

Dersingham Village Voice

Issue No 29

July/August 2004

Pictures With a Topical Appeal



The above photographs may strike a chord with those who have seen previous issues of this magazine. The one on the left shows one of the coaches, which were operated by Reg Houchen in 1959 (referred to in an article about Reg Houchen Road in Issue 26), the other is a scene of local people working in the churchyard in 1956 which has links to the article below. The workmen in the foreground of the right hand picture have been identified as (from the left) Jack Bunn, Clarence Todd, Fred Standaloft, George Bayfield and Randolph Meek.

Churchyard Maintenance

On Saturday 16 October 2004, from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, volunteers from the church will be having a tidy-up session in the parish churchyard. Late spring is the time usually chosen for this work, but this year various circumstances have delayed this work. Many parishioners, who tend their own family graves, have a concern to see the churchyard well kept generally. Because of this we are inviting those who wish to be involved on this day, to come and join us. Tasks that we will be dealing with include:

- Grubbing out ivy, brambles and tree saplings from underneath specimen trees

- Raking up mown grass

- Hoeing gravel paths

- Light pruning of bushes or trees where necessary and

- Removing ivy, weeds and saplings from old, unattended graves

If you do wish to be involved, for part or all of the day, do come and join us.

Please remember to bring your own tools and work gloves. *Neil Adams*

Parish Council Report

At the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council in May, George Pratt was re-elected Chairman and Malcolm Nurse Vice Chairman. Mrs S Green was co-opted to fill the vacancy on the Council. Since then, Mr K Brown had resigned: there is therefore still a vacancy and anyone interested should contact the Parish Clerk on 01485 541465 or e-mail DersPC@bun.com.

After discussions about the siting of dog waste bins, the Council agreed a policy whereby these will only be placed adjacent to tarmac roads or paths and not in 'green' areas. A new bin is to be placed in Old Hall Drive adjacent to the entrance to the Pasture.

Replying to a question from the public about the lack of bottle recycling facilities in the village, it was pointed out that the Parish Council had tried to find a site but none of the owners of potential sites were willing to agree to the cost and labour of tidying the inevitable litter associated with bottle banks.

The June meeting heard that the Borough Mayor was undertaking a cycle ride through every Parish in the Borough to raise funds for the stroke unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. He would be coming through Dersingham on Saturday 21 August and the Parish Council agreed to investigate arranging some sort of welcoming party. The Council agreed that, in future, the Parish Council Annual General Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting would be held consecutively on the same night: these meetings are usually held in May.

PRB

Mayor's Cycle Ride

To mark the Mayor of King's Lynn's charity cycle tour of the Borough, we are planning a fund raising welcome for him in Dersingham, in the front garden of 44 Hunstanton Road, when he pedals through on Saturday 21 August. His estimated time of arrival is between 11.30 am and noon but to allow for a following wind or a lack of energy, a morning's entertainment is planned. Starting at 11 am. there will be stalls, bicycles, refreshments etc, and a piper in full regalia to announce his arrival. We are aiming to raise £1000 for his charity fund and at the time of writing we already have £400 pledged. So come along and bring your cash.



Photo courtesy of the Lynn News

Chairman of Dersingham Parish Council Resigns

George Pratt, the well-known and popular Chairman of the Parish Council, has resigned his position after having served the village for 43 years.

He was elected Vice-Chairman of the Council just one month after joining, and was then to become Chairman ten years later in 1971, a position that he has held ever since.

It is only four months ago that this magazine had the pleasure of writing about George's award of the title of Alderman of the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, at which time we were able to identify many of the different ways in which he has had an influence in the area. His knowledge of Local Government and of the Parish have been some of the greatest assets that this village has had, and he has been unsparing in his efforts to ensure that the village has been represented in many ways by his memberships and contacts with other Councils and organizations outside Dersingham.

It is certain that it will not only be the Members of the Parish Council but also the people of Dersingham who will regret his decision to leave the Council, but it is certain that we will all wish him well for the future.

More Bad News as the 'Backbone' of the Parish Council is Broken

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

I now have the unfortunate task of adding to the last piece of bad news by letting you know that they too are leaving the Council for pastures new, creating a challenge for their successors and a void for the Council's Members.

Hunstanton born Kim began working for the Dersingham Parish Council in 1988 and has been a hard working and pro-active supporter of the Council during her sixteen years of service helping to develop the village towards what it now is. As in the case of George Pratt, her knowledge and experience, not only of Local Government but also of the village and its people, are going to be greatly missed.

Clare joined the Council only recently but quickly formed a good relationship with Kim and the Members, and would have continued to do so had she not decided to follow a different career path. Although it is sad to see these changes happen, we hope that Kim and Clare are successful in whatever they decide to undertake in the future.

At the time of writing this article various actions are taking place in an attempt to overcome the vacancies created by the above resignations. These will be reported in the next issue of this magazine.

BT/21-07-04

Editor's Notes



Once again I would like to thank our regular contributors for their wonderful efforts, which have led to what we believe is an interesting and informative magazine. We continue to look forward to every article received, and are particularly pleased when we hear from new sources when they express news or views about the village, so 'don't be fright' sit down and put pen to paper, or better still send us an Email to DersPC@bun.com identifying it as a contribution to the Village Voice. We also have space for more advertising within the publication, and enquiries may be made at the same site, or by contacting the Parish Office.

Even if you don't wish to write an article, it may be that you want to let people know about an event which is to take place in the village, and a short note to me with the details will ensure that it is included in the Events Diary.

In closing, it was with regret that the editorial team and myself became aware of the death of former village Sub-Postmaster, John (Ian) Lindsay, and we would like to offer our sincerest condolences to his family. He was a well-known and popular member of our community, who died in June of this year following a two and a half year illness, and out of respect we have included in this issue an article telling a little of his life.

Bob Tipling

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Letters to the Editor

Bryan and Cherry Tann, Chestnut Close, Dersingham write:

With all the gardens growing vigorously now, it would be a good idea if householders looked at their front boundaries. We have found while walking in the village, many overgrown hedges, shrubs and, sadly, weeds overhanging and obstructing pavements. Quite often you have to walk in single file to avoid them. Mothers with pushchairs and other small children must end up walking in the road to avoid thistles among other growth protruding on to paths. People in disabled 'buggies' must also suffer. Could not the relevant council ask the selfish owners of these obstructions to cut them back to avoid accidents?

Alex Vale asks "May I use the Village Voice to say - Thank you to Dersingham"

We came here six years ago from that faraway village called Bircham where we had lived for twenty years or so. (A longish time, but I never did learn the language.) From the day that we moved in we were overwhelmed with offers of help varying from advice on shops, where to find the surgery or the library, from making social contacts to even looking after the house and garden when we were away. A great welcome.

Then when my wife died just over a year ago I was not to be alone, but was invited to meals and parties, to weekends away, even on one occasion having a birthday party given for me. In fact, I have been so well looked after that my younger daughter, who lives in Preston, said "we don't have to worry about you any more, Dad, not when you have friends like these."

There are also many people that I don't always know by name, but I meet them in the shops or elsewhere and who always give a friendly smile and will pass the time of day.

I have friends in the garden too; a male blackbird with a crumpled claw who whistles at me and comes to the bird table as I put food out, and a pair of song thrushes who are keeping my garden clear of snails, and prove that they are working by leaving the empty shells by the patio door.

Dogs owned by friends became my pals too, and will sometimes come and stay with me. There is one little dog I am dying to know; I have not seen him yet, but sometimes he leaves a little present in my drive.

Among my more recent acquaintances are a delightful group of children. As part of their activities the year six classes at St George's School have been learning about World War Two, and I was honoured to be asked to talk to them about my experiences during that war. The girls and boys were terrific; they were so well behaved, put intelligent questions, and later sent me some great thank you letters. I wish to count them as my friends.

Enough said. In a former career we would sometimes use the phrase "The natives are friendly". This certainly applies to Dersingham and I am proud to live here.

