### **Dersingham Village Voice**

Issue No 34

June 2005



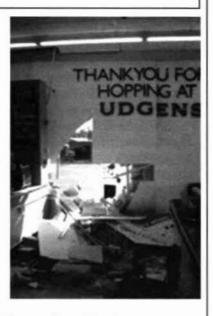
Thaxter's Spar Supermarket after the attack on Monday 4 April 2005

RAM-RAIDERS REVISIT DERSINGHAM

(see page 7 for details)



Budgen's Supermarket following the attack on Wednesday 27 April



#### **Parish Council Report**

The meeting of the Parish Council held on 21 March began with the election of Tony Bubb as Chairman of the Council following the resignation of Malcolm Nurse at the previous meeting. Nigel Kelk was elected Vice Chairman.

The Council agreed that, in future, organisations applying for grants to the Council should be asked to complete a simple questionnaire outlining their background and what they would do with the money. Applicants for sums in excess of £500 would be invited to a meeting of the finance and general purposes committee to answer any questions prior to a decision by the full Council.

There was considerable discussion about the expectation that the planning consent for 10 new flats on the site of the petrol station at the junction of Post Office Road and Hunstanton Road would exacerbate parking problems near the Post Office. One solution might be for a short time limit to be placed on parking outside the Post Office itself. A site meeting would be held with the County Council to discuss possible actions.

The long-running debate over whether a skateboard facility should be provided by the Parish Council on the Recreation Ground was finally decided at the Council meeting held on 25 April. A majority of the Council approved the plan subject to the children who will use the facility raising the final few hundred pounds necessary themselves; the Parish and Borough Councils had already agreed to contribute £5,000 each towards the project.

There was some discussion about vandalism and anti-social behaviour arising from some of the objections to the skateboard park. It was pointed out that sporadic incidents occurred in many parts of the village and it was agreed that this was a problem needing a comprehensive approach. The Council will therefore discuss the issue further at a future meeting.

The Council agreed to support an application made by the Sports Ground Management Committee for financial help from the Borough Council to replace some very old maintenance equipment. The Council recognised the valuable role that the Sports Field plays. PB

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING. This was held on 9 May at St Cecilia's Church. 11 parishioners attended the meeting. Topics discussed included the flattened graves in churchyard, Post Office Road, the derelict house and garden at the bottom of Fern Hill, the areas of land to be cleared by the builders in Sandringham View, the proposed village hall, planning applications.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council followed imediately after when election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman and members of the various committees took place.

Councillor Anthony Bubb was duly elected as Chairman and Councillor Nigel Kelk as Vice-Chairman. Committee members were all re-appointed. SC

#### **Editor's Notes**



In an attempt to give value for money we have been trying to include as much material as is possible in each of our issues, this apparently causing some of our readers problems because of the size of print which we use, particularly where we have an article which could run to many pages. Because we wish to ensure that everyone in the village has access to our magazine we would like to say that the following options are available; (1) For those readers who have access to a computer "Village Voice" is posted, along with other information about the

village, on our Parish Council website, the address of which is <u>dersingham.gov.uk</u>by accessing this it is possible for users to increase the size of the on-screen text to suit their own particular taste, or to print a copy off at a greater size than the delivered copy; (2) Should this not be viable for you, then it is possible that by contacting the Parish Clerk at The Parish Council Office, The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham, Norfolk PE31 6LH; telephone 01485 541465; Email <u>dersingham@wncb.net</u> - you could receive an enlarged photocopy of the text; (3) Another alternative, should the others not be suitable, would be that we could, by prior arrangement, prepare a 'talking' version of the publication to be played on a tape recorder/player. (4) There is a final alternative not yet finalised for braille versions to be made available. I would like to state that as there is a high cost element involved in the three latter options we would prefer that this offer is not abused.

Whilst on the subject of websites, the Borough Council have approached us with a request that we provide them with ideas of what they should be offering to us on **their** site, which they are in the process of renewing. Should you have any views on this please contact them their website, the address is – julie.cornwell@west-norfolk.gov.uk

It is becoming increasingly evident that the Diary of Events is very popular and it is becoming larger as each issue comes along, however, it has its limitations as it is only published bi-monthly. It is to this end that the Parish Clerk has asked me to reiterate her offer to keep a Diary of Events in the Parish Council Office that will be made available to anyone on request. Should you wish to have your event registered, whether it be a one-off or a regular thing, please let Sarah know at the above address or telephone number. If you wish to find out what is happening in the village, or want to contact a particular club or association, then the Parish Office could be your first, and possibly last, port of call from which to get that information.

On the subject of popularity, it appears that our Prize Competitions are not very welcome as we have been receiving a very poor return of entries. Because of this, it is our intention to continue placing competitions into the magazine but without the offer of a prize!

#### Letters to the Editor

*Mrs R A Russell writes:* For Dersingham residents or visitors who wish to play tennis, but who do not wish to join the tennis club, the tennis court key can be obtained from Rossiter's Garage in Manor Road. A fee is payable, and deposit required for the key. The tennis club thank Rossiter's for providing this service to Dersingham.

Mr David Lines (a resident of Dersingham for 70 years) writes: Re Dersingham Shops – Issue 33 of Village Voice

Mrs Britten had a shop which sold everything! Opposite Scoles where the row of cottages stand right back from the road

Around fifty years ago Gladys Hill had a hairdressing salon in the garden of her home, which had been Fitt's Bakery in Chapel Road

Fisher's had also had a fish and chip shop on the corner of Post Office Road/ Chapel Road, tucked in the corner of Reynold's Nurseries

Mr Lines had a butcher's shop opposite the Coach and Horses Pub, later to become Bob Riches' Fruit/Veg and Chip Shop

Jimmy Hancock was set up in a boot and shoe repair shop in a wooden shed on the corner of Post Office Road/Centre Vale after he had lost both his feet from frostbite whilst fighting for his country

Mr Senter had a carpenter's shop where timber could be bought, he also gave carpentry lessons to boys in the evening (I was one), This was next door to Mr Tuck's Nursery where he grew tomatoes and plants in big greenhouses at the back of his home, also beside Blower's Blacksmith Shop

Mr Magnus ran a cycle repair shop from a shed at the back of his cottage, which was next to Harry Reynold's Barbers, opposite the Chinese Take-away

Charlie Houchen had a fish and chip shop in the corner of the White Horse Pub yard, now Jubilee Court, where he cooked in an old cast iron copper. I can also remember when the local surgery was held in a back room of what is now Tropics Fish Shop, Dr. Jolley used to come from Snettisham 2/3 times a week to see his patients.

Mrs J Brown of Grooms Cottage, Glen Road, Castle Bytham, Grantham, Lincs NG33 4RJ writes: I am writing a book on my family and have come to the point of my Great Aunt and Uncle Chilvers whom I used to spend summer days with in Dersingham in my youth.

Arthur James Chilvers was born on 28 August 1865 in Snettisham. He was the son of William Chilvers (Wheelwright) and Jane Chilvers (nee Carr). His father died when he was just 10 years old and his mother worked making and selling ointments and toffee in the village (secret recipe). Arthur was cared for by his

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grandparents Carr, his grandfather being a gardener at The Hale and his grandmother being the sister of farmer Joice of The Home Farm near Ken Hill.

Arthur attended a 'Dame School' run by a lady for very small children at a small charge, then a private school behind Barclays Bank, Snettisham at 6d per week and later at Snettisham Grammar School.

On leaving school he took a two year apprenticeship in the building trade but, at 16, joined the private branch railway between Lynn & Hunstanton. He was appointed clerk at the Royal Station, Wolferton, in October 1881 when it was in frequent use by the family of Queen Victoria. His wages were 6s a week. After two years he was moved to Snettisham with a rise in salary to 10s. Later he was moved to Littleport as chief goods clerk, then on to Saffron Walden, and later March where he was in charge of five clerks at a wage of 33s per week.

In 1900 he became Station Master at Dersingham where he lived for the rest of his life. He retired in 1925 after 45 years on the railway. My father remembers spending time with Tom the Porter.

As a devout Methodist my Great Uncle Arthur filled every office in your local Methodist (Wesleyan) Church except lay preacher(?). He has a window dedicated to him in the church and I would dearly like to find out more information about this. He was also the founder member of the Institute Bowls Club (is this still going?) and took an active roll as Treasurer of the Hospital Quota - what was that? And was a member for 40 years of the Nursing Association. For several years he was the correspondent for the "Lynn News and Advertiser".

Arthur was married twice, his first wife Sarah Rogers died in 1921 and is buried in St Nicholas Cemetery. His second wife, my Great Aunt Beth (née Nash) died after Arthur in 1970, also buried in St Nicholas Cemetery. He had two children Leonard born 1889 and Miriam Joice Chilvers born 31 July 1893 in March.

Arthur celebrated his 100th birthday and said "I still have my intellect and reason". He was still able to do his gardening and take regular daily walks. Sadly he died two years later on 24 August 1967 and was buried in St Nicholas Cemetery on his 102nd birthday. He was a wonderful man not to be forgotten and I would dearly like any information on him and his wife Beth, be it large or small. I understand that he wrote an Account on the History of Dersingham Methodist (Wesleyan) Church in 1950 and also an account of his life for his 100th birthday.

If anyone has copies of these I would love a copy. If you have any information to pass on to me please telephone 01780 410419 or write to me at the above address.

#### Tom Morris, Chairman of the Carole Brown Health Centre PPG writes:

1) The telephone number for the Carole Brown Health centre should read 01485 541788.

2) The Health Centre is now also open on Wednesdays during the same hours as other days.



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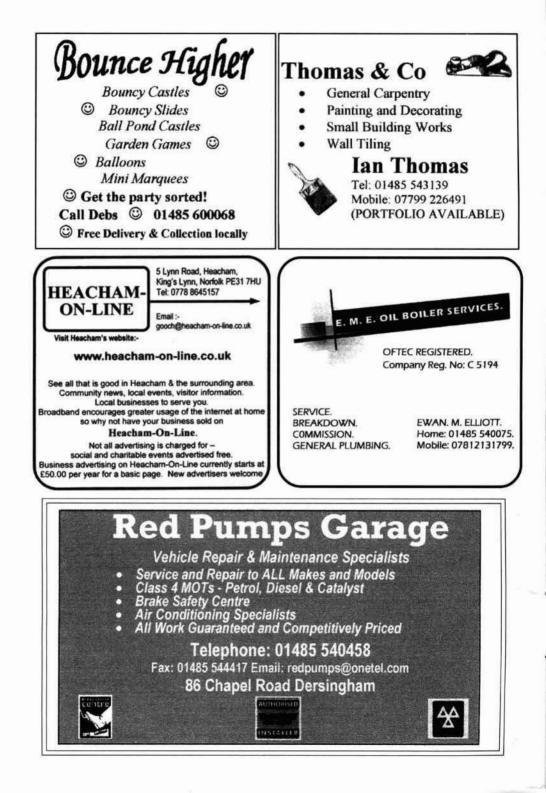
#### POLICE SAY THAT RAM-RAIDS ARE NOW THE MOST PREVALENT SERIOUS CRIME IN THE AREA SPAR SUPERMARKET SUFFERS ITS SECOND RAID IN FOUR MONTHS LINK Cash Machine possibly containing thousands of pounds is stolen in ram-raid using a stolen Shogun 4X4

The Spar Supermarket in Hunstanton Road has suffered its second attack in a period of no more than four months, this time by robbers who smashed their way into the front of the premises at 2.45 am on Monday 4 April, using a stolen Mitsubishi Shogun 4X4 vehicle. The thieves dragged the cash machine into the road, then, after loading it into another vehicle, drove off, leaving the Shogun, previously stolen from Barton Bendish, with its engine still running. The previous incident took place on Wednesday 12 January when, as reported in Issue 32, armed robbers smashed their way into the shop to steal a quantity of cigarettes and tobacco, this followed an attempted robbery at the Dersingham News shop in Hunstanton Road at 11.20 pm on Tuesday 23 November in which a member of the Rivers family was struck with an ice-pick handle. Following the latest incident the Assistant Manager of the Spar shop, Mrs Debbie Dimitrijevic, reported that they had managed to open up on the morning after the break-in and were attempting to trade as usual.

#### THREE WEEKS LATER - BUDGEN'S SUPERMARKET RAIDED Another Cash Machine is Stolen in Masked Ram-Raid

On this occasion an attack took place in which a tipper-truck, stolen previously from Fordham near Downham, was used by balaclava wearing thieves in order to break through an outside brick wall adjacent to the cash machine, which was then loaded into a dark-coloured Cavalier hatchback before being driven away. This incident took place at approximately 2.20 am on the morning of Wednesday 27 April. Substantial damage has been done to the building and although clearance was given for the shop to partly re-open following investigation, as can be seen from the pictures on the front page of this magazine the damage is likely to be extremely expensive to put right, and it is expected to require the removal and replacement of the whole of the wall involved.

**POLICE RESPONSE** - It is now known that at least 100 such incidents have occurred in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Sussex since last August, and that the Police from these counties have jointly launched a project named Operation Arctic to investigate these events. The Police are of the opinion that many of these attacks are linked and are related to organised criminal gangs who are using similar techniques when committing these offences. One of the greatest concerns which the Police have is the effect on local communities and the fear of crime which these events instil in members of the public, but they look to us to let them know of anything which will help them to either apprehend those who have carried out these robberies or of suspicious activities which may prevent any further incidences. The contact telephone number for King's Lynn CID is 01953 424242.



