florists), flower wrappers and plant food sachets, glass jars and the metallic or plastic frames of wreaths, etc, the church has to pay for its removal.

To save such costs and inconvenience volunteers work to keep the heap clear. there are also two waste bins near the compost heap, but these fill up very quickly with items which people could take home and place in their green re-cycling boxes.

The consideration and helpfulness of all those who visit the graves would be much appreciated. I have heard visitors make very complimentary remarks about the appearance of the churchyard. With the co-operation of all who tend their plots we can maintain this standard.

Neil Adams



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Summer Activities

A meeting of all interested parties was held on 24 February with the aim of planning and co-ordinating this year's holiday activities for school-age children.

Following on from the successes of the Dersingham Summer Activities Group, it was proposed that -

a) Kyle Brown and Sue Payne will co-ordinate a programme of events and venues. Kyle will concentrate on sporting activities, Sue will look after others including crafts, family events etc.

b) A group is set up under the auspices of the Parish Council to oversee the project.

It goes without saying that volunteers will be needed to help with the activities.

If anyone, over the age of 18, would like to help please contact Kim at the Parish Council office.

Kyle Brown, as Dersingham Village Sports Co-ordinator, is looking for anyone to volunteer sports coaching, or who is interested in playing Petanque or French Boules.

If you are interested please call Kyle on 01485 542329

Age Concern West Norfolk - Register of Tradespeople who are approved painters & decorators or gardeners

You will no doubt remember a request from Age Concern in Issue 25 of this magazine for professional painters and decorators to be registered with them as approved contractors, these people having first had to undergo a Police check. It has now been announced that a number of workers have asked to be registered and are available along with others who are registered as gardeners to carry out tasks on your behalf. In order to find out more about this scheme please contact:

Jane Murchie on 01553 777764

St Nicholas Church Fund Raising Olde Tyme Music Hall

We are looking for people who have any entertaining experience?



So! If you can play an instrument, tell jokes, juggle, or have a ventriloquist act, or just to help in any way, please, **"DON'T BE SHY"**

"HAVE A GO", it will be **FUN**.

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To The Manor Born

Come along the A149 into Dersingham from the direction of King's Lynn, take the second turning on your right and you are in Manor Road.

The first place you see on your right is Mr. Tuck's Nursery, the best tomatoes in Norfolk! Next door is George Blower's Blacksmith Shop with the roaring fire in the forge. Opposite is the Albert Victor Public House, kept by Mr and Mrs Southgate (their son is Queen Mary's chauffeur).

A bit further along on the left is the Wellswell Public School with its big iron gates and swimming pool. Down the road we go, past Brooke Road (Laundry Lane), turn, and there is George King's Barber Shop (Haircuts for sixpence) opposite which is a corner Radio and Television Shop recently opened by Mr. Dodds who has just come out of the RAF.

On the corner of Manor Road and Heath Road is a scattering of old sheds, this is Mr. Hudson's Carpenter's Yard, and on the other corner is Kerry's the Butchers, with the slaughter house in the yard behind.

As we go on down Manor Road we come to Charlie Playford's Baker's Shop with its smell of freshly-baked bread. Next door is Mrs Terrington's shop that sells groceries and medicines, and then, on the left, is the Police Station with Barclay's Bank (only open on Thursdays) on the other side of the road, past the Forester's Hall (where you can watch a film on a Friday night for two shillings, courtesy of Mr. Swain from Hunstanton).

Then we come to Parker's store, the largest shop in Dersingham, where you can buy anything from knicker elastic to ground coffee. The sign in front of the shop says 'Purveyors of Groceries to His Majesty the King'.

On around the bend, past the Feathers Hotel with its big brass doorbell, and there, on the corner of Dodds Hill Road, is the Village School, with a giant horsechestnut tree in the middle of the playground.

Next on the left is the Coach and Horses pub, with the playing fields behind. On the other side of the road is what used to be Mr Line's Butcher's Shop, now a Fish and Chip Shop.