Derek Asker (Show Secretary Dersingham Horticultural Society) writes:

Preparations are well in hand for our 16th Annual Show on 4 September 2004. It will be held as usual at the Church Hall. There are classes for Flower Arranging, Cookery, Wine, Jams & Pickles, Vegetables, Flowers in own foliage, Pot Plants and Fruit. Children from 8 yrs up to 16 yrs are also catered for with 6 Craft Classes and 3 Cookery. Last year's Show produced about 370 entries in all classes. It only costs 50p to enter and this is for as many entries as you wish, whether 1 or 91! Schedules are now available from Thaxters, Carole Brown Health Centre and the Library. They can also be obtained by calling 540601 or 544733. Children's Classes are sponsored and there are cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. We do have 32 Trophies for the winners of the various Classes, which they keep until next year's Show. The RHS Banksian Medal is awarded for the most points in Horticultural Classes only and the winner gets to keep this one. Who can enter? Persons registered at the Carole Brown Health Centre, Residents of the Village & Members of the Society. The Show opens at 1.30 pm and admission is 50p, children under 16, free. ***Any queries, please ring 540601.***

Sue Eastmore of 'Task Force Underground' writes:

During the past months we have tackled various jobs throughout the village, weeding, clearing hedgerows and footpaths, etc. If any resident knows of something the group can do to improve the village please get in touch. To help with our work, if anyone has lurking in their shed a sickle, scythe or petrol driven strimmer they would either loan or donate to the group it would be much appreciated.

Contact Sue Eastmore on 573870

**Dersingham Village Social Club
Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Hall, Lynn Road, Dersingham
Telephone/Fax: 01485 543380**

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Brian Poucher M.A.

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07769 713153

Head Office:

Crown House, 1 Stafford Place, Weston-super-Mare BS23 2QZ
Telephone: 01934 622012

VOLUNTEER SECRETARY REQUIRED

Secretary required for the Dersingham Community Centre
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Or Lynn Reeve on 01485 543300

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St Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church

Due to retirements of older priests through age or infirmity, the priest who comes to say Mass on a Sunday at St Cecilia's has taken on other duties. To fit in with these duties the Mass timing at St Cecilia's has to be changed from 9.30 am to the new time of 9.00 am. This Mass timing will remain for the foreseeable future.

One of the joyful aspects of my ministry is going to the local schools and leading assembly which is a wonderful experience. The little ones at the First schools will either be very quiet and not ask or answer any questions, or they will want to tell you their life story - all in one breath. There are always some who are very shy. Whenever the Nursery class attends assembly most of those will sit quietly, crossed legged, on the floor and just stare up at you, which can be a bit off-putting. The First school children are attentive although most of what I say will go over their heads. There was an exception at Dersingham First School a few weeks ago when I told them a little bit about our family life when we lived in California. I had them enthralled from the moment I mentioned Disneyland, Los Angeles, and driving for hours on a very straight road through the desert. Most of them couldn't grasp the idea of the distance, just how far away from England the USA is and why they have different times.

The youngsters at the Middle Schools are a totally different kettle of fish. You have to make the presentation interesting or you stand no chance of getting any attention. It is always a good experience to see them smile as you make eye contact. Preaching at services in church is far easier as you don't get interrupted. There is the tale of a minister who had taken an assembly at a Middle school and told the youngsters all about the Israelites crossing the Red Sea to escape from Egypt. When one boy got home his mother asked what had been said during assembly. She attended the same church as the minister and knew he was going into the school that morning.

So the boy said that they had heard about the crossing of the Red Sea. Mother was delighted that he remembered and asked him to tell her all about it. So the boy said, "When the Israelites came to the Red Sea, little green Moon men landed in space ships and with the help of yellow submarines they got all the Israelites across". "Are you sure that is what you were told?" said mother. "Well not exactly," said the boy reluctantly, "But if I told you how they got across as he told us, then you wouldn't believe it." I think the phrase 'Out of the mouths of innocents!' springs to mind.

Len Matthews

"Grown-ups never understand anything for themselves, and it is tiresome for children to be always and forever explaining things to them"

Antoine de Saint-Exupery (1943)

Greenish Fingers' Garden Notebook

May to Early July

On 9 May frost was forecast; I hastened to protect tender young plants with horticultural fleece; of course, there was no sign of frost! Indeed, 10 May saw me pruning aphid-infested tips from our desert gooseberry!

So far, we haven't ever been invaded by the dreaded gooseberry sawfly. Could this be linked to my reluctance to uproot every weed? The gooseberry bush is our one and only, peeping out from a forest of horsetail, self-seeded campanulas, and opium poppies. I tend to turn a blind eye to these, liking the colours of the flowers and the feathery robustness of the horsetail. This lazy regime may have fooled the sawflies, letting us enjoy a punnetful of sweet red fruits year after year. But aphids! Gloomily I watch the lines of black ants busily marching up and down the stems to 'milk' their aphid flock.

If our broad beans are typical, 2004 is a bad year for aphids in Dersingham. For the first time in years our beans have been ruined by blackfly, and this despite our nipping out the plant tips in good time. Disappointing, especially after such a bountiful flowering, and all those bumblebees!

Kitchen gardening can be frustrating at times. However, joys and triumphs make up for the odd failure. Our shallots, for instance, are small but perfect. We've harvested them before this rainy early July. The Painted Lady runner beans are splendidly in bloom, and kale, broccoli and Brussels sprouts have 'taken' well, enjoying the wet. We have peaches, too, on an old tree against a south wall. Last year it bore no fruit, which prompted me to mulch it well with organic garden compost a year ago. In gardening, I have found that success in one year depends a lot on what you do the previous year, how you feed your soil and treat your plants. My maxim is: enrich the soil rather than feed the plants. Quick plant toxics seem necessary in emergencies only, if a plant looks thoroughly peeved, or is half-starved in a pot in a forgotten corner. Which happens rather too often in this garden! I suddenly remember that poor old azalea I moved to a shady spot in its pot and forgot for weeks.

Luckily, our garden seems to attract a variety of useful wildlife. Aphids apart, we really have few problems with garden 'pests'. Slugs there are, but their numbers seem fairly evenly balanced by their predators, frogs, hedgehogs and birds. Those fat, pale slugs like rotting vegetation, so a compost heap and a bit of untidiness here and there tempt them away from lettuces, etc. (I believe slugs like hostas, so I don't grow them. Why invite disaster?). A little forking brings those more destructive, small black slugs to the soil surface, where blackbirds will seize them happily. Thrushes deal with endless snails, and families of blue tits trapeze their way through the roses and flowering shrubs, devouring insects.

What would gardeners do without them all?

Coming soon at Dersingham Library

From Saturday 14 August, things might look a little different at the library. On Friday 13 August, the staff will be in moving the shelves around a little to help improve access to certain areas.

The new look will include:

- A large print and spoken word 'island' at the back of the library
- More shelves for the fiction section
- A designated 'new books' bay near to the returned books shelves, so that you won't miss out on new titles.

Following the great success of our display of wedding dresses, our theme for August will be 'Explorers and Adventurers', and will include a travel writing promotion creatively titled "Get Lost".

The *Reading Rollercoaster* children's summer game continues until the beginning of September and we are running a competition for the local first schools between Hunstanton and Dersingham, to see which school can join the highest percentage of their children. We will also be having the second of our holiday storytimes on Thursday 26 August from 2.30-3.30 pm.

ADVERTISING IN VILLAGE VOICE

The Editorial Team would like to thank all of those who so generously support our magazine by placing advertisements in it, for without the income so generated there would be a possibility of the publication ceasing to exist.

With this in mind it would be helpful if you were to support those who do advertise, and to then let them know that you used their services because you saw their promotion in our magazine.

For those readers who perhaps provide a local service but who do not currently advertise with us, you may consider a fee of £12 for a sixth of a page (up to £50 for a full page) per issue, to be very cost effective. If this is so then please contact:

Kim, Parish Clerk, on Dersingham (01485) 541465.

