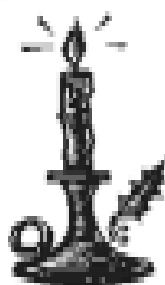


# DERINGHAM VILLAGE VOICE

Issue 37

December 2005



**THIS WAS GEORGE'S DAY  
15 OCTOBER 2005!**

*(see Page 9)*



## Parish Council Report

The Parish Council meeting held on 26 September agreed that the new bus shelter to be installed opposite Thaxter's would be a modern transparent design; it is hoped that a grant will cover a substantial part of the cost.

Various issues linked with the general tidiness of the area in Bank Road behind Earl Close were discussed. It was agreed to clean up the litter and clear some of the undergrowth. The Borough Council had offered bulbs for enhancing villages: a Parishioner at the meeting suggested that these could be planted around the village sign at the entrance to the village.

The meeting on 31 October began with a presentation to Bob Tipling and Stella Caunt to mark the Council's appreciation of their work in producing *Village Voice*.

The Council then heard two presentations. The first was from the West Norfolk Council for Voluntary Services, which supports national and local voluntary organisations by providing advice, funding and training. The talk was given by Polly Jackson, whose job is to promote volunteering in rural areas. Any individual or organisation interested in contacting her can do so through the Parish Council office.

The second presentation was by Julie Hardingham, who is promoting an initiative to open a Day Care Centre for babies and children, which will also offer before and after school clubs and holiday clubs for children up to age 11. She described how a survey had identified a real need for both a playgroup and after-school facility and explained that everything was now in place to provide this. However, she had been unable to identify a satisfactory site and asked if the Parish Council could help.

The report of the Advisory Committee for Community Facilities was discussed. The report had concluded that the village does need a new hall and had outlined the pros and cons of various sites and possible costings. The Council unanimously accepted the report and agreed to set up its own working group to take the matter further, including establishing the level of potential use.

The Council filled the vacancies caused by the death of Malcolm Nurse and the resignations of James Hornigold and Donald Roy by co-opting three new members, Mrs Joanna Jones, Mr George Pratt and Mrs Gillian Sergeant. PRB

## Revised Search for Village Voice Youth Reporters

*Are you aged between 13 and 19? Are you in a position to report on youth activities in Dersingham? Could you express the feelings of the youth of the village? Would you be prepared to write regular articles for Village Voice?*

If the answer to all of the above is "Yes", whether as an individual or as a group, the Editor would dearly love to hear from you in order that the magazine may offer items which are of interest to everybody in the community, no matter what their background or age.

Interested? Then please write to *The Editor, Dersingham Village Voice, The Parish Council Office, Manor Road, Dersingham, Norfolk PE31 6LH* - attaching a short article of no more than 300 words which you think would be suitable for inclusion, and which would be of interest to others within the 13 to 19 age group.





## Editor's Notes

It doesn't seem like two months since we put out the last edition, but here we are with the December issue and with Christmas in the offing! As you plough your way through this copy you may notice, as in the case of this page, photographs of some of the people who have written articles, but you may not immediately recognise them as they were taken at a time when they were in their extreme youth. (The example on this page was of your Editor – 66 years or so ago when he had good looks – and hair!!) The idea of using these pictures came from Tony Bubb's current 'Christmas Teaser' which he prepares, in one form or another, as a prize competition every year. We have been disappointed at the response to competitions which we have run in the past and can only put it down to the fact that you may not have had ALL the answers required; but please don't be afraid to submit an incomplete reply, as it may still be better than those of others who have struggled in the same way!



I would like to take the opportunity once again to thank all of those contributors who have come up with a consistently high standard of copy over this past year, which has led to more than one person stopping me in the street to compliment our team on the quality of the magazine, and has resulted in Stella and myself being presented with a token of the Parish Council's appreciation at the October meeting, for which we would like to thank all of those involved.

As we move forward to the New Year we would remind readers that we are willing to print any item of interest about the village or for the benefit of residents, so please do not hesitate to let us know about your forthcoming events for our Diary of Events, or to let us have reports about things which have occurred. You could also, if you wish, use the magazine as a means of demonstrating your feelings, good or bad, about happenings in the village, provided these are not personal or libellous! Our Letters to the Editor page is available for you to let your opinions be known.

In the hope that you enjoy reading this, the 37th edition of Village Voice, and looking forward to your comments about the magazine and its contents, myself and the remainder of the Editorial Team wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a New Year which will exceed all your expectations!