Along past the Church Hall and the big fine Church with its well-kept churchyard and we are now at the end of Manor Road, the longest and busiest road in the village of Dersingham - in 1950.

Dick Melton - Sunny Hunny

The Dersingham Traders Association have been holding discussions with a view to organising **fund-raising** efforts for the purpose of providing funding **for community projects** (which may include the often requested Christmas decorations for the village). Watch your local shops and offices for developments directed towards the objective, and then please give your whole-hearted support. The association would, we are certain, be pleased to hear from other traders who may wish to be involved in this worthwhile venture.

Dersingham Methodist Church Annual Flower Festival

Dersingham Methodist Church Annual Flower Festival will be held on Thursday 27 May to Monday 31 May 2004. The theme this year is 'Men Touched by God' and each of the 17 arrangements will be based on a Biblical character. The festival is at 10 am to 5 pm each day, 2 pm to 5 pm on Sunday. There will be Coffees and Teas, plus stalls with plants, bric-a-brac, cakes, cards and books. On Thursday at 10 am the children from St George's School will sing and children from Dersingham First School will sing on Friday at 10am. The 10.30 am service on Sunday 30 May will be led by the Rev Ray Trudgian of King's Lynn, the 6.30 pm service will be Songs of Praise led by Rev Pam Bayliss. We look forward to seeing you.

Further details from Elizabeth Batstone 541068

The Coach and Horses Bowls Club

The Coach and Horses Bowls Club currently play on the green at the rear of the Church Hall, Ingoldisthorpe. As the name suggests, the club was founded several years ago at the Coach and Horses pub in Dersingham. The club is now in its 5th year at Ingoldisthorpe having resurrected the present green which hadn't been used for several years. A lot of hard work and continuing care by the greenkeeper and members has ensured that the club continues to thrive. We have 28 members and the club plays in three local leagues. We have a very happy atmosphere and despite being competitive all members thoroughly enjoy themselves. If anybody feels that they would like to take up playing bowls, please feel free to come along and have a "roll-up". They would be more than welcome and if there are any enquiries for membership *please contact Brian Greenacre on Dersingham 541150.*

VILLAGE VOICE PRIZE COMPETITION

How do you fancy winning a prize for sending a holiday postcard?

Well now's your chance for the Village Voice is offering you the opportunity to win one of three prizes which have been generously donated by local businesses.

To win a £20 voucher for a meal for two at the Feathers Hotel all you need to do is to send the Editor what is considered by the Judges to be the most BORING postcard of the season! The runner-up in this competition will win a box of chocolates supplied by Dersingham Post Office. To win a £10 voucher to use at Thaxter's Garden Centre then send him the postcard which is judged to be sent from the furthest point from Dersingham. All entries should be addressed to Village Voice Postcard Competition, Parish Council Office, The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LH and should arrive by Wednesday 8 September 2004. Winners will be announced in Issue 30 dated 13 October.

Sandringham View - What's in a Name?

THOMAS DREW CLOSE



THOMAS DREW (pictured) was born in Dersingham in 1865 and his ancestors can be traced locally to the mid eighteenth century. His mother and stepfather were licensees of the once **ALBERT VICTOR INN** located in Manor Road.

As a young man Mr Drew served in the First World War in the Coldstream Guards and he suffered from enemy gas attacks, the effects of which affected his later life.

Being of an enterprising nature he eventually started in the building trade and in the 1930s and 1940s he built for the private sector and the Council. Some of the plots on which he built in Dun Cow Lane (now Lynn Road) cost £30 per plot! (Such a contrast from today's prices).

Tom Drew took an active interest in Dersingham village life having served many years in the 1930s and 1940s in the Parish Council. After the war, with tight restrictions and controls in the supply of scarce building materials, he had a brush with the red tape rules. He had supposedly built his family bungalow without a permit but this was disproved when he proved that he had built the house from surplus materials from his other building sites. Newspaper publicity at the time commended this 'Village Hampden'* for his stance against bureaucracy. Mr Drew died in 1954 and has two daughters who still live in Dersingham.