Lynn News

Eastern Daily Press

Evening News

Your local correspondent is Sarah Crowe
sarahcrowe@btopenworld.com

Tel/Fax 01485 541968

Carole Brown Health Centre

At their Annual General Meeting, members re-elected all officers of the Patient Participation Group for the next year. The officers are:

Chairman - Tom Morris

01485 541450 - 24 Tudor Way, Dersingham PE31 6LX

Secretary - Dee Morris - as above

Treasurer - Peter Williams

Fundraising - George Barton

Newsletter Distribution - Chris Grey

Newsletter Editor - Tom Morris

The chairman reported on the year's activities and indicated that the PPG had contributed over £8000 worth of equipment to the Carole Brown Health Centre. He thanked all those who had made such a contribution to the success of the group. He also reported that in addition to Dr Kenny, Dr Baluch, Dr Mackiken, and Dr Barber, Dr Allen and Dr Cupper would now also be spending half their clinical time at the Carole Brown Health Centre. Also, Dr Devulapalli would be joining the team at Dersingham in August. Dr Deol and Dr Dhumale had returned to Gayton Road. Three more full-time nurses had now been recruited by the Gayton Road practice to serve both health centres. Sadly, Sister Helen Ratcliffe had departed for pastures new in Buckinghamshire.

Residents served by the Carole Brown Health Centre are reminded that they can attend and participate in PPG meetings purely by turning up. There is no formal membership or joining fee. The only contribution required is constructive contribution through discussion, debate and fundraising to the improvement of our medical and nursing services. The next meeting will be in St Cecilia's Church on 16 September at 7.30 pm.

Considerable inconvenience is being caused to patients by members of the public who park illegally in the surgery's car park. This not only causes inconvenience but can also result in no slots being available for patients, some of who may be too sick or frail to walk from some distant parking areas. Please co-operate by using the surgery's car park only if you are visiting for medical or nursing treatment.

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED

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Age Concern Norfolk...maintains a database of clubs and groups for older people in Norfolk. The database is used for two main purposes:

- To enable us to communicate with as many older people as possible by sending our quarterly newsletter and invitations to participate in events etc
- To advise individuals about social opportunities in their area.

We also use the data to help organisations such as Social Services and the Pensions Service to communicate with older people by providing some information from the database. I would like to make it clear that we do not give or sell the information to commercial organisations.

We are inviting all groups that would like to be on the database to contact Rachel Collyer at Age Concern Norfolk, 300 St Faiths Road, Old Catton, Norwich, NR6 7BJ, tel. 01603 785222. Rachel will then send out a form to those who wish to register. We already have approximately 600 groups across the county on the database and all of these have been sent an update form in the last three months and we would encourage anyone who has yet to complete it to do so.

If there are people who would like to form a group for older people and need a little bit of support to get started our Community Development Manager, Eamon McGrath may be able to help.

You can contact Eamon on the address above or by telephone on 01603 785222 or e mail eamon.mcgrath@acnorfolk.org.uk

The Things Grandchildren Say:

Oliver, aged four, following a surfeit of televised soccer; "I like football, but I like it better when it's not on."

Adam, aged nine, during a storm while on a family caravan holiday on the not-far-offshore Isle of Wight; "Do they get hurricanes in this country?"

These were contributed by Bryan Tann

Tionne, aged six, on holiday in 2003; "How old are you, Granddad?" – Your editor replies "Sixty-six" – Pause for thought, and then Grand-daughter says "....Really! and still alive?"

There is no answer to that is there?

Phobbies Club Dersingham

GARDEN FETE

at 2 pm on 14th August

At 14 Heath Road, Dersingham

Admission 25p, which includes tea or coffee

Raffle – Bric-a-brac – Games - and various stalls

Proceeds in aid of the Phobbies Club

A Note of Farewell from the Rev Pam Bayliss

This is by way of a farewell to Dersingham! By the time you read this I shall, or will be shortly, moving to March in Cambridgeshire to take up my new appointment in the Fenlands. But I shall never forget you all! Whenever I think of Dersingham I will remember that there is so much kindness here. Each year I have been overwhelmed with shoe boxes for the deprived children of Eastern Europe, last Christmas a record 750 boxes. And this summer the response to my appeal for help for the elderly in Romania has been astonishing too. We heard how many elderly folk there are simply dumped by relatives at residential homes, with nothing more than what they stand up in. They are the forgotten ones - or have been until recently.

A friend of ours takes a lorry load of goods directly to the home in Bachau each year, and we have collected bags of soap, shower gels, underclothes, socks, toothpaste and so on from the generous folk here.

We knitted blankets too, and you have searched out your knitting needles and got busy knitting squares to make at least 40 blankets. I have come home to find little packages of squares on my doorstep, or they have arrived through the post.

Last week Paul, who takes the lorry, came to say thank you for our goods. He showed us photos of the "bathroom" a line of ancient tubs in a communal room. And of the disabled, tucked away on the top floor. He also had photos of some residents receiving blankets, and the delight on their faces, as they were pictured holding soap and toothpaste. You would have thought it was the crown jewels.

So, for me, my memories of Dersingham will always be coloured by the jewel you have HERE, which is of open hearts and love towards others.

This is the essence of the gospel, and it is lived out among you. Long may it continue, and bring the seeds of peace to the world.

God Bless you,

Rev Pam Bayliss. Methodist Minister

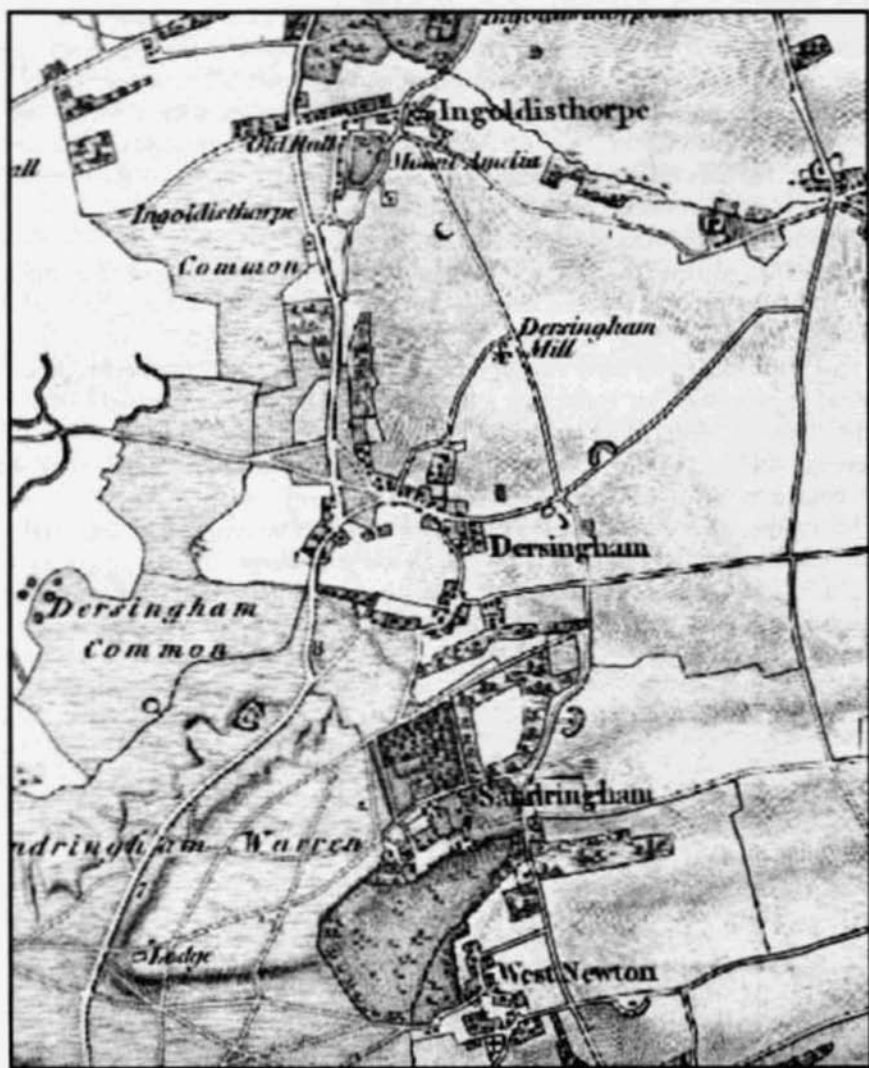
Summer Sunshine

by Kathy Jordan | 13 July 2004

A is for appreciating all of life's good things,
U is for Utopia and the happiness it brings,
G is for the gremlins who do their best to cut it out, another
U for understanding those who are in doubt,
S is for the summer sunshine that casts away the rain, and
T is for the time it takes for rainbow smiles again.