*Bob Tipling*

## Circulation of the Village Voice magazine is to be increased!

As demand for our magazine is becoming higher than our existing supply, due in part to the fact that it is being welcomed not only in Dersingham, but is being collected by readers in surrounding villages who are finding it to be of interest, we shall in future be providing a greater number of copies than previously. This will ensure that more copies will be available at our regular outlets. We would, however, ask that residents who already receive regular delivery in the free 'Citizen' newspaper do not create shortages by also taking copies from the businesses and others who offer us their facilities in order to provide for those who do not have these deliveries. We would also remind readers who live outside Dersingham that to ensure that they receive copies on a regular basis it is possible to obtain them by post (on payment of the necessary postal fee), this facility being accessible by contacting the Parish Clerk on 01485 541465.

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## Letters to the Editor

**Barry Chater, a Dersingham Home Watch So-ordinator writes:** Having like yourself just attended a recent meeting in Dersingham I was surprised that there was such a low turn out. I was very interested to hear a parish councillor state that he would like to meet the various Home Watch Coordinators of the Home Watch groups that are active in Dersingham and it got me thinking that these Home Watch Groups should communicate with each other. This would help identify crime trends that happen only in certain parts of the village, from those that are mobile. Different Home Watches run in different ways, we have a newsletter which we produce twice a year. This newsletter reminds our members of important things like; (1) Never buy or sign up to anything from a doorstep salesman, (2) Do not let strangers into your home, and if you do not feel safe do not answer your door to them. Genuine Tradesmen will have ID and will not mind you phoning up their employer to check. (3) If you go out these dark nights leave a light and the radio on just to make the criminal think you are home, houses in darkness are an invitation to crime. Other Home Watches may not have that resource but I suggest that there could be room in your magazine for articles from them. Lets make everyone aware of crime trends in Dersingham and all do our best to keep it low. I hope you will publish an invitation for all Dersingham Home Watch Coordinators to contact you in your Dersingham Data magazine, You can also publish my email address; [ourpost@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ourpost@tiscali.co.uk) in case any Home Watch coordinator wants to contact me.

**Marshall Schorah and Bert Haslam of Dersingham writes:** Recreation Ground Slide 1972 Provision of trees on the recreation ground, as referred to in a recent letter to Village Voice, prompted a small group of men to consider the rest of the ground. There were only one or two swings and a goalpost set available at the time. As a start, logs were bought from Sandringham wood yard. These were drilled and metal-pegged together, some to form a rudimentary climbing frame, and others to form a frame for swings using chains and old tyres. Spurred on by this, the group considered the idea of providing a proper metal slide. A qualified engineer, Bert Haslam, designed and drew up detailed plans for a slide. Material costs were calculated and the WI agreed to meet these costs. The College was contacted and they agreed to allow students to fabricate the slide in their workshops, subject to supervision by Mr Haslam and with the enthusiastic unstinting help of the department technician, Terry Wagg. (It was he who first tried out the slide on its completion!) The local coal merchant, Mr Dunger, transported the slide from the college to the recreation ground. Such a large structure created a lot of interest when first erected in 1972. Many enthusiastic volunteers assisted in the erection so that the only costs involved were those for materials. In the first few weeks the slide was rarely quiet, day or night! Youngsters explored every possible way of climbing to the top and sliding down again! Dr Fielding said that many youngsters visited him with bruises and scrapes suffered on the slide in the next few weeks! With apologies to anyone whose name is omitted. From memory, the working group included Messrs Bloy, Cross, Houchen, Schorah, Stockwell and Haslam.

**Jackie and Valentine Christensen of Bucks write (via e-mail):** We are thinking of moving to your village and found your site on a Google search. It is excellent and up to date and has given us a most pleasant and interesting insight into life in the village. You seem a caring and thoughtful village and will step up our efforts to join you!

---

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*Euripides*

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## ***Sarah's Page***

### **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to come**

I hope you are able to identify all the babies in this issue, lots of entries please.

I have good news in that, in the New Year, we should have a new Clerical Assistant in the office, more news on this later. I would just like to say a big thank you to our Editor for helping to fill the breach and helping in the office and for Cllr Keith Manship for all his assistance in the office and for keeping me laughing. Thank you gents, you will not get off that lightly - I will still expect to see you.