TOM DREW, aged 55, retired builder, who lives with his daughter, is building himself a bungalow at Dersingham, Norfolk. It will be ready in three weeks — but Mr. Drew has no licence. The local council - Docking R.D.C. - have told the Ministry of Works and, as Mr. J. E. A. Lambert, the housing committee chairman, said last night, Mr. Drew "may be prosecuted." Mr. Drew, 16 stone and suffering from heart trouble, says he will fight to the last. (Local Newspaper)

At Docking Rural District meeting on Wednesday surprise was expressed by Mr. J. Jackson, junior, at a decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions. In April, the council reported to the Ministry of Works that a bungalow was being erected at Dersingham by Mr. T. Drew, but that no Civil Building Licence had been issued, the builder having previously stated that he intended to carry out the work under his 'free' limit of £100 a year. The building began towards the end of 1949, and although Mr. Drew was warned of exceeding the limit, the building had been almost completed in April.

On Wednesday the Housing Committee reported to the council that the Ministry of Works had informed them that in view of Mr. Drew's state of health, the Director of Public Prosecutions had decided not to pursue this matter further. Mr. J. Jackson, jun., expressing his surprise at this decision, said he felt it made regulations farcical, and would add to the difficulties of forcing compliance. (Local Newspaper)

***JOHN HAMPDEN** born in London in 1594, was a first cousin of Oliver Cromwell. At the age of 3 he inherited large estates in Buckinghamshire and elsewhere. He entered the Inner Temple in 1613 to study law, then entered the House of Commons in 1621 becoming an expert on taxation. In 1627, King Charles I adopted a policy of forced loans to raise money, which John Hampden refused pay and was imprisoned for a year. his reason for not paying was that it went against the principles of the Magna Carta. In 1637 he refused to pay 31 shillings and sixpence ship money and took a stand against the legality of the tax. The case was argued for 12 days by 12 judges who came out (7 votes to 5) in favour of the King, but the case inspired widespread resistance to the tax, and Hampden's influence increased greatly. He died from wounds of battle at Chalgrove in 1643, and is buried in the Church of St. Mary Magdalene at Great Hampden.

Extract from http://www.thevickrage.worldline.co.uk/ecivil/john_hampden.htm

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How to contact the Police - Two easy numbers to remember

999 - Emergency - If you are reporting an emergency this is the number you should ring every time. This number is for reporting emergencies only; do not abuse it as it may delay police response to another emergency. It is very simple to remember the use of the 999 system

Think! If you see a house on fire you dial 999 and a fire engine arrives. If you see a person knocked down by a car and badly hurt you dial 999 and an ambulance arrives. If you see a crime happening dial 999 and a police officer arrives.

Remember 999 is for emergencies

For all other contacts with the Police there is only one other number to remember and that is

01553 691211 - Calls to this number are answered at Wymondham HQ, but can be transferred to King's Lynn or Hunstanton Station Police Station if necessary. This is for all non emergency contacts with the Police, ie if an offence or crime has been committed but the perpetrators are not at the scene. Dial this number to report information to the police or to get a message to a Police Officer or Police Station. Be aware if you want to contact a specific Police Officer he may not be on duty for a number of days but a message can always be taken for him. If you are not sure of the seriousness of a situation, the call takers will guide you.

Be prepared to give personal details - used to verify callers' bona fides.



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Visit www.norfolkpolice.uk

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MON - SAT: 11 am - 11 pm

WINTER OPENING

(Starts 1 January)

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Coming Soon at Dersingham Library**APRIL 2004 CRIME PROMOTION**

Look out for displays of fiction and true crime around the library - competitions and wordsearches - free crime prevention leaflets

EASTER STORYTIME

On Thursday 8 April from 2.30-3.30 pm. Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult.