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#### Carole Brown Health Centre Patients' Participation Group



Although there has been no PPG meeting since the last issue of this excellent newsletter, there have been developments of which readers should be aware. We are extremely fortunate that Mrs Vanessa Blythe, who has considerable experience in health related matters, has kindly agreed, in the absence of any other nominee or volunteer, to take over as the new chairman following the AGM on 16 June. Dee Morris has agreed to carry on as Secretary for a further year and Keith Staley of West Newton has offered his services as editor and compiler of the Patients Newsletter. You are advised that to allow for

a reasonable Newsletter handover period, there will be no summer issue but you will be kept advised of any major developments through the Village Voice.

George Barton (Fundraiser) and Peter Williams (Treasurer) have both declared their wish to resign from their respective posts at the AGM. We are extremely grateful for their invaluable contribution to the PPG over recent years and hope that they will continue to contribute to the success of the PPG as ordinary members and supporters. It does mean that we are seeking to fill the two vacant positions and at the AGM we will be seeking nominees or volunteers. So please, give it some thought and offer to serve on the committee. It will not be too demanding of your spare time.

The PPG has recently been a grateful benefactor of considerable donations and legacies which, as usual, will be used to enhance the services and equipment available for the benefit of <u>all</u> patients. Should you have any proposals on how the PPG should use its funds on future projects, please contact the secretary, Dee Morris, on 541450.

We are grateful to the partners and managers of the practice for keeping the PPG involved at all stages of planning and developing the proposed new health centre. The report produced by the PPG was one of the key documents used by the project management team in firming up their ideas. The plans have now been submitted to the local authority for their approval of this exciting project. Please express to all in authority your support for the application which will be of immense benefit to all patients of the Carole Brown Health Centre. At the AGM in June, we hope to be able to provide a briefing on the nature of the buildings, the services to be provided and of progress with the planning application.

Once again, my sincere thanks to all who have supported me during my period of office as chairman of the PPG and as editor of the Patients' Newsletter.

T G Morris - Retiring Chairman!

A good exercise for the heart is to bend down and help another up



#### The Norfolk Hobbies Association Reunion

Way back in 1988 a lone craftswoman - Dorothy Whitehead - from Dersingham hired a hall and invited people to bring their crafts and hobbies along. Over 100 men and women turned up and the NORFOLK HOBBIES ASSOCIATION (N.H.A.) was born. Within three months members staged their first Exhibition and three years later the club had over 400 members from all over Norfolk with ages ranging from 12 years to mid-80s - both sexes, amateurs, professional, people with disabilities, all meeting together and encouraging each other in over 100 different crafts and hobbies going through the alphabet from Applique to the Zodiac with Bee-keeping, Medieval Armour and Quilling along the way. Members received regular informative newsletters and were invited to attend meetings where usually four or five demonstrations, workshops or discussions were taking place in different rooms. They were also encouraged to bring their own work along to exhibit or sell. Sadly, after eight years, the Norfolk Hobbies Association was disbanded when Dorothy Whitehead retired. Time and the commitment needed prevented other members, including a very dedicated committee, from continuing in 1997.



Members of the Norfolk Hobbies Association at their Reunion 2 April 2005. From the left: Dorothy Whitehead (Founder) Ellen Finch Belinda Hiblen Sandra Edge Sally Finch and Pamela Bond

Photo courtesy of the Lynn News and Citizen

A special reunion was held at Dersingham Community Centre on Saturday 2 April 2005, for former members of the Association and according to the organisers, Dorothy Whitehead and Margaret Allchorn. There was plenty of chat and reminiscing during the afternoon. "We had a lovely time and if was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and old friends, and to find out what they are now doing," added Dorothy. "There were about 60 of us meeting up again, and most of the former members brought along some of their recent crafts or what they are working on at the moment." During the afternoon, two old videos were screened showing successful craft fairs from the early 1990s which had been organised by the association.

Today's mighty oak is yesterday's nut that held its ground

Anon

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Frequently, we are made aware by the emergency services that if they had instant access to a client's basic medical details when they attend an incident it would help them deliver appropriate treatment, quickly. It was in response to this request that Data Link was designed.

The scheme operates via a canister containing a householder's medical details being kept in the fridge and is used when members of the emergency services need to access the information relating to the person concerned as quickly as possible. The fridge has been chosen as the depository for the Data Link canister due to its standard location, its ability to withstand damage caused by fire and the fact most households have one.

#### What is Data Link?

Data Link is a voluntary scheme for anyone living at home, who might be reassured to know that the essential information required by the Emergency Services would be readily available, should they suffer from an accident or a sudden incapacitating illness.

The scheme ensures that the vital information required to identify you is not only available, it also advises of relevant illnesses, allergies, medication and contact names and addresses

How does the scheme work?

Your current details are kept in a clearly labelled plastic container that is located in your fridge. Two matching labels, easily identifiable to the Emergency Services and the other care agencies, are displayed in your house, one inside your front door (but not visible from the outside) and one on the outside of your fridge door.

#### What do I have to do?

- 1 Complete the form in ballpoint pen.
- Fold it lengthways in half and then half again (concertina style). Turn and continue 2 to fold concertina style and place in container.
- Label A stick to container. 3
- 4 Label B - stick to the inside of your front door at eye level.
- Label C stick to the outside of the fridge door. 5
- Place the container in your fridge (IN A DOOR COMPARTMENT) where it will 6 be quickly found.
- 7 Up to two sheets can be kept in the container, if you require more sheets contact the Home Watch Administrator for your area

#### Data Link in Norfolk is produced by: The Norfolk Home Watch Association

Data Link is completely free of charge and the necessary container and labels are available by contacting your local Home Watch Administrator.

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Village Voice

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#### The Old Hall - Dersingham

(formerly known as The Dersingham Hall Hotel and Gamekeeper's Lodge)

Now that the development is underway, and being aware that many villagers may not have had the opportunity to

see what is planned for the site, we have obtained permission from the developers - Pigeon Holdings - to publish these drawings which form a part of their promotional brochure.

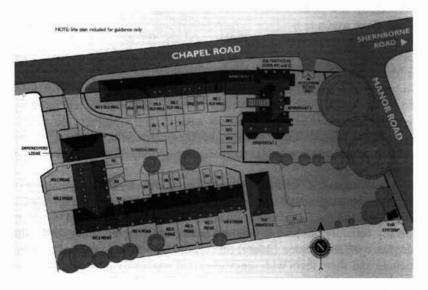
As can be seen, the old hall building is being



retained with much of its original appearance, whilst parts of the extension which formed the restaurant of the Gamekeeper's Lodge are being demolished and new build will create units of accommodation around a central courtyard which will provide for car parking.

In all there will be 18 units of accommodation with from 2 to 4 bedrooms each (some en-suite), and one of these units will be a luxury two-bedroomed penthouse suite on the upper floor of the old building.

The plan below shows the layout of the site and its relationship to the adjacent roads.



#### Dersingham Library

By the time you read this our new extension will be open and hopefully all our users will be familiar with a slightly rearranged layout. This year has seen not only changes to the building but also the staff, so here is an update. We are as follows:

Helena Aldis I am the Manager and I have worked for the library service in Norfolk for 7 years now, the last 3 here at Dersingham. I live at Docking and my other passion is Family



History. Some of you may know me from Adult Education classes and sessions in the library where I specialise in Beginners classes. I enjoy getting people started researching their family trees. It is exciting watching them finding their ancestors and unravelling the past. I am involved in a couple of national volunteer projects at the moment, one transcribing census returns from 1861 and the other is recording churchyard memorials for the NIOMI project.

**Christine Smith** is a familiar face at the library; she has been here longer than any of us and enjoys the contact working in the library has brought with a great many people. She is interested in local history and enjoys the displays and events held in the library. Christine has always kept pets and at present is concentrating on an ex-racing greyhound, which is proving the most challenging yet, seeming to be a bundle of nerves and agoraphobic; most unlike any previous dogs. She is a keen observer of garden birds finding them a constant source of pleasure throughout the year, especially now nesting and feeding their young.

Linda Beer works in both the branch library and mobile library; her passion is patchwork and almost anything else that's creative. We are always lost in admiration for her 'works of art', and her knowledge of craftwork materials is a useful attribute in the library.

Andrew Stride and Sheila Christmas are our two Mobile staff. They travel around in all weathers and conditions delivering to local villages and more isolated communities and are often the only people some of their customers see all day. They have a great rapport with their readers covering an area from Heacham all the way to Southery, not to mention Fring, Sandringham and Shernbourne and many others in between.

Our latest member of staff is **Jan Pitt** who has recently been appointed as a permanent assistant although she has worked as a relief for some time. We are all looking forward to the future as a team and welcome her enthusiasm.

Last but certainly not least is **Alison Thorne** our librarian, although we do have to share her with Hunstanton library! She encourages us all to expand our reading experiences and share them with the readers and constantly thinks up new ways to get people into the library and share our enthusiasm for books and reading. We all love our library and want you to join us and use this space in the village to its best advantage. During the next few months we are celebrating 'Sea Britain' here by having an Art Exhibition through the month of September. All the pictures on display will be by local artists and celebrate our coastline and connection with the sea.

On 16 August between 2 and 5 pm we shall be holding an afternoon in the library to celebrate VJ Day. Staff will be here to help anyone to submit their story to the BBC People's War website and encourage them to share their experiences over a cup of tea. We held a similar afternoon last year with great success and look forward to doing it again.

In October we hope to join in with National poetry Week by holding an evening of readings in the library on Thursday 6 October between 6 and 7.30 pm.

In the past we have had some very successful displays and open days on various themes. Dersingham folk have always been very supportive by lending items to us, sometimes very precious ones.

We would like to have an Alternative Therapy day sometime this year so if there is anyone who would like to join in with that please come in and tell us. We are hoping to have several health promotions this year and think an afternoon of relaxation would suit us all! So if you are an aromatherapist, reflexologist, masseuse ... we would like to hear from you!

In the meantime don't forget our story times or internet taster sessions. We look forward to seeing you.

#### Dersingham United Charities Regd Charity Number 208523

A vacancy has arisen for a trustee on the Dersingham United Charities Committee.

The applicant should be a resident of Dersingham and be interested in the management of the Commons, Allotments and other land administrated by the Committee. Tenants of these lands **are not** eligible to apply.

Applications in writing please, to the Clerk of the Parish Council, Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham.

The appointment will be made by the Parish Council at their meeting on 27 June

#### **Dersingham United Charities Walk**

Would you like to know more about the environment and wildlife to be found on Dersingham Commons?

Then join a walk, accompanied by the Chairman and Trustees of Dersingham United Charities, on the Commons on Thursday 28 July meeting at the Village Sign at 6.30 pm.

Sturdy footwear and insect repellent are recommended!

#### Dersingham in 1671

(An extract from 'The Story of the Great Flood of 1671 and a Short History of St Nicholas Church, Dersingham' – E. A Wright - Published in 1971, Price 5p)

People who have been watching the T.V. series about "The First Churchills" will have obtained a reasonably accurate picture of life in high circles in London in the 1670's.

The villagers of Dersingham in that fateful year of 1671 probably had very little interest in any activities beyond the immediate urgencies of their perennial struggle with the land and the sea.

In the eleventh year of the reign of Charles II, the village of Dersingham comprised a community of some 400 souls. Today it is getting on for 3000. These inhabitants of old Dersingham lived in squat cottages of dark Sandringham carstone dispersed along the present Chapel Road and Manor Road as far as the Lynn Road junction. There were also small groups of dwellings around the site of the old Dun Cow, forming the nucleus of Gelham Manor; around the site of the present Feathers Hotel, forming the nucleus of Pakenham Manor; on Dodds Hill and Fern Hill. Dodds Hill, by the way, is the only road in the village that has retained its original name for over 500 years.

In all, 73 houses with sundry outbuildings comprised our ancient village and we may assume that this pattern had altered very little since 1066 when Domesday Book gives the figures of about 300 population engaged in rearing sheep.

The largest house in Stuart Dersingham was Mr Pell's 'enchanted', or as we would now say 'haunted', carstone manor that stood by the present village bowling green. There were also twelve large cottages, probably standing on the sites of the village farms marked on the 1840 tithe map. The rest were two or three roomed cottages.

The community comprised a few yeoman farmers, certain skilled tradesmen, one or two shopkeepers and a large body of agricultural labourers.

The economy of the village was geared to the sheep-corn husbandry cycle. From the Wash, whose waters must have been nearer that village than they are nowadays, to the present railway line, stretched the marshes, land that had once been beneath the waves, and that by the late 17th century was offering rough summer grazing to all the coastal villagers, who turned their flocks and herds on to them. From Life Wood (which may not have existed then, as an 18th century map calls it Mr Hall's plantation), to the present Badger's Fen common stretched over 400 acres of the Great Marsh on which the villagers had certain rights dating from Norman and possibly Saxon times. On the rising land behind the village, the ancient cliff-line of the Wash, stretched the great arable fields that fed the villagers, their animals and in good years allowed a certain amount for export to less fortunate areas. Beyond the arable fields, that is from the road that passes from Sandringham to Ingoldisthorpe and that Mr Lowton Brain thinks is the old Icknield Way, stretched away into the heart of Norfolk the rolling heathlands from which the great brecks were carved as

wanted for pasturage or cropland by the villagers.