The new revised web site should be up and running very soon if not already. A big thank you to all the organisations for their updates. If you would like to see something featured on the site, please contact me and we will see what we can do. If anything is

incorrect please also contact me.

The Holiday Activities Committee are going to hold a Carnival Week starting on Saturday 29 July 2006 and finishing on Sunday 6 August 2006. It is hoped that the Council will organise the Starting and Finishing events. We will also be running sports for the children during this week and Village Voice Live. The Committee is hoping that local organisations will take the opportunity of organising events in the balance of the week. The Committee will give support and will provide toilets, marquee etc. To assist this they are having a Coffee Morning on the Recreation Ground on Saturday 4 February possibly with a balloon race with the prize for the furthest travelled being awarded during Carnival Week. More news to come on this so please keep an eye on the Parish notice boards.

Whilst we are on the subject of notice boards, Organisations - would you like a large notice board on the Hunstanton Road side of the Recreation Ground where you can advertise your events? Please let me know what you think.

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

*Sarah*

### **Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening Times**

Monday 10.30 am to 2.00 pm

Tuesday 10.30 am to 2.00 pm

Wednesday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

Thursday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

### **The Dersingham Parish Council Office is at**

The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham, Norfolk PE31 6LH

Tel: 01485 541465 E-mail: [Dersingham@wncb.net](mailto:Dersingham@wncb.net)

### **Christmas Holiday Arrangements:**

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and will re-open at 10.30 am on 9 January 2006

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## Credit Is Given To Bypass Campaigner Alderman George Pratt Roundabout Is Named



At a ceremony which took place at the Dersingham Recreation Ground on Saturday 15 October, Alderman George Pratt, a former Mayor of the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk and, until June of 2004, Chairman of Dersingham Parish Council, was honoured by the unveiling of a plaque bearing his name which was to be installed on the roundabout on the King's Lynn approach to the village. The presentation was made by the Mayor of King's Lynn, Trevor Manley, who was accompanied by the Borough Mayoress, Carol Manley, and the Deputy Mayor

and Mayoress, David and Sheila Johnson.

The cast-iron plaque, which bears the inscription "Alderman George Pratt Roundabout", is in recognition not only of the many activities in which he has been involved over his 43 years of service to the village, but also for the fact that he was one of the main campaigners for the bypass which now relieves the traffic which formerly used to pass through the villages of Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham, this route having been opened in 1990.

George, who has lived in the village since 1953, has been a Member of the Norfolk County Council (16 years), Docking Rural District Council (15 years) and West Norfolk Council (12 years).

As will be seen in the section of this magazine giving profiles of our present Parish Council Members, George has decided to return to local government, having applied for and been accepted for co-option to rejoin the Parish Council, a position which can only be of benefit to the villagers of Dersingham.

*Photos: Paul Burrell*



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## Dersingham Evening WI

September 2005

A blustery September evening greeted members as they returned after the summer break. Dianne, our Vice President, chaired the meeting in the absence of President Janet. Business was brief just a few gentle reminders about forthcoming events, this all made possible through our own "In House", so to speak, WI newsletter produced with humorous illustrations by Minutes Secretary Leslie. Some of us have been lucky enough to have received a floral tribute at some time and many of us have admired the skill, dexterity and creativity of the ladies and gentlemen in the floristry profession. Ros Hamilton, our evening's speaker and demonstrator from Flower Corner, King's Lynn, along with her friend and assistant Vivian, who also acted as speaker, as Ros was suffering a cold, are two such people. As Ros demonstrated her expertise Vivian gave us a short History of Floristry. We sat fascinated whilst Ros firstly produced a 1940s style flowing, but simple, bouquet of asparagus fern and crimson carnations followed by a modern hand-tied posy of velvety red and cream roses, beautifully crafted by Ros. We next moved to a traditional front facing arrangement of different varieties of flowers but all in the same hue. The conclusion of the evening was a beautiful ultra modern design in a blend of Green and Cream using more exotic foliage such as bamboo and spectacular flowers like Bells of Ireland. During the evening Vivian answered many questions and passed on snippets of information. With the arrangements and bouquets as Raffle prizes a few very happy prizewinners went home that evening.