It all adds up to August
A month so full of fun,
So go out and enjoy yourself
Once the work is done.

Dersingham 1836



Dersingham 1836

This enlarged extract shows Dersingham as depicted on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey of 1836 at a scale of 1 inch to one mile. England and Wales was divided into 97 sheets for the first few editions of the one inch series, the small sheet size of 34 1/2 " X 23" being dictated by the limitations of the copper plates used for the engravings and the size of suitable paper available for printing. Most of the surveying work was done for this sheet, number 37, in the second decade of the nineteenth century, the surveying being particularly difficult with the flat, featureless terrain of the fenland areas to the south and west of the village, making the necessary trigonometry very difficult. At this time the Ordnance Map Office was at the Tower of London and its director was a Major Colby of the Royal Engineers.

The road pattern is largely unchanged today, the most notable difference being a track running through what is now the library and continuing on a line with Bank Road to join what would become Station Road at the site where the station would be built.

The old sandpit is clearly marked on the common near the site of the roundabout, there seemed to be a lot more common then. Manor Road has been drawn with more width as it turned up Sandringham Hill suggesting that this was the route in greater use then.

Note the incredibly fine engraving of the higher ground surmounted by the windmill. This was all done by hand for each plate until 1847 when the invention of electrotyping allowed duplicate plates to be made. The shading of the common which, by the time that the map had been revised to show the railway in 1867, had disappeared, must have taken hours to engrave. One of the first government cutbacks perhaps?

Few, if any, of the old buildings shown around the area occupied by Budgens and the shoe shop seem to exist today.

The pattern of roads around the pre-royal Sandringham is much less developed with mainly tracks being shown and the tiny Sandringham house has no lake in its grounds but it does seem to have a considerable number of small buildings to the south of the main house.

Whilst today's metric 4 colour versions are undoubtedly clearer and slightly more accurate, I feel that you can get a better feel for the area from the old drawings that is missing from the new editions.

Tony Bubb

Dersingham Evening Women's Institute is holding a MacMillan World's Greatest Coffee Morning

From 10 am to 12 noon on Friday 24 September
At 64a Hunstanton Road (opposite Thaxter's)
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Dersingham Allotments

by Dick Melton of Sunny Hunny

After the end of the Second World War there were five sets of allotments situated in and around the village of Dersingham. The Dersingham United Charities administered three of them, Station Road, the Police Station and Sandringham Hill, whereas those at Dodds Hill and Fern Hill you had to rent from the Sandringham Estate. Fern Hill allotment had a clause written into the agreement that they were let to ex-POWs only, but I don't think that this did ever apply as there were not enough POWs who wanted them.

Many people spent a lot of time and hard work on their allotments, I think the most immaculate one belonged to a man they called 'Signalman' Bron (that's right, he worked on the railway!). Fred Howard had one up Fern Hill but he lived on the other side of the village near the Common, where he kept some pigs, and he would take the pig muck up to Fern Hill in an old wooden wheelbarrow (that's a long way!). A lot of men would cut the bracken (brakes) on the Shut-up Common with a scythe when it was dry, and they would make it into a big bundle, stick a pitchfork into it and carry it on their backs to their allotments, to cover up their potatoes or litter down their pigs. One man, Dan Griefe, who had an allotment down at the Police Station, was very short, about five foot nothing, and when he had a bundle of brakes on his back you could only see his feet, it looked right comical.

A lot of the men would also cut down the young birch trees on the Common to use as pea and bean sticks. One man up Fern Hill had five allotments so he was named 'Farmer Daniels'. Some people used the allotments just to keep their pigs or chickens, and I can remember a chap down the Police Station who grew nothing else but flowers, mostly dahlias.

All the allotment plots are still there today, except for the ones behind the Police Station. The ones down Station road look very well and are kept nice, but the other three plots look a sorry sight. Who knows, with the growing demand for fresh and organic vegetables, also the high price of vegetables in the supermarket, these three allotments might revert back to their former glory in the not too distant future.

Dersingham Scout and Guide Groups – Annual Fete

The Dersingham Scout (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts) and Guide (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides) Groups would like to thank all those who helped and supported their recent Annual Fete. The groups are most grateful for the continued support of group members, families, friends and members of the village for their loyal support of this annual event. A total of £950.00 was raised for HQ funds.

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Song of an Incomer (38Years)

(Michael Keogh)

Ah! Norfolk is a gladsome place - A refuge from that frantic pace
Which nowadays the human race - With stress and strain besets:
The Norfolk man, though hale and fit - Resists the urge to "Go for It"
He'll do it when he's thought a bit - Or maybe he forgets.

He greets the morn with questing eye, - Checks that the sun is in the sky
Resolves on action by-and-by - Remembers not to hurry:
And when at evening the day - Like many more has passed away
With naught achieved you'll hear him say - "Too late now, Bor, don't worry."

And yet despite this seeming sloth - This dearth of thought and action both
His countryside abounds with growth - Miraculous to see:
While he, ignoring normal care - Inhales the bracing Norfolk air
And takes the time to stand and stare - And lives to ninety-three.

And though, unlike the rest of us, - He very rarely makes a fuss
(such effort's quite superfluous) - He's glad to be alive:
He'll sell his crumbling byre or sty - As home for fools like you or I
Who, all afire to Do or Die - Do both by sixty-five.

Dersingham Holiday Activities

The Parish Council committee who are planning holiday activities for the summer holiday have put together a timetable of events for young people in the Village. These include a Family Fun Day, Ten Pin Bowling, plus football and Multi-sports. Full details can be found on posters in varying locations around Dersingham, or by contacting Betty Clark, Chair of the Committee, on 01485 543902.

(By the time you are reading this edition of Village Voice some will have already taken place.)

We intend to put on some more events during the October half term, and will have details ready for the next Village Voice.

As ever, volunteers are needed to help run any event. The duties are not onerous and range from escort duty on coach trips to making drinks. All adults working with young people should be prepared to undergo a CRB records check.

If you are interested, please contact Betty Clark, or Kim Dunford, Parish Clerk



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News in Brief

Following the resignation of Mr Kyle Brown, the role of **Dersingham Village Sports Co-ordinator** will now be undertaken by Councillor **David Benn** who will be more than pleased to hear from anyone who wishes to contribute to sporting activities within the village. *You can contact David on 01485 544725*

Kurtis Green of Hunstanton Road has made news again by contributing **£406 to the Diabetic Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital**. The money was raised by holding a yard sale, which Kurtis does annually for charity.

Sandringham Fire Brigade have generously gifted £250 towards the £1,000 needed to purchase a new cooker for the kitchen at the **Dersingham Community Centre**. This equipment was desperately needed in order to replace the previous unit which had been in use for 15 years, having even then, been purchased second-hand. The cheque was presented to Chairman of the Centre, Mrs Teresa Southam, and the Treasurer, Mr Derrick Worth by Station Officer Mr Dennis Wright.

Congratulations to Dersingham villager **John Brown** on having received a **long service award** (41 years as a farm worker on the Sandringham Estate). The Prince of Wales presented the award to John at the Royal Norfolk Show on Wednesday 30 June.

The Tennis Club have come to an arrangement with **Rossiter's Motors** which will enable those of you who wish to use the courts on the sports field during the daytime to do so by collecting the key from the garage in Manor Road. The availability is between the hours of 08.30 and 18.00, Monday - Saturday, with a charge of **£2.00 per hour for use of the court, and a deposit requirement of £10.00 for loan of the key** (refundable when the key is returned! It must be pointed out that Rossiter's will not be accepting bookings for the courts, which must be arranged through the Tennis Club. The garage may be contacted on 01485 540000.