The most important family in the village was the wool merchant dynasty of the Pells, established in Dersingham for about 150 years. They were Puritans and during the late Civil War had supported the cause of Parliament. Other prominent villagers included John Chamberlain who had led the rescue operation during the flood, Thomas Rogers whose name was still commemorated in the early decades of this present century in Mr. Roger's Park, that piece of land stretching from Park Hill northwards to the village boundary. Rogers was to become a friend of 'Turnip' Townsend and to serve the last few months of his life as High Sheriff of Norfolk. Mr. Houghton was the vicar and Mr. Elgar the landlord of the Dun Cow.

Families living in the village in 1671 and established there since the early 16th century at least included the Rogers, Chamberlains, Palletts, Pells, Grounds and Bullocks. Other family names included the Rodwells, the largest family in the village all crammed into one of the smallest cottages, the Daws, Mays, Makins, Chapmans, Goodmans, Gaymers, Elgars, Arnolds and Rusts. In passing we may note that the Lewis's farm at Shernbourne was first founded in 1410 by a man called Rust. Family names still to be found in the village include Crisp, Daw, Smith, Curtis and Easton. We may assume that the bearers of all the above names helped to fight the flood waters of that grim September day we were celebrating this week.

#### It's Not Gibberish! Read it!

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#### **Two St George's Parties**

Patriotic Dersingham residents again gathered at 5 Chestnut Close for their customary celebration of St George's Day. As this annual lunch party was again blessed with a warm, sunny day, they were able to enjoy their wine, and the delicious food provided by generous guests, in the garden. The little cul-de-sac was decorated with appropriate flags and colourful balloons – a sight now familiar to passers-by on England's national day.

In the evening, there was a totally separate celebration (some people went to both!) when members of Dersingham Horticultural Society got together for a St George's party at their regular meeting place, St Cecilia's Church. A very proper English supper of cottage pie followed by apple pie and ice cream was served by the club's fund-raising team and its helpers. Flag-waving members sang along with recorded patriotic music. The evening raised £113.54 for funds.

Bryan Tann 542919

#### Talk of the Devil

They journey towards a strange land yonder, A land they've dreamt of, which they seek in vain. Vagabonds of the sky, who obey only The secret force that drives them on and on. From Nedda's song - Leoncavallo: Pagliacci (1892)

The swifts have returned to raise a family in the eaves of an old carrstone cottage opposite my office window and I have spent the past half hour watching them zoom in and out of their nest hole. Swifts are remarkable birds that spend almost their entire lives on the wing, only landing to nest. They catch flying insects by

trawling through the sky with their beaks wide open but somehow manage to avoid catching stinging insects. Swifts spend the winter in Africa and arrive in this country in early May where they set up home almost exclusively in old buildings. They are common locally - perhaps more so in Snettisham than Dersingham where nest sites are more abundant. The adults bring balls of insects back to



feed their young and in bad weather regularly fly hundreds of miles away from their brood in search of better conditions - leaving the young for several days without food. During such times, the young go into a torpor reducing their heart and breathing rates to conserve energy.

Swifts have a similar body shape to swallows and martins but are all dark with thinner scimitar shaped wings. The similarity between these birds is an example of convergent evolution because swifts are not closely related to swallows and martins. Their shapes evolved independently to fit the function of agile flight in pursuit of flying insects. The closest relative of the swift is strangely enough the hummingbird.

Swifts were once seen as sinister birds – maybe because of their dark colour and screeching call – or perhaps it was because they suddenly appear from the sky and are never seen to rest. Whatever the reason, this connection with evil is very clear from their old country names such as devil-bird, deviling, swingdevil, devil's screecher and devil swallow. Nowadays, this superstition has gone and they are welcomed everywhere. Threats to the swift come mainly from loss of nesting sites. Swifts mate for life (which can be over 20 years) returning each spring to favoured nesting locations. Swifts originally nested in crevices on cliff faces and our houses offer a more spacious and weatherproof alternative to their original homes. The

problem comes when householders make improvements to their property that block



access into the eaves. The future of our local swifts is in the hands of owners of old cottages where they nest and builders who carry out improvements to these properties. It is possible to carry out building work and still keep the swifts (their only requirement is a modest sized access hole). Advice on how to do this can be found at <u>www.concernforswifts.com</u>. Swifts can be encouraged to set up home in buildings (even new

houses) they have not previously nested in by providing swift nest boxes. This is not a very easy thing to do and usually requires playing a tape to lure the birds and the location must be near existing nests. So if you have swifts nesting in your house consider yourself lucky and try to keep them.

The swift is such a popular bird it even has its own website with a virtual magazine and a swift chatroom. This site is mainly the work of Ulrich Tigges and is well worth visiting - it can be found at <u>www.commonswift.org</u>. The last time I looked it had received more than 400,000 visits and has been translated into English, Serbian, German, Hebrew, Turkish, Croatian, Dutch, Spanish, Russian, French and . Italian. This shows how popular swifts are throughout their breeding range. Swifts are emblematic of warm summer days and it would be a great tragedy if they disappeared from our local villages. Although their loss would probably increase my productivity at work!

David Bingham

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#### **Concerns about Parking in Post Office Road**



At the meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 21 March 2005, questions were raised during the public session by Sub-Postmaster, Fraser Lindsay, regarding what he considers to be the horrendous traffic problems in Post Office Road and their impact upon his business, which, he believes, is resulting in a loss of trade, and could, if the trend continues, lead to closure of the shop as a Post Office.

His concerns are not eased by the anticipated prospect of even more traffic resulting from the development of the former Q8 garage into 10

apartments, these being supplied with only one space each, which will, he thinks, lead to an increase in on-street parking by those occupants who may own two vehicles, or by visitors to the apartments.

Fraser says that there has already been an increase in the amount of traffic using the road in the past few months, with congestion being a major problem, as is the parking by local residents for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in the spaces in front of his premises, and he has other concerns related to the problems which may be caused to the Emergency Services should they ever have the need to attend an incident in the area.

As far as his business is concerned, problems are already arising when deliveries are attempted, because, as he says he receives goods on a daily basis from 2 mail vans, a WH Smith's vehicle and a milk van, amongst others who have a need to park whilst they offload heavy goods. If they cannot park outside the Post Office they have no choice but to stop in the middle of the road, causing hold-ups

Many of the customers of the Post Office are elderly or disabled and some are Mums with young children who need the facility of parking outside the Post Office, and Fraser Feels that many former regulars are now bypassing the shop because they cannot park.

For the above reasons Fraser has made a request of the Parish Council that they take steps towards the creation of parking restrictions outside the Post Office to stop what he calls 24/7 parking in order that his customers can enjoy the possibility of parking, shopping and then leaving.

Local Parish Councillors (who objected to the development on the Q8 site on the basis of the potential traffic problems, but were over-ruled by officers at County Hall who feel that feeding more traffic into Post Office Road will not add to already existing problems), the Borough Councillors and the County Councillor representing the village are all in agreement that there is a problem and have agreed to look into the possibilities for improvement.

#### Views of Post Office Road and its Associated Traffic Problems



Spot the difference!

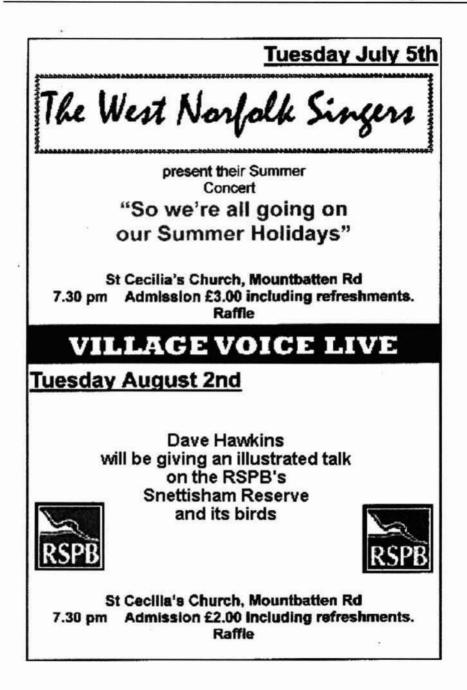
The photographs on the left were taken during daytime on a day when traffic in Post Office Road was at its quietest – the left-hand one is looking from the direction of Centre Vale towards Lynn Road and the other looking from Lynn Road towards Centre Vale



This photograph shows what the traffic is like at one of Post Office Road's busier times - it can be clearly seen that, because of vehicles parked along the road, what should be a two-way road is restricted, creating what is effectively one-way movement.

It has yet to be seen what the impact will be when the building work on the Q8 site is done!





#### Village Voice Live comes into the Picture Stephen Martyn Shows How It Is Done

Tuesday 3 May 2005 was to be the night that Village Voice Live proved its worth, when 30+ attended to see local artist Stephen Martyn demonstrate the technique of water-colour painting. It was a revelation to see how simple Stephen made it appear to take a simple landscape picture, and, working from a photograph, initially create a pencil drawing of his interpretation of the scene, develop this into a charcoal sketch showing the tonal qualities which he wished to convey, and from there to start with a blank sheet of watercolour paper and within the space of two hours to come up with a painting which would take pride of place in anyone's home.

Nobody who was there at the evening's session could have said that they had not enjoyed the event, and many members of the audience left saying that they would attend any future events without hesitation.

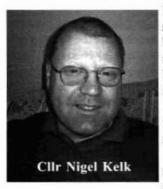
Please remember that these evenings are being provided by the team who produce the 'Dersingham Village Voice' and are, as is the magazine, self-funding and nonprofit making, with all the people involved being volunteers - the entry fee, which includes refreshments during the interval, is used to make any necessary payment of fees charged by our presenters. BT



Stephen Martyn meets some of the audience after his demonstration

#### Issue 34

#### An Introduction to Some of Our Local Parish Councillors



I was born in Forton, Lancashire in 1963 and am the second of three children (older sister and younger brother). My father's job meant that as a family we regularly moved around the country. By the age of 5, I had already lived in 3 different towns and had even spent 12 months living in Lyons, France.

On returning to England we settled in King's Lynn for a while and then moved out to Fair Green where mum and dad ran The Gate public house.

In 1976 we moved to the Midlands and there we stayed until 1982 when I returned to Lynn and enrolled at NORCAT to take 'A' levels before going on to study

for a degree in Geography at Brighton. On finishing my degree, I returned to Norfolk and took a job in business finance in Norwich.

In 1988 I moved to Dersingham where Paula (then fiancée, now wife) and I had bought a cottage opposite what was then the Dun Cow pub. In 1989 we were married in Paula's home village (Hillington) and settled down to village life in Dersingham. 1993 and 1995 saw the births of our daughter, Alice, and son, Matthew, and in 1997 we moved to our current house where we still enjoy the life Dersingham has to offer.

In 2004 I completed 7 years as a governor for Dersingham First School, leaving the role when Matthew moved up to St George's in September and then being fortunate enough to be accepted as a parish councillor in October.

At home I enjoy gardening, DIY and taking it easy.

I hope that in being a parish councillor I can make a positive contribution to the village and village life.

I shall always remember my first visit to Dersingham, it was the 30 June 1954, my birthday, the eclipse of the sun, and the day when I met my future wife. I had been on a brief holiday visit from my native home town of Stirling in Scotland and with friends we visited the Drew family who lived in Lynn Road. In meeting Eleanor Drew, it was by co-incidence that I was repeating a previous romantic meeting a generation before when my uncle, James Roy, a member of the King's Life Guards Regiment and who had been selected for royal duties by the Duke of Teck was based at Sandringham when he met Eleanor's aunt Ruth



#### Issue 34

Drew whom he later married. I was educated at the High School of Stirling and in 1945 I was called up for National Service in the Royal Air Force. I took my commission in the Royal Air Force Regiment and as a young Pilot Officer was posted overseas to the Middle East and sailed on the troopship 'Franconia' on its last voyage to India. I saw service in Palestine until the country was partitioned in 1948 and the new state of Israel was created, and I was part of the last contingent of RAF personnel to leave that country. On my return to civilian life I took up a career in accountancy and after I qualified I held a post with the Carron Co, Falkirk, famous for their manufacture of the once familiar red telephone boxes and pillar boxes and, in its early days, Carron made the carronade guns used by Admiral Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar which bicentenary will be celebrated in October this year. I have always taken a keen interest in public affairs having served in the Community Council in Stirling.

In deciding to spend my retirement in Dersingham I am aware how much the village has expanded in recent years. I joined the Parish Council in 1995 and I am a strong advocate to preserve as much of the village as possible and for it not to become another city suburb. I like to spend my holidays in Scotland just in case I may lose my Scottish accent.



I was born and raised in Sidcup, Kent where I received my education at Secondary and Comprehensive schools.

At eighteen I was to join the local council working my way to the position of Cleansing Supervisor, with responsibility for refuse collection, street cleaning, C.A. sites, etc, in the southern area of the borough.

During holidays I used to assist my in-laws in their bakery/general store at Thornham, and, in 1985, I acquired Playford's Bakery and settled into village life with my young family.

Several years later I began to help out with the Beavers, and then with the Junior Youth Club.

I closed the bakery in 1995 and became an HGV driver, and have therefore seen most of the country, which has given me an insight into what's happening elsewhere, and how.

I'm still involved, along with some good friends, in running the Youth Club. I enjoy my family and carrying out DIY jobs. I was co-opted to the Dersingham Parish Council earlier this year.