## October 2005

Why was our speaker for the evening wearing a toy dog around her neck? It soon became clear as Mrs B Enons gave us the reason. "Bernard" was with her because the lateness of the hour would not have been suitable for one of her many canine charges. Mrs Enons who works at the Dogs Trust at Snetterton in Norfolk, gave us a very informative and heartwarming talk on the work of the Trust formally known as the Canine League. There was also literature on how we could help this very admirable charity. One lovely foot note, a Home exists called The Oakfield Old Dogs' Home, and, as the name infers, it is a Home for Old Age Dogs. The imagination visualises big armchairs and sofas near warm radiators all being occupied by very elderly dogs!!

Being a large and very active WI with many interests there is often business to discuss and this drew our evening to a close.

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## Dersingham Working Men's Club



**A group of founder members of the Working Men's Club sit in front of the building in order to be photographed proudly displaying their achievement in Bowls**

### ***A Royal Gift***

*(This article was first published in 1912 prior to the opening of the building which is now known as the Dersingham Village Social Club)*

The Dersingham Working Men's Club is now approaching completion, and as the club is built on the King's estate, and is to be formally opened on Saturday, a short account of its history and purpose will come at an appropriate moment. For several years past the want of some such institution has been acutely felt, and from time to time proposals have been under discussion for realising a wish which has undoubtedly grown in force with the increase in population. The late Dr Bellamy of Ingoldisthorpe, a large landowner in this parish, was always ready and willing to give any material assistance in providing an Institute for parish use but his views as to the character and management of such a club or Parish Hall, as appeared to him to be most desirable in the general interests of the people, were not entirely in consonance with the opinion of many of the working men of the village, whose object was to secure a club which could be managed on much the same lines as were the several clubs which had already been built, or were in course of construction in other parishes on the Sandringham estate. Owing to this difference of view Dr Bellamy's scheme fell through to be revitalized however, on the advent to the living of the present Vicar of Dersingham the Rev R W M Lewis, who, taking up the old scheme at the point where negotiations had been broken off has found it possible to secure for the parish the very handsome Hall which stands close to the church of St Nicholas, and was opened a few months ago. His Majesty the King graciously gave the site, and Mrs Tylden the sister of the late Dr Bellamy, bore by far the greater proportion of the cost of construction, and the club which has been formed in



connection with the Institute already has a membership of some 120 men. The very success of that scheme put the men who had stood outside it - and their dissent was not in any way based on sectarian or political motives - on their mettle, and in February last the proposal to form a club, which would open all day, and managed on the lines of the other Sandringham Estate Working Men's Clubs, was taken seriously in hand, and a scheme was formulated for promoting a small limited liability company with the view to the acquisition of a site and the erection of a building suitable for the purpose in view - The Dersingham Working Men's Club, Ltd, was accordingly formed and registered, and 5s shares were soon taken up by prospective working men members and a few others to the aggregate value of £200. His Majesty graciously gave his assistance to the scheme and granted a lease for 99 years to the company of a convenient site near the Dun Cow Inn for the erection of the club buildings, at the nominal rent of 10s a year; and he further promised to make the donation of £100 to the building fund if and when the share capital actually subscribed reached £300. The condition attached to his Majesty's promise has recently been complied with the £100 had been paid, and Sir D Probyn and Mr F R Beck have also supported the share capital with donations of £5 and £3 respectively. The committee anticipate that a further number of share will be taken up, and they have arranged to raise the balance of the cost of construction and of furnishing the building - whatever that balance may be - by loan. The club premises, which stand well back from the Lynn Road have been designed by Mr. C E Prince (chief engineer at Sandringham), and have been built by Messrs G Riches and Sons (of Dersingham) of Snettisham carr stone and Heacham and Peterborough bricks. The building consists of a main hall 44 feet long, with a committee-room, bar, store-room, lobby, and offices. The main room is well ventilated it is warmed by two open grates, and lighted on the Simnitrol lighting system, the installation of the light being carried out by Mr W R Seuter at a contract price of £40. A full-sized billiard table has been purchased and will be placed in the main hall. A drive is in course of construction from the main road to the front entrance of the club, and a bowling green and quoit beds will be laid out on land adjoining the approach road and will be available next summer. The rules and regulations adopted for the management of the club are very similar to those in force at the clubs in Wolferton. Anmer, and other villages on the Royal estate; and his Majesty has graciously consented to be patron of the new club.