Robin Elflett of Dersingham came away from the **Royal Norfolk Show** with a **first prize, two second prizes and one third prize**, one prize for each of the birds that were exhibited at the poultry show. Other prizes were awarded for his exhibited eggs. The former teacher also acted as a steward at the show for the 14th year running.

Dersingham Community Centre has once again become the target of **vandals**, with windows being fired at with ball bearing guns, resulting in five of them being damaged or broken, and with litter being distributed about the area. This follows a spate of attacks on the premises over a series of weekends and other incidents in the village as reported on page 45.

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Doing a Ton on a Bicycle

I've never been keen on the competitive side of birdwatching. All that tearing around the countryside in fast cars trying to see more birds than the opposition does nothing for me. Neither do I find the idea of keeping bird lists appealing. These seem to obsess some birders who often make several including a life list, British list, Norfolk list, year list, trip list, garden list and even a TV list. So I wouldn't have wanted to join my 'friends' in their attempt at the Norfolk 24-hour record – even if they had invited me.

I decided to set off from Dersingham on a bicycle at a more leisurely pace to see what I could see in the local area on the same day as the record attempt was being made. Only proper wild birds were recorded. Chickens, budgies - and ducks that answered to the name of Donald - were ignored. Very little effort was needed because we live in a particularly bird rich part of the country. The nature reserves at Snettisham, Titchwell and Holme are excellent for waders and wildfowl, while Sandringham Country Park and Dersingham Nature Reserve hold plenty of heathland and woodland species. Some of the local farms have also taken advantage of 'Countryside Stewardship Schemes' and are both wildlife and people friendly – Abbey Farm, Flitcham and Courtyard Farm, Ringstead being amongst the best.

I don't want to bore you with my first ever list – but I'm going to anyway. Here it is. Little grebe, great crested grebe, fulmar, gannet, cormorant, little egret, grey heron, mute swan, greylag goose, Canada goose, Egyptian goose, shelduck, wigeon, gadwall, teal, mallard, pintail, shoveler, tufted duck, scaup, common scoter, marsh harrier, kestrel, red-legged partridge, grey partridge, pheasant, moorhen, coot, oystercatcher, black-winged stilt, avocet, ringed plover, grey plover, lapwing, knot, sanderling, Temminck's stint, dunlin, ruff, woodcock, black-tailed godwit, bar-tailed godwit, curlew, redshank, greenshank, common sandpiper, turnstone, Mediterranean gull, little gull, black-headed gull, lesser black-backed gull, herring gull, common gull, Sandwich tern, common tern, little tern, stock dove, wood pigeon, collared dove, cuckoo, barn owl, little owl, tawny owl, nightjar, swift, great spotted woodpecker, skylark, sand martin, swallow, house martin, tree pipit, meadow pipit, pied wagtail, wren, dunnoek, robin, nightingale, wheatear, blackbird, song thrush, mistle thrush, sedge warbler, grasshopper warbler, reed warbler, whitethroat, blackcap, chiffchaff, willow warbler, goldcrest, bearded tit, blue tit, great tit, jay, magpie, jackdaw, rook, carrion crow, starling, house sparrow, chaffinch, greenfinch, goldfinch, linnet, bullfinch, yellowhammer, reed bunting, corn bunting. This gives a modest total for the day of 107 (with plenty of embarrassing omissions) and is much less than the impressive 145 seen during the attempt at the county 24-hour record (which still stands at 159). But I do get some satisfaction from the knowledge that my bicycle ride did not damage the ozone layer. Well at least it wouldn't have if I'd taken along something to eat other than a packet of Eccles cakes!

David Bingham

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Dersingham Horticultural Society

Since domestic circumstance has much restricted my available time for the past few weeks, I have, once again, called on Gilly Canny's reports in the society's 'Newsletter' for this account of our recent activities.

May Meeting

"David Clark treated members to a talk and slideshow entitled "Reminiscences of Plants, Horses and Animals Seen." As always, David's research and encyclopaedic knowledge make his talks interesting and informative, and his beautiful slides are always a pleasure to look at. We saw flying flamingos, child-minding geese and splendid old horses as he ranged from wild animals to winter colour. David made us all laugh with his final two slides – a well posed animal 'comfort' stop and a flowery loo filled with colour flowers – as he bade us 'toodle-loo'."

Horticultural Society Visit to West Acre Gardens

"Many members made the journey through our beautiful countryside to the splendid West Acre Gardens on 17 June. There, Mr John Twite, the owner, greeted us and gave us a conducted tour of the unusually 'D' shaped old walled garden in which the gardens are set.

Mr Twite certainly knew his stuff as he talked most knowledgeably about the plants and answered members' questions. With appetites whetted, a number of us bought various plants from the nursery to introduce into our own gardens. Mr Twite made no charge for the evening and gave us all the time we needed. We certainly went home happily, having had a informative and enjoyable time."

Annual Show

The Society's 16th Annual Show will be held at the Church Hall on Saturday the 4 September from 1.30 pm. Schedules are available from the surgery and the library. Our show goes from strength to strength each year and your support will be most welcome and will contribute to our yearly donations to village organisations.

David Clark (Tel: 543182)

Do you enjoy Singing?

If so, consider joining the West Norfolk Singers who will be commencing rehearsals in September for their Christmas Concert. All voices are welcome and you will enjoy the company of friendly people. Our rehearsals take place in the Methodist Hall in Heacham.

If you are interested please contact the Chairman, Adrian Huggins, Tel 01485 542359, or the Secretary, Stella Caunt, Tel 01485 544423



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Answer on Page 46



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The Future of Dersingham

Last autumn, the Village Plan Steering Committee delivered a 73-question survey form to every household in the village to help establish the needs and wishes of the people of Dersingham. The response was excellent: 1,062 questionnaires were returned, a response rate of 51 per cent. This report summarises the main findings.

Copies of the full report are available from the Dersingham Parish Council office at the Police Station in Manor Road. A public meeting to discuss the findings will be held on Saturday 11 September at St Cecilia's Church in Mountbatten Road, starting at 2 pm. The Parish Council will then discuss the findings at their meeting in September and begin to decide what to do about the issues that affect it; the other organisations affected will also be asked to consider their responses. The key findings are given below.

Facilities for social activities

People were asked for their views on local social facilities for four age ranges. For people aged over 60 and those aged between 26 and 60, the facilities were mostly felt to be 'Good' or 'Reasonable'. But for the younger age groups, the result was very different: around 40 per cent of those responding describing them as 'Poor'. This was reflected in the answers to a question about new venues that are needed, with nearly 800 people supporting a youth club. But the top priority, with almost 90 per cent support, was for a new community centre. A further question asked about the preferred location for a community centre: the most preferred site was the Sports Field, with St Nicholas Church Hall coming a close second. Asked about what new clubs or activities were needed in the village, there was considerable support for a senior citizens group, a rambling club and an art club, with significant numbers also wanting a choir, a music society, a reading group and a cyber café.

Sports and outdoor recreational facilities

A question was asked about which new clubs or activities people would use if they were provided. Badminton, snooker, carpet bowls and bingo were the most popular. But clubs need people who are prepared to help run them: a follow-up question found eighty-three people who said that they would help. A question about the green environment of Dersingham found most people valued everything from woods and hedges to meadows and streams and wanted these protected. However, only 53% of the population claim to know where the local footpaths are; only 33% say they can use them without difficulty; and 41% say that they are not well sign-posted. When asked about the difficulties experienced in using the paths, 37% reported bushes and nettles, 27% mentioned mud and water, 25% cited the lack of sign-posts, 20% found cycles and motor cycles a nuisance or a danger, but 35% experienced no difficulties. A half of those questioned wanted additional open spaces in Dersingham for local people to picnic and for local children to play.