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#### Greenish Fingers in June

Thirty years ago I stopped eating meat and poultry. This meant that I was forced to take the role of food in my life far less haphazardly than before. I had to think about nutrition, and the quality of the food I ate. Plant foods became much more important in my diet, and inevitably I began to wonder about growing some of my own. But how, and where? We had a tiny north-facing garden, the cultivated area a mere three metres by five. To the rescue came a TV programme from Pebble Mill, and on it a gardener called Geoffrey Smith. Not that he had the faintest idea what an inspiration he was going to be to me! On the screen he worked on a small plot of land measuring just under four metres by four (12' by 12'), where he demonstrated how you can grow a variety of vegetables on a tiny plot.

Inspired, I joined the waiting list for an allotment! Meanwhile, on our three by five plot, for a whole spring, summer and autumn season, I grew runner beans, peas, spinach, spring onions, carrots, beetroots and lettuces. By the autumn I was truly hooked on vegetable gardening! Only when, at last, we were the proud owners of an allotment, did I grass over the little beginner plot and plant a flowering cherry right in its centre. Since then I've learnt a bit about vegetable gardening, though one can never stop learning. I progressed through various experimental stages, some of which make me wonder now what on earth I could have been thinking of! Eventually I opted for an all-organic approach, to which I adhere to this day.

There is a point to this autobiographical outburst! You see, I sometimes wonder, while we tend our six raised vegetable beds in our Dersingham garden, how many others, perhaps in this village, were inspired by Geoffrey Smith. How many others grow at least a few of their own vegetables in their own back gardens. It is certainly worth having a go. My late mother, well into her eighties and hampered by arthritis, grew runner beans, lettuces and carrots on a three metre by one strip of soil in her small mid Norfolk garden. If she could do it...

You can grow salads for summer, followed by spring cabbage plants overwintering to provide a few succulent servings of spring greens in spring, all in an area one metre square. If you can spare another square metre you could put up a "wigwam" of canes and grow climbing French beans, which are wonderful when freshly picked. There are varieties that don't even need stringing before cooking. A two metre fence panel will support about seven runner bean plants growing up largemesh chicken-wire. Their foliage will soon hide the mesh and their lovely flowers will attract bees. In the autumn you can start a compost heap/bin with the dying stems, or chop them up and spread them under shrubs. Hedgehogs will be grateful! You can dot rhubarb, chard, attractive, easy to cook, delicious, in your border. Chives make a good edging with pretty mauve flowers and a liking for being snipped. Truly, they love to regrow! If you haven't already, well, go on, give it a go!

June tip: Peaches (stoned) and summer fruits make lovely crunchy fruit salads for winter when frozen in individual tubs of apple juice.



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#### **Election Duties**

#### By a person who acted as a Presiding Officer

After acting as a Poll Clerk at two recent bye-elections, I was asked if I would be prepared to act as Presiding Officer for the May 5th Local and Parliamentary Elections. I accepted, and was allocated a Polling Station with a smallish electoral roll, so as to make it a bit easier for me.

All the Polling Station staff are asked to attend a training session, which I did on the day before the election. Hopefully, some of the information given would still be in my head the next day.

We also had to collect our ballot boxes and paperwork – and what a lot of paperwork!

Polling Day dawns, very early, the alarm having been set for 5.00 am. I arrived at my location at 6.25. The key holder was already there and had kindly put the heating on as it wasn't very warm. Having been shown where all the important equipment (kettle, fridge) was, my colleague and I worked together to put up the signs and notices, set out the Polling Booths, sort out our desks and paperwork and were ready for business at 7.00 am. There were one or two very early customers who had been waiting since before 7.00 am!

We had a steady stream of people for most of the day, and it seemed that every time I thought it was quiet enough to go and put the kettle on, a queue would form. I was struck by the many elderly folk who came to vote despite the not very clement weather, and also the young people, voting for the first time, who did not understand the procedure.

I was reminded that there are people in other countries who have to walk miles, or dodge bullets, to exercise their right to vote.

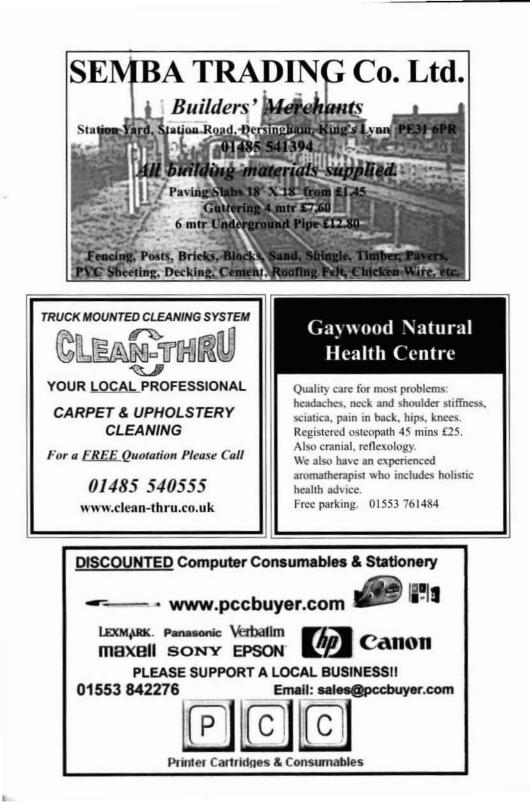
At the end of a very long day, we shut the doors at 10.00 pm. Then came the task of sorting out all the paperwork and tallying the total numbers of ballot papers issued. After a couple of minor hitches, we had cleared up and I was ready to leave at 10.30 pm. The key holder came back to lock up behind us, so I could head straight for the Corn Exchange in King's Lynn for the count.

It was a very long day, but I was glad to have contributed to the occasion. All the people who help with issuing Postal Votes, staffing Polling Stations, checking and counting ballot papers play a vital role in our democracy.

#### **Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening T imes**

Monday 10.30 am - 2.00 pm Tuesday 10.30 am - 2.00 pm Wednesday 10.30 am - 12.30 pm Thursday 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Tel: 01485 541465 EMail: dersingham@wncb.net



#### Sarah's Fage

Well here we are again, time to write another Sarah's page. I hope you like the new logo!

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Anne Richer, Assistant to the Clerk, has left me on my own again. Anne has gone to work full time at the chemist so she is not too far away, and she will still get to see some familiar faces when you get your prescriptions. I wish Anne, as I am sure you do, all the very best in her new position.

If anyone has any spare time once in a while to volunteer to do an odd job for the parish eg putting items on noticeboards, stuffing and delivering envelopes, etc please contact me at the office.



Some of you may not be aware that the Borough Council have increased the cost of the green garden sacks - these are now 60p each instead of 50p. The increase came in effect as of the 1 April. The parish are now offering dog waste bags. These are bio degradable and cost £1.50 per 100. These are better for the environment than carrier bags or non-degradable equivalent.

I hope you are enjoying the website. We are at present developing a revised site, so watch this space for Village Voice Extra coming soon. <u>www.dersingham.gov.uk</u>.

A couple of issues ago, I was asked if the Parish Office would keep a diary of all events taking place in the village. This would enable people to go to one central place to check what was happening in the village this week. I now have the diary so Event Organisers etc please come and inform me of your events.

Well I think that is all from me. If there is something happening in the village that you wish to know more about, or not happy about, please do not hesitate to contact me at the office, and I will do my best to help. Sarah

#### Mystery Shop

Dick Melton's excellent piece about the shops in Dersingham failed to shed any light on the emporium that was located at what is now 19 Chapel Road. As it was probably lost long before he was a twinkle in his parents' eyes I suppose it is forgivable. When renovating the property (it's just 2 doors along from the Chapel), in the early eighties, we discovered that the central wall separating the parlour from the scullery was tongued and grooved pine, not solid masonry as its neighbours in the terrace are, that the joists run side to side unlike the others in the terrace, presumably to facilitate a clear run through the property without the need for a central load bearing wall and that the window opening was substantially larger than others in the set. The house was, in other words, built as a shop. At that time there was some memory of the shop but no details of what was sold or by whom and indeed when it ceased to be used for retail purposes. Can anyone help? TB

#### The Village School - Part 2 by Elizabeth Fiddick



In the last edition I recounted how the village school was built and cited examples of the Inspections that were carried out and how not everyone was convinced of the value of this "modern education" However much good work continued. In January 1900 it was reported that two children were awarded Norfolk County Council

Scholarships. "Ernest Tupper and Jessie Smith are to be congratulated as they have been two of the most regular children in attendance during the year; while Tupper has long been looked upon as the best-behaved as well as the most persevering boy in the school". These scholarships are mentioned again in 1902 when Alice Ainsley and Walter Smith, both aged 12 were successful. We learn that, "These are worth about £20 per annum for three years." Alice had only been absent from school once on 307 meetings and Walter nearly as regular. The Chief Inspector would have been delighted for there are many references to irregularity in attendance and that excuses for not attending were prolific. The Parish Magazine printed this anecdote.

A couple of boys tramped two miles in a half blizzard to school, and the youngest was quizzed on coming by another lad. His reply was, "What's the good of stopping at home? You cannot get out, and you have to mind the baby all day, and maybe you'll have three or four hidings before bedtime, and go to bed a-roaring! It's better to be here."

Compulsory education was difficult to enforce during the late 19th and early 20th century. There were not enough Attendance Officers and they were not highly regarded. Even if an officer did report a parent to a magistrate he often found that the magistrate was one of the farmer JPs who provided employment for the children. The school logbook records some of the reasons for absenteeism. Boys would be away potato picking, helping with corn drilling or recorded as absent in the hay fields. In 1899 the school closed down on August 4th *harvest operations having become general*. Poor attendance was also recorded during the Sandringham shooting season with large numbers of boys being engaged by trippers at the Sandringham grounds, or being employed shot carrying. There were other reasons as well. One entry records, *Lynn Mart. Cheap trains. Poor attendance*. Another states *Yarmouth races. 28 absent chiefly in the 1st class.* A whole day's holiday was awarded for the Sandringham Flower Show.

Discipline was enforced rigorously with the cane and recorded in the Punishment book. Repeated inattention was punished with 2 strokes, rowdyism on the road, 4 strokes and for being an inattentive dunce one poor child received 3 strokes. Another child was punished for repeatedly practising loafing and a tramp's manner. Other misdemeanours included, using hymnbooks as weapons and chasing horses in Pasture Field. One pupil was punished for, hitting his sister (elder) after repeated warnings not to do so. While another Took boy's pump from cycle on way home. Hit boy on head with pump.

Although constantly exhorted to work hard there were numerous treats laid on for the children. In February 1899 it was reported that the school treat had been revived and a Mr. Ernest Bryant undertook the organisation. The subscription list was headed by a handsome donation from The Prince and Princess of Wales. "On Thursday January 12th the Forester's Hall was filled with a crowd of happy children." Most of the principle inhabitants of the village assisted in waiting " at a capital tea, Mr. Jannoch kindly lending the table decoration. Afterwards a Punch and Judy show was provided ... followed by prizes from the Christmas tree and bran tubs." (Theodore Jannoch was a German national who settled here and is recorded in the Directories from 1883 as "nursery man and lily of the valley grower to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales." His wife Mary was born in the village in 1855 as were two of his three daughters. The oldest girl was born in Barnes. By 1896 he was advertising himself as "the largest grower of Lilv of the Valley in England" He had his nursery first at Brandenburg House, now Lane End, and then at Dersingham Hall. Older residents of the village still refer to the sharp bend in the road by the church as Jannoch's Corner. He was interned during World War 1 but returned to continue his business at the Hall. He died in 1925 and is buried in the churchyard.) A Royal birthday was another occasion the children would have enjoyed. In December 1899 "The children were as usual most kindly thought of by HRH the Princess of Wales and had a bountiful tea served in school, the three rooms being well filled with happy children. There was an abundance of good things for those present, as well as sufficient for a nice parcel to be sent to the sick children and some of the old people in the village."

In June 1902 it was noted that, "Gunner Sidney Rainbow, invalided home from South Africa, has kindly helped in giving some time, nearly every day, to teaching military drill in the playground, and the school children have apparently enjoyed this professional coaching." It is salutary to think that in just 12 years some of these same children would be involved in a Military Drill of quite a different order.

There are also frequent mentions in the Parish Magazine of a Night School. In November 1899 an obituary notice for Mr. Enoch Beckett who had been the Postmaster recorded *that "He also helped in the early years of the Night School."* In February 1900 an entry reads, "*The Night School, which has been held three evenings a week since October, was visited by H.M. Inspector Mr. G. Johnson. The young men and boys are making fair progress. Each meeting lasts for nearly two hours...."* In December 1900 the villagers were informed that the Evening School, was "*open three evenings a week for instruction in Agriculture, Mensuration and Drawing."* It was noted that 23 lads had attended the courses.

> Pain and suffering is inevitable, but misery is optional

Village Voice

Issue 34

#### A Dersingham Tale A True Story

by Dick Melton of Sunny Hunny

In the November of 1823 four men from Snettisham, David Burton, Tom Burton, William Burton, and John Nobes, went to Dersingham to steal some geese from off the common. On the way they called in on a Mrs Ward who lived in a cottage in Dersingham in order to borrow a sack to put the geese in.

The four men were caught in the act, the sack was recognised, and the old lady, Mrs Ward, was told that she would have to appear in court to give evidence. This possibility of being remotely involved in the crime so preyed on the old lady's mind that she decided to hang herself from a beam in the cottage.