The directors of the company are Messrs J Jannoch, F V Wilson, H Leggett, A L Dorer, C E Prince, C Neale, and J Hall; while at a general meeting of members of the club held last week the following officers were appointed:- President, Mr S Lines; vice-presidents, Captain Godfrey Faussett, and Mr R A Wilkin; chairman, Mr A L Dorer; vice-chairman, Mr C E Prince; treasurer, Mr J Jannoch; secretary, Mr A W Maxey; and auditors, Messrs G R Prime and G Watson. The management of the club will be in the hands of the general committee, consisting of the chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer, secretary, and 10 others. Mr Towner has been appointed caretaker, and the club will be open to members from 10 am to 10 pm except on Sundays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday.



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## Winter Cooking

by June Stephenson



Years ago, in pre-Christmas panics, I used to stock up with tinned soups for those “emergencies”: unexpected visitors, no time to cook, etc. Nowadays, having discovered how easy it is to make my own, I rarely buy a can.

Anyway, as we all know by now, various health gurus on TV and in the papers having drummed it into us, homemade soups are probably just as good, or better for us! This does depend on the ingredients, of course, one of the most nutritious being lentils.

Lentils are so easy. Unlike most other pulses, such as dried haricot and red kidney beans, they don’t need pre-soaking for hours in cold water. They don’t even need that initial hard-boiling. (Green continental lentils may be soaked if you prefer, but a 40 minute simmer prior to using them in a soup or casserole is the most they need). Cooked lentils can be mixed with cooked rice, brown or white or basmati, and also with bulgar or cracked wheat. (A note on bulgar follows this recipe).

### Lentil Soup

Serves 4. Time: about 35 minutes from start to finish

- 1 large onion, peeled and chopped
- 25 g (1oz) butter (unsalted is best)
- Clove garlic, crushed or finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 125 g (5 oz) red lentils, washed and drained
- 825 ml (1.5 pints) stock or water
- Good squeeze lemon juice or a dash of cider/wine vinegar
- Pepper (if freshly ground black, add at end of cooking)

Fry the onion in the butter in a large saucepan (5 mins).

Add garlic, lentils and ginger. Stir well (2 mins).

Add stock or water and bring to the boil (3 mins).

Lower heat, cover pan, simmer. Stir once or twice during cooking (20 mins).

Add lemon juice/vinegar, pepper, just enough salt to bring out the flavour, and more stock/water if too thick. (If too thin for your taste, add extra lentils, say 50g (2 oz), at start of cooking next time).

This is an absolutely basic recipe, open to experiment with added vegetables, spices, etc.

### Use of Bulgar Wheat

Measure out, by volume, 100 ml (2 fl oz) bulgar wheat per person into a saucepan. Add one and a half times that volume of cold water. Bring to boil. Turn off heat. Cover tightly. Leave to stand, covered, for 8 to 10 minutes. Fluff up with a fork. Can be mixed with almost anything: cooked beans, peas, lentils, rice, etc. If used cold, cooked bulgar will bulk out a salad to make the latter nuttier, more satisfying and even more “healthy”. I find both lentils and bulgar wheat a great standby when pushed for time and/or inspiration!





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## Father James Fyfe, Roman Catholic Parish Priest for St. Cecilia's Church, Dersingham and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Edmund, Hunstanton.

by May R. Davey



Leaving his Induction Service are Father James Fyfe (right) and Deacons Len Matthews from St Cecilia's Dersingham (centre) and Mike Jordan from Wisbech

James Fyfe was born in Glasgow, but grew up mostly in Leicestershire and attended Lutterworth Grammar School. His father was an engineer and he has two sisters. He learnt to play the bagpipes for the school pipe band in Glasgow and developed a lifelong love of music. He was singing plainsong with the *Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge* before he moved to Norfolk.

On leaving school he was articled for two years to a firm of accountants, but knew he wanted to be more involved with people, and not to spend his life sitting at a desk. He retrained as a social worker in

Greenwich and completed his professional exams in Manchester. He then worked in Ipswich for the East Suffolk County Council.

For many years he had been thinking about joining the religious life of the Franciscans in Dorset, where he spent time on retreat once a year. "Eventually the pull became too strong," he said and he chose to live the next 21 years as a Brother with the Anglican Franciscans, moving between their 16 houses in Britain. The Society of St. Francis was founded to care for those men hit by the 1930s Depression, who were tramping around Britain looking for work. "There I learnt two very valuable things: how to peel potatoes and how to bake bread. I can still bake bread, wholemeal of course!" he said. At one time he was baking 12 loaves every day for the 25 Brothers and their guests in a religious community of about 50 people.