SANDRINGHAM GUIDES PEACE WALL

Messages of peace written by the guides will be on display at the library from April. There will be space for borrowers to add their own messages

MAY 2004 LOCAL HISTORY MONTH**Internet Taster session - Family History**

Tuesday 18 May from 3-5 pm. A session aimed at absolute beginners and an introduction to the Norfolk Libraries' Family History Netway. Spaces limited, so please book in advance.

DERSINGHAM FIRST SCHOOL DISPLAY

Pupils at the first school have produced a village walk. Work will be on display and copies of the walk will be available.

ADULT LEARNERS WEEK Beginner's Internet Taster Sessions

On Tuesday 18 May from 9.30-11 am, or Friday 21 May from 9.30-11 am. Places are open to **complete beginners** only and numbers are limited, so please reserve your place by calling the library.

MAY/JUNE 2004 WEDDINGS DISPLAY

If anyone has kept their wedding dress or any wedding memorabilia and would be prepared to loan it to us for the duration of the display, please contact Helena at the library on 540181.

SPRING

Patricia Youngs © 16-10-97

HURRAH! Spring is here at last

The long cold winter has now past.

The flowers are bursting into bloom

Their beauty replaces old winter's gloom.

Birds are busy, building their nests

Back and forth no time for rest.

In no time at all, they will have mouths to feed

And it's time for gardeners to sow their seed.

New born lambs are feeling their feet

Farmer Jones sows his spring wheat.

We pack away our winter gear

New beginnings, Spring is at last here.

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Dersingham Village Open Day

Organised by Dersingham Parish Council

Saturday 17 April

**2pm to 5pm at
St Cecilia's Catholic Church Hall**

**Your opportunity to find out more about what is
going on in the village**

Among the local organisations taking part will be:

Albert Victor Bowls Club	Library
Carole Brown Health Centre	Mother's Union
Community Car Scheme	Phobbies Club
Dersingham United Charities	Royal British Legion
Evening Women's Institute	Salvation Army
Fire Station	Scouts
First School	St Georges School
Flower Club & Junior Flower Club	St Nicholas Parent & Toddler Group
Horticultural Society	St Nicholas Church
Institute Bowls Club	

*Advice on reducing energy bills will also be available,
including a free low energy light bulb*

Admission free

Refreshments available

Report - Police Authority Meeting

A Police Authority Meeting was held at Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall on the 26 February.

Despite the appalling weather conditions, 18 interested residents and local Parish Councillors, attended the meeting. Mr Stephen Betts of the Norfolk Police Authority and Inspector Williamson of The Norfolk Constabulary explained the increase in the Police Budget for the forthcoming financial year 2004/2005. The percentage increase, relating to an increase in council tax for the police element of the total bill being 13.7%, was decided on, to reflect an increased presence and services provided to the residents of Norfolk.

It was explained that the Police Authority came into being, to keep a completely separate Authority in charge of its own financial budget and not having to answer to any County or City Authority.

The meeting went on with Inspector Williamson explaining the relevant crime statistics and the current on going major operations ie Operation Harrier, which has resulted in almost 500 habitual criminals being arrested. Value for money from the police was a well discussed topic. One item was why did the new Chief Police Officer not live in Norfolk thereby needing a chauffeur to collect and return him home every day. Mr Stephen Betts then went on to praise the work and excellent results attained by the Chief Officer and that the Police Authority knew of this travel arrangement and were satisfied that the cost against results was acceptable.

Inspector Williamson at the close of the meeting encouraged any resident, to contact him directly at his office in Hunstanton if there was any matter that was not being handled or acted on in a satisfactory manner and that he would endeavour to investigate the particular situation.