Other facilities

The range of shopping facilities in Dersingham was considered good by 50% and

reasonable by 42%; only 7% described them as poor. The postal services were chosen for a more detailed analysis, with the results showing general, although around a quarter of respondents criticised the size of post boxes, the speed of delivery and the number of deliveries. On public services in general, there was criticism of the standard of road sweeping and the emptying of bins. Eighty five per cent of respondents would use a bottle bank if one was available, a skip for garden waste being supported by 78%; a bulk rubbish tip by 67%; a newspaper bank by 55%; a can bank by 53%; and a clothing bank by 47%.

Regarding medical services, the recent changes at the local surgery appear to have been welcomed. But a few people did say that they had difficulty getting to the hospital, doctor and dentist. Another question revealed a lack of knowledge about the availability of local facilities, with more people saying they did not know what was available at the various halls than did know; the Sports & Social Club, in particular, was not well known. Television reception was rated as a problem by almost half the respondents.

Traffic problems

The 1,062 households responding to the survey use 787 cars or vans on a daily or weekly basis, with most journeys made for leisure and shopping; work-related use came second. Most car owners (82%) said that their cars are garaged or parked off the road; only 4% have to park them on the road (this excludes people parking while shopping, visiting etc). However, two-thirds of those responding thought that street parking is a safety risk. Only eight per cent said that they 'Often' have problems parking in the village, while 39% have problems 'Occasionally'.

Traffic speed worries many people. When asked whether speeding in the village is a problem, 61% of people said that it is. A wider survey of the factors contributing to traffic problems showed significant demand for wider pavements and more traffic regulation, with lorry traffic and pedestrian/vehicle conflict being mentioned by almost 400 respondents. Three quarters of those replying felt that there are some major danger-spots in the village, Manor Road and Post Office Road being most frequently mentioned. People expressed their support for action to improve road safety at the bottom of Doddshill (69%) and at the traffic lights (35%). In judging how user-friendly the pavements are for people with disabilities, wheelchairs or pushchairs, only 7% described them as 'Good', 43% thought them 'Reasonable' and 35% thought them 'Poor'. To improve the general traffic situation, 44% thought that traffic calming would help, while 31% thought other ways of improvement should be used, and 35% thought no improvements to be necessary.

Transport services

Questions were asked about local transport. Although most people (65%) never experience transport difficulties, 30% have problems occasionally and 6% often have problems. The major means of transport for most people (87%) is the car, but many people do use public services, with almost 200 people saying they use the bus either

daily or weekly. Cost topped the list of concerns about the bus services, although significant numbers also want improvements in the timetable, routes and access for people with disabilities. Cost was by far the most serious concern about train services.

Crime

Questions about crime revealed that many local people have a very low opinion of police coverage in Dersingham, with almost two-thirds describing it as 'Poor'. Most people have particular concerns, with vandalism being mentioned by more than 70%. Less than a third of respondents belong to a Home Watch scheme. Asked what measures are needed to improve the situation, the most support was for greater police presence and more activities for young people.

Looking to the future

Asked about the local economy, most people said they would like to see more jobs in Dersingham but were less clear about what sort of jobs they should be. Small businesses, and to a lesser extent small industrial workshops, would be tolerated but development of tourism is less popular. A question asking if Dersingham can accommodate more housing, the great majority (79%) said that it could not. However, if there were to be more housing, the only type thought to be needed is homes for young people. But there was majority support for public toilet.

Obviously, new facilities such as a public toilet cost money. So people were asked where the funding for improvements should come from: virtually no one supported higher Council Tax increases, although 315 people would support moderate increases; by far the most support was for fund-raising and sponsorship.

Who replied?

Of the people who replied, 844 (46%) were males and 990 (54%) were females. Sixty-two people (4%) have lived here for less than a year, while 853 (55%) have been here for between 5 and 15 years and 535 (34%) for 25 to 50 years. 103 (7%) have been here for more than 50 years or have spent all their lives here.

Of the 1528 people who replied to a question about occupations, 542 are employed in some capacity; only 8 said they were unemployed. Otherwise, 53 are in full-time education, 72 are unwaged housewives/husbands, 76 are permanently sick or disabled, and 776 (a half of those replying) are retired. Twenty four per cent said that they had health problems or disabilities that affected their day-to-day living.

The rather large proportion of retired people may reflect those who had the time and energy to respond to the questionnaire. Another question about school-age children revealed that the 1,062 households responding had only 143 children among them: this low count would suggest that young families might, for various reasons, have been under-represented in our survey.

The survey was only made possible by a substantial grant from the Countryside Agency and support from the Parish and Borough Councils.



Dersingham youth and community centre

Dersingham Youth and Community Centre

As those of you who have read the 2004 edition of 'Dersingham Data' (this magazine's big brother) will know, this building, on the corner of Dodds Hill Road and Manor Road, was built in 1875 on land provided by the then Prince of Wales. The Public Elementary School was built with funds (some £500) provided by Dr Bellamy. The schoolmaster in the 1880s was Alfred Firth, who later became the first Clerk of Dersingham Parish Council in 1885.



When the new St George's School opened the old school became redundant, and, following negotiations with the Sandringham Estate, the Parish Council agreed a lease arrangement in order to provide the village with the facility of a Community Centre, this to be managed independently of the Council by a newly founded charitable organisation, which would operate it as a non-profit making unit for the benefit of the residents of the village.

The current Management Committee, chaired by Teresa Southam with Lynn Reeve as Treasurer, comprises Alex Polaine, Tracey Melton, Rita Fowkes, George Fowkes, Andrew Seal and Pete Bennifer, and, thanks to the hard work put in by this dedicated group of people, the Centre has gone from strength to strength and now has many regular users, which include (in alphabetical order): Adult Education, Art Classes, Band Practices (3), Bridge, Brownies, Carpet Bowls, Day Centre, Dog Classes (2), Guides, Keep Fit, Lace Group, Patchwork, Playgroup, RAOB, Upholstery, a Youth Club and can also provide accommodation for private parties.



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Sandringham View - What's in a Name?

Wallace Twite Way



Wallace Jack Twite was born in King's Lynn in April 1903, moved to Dersingham in 1911, married his wife Gladys at St Nicholas Church, and then raised a family in the village until his death in 1981. One of his main pleasures was to be with his grandchildren, and he could often be seen pushing his bicycle through the village with them sitting in the carrier basket.

Wallace worked on the Sandringham Estate (from 1917) for 51 years in the Woods Department, being mainly responsible for the boundary fences, and acting as beater on the Royal shoots (45 years), being in the position of Deputy Forester at the time of his retirement. He had served four monarchs and held the Royal Victorian Medal (silver), the Coronation Medal, and the Long Service

Medal, with three bars. He acted as a Special Police Constable from 1939 to 1945.

He had a major interest in sport, playing football as a goalkeeper in the 20s and 30s, then acting as referee after the end of the war. He was also involved with the cricket club as a scorer before the war, becoming an umpire afterwards. In addition to this he was also a keen bowls player with the Dersingham Institute Club.

One anecdote, which identifies with him is that, at the time that he played football, the team used to travel to away matches on a farm wagon pulled by a horse. However, having completed one match at Burnham, the horse, having been coupled up the wagon, refused to move. Whereas when unharnessed the animal would walk along as requested. The ultimate result of this was that the team ended up taking it in turns to travel the whole of the way home hauling the wagon, whilst the horse walked alongside!

Not satisfied with all of these activities, Wallace was Clerk to the Parish Council, a member and Clerk to the Board of Trustees, Branch Secretary for the National Union of Agricultural Workers (21 years) and was a Governor of the Middle School (now the Community Centre). In addition to all of this he was on the Committee of the Sports Club (13 years), and of the Football Club for many years, also undertaking the responsibility, jointly with his wife, to act as the Village Correspondent for the Lynn News (30 years) under the pseudonym of "Drifter", covering the area of

Sandringham, West Newton and Wolferton as well as Dersingham. A keen churchgoer, he sang with the choir at St Nicholas for 60 years, (the organist at that time was Teddy Rye of West Newton, and one of his friends in the choir was Roland Lingford who owned the grocery store which was located at what is now the Fish and Chip shop), he was still in the position of Verger when he died at the age of 78. He was a member of a group of voluntary enthusiasts who would spend hours on the upkeep of the churchyard.