He was to move seven times in five years, wearing the distinctive brown habit of the Franciscans and travelling very lightly. Franciscans make a vow of poverty and don't own personal things. After the noviciate of three years, he spent seven happy years at the St Francis School for maladjusted boys in Dorset near Beaminster.

Later, after a spell at a friary in Worcestershire in charge of cooking, and three years in the Provincial Headquarters in Scunthorpe as Provincial Secretary, he returned to Dorset as Bursar where his accountancy training came in useful. In the meantime the Church of England debate on the ordination of women priests was taking place with the vote to accept women priests coming in 1992. At the time, he was Guest



Some members of the St Cecilia's congregation at St Edmund's Church in Hunstanton for Fr James Fyfe's Induction as Parish Priest



Master of Alnmouth. He was unhappy with possible future divisions in the Church of England and after long consideration decided to convert to the Roman Catholic faith.

For six months he took instruction and lived in an Hermitage in the Cheviot Hills. He had had to leave his Anglican Franciscan Order, of course. He was received into the Catholic Church on 25 March 1994. His parents had died and he had nowhere to go. Friends in Cambridge offered him a home, where he stayed for six months, living in a bed-sit and working as a Chapel-Clerk in King's College.

Bishop Alan Clark, the then Bishop of East Anglia heard he was interested in joining the Catholic priesthood. "Can you drive a car and can you cook?" he was asked. Fr James could cook, but he had to learn to drive a car. He spent three years training at St John Womersley, near Guildford. He was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in Cambridge at the Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs on 20 November 1998, St Edmund's Day. He moved again and again, first to St. Ives, then St George's Norwich and lastly helped at Aldeburgh during the illness of the parish priest.

Back in Cambridge again he learnt he was to succeed Fr Bill Dobson as Parish priest at St Edmund's in Hunstanton and St Cecilia's in Dersingham. He took up his new duties on 5 September and his Induction by Bishop Michael Evans, Roman Catholic Bishop of East Anglia, was on 23 September 2005.

"Since arriving I have been getting to know the parish and parishioners. I very much appreciated the cooperation of members of both churches in the arrangements for my Induction. Because of the vast amount of moving I have done, I hope the Bishop will leave me here so I can get to know and work with my parishioners, other Christian clergy and members of other faiths," he said.

Perhaps he will also have time to settle down to some bee keeping, reading and walking, his other hobbies. Every year the Pilgrims of St Francis walk together for ten days in a European country and Fr James likes to spend his holidays with them.



Fr James Fyfe chats with an old friend from Cambridge after his Induction

**Dersingham and the Dersingham Village Voice welcome Fr James Fyfe to Norfolk!**

*Photographs submitted*

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## Bog News - December 2005

"To everything there is a season..." Ecclesiastes 3:1

Looking out of the office window it is hard to believe that it is mid-November. In front of a cluster of ash trees, still fully clad in their lush green leaves, a pied wagtail is excitedly dashing to and fro, snapping at hoverflies as they settle on the ground to soak up the warming rays of the sun. A white signboard on the front of the office, a magnet for basking insects, is flecked black by the mass of tiny bodies resting on it. In the top right hand corner, a red admiral occupies a commanding position over the gathering whilst, almost opposite, a buff-tailed bumblebee queen sits hunched as if waiting for something - the onset of autumn perhaps?

Whilst some natural events are occurring later year upon year, others, such as the blossoming of ivy, are occurring earlier. Ivy has traditionally provided insects with a late boost of nectar and pollen at a time when it is desperately needed. In turn, the insects which feed upon the nectar provide a food source for a wide-range of other creatures, allowing them to build up the energy reserves necessary to support them throughout the lean winter months. In recent years, this finely synchronised balance has been changing. For some species, the change has been a favourable one, allowing an extended breeding season and reducing winter mortality e.g. buff-tailed bumblebees *Bombus terrestris*. For others, however, the change is most definitely bad. The effects are most pronounced where species are at the extreme of their distributional range. This is the front-line and, when the respective increases and decreases in distributions are mapped, they resemble a battle plan - species demanding a colder climate retreating northwards, whilst those reliant upon warmer climatic conditions advance. There is nothing new in this. Species distributions have changed throughout the millennia. What is different, is the rate of change. Whereas climatic changes in the past occurred over an extended period that allowed species to evolve and move to find suitable habitats, the current rate of change is so rapid that evolution cannot keep up. This problem is compounded by the fragmentation of natural habitats.