The next morning neighbours coming into the cottage to visit found the old lady suspended aloft, some wanted to cut her down but others said that it was not lawful to do so until the parson, Mr Brett, was called to make sure that she was dead. Before he arrived one of the neighbours carefully turned the body around three times and said to one of the other women, "there now Alice you may cut her down now as I am sure that she is quite dead".

The three Burton brothers were convicted of stealing the geese, pig stealing and the robbing of a pigeon loft in Snettisham, and were transported to Australia, but before their ship sailed David Burton, who was being held in the cage at Burnham, drank too much gin and died. He was buried on 1 December 1823 aged 34 years and a headstone on the north side of Sedgeford churchyard marks his grave.

The Great Flood of 1953 After reading your interview with Dick Stanton in issue no 33 of the Village Voice and his mention of the great flood on 31 January 1953 (not 1952), I thought I would just send you my memories of that terrible night. It was a Saturday night and as usual my dad, Jim Melton, had gone around the corner to the Albert Victor pub in Dersingham at around 8 pm, where he would usually stay until they kicked him out. Myself, my sister Janice and my Mum were at home listening to the wireless, when, around 9 pm the back door opened, Mum said, "Your Dad's home early - there must be something wrong". With that Dad came rushing into the living room and said, "Get your boots and coat on boy - the sea has broken through and it's up as far as the railway station". Now this was a bit hard for me, a lad of 13, to take in, as Dersingham station was three miles from the sea.

We got our bikes out of the shed and headed off up Dun Cow Lane towards the station. The wind and rain was so strong that we had to get off our bikes and push them. We took a short cut across the recreation ground and when we got to the top of station hill I couldn't believe my eyes, there, just 20 yards the other side of the railway line was the sea. Lots of the villagers were already up there with cars, tractors, and lanterns to light up the scene, and what a sight it was, with all sorts of things being washed up, there were dead cows, sheep, rabbits, furniture, timber, pots and pans, clothes and all manner of things, the police were there and they said that there was nothing that we could do so it would be best if we all went home to bed as it was gone midnight.

When we got home, Mum was waiting with a hot cup of tea, I was nearly asleep before I drank it. When I got up in the morning and looked out of the window I couldn't really understand why the sea was there, only 1,000 yards from our house. That was a night that I will never forget. 25 people lost their lives in Snettisham, 9 at Heacham, and 31 at Hunstanton. When the storm first hit a lot of people tried to get away but were overcome by the tidal surge, Mr Foot and his housekeeper, Mrs O'Brian who lived on Snettisham beach were among them, they got in his van and tried to drive away but it was washed into a dyke and they were found drowned the next day, some people weren't found for ages, one body was found in a wood on Dersingham marshes in the September of that year by a man who was picking blackberries.

**Interesting facts about the Great Flood of 31 January 1953** The predicted height for the tide that night at Kings Lynn on high water at 7.35 pm was 22 ft 9 in.

At 4 pm that afternoon the tide had already reached a height of 24 ft and the wind was gusting at 113 mph and the waves were 16 ft high. At Hunstanton, out of the 31 dead, 16 were American servicemen and their families, who lived down South Beach.

There were a lot of brave people about that night and many of them received medals. Peter Beckerton, a young lad who lived with his family down Snettisham Beach, was drowned trying to save some of his neighbours and he was awarded the Albert Medal (posthumously).

Staff Sergeant Freeman, a Kilpatrick of the USAAF, who lived down the South Beach at Hunstanton was awarded the George Medal.

Airman 3rd Class Reis Leming who was sent from Sculthorpe Air Base to help in the rescue was also awarded the George Medal.

Mr Geoffrey Searle who was the founder of Searle's Holiday Complex received the Queen's Commendation for brave conduct.





Village Voice

#### Issue 34



#### Snow Doesn't Spoil the Spencer Visit to St Nicholas' Dinner

The timing turned out to be unexpectedly controversial. Earl Spencer's visit to Sandringham on 8 April 2005 coincided with the Prince of Wales's marriage to Camilla Parker-Bowles. The press didn't take long to start asking: would Spencer, younger brother of the Prince of Wales' first wife, Princess Diana, and therefore uncle to Princes William and Harry, be going to Windsor rather than speaking at the second Friends of St Nicholas' Church literary dinner? And not only Earl Spencer, but what about his two sisters, one of whom, Lady Jane Fellowes, also lives in West Norfolk at Snettisham?

The literary dinner - the second of what is now an annual event - had been organised last autumn long before the Prince of Wales announced his marriage plans.

Earl Spencer, who as an author calls himself Charles Spencer, said firmly to his publisher, Ion Trewin, who lives in Dersingham and helped organise the event, that he had committed himself to the literary dinner and that was what he would be attending. Even when the wedding was postponed a day as a result of the funeral of the Pope in Rome, that didn't stop the press turning up in force.

On a surprisingly (for early April) chilly and ultimately snowy evening at the Sandringham Visitors' Centre Charles and his wife Caroline mingled before the dinner with a full house of guests who had come not only from Norfolk, but even from as far away as the south of London. Then he was interviewed by Ion Trewin. He was billed to talk about his book, *Blenheim: Battle for Europe*, a best-selling history of the famous battle. But before that Charles - the youngest of the four Spencer children - recalled what life was like in the 1960s and 1970s at Park House.

His love of history began when his father called in at one of Dersingham's garages - was it Red Pumps? He couldn't be certain - where they were giving away cards featuring great soldiers and great battles. It wasn't long before he had started reading about his ancestor, John, Duke of Marlborough, who lead the British army against the French at Blenheim. He remembered, too, having his hair cut in Dersingham (was it Miss/Mrs Hancock, or Hansford, perhaps?); and putting sweets on his father's account at West Newton post office.

Earl Spencer keeps up his connections with Norfolk. He has taken his children to see inside Park House now that it is a Leonard Cheshire Foundation hotel and was astonished to find how small it seemed when compared with his childhood memory. He also still keeps a farm at North Creake, which he visits regularly.

After Spencer spoke about his book, guests bought copies - the bookstall had been set up by Ottakar's of King's Lynn - which Spencer signed. A blizzard was raging outside as he left, but this didn't stop the Friends' committee, headed by Keith Blythe, from basking in what had proved a hugely successful event. It was not simply a question of raising funds for the upkeepof St Nicholas Church, the village's oldest building, but spreading the word more widely about the Friends's work, particularly as the church is currently without a Vicar, since the resignation last autumn of the Rev Ron Elverson. *Ion Trewin* 

For more information about the work of the Friends of St Nicholas' Church contact Keith Blythe, Winkfields, Shernborne Road, Dersingham, PE31 6HZ. Tel:01485 544866. EMail blythe@winkfields.fsnet.co.uk



#### The Battle of Trafalgar - 20 October 1805 The most decisive naval battle in history

(Printed by kind permission of Malcolm A Baldwin, Editor, RAF Regiment (Birmingham) Newsletter) It was the year of 1805, the year when it seemed that at long last Napoleon would invade England, which, for twelve years, had stood in the path of the Grand Armée's complete domination of Europe. It was the year when, in the face of all the evidence to the contrary, Napoleon had suddenly convinced himself that his united fleet could annihilate any squadron which the English could put to sea to meet it.

Part One of Four (remainder to follow in the next three issues of Village Voice) In the 17th and 18th centuries, the great battleships, which were sailing in line formation into a battle, were called ships of the line. On the ships of the line the guns were placed in two to four different battery decks.

The ships were called twodecker, threedecker or fourdecker according to the number of gun battery decks. The heaviest guns were always placed on the lowest battery deck; there stood the 32- pound guns. The 24 and 12 pound guns were placed on the 'tween deck and the upper deck. All guns were muzzle-loaders and had to be operated by several men.

The small guns were handled by six men, the middle sized guns by 10 men and the large guns by 12 to 14 men. After firing they needed 20 to 30 minutes for loading and shooting again. A ship of the line with 100 guns was able to fire half a ton of ammunition at an enemy ship with one broadside. The heaviest guns had a range of up to 1.5 kilometres.

#### The Grand Strategy

In order to understand the importance of the battle of Trafalgar, it is important to understand the grand strategy of Napoleon. With the onset of the War of the Third Coalition (1805-1807), it was the new French Emperor's goal to unite the two French fleets located at Toulon and Brest, with Spanish ships from Cartagena and Cádiz. Once this fleet was created in the Atlantic, Bonaparte would possess enough ships to seriously consider an invasion of England. In early 1805, Napoleon initiated this plan by ordering the French and Spanish fleets to break the British blockade and sail for the West Indies. The primary goal here was to ravage British colonial holdings, disrupt trade, and confuse the English of Napoleon's true intentions. After reaching this goal, the fleet would return to the Atlantic, crush the British fleet near Ushant, an island off the coast of Brittany, and then escort an invasion force of 350,000 men. Admiral Pierre de Villeneuve, by escaping the English blockade at Toulon led by Admiral Horatio Nelson, achieved the first stage of this plan on 30th March, by joining Admiral Gravina and the Spanish fleet from Cadiz, and with this new fleet of twenty ships, sailed for Martinique. Meanwhile, Admiral Nelson

erroneously set a course for the south-east, believing that the French were heading towards Egypt. Once he realised his error, Nelson and his 10 ships altered their course and raced towards the Atlantic. With Nelson's pursuit, the coalition fleet of Villeneuve could not ravage the West Indies as planned. Therefore, they returned to Europe. En route, on 22 July, the Franco-Spanish fleet clashed with a British squadron of eighteen ships off Cape Finisterre in an indecisive battle. However, Villeneuve had lost two ships and was forced to sail to Cadiz to procure reinforcements.

The events of the summer had discouraged Napoleon from executing the final phase of his invasion of England, and thus turned his focus towards Austria. In order to protect his new strategy, the Emperor ordered Villeneuve to sail back into the Mediterranean and unite with other French ships at Cartagena.

However, Villeneuve was aware that the British fleet had increased to twentynine ships of the line, and if the Franco-Spanish fleet were to engage them, it would be a very costly affair. Nevertheless, on 19 October, Villeneuve, under the threat of removal from his command for cowardice, signalled his command to set sail for the Mediterranean.

Due to poor winds, Villeneuve's fleet could not get out of the port of Cadiz in a uniform manner. In fact, only three frigates and seven ships-of-the-line made it out of port, a hopeless endeavour if the British happened to engage them. Therefore, the coalition fleet was ordered back into port to attempt their run to the south-east the following day.

Nelson had received news of Villeneuve's activities and ordered his fleet to sail for Gibraltar. With a full day's sail, the English had effectively closed off the entry of the Franco-Spanish fleet into the Mediterranean and could now force them to do battle.

By 20 October, Villeneuve had slipped out of Cádiz, but was caught by Nelson off the coast of Trafalgar on the 21st. Dawn on the 21st saw the French and Spanish allied fleet approach the Straights of Gibraltar to find it blocked by the British. At 6.00 Nelson hoisted signal No 13, "Prepare for battle". Those ships which had not already done so, set about the task. On a 19th century man-of-war, this was a major undertaking.

Wherever possible, rigging was duplicated and strengthened to prevent yards from being shot away and falling to the deck and the tiller was strengthened to preserve the ability to manoeuvre. Damage control equipment was prepared to plug holes below the waterline and buckets were filled with water for fire fighting.

Anything loose such as tables, furniture and even livestock was either stowed below or thrown overboard and hand weapons were placed around the deck where they could easily be reached. Magazines were prepared and the deck was doused in water and covered with sand to provide better grip and to soak up blood. Finally the galley fire was doused. Grog was issued with the cold meals eaten before the battle to help fight nerves.

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Villeneuve ordered the coalition fleet to form a single, irregular line, sailing to the north in 'the hopes that his 33 to 29 advantage in warships would win the day. However, against all naval conventions, Admiral Nelson, in a prearranged plan, divided his fleet into two squadrons and attacked the centre of the Franco-Spanish line at right angles. This meant exposing the English ships to the massive broadsides of the enemy.

At 11.50 am, Nelson, on board the HMS Victory, signalled his famous message: "England expects that every man will do his duty." Then, after his southern squadron, led by Admiral Cuthbert Collingwood in the Royal Sovereign, had engaged the Franco-Spanish line, Nelson began to return fire against Villeneuve's ship, the Bucentaure.

From here, the English ships broke through and offered numerous broadsides of their own. By 5.00 p.m., the battle was over and the Franco-Spanish fleet was shattered. Villeneuve himself was captured, and his fleet surrendered some 20 ships to the English fleet. In addition, 14,000 men were lost, half of whom were prisoners of war, while 1,500 British seamen were killed or wounded. Only 11 ships reached Cadiz while no English ship was destroyed. But the English did not escape unscathed. At 1.15 pm, while the HMS Victory was engaging the Redoubtable, Nelson was struck in the spine by a sniper and was carried below to die. However, when he did succumb to his injury at 4.30 p.m., he was certain that the English had won the day.

Beneath the setting sun, his fleet was lying in two groups with the shattered hulks of the enemy ships all around them. The British losses had been heavy; 449 killed and 1,241 wounded. But of the 27 ships of the British fleet, not one had been sunk or captured. The Battle of Trafalgar was the decisive battle of the Napoleonic Wars.

#### News from St Nicholas

Members of St Nicholas Parish Church produce a monthly "Parish News" magazine which contains a directory of who's who within the Church, Services at St Nicholas and other Churches in the village.

You will find information on the Men's Group, Mothers' Union, Mid-Week Groups, The Friends of St Nicholas, etc along with many interesting articles and reports.