Wallace was described to me as "a village man and a family man with a quiet sense of humour who could get anyone to do anything". Having seen what his involvement with the village has been, it is not surprising that Wallace Twite's memory has been honoured by the naming of a street after him.

Wallace's son, Bernard, himself a well-known figure and former Parish Councillor, continues to live in the village with his wife Rosemary, and they were both extremely helpful in the preparation of this mini-biography.

HELP WANTED

This article appears in the current St Nicholas Church magazine but is worthy of a wider readership.

For the past two years our home computer, in common with 2 million or so others around the world, has been helping in the fight against cancer. GRID.ORG is an example of a distributed computing project. Often called grid computing, it splits large and complicated computing projects into bite-sized pieces.

Volunteers download a small piece at a time, so their computer can perform the required task before the findings are sent back to the main computer for collation and analysis.

The GRID.ORG cancer project analyses data provided by the University of Oxford that could be used to develop drugs for cancer patients. Once downloaded, the program runs as a screensaver when your computer is switched on but is left idle.

To help in the fight go to www.grid.org/projects/cancer, there you can read about the project and then download the program. The effect on your computer is negligible. *If you wish you may telephone Bob Bowers on 540548 for more information although the site has plenty of detail.*

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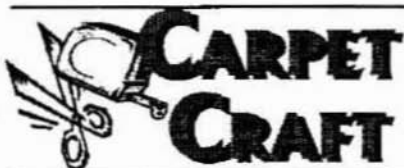
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	Only use 999 in an emergency
Community Car Scheme:	01485 544544
Carole Brown Health Centre	01553 692333
Hospital:	01553 613613
Citizens Advice Bureau:	01553 774719
Water:	Anglian Water
	in emergency 08457 145 145
Gas:	Emergency Hotline 0800 111 999
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John (Ian) Lindsay
Dersingham Sub-Postmaster 1979 – 2002
Died Tuesday 22 June 2004



Ian was born in Airdrie, Lanarkshire, just before World War Two began. His father was posted to a naval base near Portsmouth and Ian, his sister and mother moved south to be near him. After the war the family moved to Kirkcudbright where Ian joined his father to be a member of the 'Gatehouse of Fleet Brass Band', father was the bandmaster and Ian played the cornet. As a young man Ian toured Denmark with the local Boys' Brigade Band. This love of music continued all his life.

From the age of ten, Ian went to the butcher, baker and milkman, mornings and evenings, delivering to houses in the town, and at the end of his schooling he tried to get work in the Post Office in Scotland. He was offered work in London and began his lifelong work with the Post Office. This was interrupted by National Service which saw him serve three years in the RAF where he joined the Signals Command Band. He was posted to Cyprus and there joined the Sailing Club and Skiing Club.

In 1962 Ian went back to work with the PO as a counter clerk in West Central London, and, in London, he and Marian met and married in 1964. Married life began in Streatham, but Ian got his foot on the housing ladder and they quickly moved to a very small terraced house in Sidcup. A tiny 2-bedroom with a toilet at the bottom of the garden!

Within five years Ian and Marian's family had grown, first with a daughter, Suzanne, and then a son, Fraser, then along came another daughter, Denise, to complete the family. By this time they had moved to Luton and Ian had become a Counter Clerk Instructor and then an Investigation Officer for the PO. During this time Ian was travelling to all parts of the UK with only a short settled spell when he worked for the Central Security Division, advising PO departments and central government on security matters.

In 1979 the family moved to Dersingham. Ian had had enough of travelling and together they decided to buy the post office business in Dersingham from Mr Frank Baker.

Gone were the long summer holidays in the caravan in Scotland. All effort was put into developing the post office and private business. Many hours were spent in extending the home and shop, but his days of travelling and working away from

home were over. Dersingham was home for the family and they could enjoy an active and happy home and family life.

Ian took part in PO.affairs nationally and locally in the NW Norfolk Branch of the Federation of Sub-Postmasters. He worked as a Committee Member and, for a period, as President.

Ian was a hands-on Dad. He taught the children to drive and encouraged them in their sport. He took them swimming, canoeing and to football. 'La Belle Mouette', a sailing boat, became part of the family and for some time weekends were spent sailing at Snettisham. However, one day the boat capsized and all had to be rescued. Ian alone remained interested in sailing. After that out came the bicycles and, for many years, Ian, his children, and then his grandchildren joined in the family bike rides to the beach, the woods at Sandringham and further afield to Bircham pub, Ringstead and along any other bridleway or road they could find. This continued right up until August 2003, a mean feat for any man of 64 years!

In 2001, Ian was diagnosed as having prostate cancer. Too Late, the cancer had spread to his bones and it was palliative care for him. The business was transferred to Fraser, whilst Ian and Marian made the most of the time that was left to them. They went away for weekends as often as Ian's health permitted, in their caravanette.

In March 2004 Ian was determined to make a visit to Spain to see Suzanne and their family and, then, in April, he made sure he saw his 65th birthday. Having handed out pensions to other people for so many years, he wanted to collect his pension.

A surprise party was organised, when many people came to the house to share his birthday cake, and, in the evening he was overwhelmed to see his sister from Scotland, his brother from Canada and his daughter from Spain turn up to enjoy this special birthday party.

Throughout his two and a half year battle against prostate cancer Ian and all his family were overwhelmed by people's good wishes and support. Ian fought his battle right to the very end, and indeed it was only on the day of his death that he was unable to get out of bed.

He died peacefully at home on Tuesday 22 June 2004. It was his wish that others would benefit from his experience of prostate cancer. A PSA Test, a very simple test that can be done at the surgery may have revealed Ian's illness much earlier and could have prevented it being an incurable disease. Gentlemen – please take note! Ian felt that 65 years old was such a young age to be dying, he had so many things he wanted to do.

Marian and family would like to thank everybody for their kind thoughts at this difficult time.

News From Our Dersingham Schools

By the time people are reading this edition of Village Voice the summer holiday will be well under way. We would both like to thank the village community for all the support that you have given to the two schools during the past academic year in so many ways.

We have really enjoyed being active in the community and the community active in our schools, so thank you to everyone who has played any part in that. During the past year the two schools enjoyed a range of joint events including a joint Christmas choir that sang at local venues, links with Dolphin Graphics to produce a super leaflet about our schools, sporting events and opportunities for the staff from both schools to work together. We called these our 'Bridging Project' as we worked closer together than ever before.

The strengthened links between the two schools are of benefit to all those connected to the schools, but especially to the children. We already have lots of ideas for future joint events probably based around the theme of 'creativity' with the idea of enjoying music, dance and art based activities. We'll keep you posted!

As usual at the end of the academic year we both had children moving on to new schools to continue their education. It has been a privilege to shape the children's experiences over recent years and now we wish them all the best for their future. They leave with very happy memories and we have included four pieces of their writing with this article.

Finally, both schools now move on to a new phase of their development when we will have new school names. We will become

Dersingham Infant and Nursery School and Dersingham St George's Church of England Junior School

We thank you once again for all your support in the past and look forward to continuing to work with each other and with the community of Dersingham in the next academic year.

Jackie Austin - Headteacher Carol De Witt - Headteacher

Dersingham First School St George's School

Memories of our Educational Residential visit to How Hill

By Charlotte Sutcliffe aged 8 - Dersingham First and Nursery School

When I went to How hill. I enjoyed everything. My favourite bit was the boat trip to Barton Broad, when we broke down it was quite peaceful just drifting along. We spotted lots of birds. I also enjoyed dyke dipping. We caught lots of tiny little water bugs and creatures. Out of the whole class I think we caught over a hundred bugs and creatures. I also enjoyed visiting Toad Hole Cottage. There I learned a great deal of history as well as having fun. On the last day I enjoyed listening to Eric the Marshman when he told us how to set traps. Usually when we came in it was a relief to eat! On the last day I got two prizes because I got two awards. How Hill was absolutely GREAT!