TGH

Presentation at Hanover Court



A presentation of the Jackman Shield was made to residents of Hanover Court in recognition of their forming a Community Association with the residents of the Guinness Trust Housing Association, which has resulted in a much more harmonious relationship between the two parties. The photograph shows (from left to right) Vicky Gallagher (warden), Liz Salt, Walter Desborough, Sheila Jackman MBE (Hanover Housing Association Midland Region Committee Chairman and Ed Moss (Hanover Administrator

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Are you in receipt of your full benefit entitlement or need help in filling in the forms? Would you like advice on equipment and aids to help you manage more easily at home? Are there small jobs or repairs at home that need doing to prevent accidents and reduce risks? Is there anything which is causing you anxiety or concern?

Please contact:

Local Information Support Team, Greyfriars House, Birch Tree Close, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 5SS

Tel/Fax: 01553 774525 - Email: list.project.socs@norfolk.gov.uk

Norfolk Constabulary Western Mobile Police Station

The Mobile Police Station will be stationed in Budgens car park on the following Fridays; **16th April, 14th May and 11th June, between the hours of 10.00am and 12 noon.** Services include; Advice, Crime recording, Information, Lost and found property, Crime prevention advice and literature and Liaison with community groups.

Useful contact telephone numbers are;

Crimestoppers: **0800 555 111** and Norfolk Constabulary: **01953 424242**

Articles for publication in the May/June 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 Wednesday 12 May 2004.**

Advertisements for inclusion in the same newsletter should be in the hands of Clare Thomson, Assistant 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 Clare on 01485 541465.

This edition will be inserted in the free 'Citizen' newspaper on Wednesday 9 June 2004. (Contributors who are promoting events should take note of this earliest date of publication).

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.

Easter Movements

by Kathy Jordan | February 2004



This year Easter falls in April, in March it too can be,
When people think of moving house, or visiting the sea,
At some tropical location, but I like to recollect,
Happy holidays to Yarmouth, when the South Denes was well kept
Now derelict and deserted, which seems a crying shame,
But it's all too easy nowadays, to catch a long haul plane.

A Spring time trip to Paris, was the furthest once to go?
And one Easter-time in Cumbria, we were blocked in by deep snow!
'Til showers and bright sunlight, caused rainbow hues to shine,
Over Alpine like high regions, with ice capped slopes to climb.
Then as the thaw came suddenly - waterfalls a scenic sight,
'T would be hard to beat such wonders after tiring jet lag flights?

One Lent spent in 'Sunny Hunny', it lived up to its name,
I departed with a suntan, and could have been to Spain.
But each to his own at Easter, enjoy your hot cross bun.
When you have those eggs and bonnets, let there be some festive fun.
For as April's month of contrasts, evolves to 'merry May',
You always will remember every 'mobile Easter Day'.

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CORRECTIONS TO POEM

BY KATHY JORDAN

The Editor would like to apologise for two errors which occurred in Kathy Jordan's poem published in Issue 26. These were that the copyright should have read 2004 (not 2003) and the second word 'may' in Line 6 should read 'can'. Sorry, Kathy!



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INVITATION

Ingoldisthorpe, C of E, Primary School

You are cordially invited to our open morning on 27 April, 2004.

This is a very exciting time in Ingoldisthorpe's history as we lead up to our new status as Ingoldisthorpe C of E Primary School. We are all very positive about the future as we believe that we are offering a real alternative to the area as a small, Christian, 'all through' primary school. As we are a small school our children receive a high level of individual care and we are proud to say that standards of behaviour are exceptional and commented upon by all visitors to the school.

This is a very good time for us to make the change as we have been classified as a very good school. We are now in the top 5% of schools nationally for reading and mathematics and above the national average for writing. In the recent special needs audit we were graded 'excellent' in all eleven sections and we have been identified as a 'best practice' school in extending the able child.

By September we plan to be offering 'wrap around' care to children, a Breakfast Club from 8 a.m. and after school care. In this way we believe that we are offering a real service to our families.

Last Summer we had our playing field levelled to create two sports pitches, as we intend to continue placing a great emphasis on sport as a Primary School.

We now offer six clubs – Recorder, Choir, French, Art & Craft, Dance and Sports and our children support these enthusiastically.