If you would like a copy delivered to your door every month please contact Joan Schorah on 01485 540491 or drop a note through the door of 48 Station Road.

The cost is £2.50 for a year - and you would be welcome to receive a complimentary copy before placing your annual subscription.

#### **Dersingham Horticultural Society**

March Meeting – Members eagerly anticipate an excellent evening's entertainment when Walter Blaney, our secretary, gives a talk, and, once again, they were not disappointed, for Walter's topic "Gardens Far and Near" certainly lived up to its title. From Cornwall to Costa Rica, from Suffolk to Shanghai and from the rhododendrons at Stody to the orchids of Singapore, an informative narrative illustrated by quality slides and delivered with Walter's gentle humour a



by quality slides and delivered with Walter's gentle humour and anecdotes vividly demonstrated both his and Jane, his wife's, love of all kinds of gardens.

Walter's talk focussed on schemes and materials other than flowers which can be used to provide variety and interest in our gardens.

Ponds and water features, greenhouse and conservatories, bird-baths and tables, bedding and hedges were just a few of the topics that were covered during Walter's wide ranging survey.

Walter finished by reminding us that, notwithstanding all the hard work that our gardens entail, they should be havens of rest and recreation. Walter's world tour of the gardens that he and Jane had visited provided all present with an evening filled with both verbal and pictorial interest and pleasure.

**April Meeting** – A return visit of Brenda and Gordon Turner from the Fakenham Garden Centre gave members a chance to see a hands-on practical demonstration of the preparation of hanging baskets, tubs and troughs for the coming season. Brenda first prepared a twelve inch hanging basket and, rather surprisingly, ended up using seventeen plants in her scheme and generously donated the finished article to the evening's raffle.

Brenda then prepared two contrasting tub plantings, one for late spring and early summer colour, and one for a more permanent late summer display. Gordon emphasised the necessity of a good initial drenching of hanging baskets after planting up with no subsequent watering until the surface has dried out – this stimulated root growth – then daily watering, twice in really hot weather. Clay containers should be raised off the ground to allow for good drainage thus preventing frost damage in winter.

Brenda and Gordon then described some of the newer species and varieties of old favourites which have become available over the past few years and which are suitable for these containers. They then finished by giving an interesting account of the history and scope of their garden centre. In the words of our chairman "an interesting and informative talk" enjoyed by all present.

**Celebration of St George's Day** – (Social Evening) - "We all had tremendous fun at this event with deliciously cooked cottage pie followed by traditional apple pie with ice cream. Although unwell, Sue Jenkins insisted on doing her share of the cooking and prepared colourful posters to decorate the hall. Many members contributed to the jollity of the evening by wearing red and white, waving flags and singing boisterously..." (*Extracted from society's newsletter*)David Clark (543182)



#### **Crisp Note**

by Kathy Jordan © 10 May 2005 (Inspired by our article on Stanton Road in the April issue) It's all sweetness and light along Sugar Lane. Yet Station Road sours with no trace of a train. Down The Drift you may dawdle, ramble or roam, But Chapel Road's namesake is now just a home. Centre Vale's the target to score a bull's eve. Whilst Windsor Drive's carriage is waiting nearby, Everything's regal down 'Lilibet' Drive. By bubbling Brook Road you may take a deep dive. In Admiral's Drive are there sailors galore? At Mill Road cornflour is ground no more. Take heed of The Hawthorns - don't leap 'til you look, Close to The Orchard you'll find a good book. Down Woodside Avenue trees spring alive, Are you in Scotland on Holyrood Drive? Is Fern Hill the place where greenery's found? Pansey Drive's flora - does it really abound? Manor Road's lords glow decisively warmer -Supping beer round its curvaceous corner! Are many palms crossed down Silver Drive way? Does Bank Road hold riches to help save the day? In Hanover Court will you end up a lag? Sent off to Senters sewing Post Office bags? In 'Decoy it's wiser to crouch than to stand, Two in Bush Close is just worth one in the hand. Willow Drive weeps when you're under the weather, At Jubilee Court all cures join together. Or Saxon Way's surgery may ease your pains, Now I'll Close on a Crisp note - for I've run out of names!!!

## DERSINGHAM MINORS' FOOTBALL CLUB Sunday 14 August 2005

Your support is requested to cheer on the local side.

There will be refreshments including BBQ Bouncy Castle, Ticket Stalls etc

For more information please contact Carl Bowman on 01485 542980

#### **Get The Goss!**

#### © Patrick Marks. May 2005

Ders'nam ain't what it was... A bloke can't get a haircut, or get his sheep slaughtered anymore. You can't buy a decent bag of nutty slack or get your washing done. And how will we get by without Mrs Terrington's medicines and remedies? Gone are the grocers, bakers and crisp makers. Gone are the egg sellers and purveyors of roadside tea; all replaced by a couple of large convenience stores, that are, well... largely convenient.

I know all this 'cos I read it in The Voice.

The legend "Norfolk Constabulary" carved into the grey building on Manor Road is, apparently, just the name of the building, (we do, however, receive a visit once a month from the boys in blue in the form of a mobile office) and you can buy underlay from the Forester's Lodge and rocks from the railway station

The local Hell's Angel chapter is, allegedly, using the recreation park for their nocturnal motorbike stunt riding antics and there are unconfirmed reports of adolescent boys shouting "Boo!" loudly at each other on Manor Road after dark.

There's traffic gridlock on the car park that used to be Post Office Road, and a tower block is currently being erected on the corner opposite the Post Office. There are nightjars on the Bog and white-tailed bumblebees will be with us very soon. Oh, and we can't move for doggie doos.

I know all this 'cos I read it in The Voice.

Ah, the Village Voice; I'd be lost without it now. As a fairly recent "incomer" (like many other villagers), I find it a constant source of absorbing stories, intriguing facts and fascinating photographs of the village's recent social history, together with an essential guide to what's going on in Dersingham right now.

However, it was Dick Melton's charming article, "The Shops in Dersingham", (Village Voice issue 33), that got me thinking ... he said, "Even though there were only two thousand people in the village of Dersingham in those days there were more shops than today".

Perhaps the scarcity of shops today in our village is a clue to the very existence of The Voice?

Around forty years ago the two thousand or so souls that populated this lovely village enjoyed a rich diversity of local shops and retail outlets that the existing population of some five thousand can only envy.

Dersingham, like many other villages, was once brimming with small local businesses and enterprises that bound the community together. Daily life involved walking around the village from grocer to baker, butcher to blacksmith. Life involved using a variety of different shops and village locations, not merely driving to a supermarket car park. Villagers got to see and know the village and its inhabitants in a way that you just don't in a car (isn't it ironic, however, that I can no longer buy petrol in the village, yet I can buy a used car from five different forecourts?). Walking around meant that you got to meet more people. You got to talk to more people face to face, to gossip and swap news, to talk about the weather or the latest ram raid to hit the village, and gossip is the stuff that binds local communities together. It creates a local identity. Knowing the "goss" makes you feel included.

But it's not just the shops that have disappeared. The public houses in our villages are also disappearing at an alarming rate. That great institution, the village pub, the traditional centre of village life, the great leveller of class and creed, where all the latest gossip and local views could be had, is dying fast. There used to be six pubs here in Dersingham just after the war. There are but two now, both situated at the far flung extremities of the village and frequented by an ever dwindling number of regulars (where do the five thousand go...?).

As we lose the shops and the pubs and all the traditional ways of simply "bumping into people" (exacerbated by our apparent inability to go anywhere without a vehicle), our innate need to know what's going on in our immediate world is now satisfied by things like mobile phone, text, email, local newspapers and, yes, The Village Voice.

We'll never be able to return to the "old ways", there's no point in mourning their passing. We now really do live in a Global Village, but it's good to know that The Village Voice is there as the local voice for local people. Read it, use it, and get the goss...



Life is like plasticine, it's what you make of it

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### ANNUAL SCOUT AND GUIDE FETE

Saturday 18 June 1.30 pm start

Games, Stalls, Teas, Strawberries & Cream, Hot Dogs, Ice Creams, Cake Stall, Greasy Pole In and around the Scout & Guide HO, Manor Road



# THE WHEATSHEAF INN

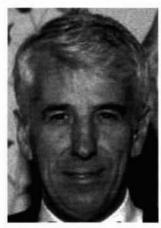
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#### That's My Business!

This month featuring Roger Buckenham of 'Thaxter's Spar Supermarket'

Well known to most people in the village, Roger Buckenham is manager of the local Spar Supermarket which is owned by the Thaxter family who also operate the adjacent Garden Centre and Coffee Shop.

Born in Narborough, Roger was to move shortly afterwards to Cockley Cley, where his father still lives, remaining there until his marriage to his wife Helen. He tells me that, as a teenager, he bred rabbits, and that after leaving school he joined his father working on the land, as a self-employed person.

He knew, and became known in, many local

hostelries as a keen darts and dominoes player, also as one who attended dances, and listening to the music of such bands as 'The Hollies' and 'The Searchers.' Roger was later to play football, for several years, for Dersingham.

His and Helen's first daughter was born in Norfolk, but, by the time their second daughter was born the family lived in Suffolk, where Roger was employed by Sainsbury's for some 17+ years. The village he had moved to, Kedington, had a great community spirit and he enjoyed playing football, cricket, darts, pool and going out shooting.

When the opportunity arose for him to return to Norfolk, almost 16 years ago, (to his wife's home village), he found that in many ways it was a difficult decision to make, even though Norfolk was always their first love, and hindsight has proved it to be the right move for the family.

Roger says that since starting at Thaxter's Spar shop the business has seen many changes, not least of which was the move to gaining supermarket status.

He grew up sharing his father's interest in horse racing and that has developed strongly over the years – he's been a member of Newmarket Racecourse for over 30 years, and only last year achieved a lifetime's ambition which was to have a share in a racehorse – not only that, it was a five times winner! He says that following the sale of that horse, he now has an interest in two others who have yet to race - he is keeping his fingers crossed!

If ever you go into the shop and cannot see Roger about, you should consider three factors – is it possible that he has gone to collect strawberries and other fruits for sale? Is he attending a local market in order to purchase some of the provisions which will be on display for your inspection and purchase? Or, just as likely, is there a race meeting at Newmarket, Leicester or anywhere else within travelling distance?

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open







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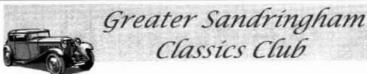




5 BANK ROAD, DERSINGHAM KING'S LYNN, NORFOLK PE31 6HW TEL (01485) 540039



Village Voice



The Inaugural, Annual Classic Car Event will be held at the Dersingham playing fields on Sunday 31 July 2005, commencing at 10 am.

Entrance fee £4 per car/motorcycle etc. Pre-1974 only.

With great interest already shown, please obtain your booking form as soon as possible, as we would like to see old friends and their cars, together with new owners and their pride and joy.

On-site catering and liquid refreshments will add to a great rally and fun for all. Surprises await!!! Plaques and certificates will be awarded.

Bring your cheque book for all the bargains at the Autojumble in support of Dersingham Youth sports facilities.

For pre-payment to the show please make cheques payable to:

Mrs V Brundle, Events Secretary, along with a stamped addressed envelope for confirmation of entry.

The Show will be signposted Please come along and enjoy the day Everyone welcome



The playing field is behind the Feathers Public House on Manor Road Mrs Valerie Brundle, Events Secretary, The White House, 44 Husntanton Road, Dersingham PE31 6HK Tel: 01485 541895 or EMail: <u>firesafe@ukonline.co.uk</u>

# ANTIQUE/CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 30 July 2005 10 am - 3 pm

#### DERSINGHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

\* Admission Free \*

\* Refreshments available \*

\* Raffle and cake stall \*

## Proceeds in aid of Tapping House Hospice

Further details: 01485 540882





HTA Nationa Garden Gift Tokens

Tel: 01485 541514

**Coffee Shop** 

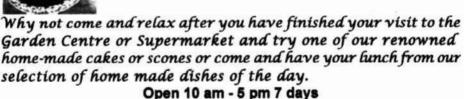
One of the finest selections of Italian and Dutch Nursery stock in West Norfolk.

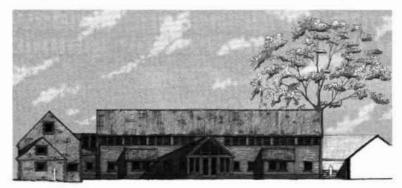
Large selection of composts, garden ornaments and much more.

Open 8 am - 6 pm 7 days



Tel: 01485 545105





#### Update on the new Carole Brown Health Centre

The Village Voice has been given access to the most recent drawing of the planned development of a new health centre to the rear of St Nicholas Church, for which a planning application will be considered by the Borough Council's Development Board at their meeting in June. This drawing (shown above) will give an impression of what the building will look like.

This multi-million pound project is intended to replace what is now too small a unit to accommodate the 6,000 registered patients at Saxon Way (the unit was built 20 years ago to serve a list of 4,000, and the land on which it stands is not large enough for expansion, and, as any regular user of the surgery will know, the facilities for car parking are minimal).

The new building is planned to offer a greater number of services than at present, and is anticipated to be able to offer NHS dental services, a pharmacy, an operating theatre, and a 20-bed care unit to accommodate those who, although well enough to leave hospital, are not yet ready to go home (this freeing up much needed beds at the main hospitals). Provision is to be made for the parking of up to 64 vehicles.