Dersingham Bog provides an outstanding record of the climatic changes that have affected our area during the last ten thousand years. The bog is a living relict of the last ice-age, developing in the tundra conditions that existed as the last great ice-sheet to cover this region retreated northwards approximately 10,000 years ago. One need only take a look at some of the species which are currently found on the bog to realise that the bog has borne witness to some enormous changes in our climate - moths more usually associated with bogs in Scandinavia, upland dragonflies and mountain bog plants. This is life on the edge and it remains to be seen how these species will fare in coming years if current climate predictions hold true.



The Bee Wasp © Vince Lea

At the other extreme, is a species of solitary bee which, up until the mid-1980s, was restricted to a single colony on the Isle of White. As a result of climatic amelioration, the Bee Wasp *Philanthus triangulum* is now found throughout lowland England and, in recent years, has become firmly established at Dersingham Bog. A quick



White Tailed-Bumblebee  
© Mike Melton



search of the sandpit at the northern end of the reserve will reveal a myriad of tiny nesting holes and, at the base of the cliff, scores of dead honey bees that have been dropped whilst the wasps attempted to drag them into their burrows. The Bee Wasp is one of the winners in this struggle with the elements.

Through their Springwatch series, the BBC, in conjunction with the Woodland Trust and UK Phenology network, are helping to build a better understanding of the changes that are occurring to our wildlife in response to climate change. The results of this work will help to guide future conservation work and allow effort to be targeted where it is required the most. For further information on how to participate in the scheme, visit [www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/wildbritain/springwatch/record/2006.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/wildbritain/springwatch/record/2006.shtml).

*Ash Murray, Site Manager, English Nature*

## **Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve's Village Voice Walks**

### **Evening Guided Walk: Wednesday 21 June 2006**

Join Ash Murray as he takes as he looks for some of Dersingham Bog's more unusual residents, including; nightjar, woodcock and glowworm. Meet at Wolferton Hill Car Park entrance (Grid Ref: TF662285).

This walk will last for approximately two hours and will start at 8:30 pm. Please bring sturdy footwear, warm clothing, insect repellent and waterproofs.

### **Guided Walk: 11 October 2006**

Join Ash Murray as he takes a closer look at the fascinating and colourful world of fungi. Join in the search for species such as Foxy Spot, the Deceiver and Ear Pick Fungus. Meet at Wolferton Hill Car Park entrance (Grid Ref: TF662285).

This walk will last for approximately two hours and will start at 10:30 am.

For bookings and further information, contact Ash Murray on 01485 543044, or fill out the booking form at the bottom of this page and return it to: English Nature Office, The Smithy Workshops, Wolferton, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE31 6HA.

***These events are free of charge. Please note, however, that booking is essential.***

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I would like to attend the guided walk(s) at Dersingham Bog on Wednesday 21 June 2006 and/or Wednesday 11 October 2006:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Any special requirements \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No \_\_\_\_\_





## Violation by Village Vandals

Can anybody explain the repeated vandalism to public and private property that seems to be prevalent in this village? Nothing appears to be sacred; everything from the skateboard park to domestic garden walls seems to have become the target of the few mindless individuals who have no apparent wish to live in a clean and tidy village. Dersingham should be a place where the inhabitants, young and old alike, may enjoy the fruits of their labours without fear of them being destroyed by these thoughtless, careless yobs.

At some time between 1.30 am and 5.30 am on Thursday 22 September, this being only a short time after the newly installed skateboard facility was completed and put into use, attempts were made to destroy the skate unit by attacking the ramp with a scaffolding pole and then by burning a hole in it with a what is now thought to have been a blowlamp (photo right). The result of this was that the facility had to be put out of service due to health and safety implications until such time as it could be repaired to an acceptable standard.



*Skateboard Photos courtesy of Paul Burrell*



Although the ramp is covered by the Parish Council's insurance, it is inevitable that we will end up paying through increased premiums on our own cover. The other concern is that, due to the fact that insurance companies ask for excesses to be paid on claims, private claimants may find it impossible to be recompensed for the damage caused, having to find the cost from sometimes-limited funds. The incident shown left occurred to a garden wall on a parishioner's property overnight on Sunday 2 October.