We aim to be proactive in widening the children's horizons. Before Christmas we were invited by the Local Education Authority (who paid our expenses) along with other Norfolk schools to perform a Mexican Play and sing Mexican songs at the Forum in Norwich. This event was attended by the Minister of Education. The children loved the occasion and it tied in well with our policy of stimulating our children with lots of extra curricular activities. On the 26th February our year 2 & 3 children met the Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University, Professor Alison Richards, at the University's Museum of Earth Sciences.

Please don't forget to come on Tuesday 27 April between 9.15 am and 10.15 am or 11 am and 11.45 am Coffee will be served at 10.30 am in the library. Younger children welcome.

St Nicholas Church

WEST NORFOLK BONSAI SOCIETY

**Every 2nd Tuesday
7.30 pm in the Church Hall**

Growing Old

In old age the minuses are well known. We are like an old car going for its MOT. Bits and pieces go wrong, especially in our waterworks, which may not be the worst but are certainly the most damaging to your dignity. As we get older our memory begins to fade, as does our attention. For some, old age is a tragedy when they feel like young people locked in an old person's body. They have not bothered to grow up as they grow old. For me the worst is burying old friends; they can never be replaced.

My mother, even during the final years of her life, always told me to count my blessings and to make a treat even out of old age. "When you're old," she pointed out, "you could at last say what you think and eat what you like." She liked young couples courting, life bursting out in all its forms and, whilst in the residential home, seeing two zimmers clash. Mum taught me not to be envious or jealous and the joy in my belief of life hereafter.

My therapy for growing old is work. Old people no longer have to doze in corners or be exported to Benidorm. We are also permitted to be in love and make love (with a little less climax which is easier on the nerves). We can make jokes about sex and know how to handle it. The old can also enjoy jokes about their condition, which means we remain on top of it.

A social worker, hurrying to yet another case meeting, sees a 'case' sitting on a park bench. The old man is sobbing his heart out. Knowing that his wife had recently died she asks compassionately, "Is your house in wrack and ruin and you don't want to go back there? Don't worry, I'll come with you."

"Oh no," he replies, "I've got a lovely warm, comfortable house."

"Is it then, that you miss your wife and feel alone; that no one cares for you?"

"Oh no, it's not that. I married a beautiful young woman immediately after the funeral."

"Ah I see," says the social worker. "you're too old for her, feel inadequate and that she's only after your money."

"No No, it's not like that," says the old man. "She loves me dearly."

"So what's your problem?" asks the bewildered social worker. "Look, I'll take you home in my car so that you don't have to worry about buses or taxis," says the social worker kindly. "That will be nice won't it?"

The old man sobs even more. "You can't," he cries. "I've forgotten where I live!"

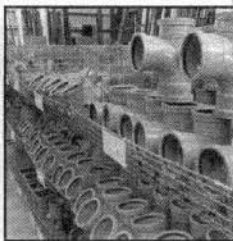
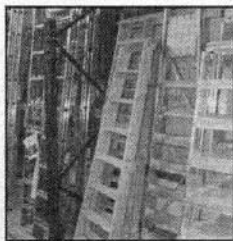
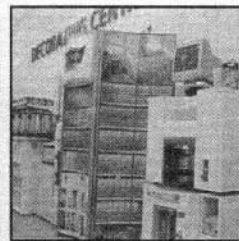
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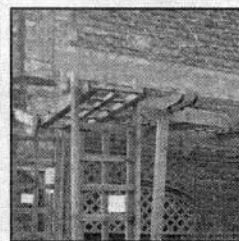


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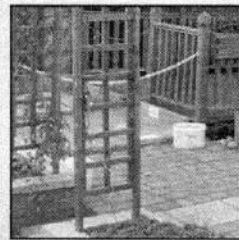
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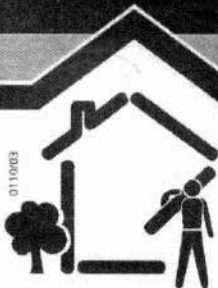


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