This is an exciting project which deserves the support of this village and its residents who have been well represented at all stages of its development by the Dersingham Patients Participation Group led up to date by its now retiring chairman Tom Morris.

If you wish to see more detailed plans of this development they can be inspected at the Borough Council's Planning Office, or, alternatively, at either of the two surgeries at Gaywood or Dersingham. It is also planned that the developers will supply this magazine with more information for the next edition.

# The West Norfolk Singers Summer Concert

at St Cecilia's Church Hall on Tuesday 5 July 2005 at 7.30 pm sponsored by Village Voice Live

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Village Voice

#### Issue 34

#### SEALS

(For the last 2 or 3 years a group from St Andrews University have stayed in my cottage to catch and tag seals to learn about them. I thought others might like to hear what was being done so I asked their leader, Ruth Sharples, to write about their work. So if you see a big inflatable boat or some wet looking university types in early spring or late autumn this is who they are. – *Tony Bubb*)



Harbour seals are found around the coast of the North Atlantic and North Pacific from the subtropics to the Arctic. Those harbour seals found in Europe belong to a sub-species *Phoca vitulina vitulina*. Britain holds approximately 40% of the world population of this European sub-species, approximately 33,000 animals, 2,500 of which are found in the Wash in Norfolk. Adult harbour seals typically weigh 80-100 kg, males being slightly larger than females. Harbour seals are long-lived with individuals living up to

20-30 years. Harbour seals come ashore in sheltered waters typically on sandbanks and in estuaries but also in rocky areas. They give birth to their pups in June and July and moult in August. At these, as well as other times of the year, they haul out on land regularly in a pattern that is often related to the tidal cycle. Harbour seal pups are born having shed their white coat and can swim almost immediately. They were thought to forage within 40-50 km of haul-outs. They take a wide variety of prey including sand eels, whitefish, herring and sprat, flatfish, octopus and squid.

The Department of Transport and Industry (DTI) is in the process of conducting a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) around the coast of Britain to help advise them on decisions in licensing oil, gas and wind farm activity. Harbour seal distribution at sea was poorly known and was therefore identified as an area that required further research. As a result the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU), funded by DTI, have deployed satellite transmitters on harbour seals throughout Britain. Seals were anaesthetised when caught and tags attached to the fur on the back of the neck using fast setting epoxy. The tags are then shed in the moult if not before. Data on location, diving depth, swimming speed, and the proportion of time hauled out on land is transmitted using the Argos satellite system. Data is updated every three hours to the computers at SMRU. To date we have deployed 23 tags on harbour seals in the Wash over the past two years. During our visits to the Wash we have stayed in Dersingham, launching our RIB in King's Lynn. Most of the animals have been captured on seal sands in the mouth of the river Ouse. Preliminary results indicate that animals are travelling much further to forage than previously thought. The majority of animals were travelling to between 70 and 120 km from haul-outs where they remained for an average of 10 days before returning to the sand banks in the Wash to haul-out. Ruth Sharples



#### Vandals Hit St Nicholas Church

How sad to discover that our beautiful local church has been vandalised by what are thought to be mindless youths. Damage has been caused to six of the 14th Century leaded light glass windows in the building by what have been described as stone-throwing yobs, this happening at some time between 4 pm on Friday 6 May and 8.45 am the following day. A team of volunteers

had worked extremely hard on the Saturday in order to ensure that services could be held as usual on Sunday, but Churchwarden Neil Adams said it was extremely frustrating for the wardens and members of the Parochial Church Council who put in a lot of time and effort to keep the church going. If anyone can give any information about the incident they are urged to contact the Police on 01953 424242.

#### **Dersingham Walking Group**

Forty-two walkers enjoyed a perfect May evening when they joined the inaugural walk of the Dersingham Walking Group - a  $3^{1/2}$  mile circular ramble across the Common to Sandringham Woods and back down Dodds Hill Road and across the pasture. Before the walk, forms were distributed on which those taking part could indicate what kind (eg length, speed, time of day) of walk they would prefer - and to find out who would be prepared to lead them. The results will be published in a later edition of Village Voice.

We hope that others will join in the June walk and the following one on Wednesday 13 July when we will have a 4 mile circular walk starting at 6.30 pm from the Sandringham Visitor Centre.

If there is the demand a further evening walk may be held on Wednesday 10 August; If you are interested please phone me for details.

Keith Stark 01485 542268

#### Be Good

by Hugh Mullarkey © 2005-05-20 Put a smile on Someone's face and share that joy Share the treasure that costs nothing Share the wealth of loving warmth That you can give but cannot take That you can win but must not lose That you can feel but never touch If you can care to care to conquer care And by that conquest your true friendship share The incalculable power of love so rare Will bring you love beyond compare



FEATHERS HOTEL Dersingham - Norfolk TEL/Fax 01485 540207 E-Mail-feathershotel@btclick.com www.thefeathershotel.co.uk



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Village Voice

#### Issue 34

#### News from your Local Schools in Dersingham The Infant and Nursery School and St George's (CE) Junior School

Dersingham Schools' Art Exhibition at the Methodist Chapel on 7,889th July 10.00am — 2.30pm



The Dersingham Schools work in partnership to make the transition from Infant to Junior school as easy as possible for the children. As I'm sure vou remember changing schools can be a daunting prospect for children and parents. Over the year a number of joint projects have taken place allowing children and teachers from both schools to meet and work together. In the summer term we are holding a joint art exhibition of the children's work, at the Methodist Church on the 7/8/9 July. The exhibition will be open to the public from 10 am to 2.30 pm each day and refreshments will be available. We do hope that you will be able to come along and see their hard work.

The year 3 pupils at St George's are going

to use their computer skills to produce a welcome leaflet for the year 2 pupils when they visit the school for the day on 5 July.

There will also be a meeting of the Infant School Garden Club with the Junior School Bird Watching Club at the Infant school at the end of June.

We believe in giving pupils the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports and during the summer term our children will be competing in football tournaments, off road cycling, a swimming gala, the country dance party and the area sports at Smithdon High School.

Come and hear the children singing at the Methodist Chapel Flower Festival in May and see their work exhibited at St Nicholas' Flower Festival in July. Thank you for all the support that you give to the schools; it makes such a difference to children and staff to be part of the village community.

#### **Dates from the Dersingham Schools**

1 July at 5 pm - Infant and Nursery School Summer Fair and Barbecue 18 July at 6 pm - St George's Midsummer Madness, stalls, entertainment and a

barbecue

Jackie Austin Headteacher Carol De Witt Headteacher

#### Important Notice - Parish Churchyard

In the January/February issue of Village Voice an article was published stating that there would be an inspection of the graves during the week 4 to 8 April to determine the safety of the memorials and headstones.

Two members of the Parochial Church Council were accompanied by two monumental masons during the inspection which took place on 4 April. Unfortunately, a number of graves were identified as being in need of attention.

Surprisingly, most of the problems occurred in the "new" part of the churchyard (the area behind the tithe barn). Although in many cases the headstones are securely fixed to plinths, the plinths themselves are unstable. In such cases as this the stone could be pulled over, presenting a safety hazard. There have been instances in some graveyards when someone is tending a grave, they have to use the headstone to pull themselves up and have toppled the stone.

One or two graves in the older part of the Churchyard have been identified as being in need of attention, but these, again, are 20th century stones. The older method of sinking a large area of the stone deep in the soil ensures much greater stability of the stone, so it is not necessarily the older stones that present a problem.

Before remedial action is taken the Parochial Church Council needs to contact all those who are responsible for the insecure graves. The names on the relevant graves are:

Alice Mary Southgate Frederick Charles Aickman Albert Dunger William Asker George Batterbee Thomas James William Riches Edith Daniels Svetomir Dimitrijevic Albert Covell Ducker Mabel Irene Ladyman Randal Lucius Meech Louise Carter Hilda Baldwin née Playford Elizabeth Sarah Lindsay George Victor Thomas Cordwell Harry Jury and Phylis Ethel Jury Ethel Mary Nance Florence Kate Wells Dora Eliza Chaplin

In the old Churchyard in front of the church: Caroline Batterbee - William Herbert Lines and Elizabeth Ann Lines - William R Dodman

The Archdeacon of Lynn has been informed about this inspection and our findings. I request that all who have responsibility for these graves contact a Church Warden, so that the correct course of action can be taken and the situation remedied.

Please write to Dersingham PCC at the Church Office, The Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn PE31 6LN. Alternatively you may telephone 01485 541168 where you can leave a message on the answering service.

Neil Adams - Church Warden

#### ST NICHOLAS DERSINGHAM FLOWER FESTIVAL 2005

#### "The Music We Love" Thursday 21 July - Monday 25 July

- ← Magnificent Floral Displays
- ← Live Music
- ← Variety of Stalls
- ← Country Crafts, Walks and Tours
- ← "Best Dressed Front Door" Competition
- ← Raffle
- ← Refreshments, Teas, Coffee and Snacks
- ← Facilities for Disabled Visitors
- ← Free Parking
- ← Coach Parties Welcome please book in advance\*

\*Tel: 01485 540696 or Email FF05@wncb.net

#### Saturday 23 July from 2 - 4.30 pm

Children's Activities in the Church Hall With a "Mad-hatter's T-party" Children in Fancy Dress Free

#### "Best Dressed Front Door Competition"

We are looking for the most colourful, creative or imaginative display of hanging baskets and/or tubs in the Parish of Dersingham. The area to be judged will be a 6-feet radius of your front door. Our independent judge will visit all entries from Monday 18 July and announce the winners on Saturday 23 July at 5 pm in the Church Hall.

To enter please complete this form and send to:

Dersingham PCC BDFD Competition 6 Fern Hill, Dersingham, PE31 6HT

#### Entries must be received by Friday 15 July 2005

Full name

Address

1st Prize £20 2nd Prize £10 3rd Prize £5 Garden Vouchers

#### ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL

#### Saturday 27 August - Monday 29 August

Exhibitions and demonstrations of:

← photography

← photographic competition

← painting

← lace-making

← quilting

and much more

If you paint, have a hobby or pastime and would like to take part please get in touch.

We also welcome local organisations who would like to publicise their group to potential new members.



#### **Marbles for Nanny**

by Sheila Bryant © April 2005 The marbles are loose I'm afraid Some rattling, some lost on the way. As Kathy said last time in the 'Voice' She'd lost her rhyme and had no choice But to hang up her pen and close up her pad And just sit it all out until spring has arrived. Then hope for inspiring and pennable verse To write down 'right quick' before they disperse With the marbles I think were 'lost on the way'. They're in there somewhere, I'm sure I remember Thinking all lyric and spring-like and tender, But so many things distract the flow Of ode and verse and precis and - so I'll finish now while the going's good And just play with the marbles as good nannies should!!



#### This Month's Competition

#### What is it?

Our picture shows an everyday object as seen from an unusual angle. Can you identify it? No prizes for getting it right, but the result will be published in our next issue.

#### Winner of the last issue's competition



Congratulations to the winner of the word game in last month's issue who is Mr Warwick J Bayley of Post Office Road who managed to find an exceptional list of 848 acceptable words as judged by our word game expert.

Mr Bayley receives the prize of three months' free delivery of newspapers (valued at  $\pounds 16.90$ ) which has been generously sponsored by Dersingham News of Hunstanton Road.

# Park House Sandringham

Summer Fayre & Garden Show 3 JULY 2005 2.00 pm – 4.30 pm

Show To Be Opened by BBC Radio Norfolk's Very Own

#### **ROY WALLER**

featuring Plant Show and Competitions 'Marquettes' Majorettes Display Team Street Organ Tug-of-War

Craft Stalls, Cake Stall, Bookstall, Bric-a-Brac, and many more stalls with games and competitions for everyone

Light Refreshments

HOTEL & GARDEN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Admission 50p only

Children under 12 free

#### A Dersingham Boyhood

by Dick Stanton



In this photograph, published by permission of Dick Stanton, two operators work on the land using a Case Tractor and a Sugar Beet Harvester. Dick could not identify the two men, can you? If so please let the Editor know in order to publish in the August issue.

My sister, Jane, and I spent our early years at the Manor House in Dersingham. Our GP was Dr Jolley, who also looked after five more villages. He had the surgery at The Hollies in Snettisham and an early memory was me struggling to avoid the indignity of an injection in my bottom!

When we were four we were sent to a local private school called Wellswall, (or was it Wellswill?), in Manor road. The school had a swimming pool, and as I had a distinct aversion to undressing in front of the class, I hid behind the changing room!

We also had dancing classes, when we shy boys hid from the girls! Some of these girls were boarders and came to the school at the beginning of the war. They were refugees from Europe and were called Inge, Claire and Marie Louise and were very friendly with my sister.

Jane and I were frequently losing our gasmasks, probably because of the distractions in Manor Road, for example parker the Grocer and Draper; Mr Ding the Removal Man; Mr Terrington, another Grocer and Draper; Mr Linford the Butcher; and Mr King the Hairdresser, who did his rounds on his bicycle! At the end of the war Mr Gibson would come with his ice cream cart – the tricycle style 'stop me and buy one'.

Michael Jolley, the doctor's son, was a good friend and he had come to know

some of the USAF gunners at the Gunnery Camp on Snettisham Beach. This was where B17 air gunners were trained by curling into rear turrets and firing at a target which was moving on a track. (The track can still be seen today, located to the landward side of the sea defences. My memory was that these airmen had a good supply of 'Herschey' bars!