Memories of Dersingham First and Nursery School

by Alicia Williamson aged 8 - Dersingham First and Nursery School

At Dersingham First you'll have lots of fun
Working hard, playing in the sun
You'll have a great time in the wildlife garden
The teachers teach you to say pardon.
When I look at the clock and it's time to eat
I get so excited I stamp my feet.
We tidy the room and away go the books
The dinner ladies are fab and so are the cooks!
I love my maths and PE too
I'll miss all the teachers but especially you!

My Memories of St George's

by Kirsty Groom - Year 6

I remember going on lots of school trips, like when we went to Pensthorpe in year 4 where we saw lots of birds and going to Walsingham in year 6. I also remember parading around the playground when each class made t-shirts with a picture of a Caribbean island. I remember doing the Bahamas. In year 5 I can remember when we had lots of shops on the field where you could buy candles and bracelets, then some people showed up dancing and everyone joined in. Also I remember when Nathan threw his shoe on the gym roof.

I will miss all the teachers at St George's and all the good times I've had here.

Goodbye St George's

by Hollie Doy - Year 7

Smithdon High School is not far away
But there is something we must say
The past few years have gone so fast
But now it's time to leave at last.
Now all the teachers, you've gotta know,
That we really do not wanna go.
All the school trips were really fun
We rate this school at number one.
The teachers have helped us through the years
And now it's time to shed our tears.
So now you teachers, everyone
You're lucky your job with us is done.
English, Maths or Science too,
There's always been something for us to do.
So now St George's, we'll say goodbye
But, everyone, please, try not to cry.



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Please contact the school 01485 540308 for further information

School Crossing Patrol

urgently required from 2 September
for

Dersingham St George's Middle School at the
junction of Manor Road/Doddshill Road.

The times are 8:00 - 8:35, 15:05 - 15:35
and the rate of pay £5.59 per hour.

If you are interested please contact
Ian Webb, School Crossing Patrol Manager
at County Hall on 01603 222042
or Mobile 07798 668062 for further details



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DIARY OF NOTIFIED EVENTS

Full details of some of these events will be found inside this magazine

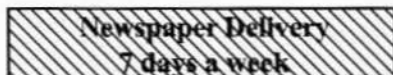
Day	Date	Organisation	Event	Venue	Time
Sat	14 Aug	Phobbies Club	Garden Fete	14 Heath Road	2 pm
Sat	14 Aug	Dersingham Library	New Look	Library	
Sat	21 Aug	King's Lynn Borough Council	Mayor's Charity Bike Ride	Dersingham	
Thurs	26 Aug	Dersingham Library	Holiday Storytime	Library	2.30-3.30 pm
Thur	2 Sept	St George's C of E Junior School	Start of Term		am
Thur	2 Sept	Infant & Nursery School	Start of Term		am
Fri	3 Sept	Norfolk Constabulary	Mobile Police Station	Budgen's Car Park	10-noon
Sat	4 Sept	Dersingham Horticultural Society	16th Annual Show	St Nicholas Hall	1.30 pm
Wed	8 Sept	Village Voice	Postcard Comp Deadline		
Sat	11 Sept	Village Plan Steering Group	Appraisal Discussion	St Cecilia's Hall	2 pm
Wed	15 Sept	Village Voice	Deadline for copy & adverts		
Mon	27 Sept	Dersingham Parish Council	Full Council Meeting	First School	7 pm
Fri	1 Oct	Norfolk Constabulary	Mobile Police Station	Budgen's Car Park	10 - noon
Wed	13 Oct	Village Voice	Publication date	Citizen Free Paper	
Sat	16 Oct	St Nicholas Church	Churchyard maintenance	Churchyard	9.30-4.30
Mon	25 Oct	Dersingham Parish Council	Full Council Meeting	First School	7 pm
Fri	29 Oct	Norfolk Constabulary	Mobile Police Station	Budgen's Car Park	10 - noon
Fri	26 Nov	Norfolk Constabulary	Mobile Police Station	Budgen's Car Park	10 - noon

Dersingham Parish Council

The next full meetings of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 27 September and Monday 25 October at the Dersingham Infant and Nursery School in Saxon Way, commencing at 7 pm. In view of complaints from members of the public that information published in this magazine has later proved to be inaccurate, due to changes being made after publication, please be advised that any alterations to either the venue or timing for these events will be published on the parish noteboards, which we advise you to check regularly.

Dersingham News

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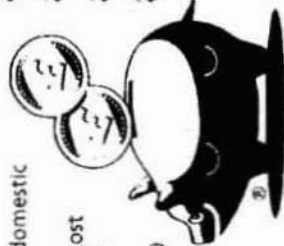
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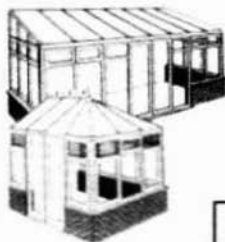
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"The English Winter - ending in July, To recommence in August"

Lord Byron ('Don Juan' 1819-24)

Vandalism and Graffiti

It has been reported that a great deal of vandalism and graffiti have occurred to properties in the village, with rubbish being stuffed through letterboxes, black marker pen being used to write the word 'BLITZ' on property, and, at the end of June, a window being broken at the sports pavilion. Anyone having knowledge of these incidents, or being aware of any other occurrences, should report them to the local police officer, *Adrian Fryett, who can be contacted through 01953 424242.*

Contact Your Local Bobby on the Web

(Extracted from Issue No143 of 'Norfolk Link'.

published by Norfolk County Association of Parish & Town Councils)

On 8 April Chief Constable Andy Hayman launched a new section on the Constabulary's highly successful website <http://www.norfolk.police.uk/> which allows Parish Councillors and other members of the public to contact their local bobby.

After logging onto the site, the new 'Local Policing' section can be found by clicking on 'Your Area' in the main menu. Surfers can follow the link which will take them to a clickable map or allow them to type in their village/parish or ward name in order to search for information about their local beat.

This search will result in a photograph of their local Inspector, together with details of their local beat officers, nearest police station relevant e-mail address link.

Debbie Amor, Web Editor for Norfolk Constabulary, said of the new section, "The launch today demonstrates Norfolk Constabulary's commitment to the on-going development of our website – ensuring that the content is useful to the general public and that the site is user-friendly for all."

Inspector Paul Wade, who has been working on the project said, "We are hoping that members of parish and ward councils will be able to have other means of contacting their local liaison offices by e-mailing them with any concerns or questions they have about the policing of their local area. The public will find the site useful in being able to find information about their local area, who is in charge and who to contact should they have any questions or want information. The new section will be able to show them where their local police station is, hours of opening and what facilities are available with regard to access. They will also be able to contact their local Sector Inspector.

Norfolk Constabulary Western Mobile Police Station

Staffed by Public Enquiry Officers Linda Forder, Peter Duncan and PC Christopher Howes, the Mobile Police Station will be stationed in Budgens car park on; **Fridays - 3 September, 1 and 29 October and 3 November between the hours of 10.00 am 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

**Did you recognise the location of
the
Dersingham Elephant?**

It was spotted by a couple of our eagle-eyed readers and could be seen on the skyline when approaching the junction of Chapel Road and Shernbourne Road as you approach it from St Nicholas Church.



VILLAGE VOICE HOLIDAY PRIZE COMPETITION

A reminder that you can win a prize for sending a holiday postcard

You have the opportunity to win one of three prizes donated by local businesses.

A £20 voucher for a meal for two at the Feathers Hotel will go to the person who sends to the Editor what is considered by the Judges to be the most BORING postcard of the season! The runner-up will win a box of chocolates supplied by Dersingham Post Office. A £10 voucher to use at Thaxter's Garden Centre will go to the sender of the postcard which is judged to be sent from the furthest point from Dersingham. Entries should be addressed to Village Voice Postcard Competition, Parish Council Office, The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LH to arrive by Wednesday 8th September 2004. Winners will be announced in Issue 30 dated 13 October. It has been arranged that all the entries will be displayed at the Library following the selection of the winners.

Articles for publication in the Sept/October 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 15 September 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.

This edition will be inserted in the free 'Citizen' newspaper on Wednesday 13 October 2004. (Contributors who are promoting events should take note of this earliest date of publication).

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.



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