I found Michael to be one of the most adventurous people that I have known, if there was a possibility of him doing something dangerous he would, and I recall the time when he was, as usual, at the highest point that one could climb up a tree, when a B17 Bomber flew overhead, in flames! Michael, in his efforts to watch it, leaned further band further backwards until the inevitable happened, fortunately without serious consequences.

After the war I lost touch with Michael. He did his National Service in the RAF and got a job with Rolls Royce, America. He retired to Phoenix, Arizona, and got the honorary job of caring for a massive field of 110 aircraft, which were lined up in squadron in a climate where they would never rust. These were aircraft which had been taken out of service but which were still serviceable and would almost inevitably be purchased in the future for use somewhere in the world.

As harvest has been referred to in the picture above, it is worth mentioning that, in those days, apart from the occasional combine, all the sheaves were put into 'shocks' or 'stooks', which, when stood up, would allow the grain to dry, following which they would be carted to, and formed into stacks. That was when the rats would arrive!

Writing this, I can hardly believe that at that time there was a similarity between the cost of a pint of milk, a loaf of bread and a pint of beer.

#### The Market

by Joan Adams © May 2005

People come from all around to see,

The market stalls, piled high. While costermongers' raucous cries Are persuading all - to buy.

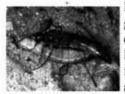
The butchers selling sausages, And pork-pies, freshly made. While ice-packed fish lay staring, All of the highest grade. The housewives buy the cut-price veg, And luscious fruit for tarts, While men, whose cycles need repair, Will hunt for those spare parts.

Brassware is there, new pots and pans, Books, well worn, black stockings, bras, There's a stall of Chinese imports, where You'll get a cheap Ming vase.

We love the noise, the smells and bustle, Of old London's Petticoat Lane. We're sure that once you've been there You will want to go again.

65

#### Dersingham Bog News June - Aug 2005



By mid-June, Dersingham Bog is once more clad in emerald green, as the plants which have lain dormant throughout the cooler months spring forth with an astounding vitality. Bracken, which only a month ago reared its serpent like fronds above the parched brown soils of the heath, now grows at an alarming rate, converting barren-looking slopes to

vibrant swathes of green. Even within living memory, bracken was an important plant locally and was harvested for animal bedding and as horticultural mulch. However, like many of the traditional practices which once maintained the heath, bracken harvesting dwindled towards the middle of the last century.

Bracken is our most common species of fern and is an important component of our heathlands, providing; nesting habitat for birds such as the nightjar, hibernation sites for reptiles and even a food plant for some creatures eg brown silver lines moth. Bracken also plays an important role in the heathland restoration programme at Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve. Following the clearance of trees from heathland areas, the dense carpet of bracken that quickly regenerates acts as a warm blanket, protecting the establishing heather plants underneath from the deleterious effects of frost and drought. If left unchecked, however, bracken would quickly spread throughout the whole of the reserve and smother out the less competitive species, leading to dense, uniform stands. To ensure that the balance between bracken and other heathland plants is maintained, English Nature is managing the bracken by repeated mowing throughout the growing season and spraying using the

selective herbicide Asulox. This has been very effective so far and, since taking on the lease of the reserve from the Royal Sandringham Estate in 1991, English Nature has restored several hectares of bracken back to heather heath and acid grassland. On the lower-lying areas where bracken has been controlled, dense beds of ground ivy and wood sage have



established, providing a burst of colour in the spring and summer and providing a rich nectar source for the wealth of insect species which inhabit the reserve. On higher ground, heather tends to be the dominant plant, providing a late bloom of colour.

In early June, it is worth scanning the grassy verges alongside the entrance to the reserve and throughout the woodland for Saint George's mushrooms. These bold, sturdy looking fungi are one of the more obvious of our spring time mushrooms, often appearing around St. Georges day, hence their name, but persisting throughout the summer in wet years. They are a creamy colour, smell of cucumber and form 'fairy rings'.

By late June, the nightjar population will be up to full strength and the earliest individuals to return from their African wintering grounds will already have large young in the nest. Nightjars feed on insects, using their extremely wide mouth to

hoover up food as they fly around at night. During warm, dry summers, there is an abundance of insect prey and nightjars will frequently lay a second clutch of eggs. Because they have such a short time before having to return to Africa, it is essential that they make the maximum use of time. To achieve this, the males tend to the young from the first brood, whilst the female broods the second clutch of eggs. Their timing is often perfect and, just as the first brood of young gains independence, the second brood hatches out, allowing the male to switch his attentions away from the first brood to forage for the second brood. Being a ground-nesting species, nightjars are vulnerable to disturbance from dogs straying from the paths. Recent research has shown that, whilst dogs do not often physically damage the eggs/young directly, the adults will be flushed from the nest leaving it open to predation from other species such as crows which are particularly adept at taking advantage of this opportunity. Repeated flushing also leaves the eggs/young susceptible to the prevailing weather; young chicks are unable to moderate their body temperature effectively and can



quickly overheat/chill leading to death. For this reason, we are requesting that all dogs be either kept on short leads (ie less than 2 m) or to heel on footpaths around the reserve. Reassuringly, this has proven to be very effective and the vast majority of people have followed this guidance.

A late evening/early morning visit to Dersingham Bog in the summer time can be an intriguing experience. As the sun sinks, the temperature on the open bog falls rapidly. Dips in the ground trap cold air, whilst on higher ground, the sandy soils continue to radiate the heat stored throughout the daytime. The combined effect of this can be startling for the

unsuspecting visitor; passing from warm, tropical air to icy air and back to warm air in just the space of a few feet. As dusk approaches, nightjars begin to call, uttering their unearthly mechanical churring song. Displaying birds clap their wings, showing off the bold white markings near their wing tips to rivals and mates, whilst woodcock pass overhead, issuing a series of grunts and squeaks. On warm, still nights, the luminescent tails of female glowworms shine out from the vegetation as they try to attract a mate. Perhaps one of the most unexpected of sounds to be heard at night is the raucous barking made by the roe deer as they mark out their territories – inducing the nocturnal equivalent to the feeling that a pheasant creates when it bursts out from beneath ones feet during a daytime stroll!

As summer progresses, dragonflies become more abundant. Dersingham Bog provides a home to a very rare species; the black darter - a species known from just two sites in Norfolk; Dersingham Bog and Roydon Common. This is a 'northern' species and is a relict from the last ice age, moving in to take advantage of the boggy habitats that would have been created by the retreating ice sheet which once covered this area. Ash Murray - Site Manager - English Nature Illustrations: Sand Wasp, Grayling Butterfly, Wolferton Splash taken from The King in his Country 1955

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

Generous John and Doreen Hannant of Dodds Hill celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 9 April by asking their friends and family to give contributions to the East Anglian Air Ambulance rather than buying them presents, this raised the magnificent sum of £631.20 which has been presented to the charity. The joint celebration included Mr Hannant's retirement after 18 years as head gardener at Park House Hotel at Sandringham.

**Our sympathies go out to the family of Mr Peter Reynolds** who has died at the age of 83. Mr Reynolds was a member of a very well known and respected local horticultural family who were honoured by the village when the streets in Sandringham View were named, Reynolds Way having been named after his father. Born in Dersingham, Mr Reynolds originally worked for his father at Rosenheath Nurseries in Post Office Road. He served in the RAF during the war and was a member of the RAFA and of the RBL, being at one time the President of the Dersingham and Sandringham Branch. He spent his retirement years in Snettisham, but never lost contact with Dersingham, being associated with St Nicholas Church for many years.

At the time of writing work has commenced on the demolition of the former Q8 Filling Station with the removal of the fuel pump equipment and the overhead roofing, and levelling of the site.

A piece about our regular contributor, Dick Melton, was included in the 'Grey Matters' column of the Lynn News published on Friday 29 April. The writer calculates that Dick has, since he started corresponding with newspapers, etc, written some 20,000 letters, and that since 1968! Some output!

All credit is due to the commander and four members of the Sandringham Detachment of the Army Cadet Force – Lieutenant Stephen Davison for receiving the Lord Lieutenant Commendation for his contribution to the force, Lance Corporal Karen Naylor of Dersingham, aged 16, Cadet of the Year, who was awarded this title for being voted the most improved cadet by staff at the detachment. Cadet Matthew Harvey, aged 14 was the runner-up for this title. The title of Recruit of the Year went to 13 year old Cadet Russell Bradnam, with 13 year old Danny Colvin being the runner-up. The presentation of these awards were made by Major John Doughty, the Commander of Britannia Company.

**County Councillor Janice Eells** will continue to represent the district of Dersingham following her win at the recent elections.

**Congratulations to new grandparents Richard and Kathy Jordan** on the birth of their first grandchild, Georgia May, born to daughter Helen and husband Simon Scott at 3 am on 9 April 2005 in Stafford Hospital. (Kathy is a regular contributor to this magazine).

The Police would like you to take note that a new <u>non-emergency</u> contact number is now available to allow crimes to be reported which are not as urgent as those which would require a 999 call - This number is 0845 456 4567

# DIARY OF NOTIFIED EVENTS

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

	Day	Date	Month	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
	Fri	10	Jun	8.30 pm	English Nature	Evening Guided Walk at Dersingham Bog	Wolferton Hill Car Park
	Sat	11	Jun		Social Club	Mark Royal Disco	Social Club
	Sun	12	Jun		Campaign Care 94	Cycle Ride	Sandringham
	Mon	13	Jun	6.30 pm	Dersingham Library	Family History	Dersingham
	(MOIL	1.5	Jun	0.50 pm	Dersingham Elorary	Surgery	Library
	Thu	16	Jun		Patients Participation	AGM	Library
	inu	10	Jun		Group	Adm	
	Sat	18	Jun	1.30 pm	Dersingham Scouts and	Fete	Scout & Guide HQ
	Sun	19	Jun	1.50 pm	Dersingham Carpet	Bowls Tournament	St George's School
					Bowls Club		St George's School
	Sat	25	Jun		Social Club	Mr Dusics - Video disco	
						(mowtown/70s/80s)	
	Mon	27	Jun		Dersingham United Charities	Meeting	
	Fri	1	Jul	5 pm	Infant & Nursery	Fair and Barbecue	Infant & Nursery
				2.4	School		School
	Tue	5	Jul	7.30 pm	Village Voice Live	West Norfolk Singers	St Cecilia's church
	Wed	6	Jul		Mobile Police Office	Advice on Crime etc	Budgens Car Park
	Mon	11	Jul	6.30 pm	Dersingham Library	Family History Surgery	Dersingham
		00				,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	Library
	Wed	13	Jul	6.30 pm	Dersingham Walking	4-mile circular walk	Sandringham
					Group		Visitor Centre
	Sat	16	Jul		Social Club	Nobby's Karaoke	Social Club
	Mon	18	Jul	6 pm	St George's Junior School	Midsummer	St George's Junior School
	Wed	20	Jul		Dersingham Village	Deadline for Copy	
					Voice	& Adverrts	
	Thur-	21-2	5Jul		St Nicholas Church	Flower Festival	Various points
							around village
	Mon	25	Jul	7.30 pm	Dersingham Parish Council	Full Council Meeting	Infant & Nursery School
	Thu	28	Jul	6.30 pm	Dersingham United Charities	Commons Walk	Village signpost
	Sat	30	Jul		Social Club	Kicken Chicken	Social Club
	Sun	31	Jul	10 am		Class Car Show	
	Tue	2			Classic Car Event	Class Car Show	Sports ground St Cecilia's Churc
	Wed		Aug	7.30 pm	Village Voice Live Mobile Police Office	Advice on crime etc	Budgens Car Park
	Sat	3	Aug				Social Club
			Aug	2500	Social Club	Missing Link Disco VJ Day Celebration	
	Tue	16	Aug	2-5 pm	Dersingham Library	vJ Day Celebration	Dersingham Library
	Sat-	27-2	9Aug		St Nicholas Church	Art & Crafts	St Nicholas Churc
	Mon					Festival	and Church Hall
	Sat	27	Aug		Social Club	Exile (band)	Social Club
	Sat	3	Sep		Social Club	Disco/Karaoke	Social Club
	Mon	26	Sep	7.30 pm	Dersingham Parish	Full Council Meeting	Infant & Nursery
					Council		School

#### Norfolk Constabulary Western Mobile Police Station

West Norfölk Constabulary advise us that the Mobile Police Station will be open in Budgen's car park as follows; Wednesdays – 6 July and 3 August 2005, when Public Enquiry Officers Linda Forder and Pete Shaw will be in attendance along with P.C.Stan Cobon. Services which include; Advice, Crime recording, Information, Lost and found property, Crime prevention advice and literature. Useful contact telephone numbers are; Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111 and Norfolk Constabulary: 01953 424242

Please also note a new number on which to report crime which does not require the urgency of 999, this being 0845 456 4567.

#### 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.

Advertisements for inclusion in the next newsletter should be in the hands of Sarah Bristow, Parish Clerk, Dersingham Parish Council, The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LH by Wednesday 20 July 2005 Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.

Articles for publication in the August edition of Village Voice must reach the editor at 45 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Dersingham, before the deadline date of Wednesday 20 July 2005 for publication on Wednesday 10 August 2005. (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.

Village Voice is the bi-monthly Newsletter of Dersingham Parish Council

Editor: Bob Tipling

In-house' Photographer and Illustrations Editor: Tony Bubb Layout Artist and IT Technical Consultant: - Stella Caunt



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