*Photo: Bob Tipling*

This type of incident is the reason for the recent public meeting, which was intended to find a way forward in reducing crime, in all its forms, in the village.



*Despite the vandalism reported on the page opposite*

## THE DERSINGHAM SKATEBOARD PARK

**is officially opened**



Michael Asker and Nathaniel (Nat) Benn, two of the original campaigners for the skateboard facility, seen at the top of the ramp shortly after its official opening.

Approximately five years ago youths of the village brought to the attention of the Parish Council the lack of facilities for the older youths and requested thought be given for a skateboard park on the Recreation Ground. This was put before the Full Council who delegated it to the Recreation and Environment Sub Committee. It was found that a large number of youths in the village thought the skateboard park would be a great idea. Various groups of youths had been approached and the local school. Grants were obtained from the Parish Council, Borough Council and other sources. Contributions from various professional bodies in the area were also promised. Quotes from the skateboard builders were sought and plans were submitted to the Sub-Committee, the only stumbling block at this time was obtaining a grant from the Lottery Funds. After several attempts the plans for the skateboard park were revised and the newly formed Sub Committee took over the reins. The children were asked what they wanted in relation to the park and as a result of these meetings a new plan was proposed and designed. Although there was some opposition to the

skateboard park being on the Recreation Ground other sites were visited including the land at the bottom of Philip Nurse Road. The site suggested by the Police Safety Officer and the advisor from the Sports Committee of the Borough Council stated that the Recreation

Ground was best suited for the apparatus. Plans were submitted and approval was granted at Full Council.

As a result of this approval the contractor was contacted and the skateboard park was erected. The sad part of this was that after being open only five weeks someone decided to cause damage to the park during the night between 1.30 am and 5.30 am thus preventing numerous children the use of this facility. Unfortunately for the person or persons responsible the park was insured and has been repaired. Many of the people who used the facility were irate with the damage caused and are now delighted that the repairs have been carried out. Donations are still being

collected and various organised events are being arranged to assist funds in order to keep this facility for the youth of this village and surrounding area. A vast number of parents have commented that this facility was well overdue and it's great that some thought has been given to the children of the area.

The facility was officially opened by Borough Mayor, Trevor Manley, following the unveiling of the plaque for Alderman George Pratt, on Saturday 15 October.

*Photos: Paul Burrell*







## **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)

#### **Part Four of Four**

On board the flagship, HMS Victory, the message had been delivered to the English commander, a slight, one-armed man, blind in one eye and shabbily dressed in a threadbare frock coat stained with sea salt, its gold lace tarnished to black flattened rags.

#### **Battle plans**

This slatternly-looking Admiral was, of course, Lord Nelson, who received the news with the utmost calmness. And why not? His battle plans had already been made and communicated to all his captains. Those plans, he was convinced would give him a swift victory.

Until the Battle of Trafalgar, the problem of how a fleet could gain an annihilating victory over the enemy was one that had never really been solved, and for want of a better tactic, it had been the custom for the fleets to sail into action in two parallel lines, with each ship taking on single opponent, firing its broadside as it passed.

Inevitably, the enemy would take an opposite tack, and the battle would then become a vastly prolonged affair, with the ships continually sailing on opposite tacks, or engaging on the same tack, until one of the fleets eventually retired. Nelson had decided to break completely with this tradition.

His plan was to divide his fleet into two groups. One group would attack sections of the enemy line and destroy them before other ships could come to their aid. The other group would attack the enemy at right angles, break through the lines and then cut off the retreat of the enemy fleet.

This aggressive piece of strategy, which was referred to as the “Nelson Touch”, was to change the whole course of naval warfare. The battle did not begin until the following day, by which time the enemy fleet was well in sight, off Cape Trafalgar. Nelson was on deck, now in a freshly laundered uniform and with new ribbons for all the medals on his breast.

#### **Battle signal**

Shortly after, Nelson called for the signal officer. “Make the signal to bear down on the enemy in two lines.” He then went down to make his will, which was witnessed by Captain Hardy and Captain Blackwood who had come aboard from the Euryalus. Afterwards, Nelson went up to the poop and ordered the signals officer to hoist his celebrated signal: “England expects that every man will do his duty”.

It has been said that this famous signal was to have been worded: “Nelson confides that every man will do his duty,” and that his name was replaced by that of England at the suggestion of the signal officer, who pointed out that if the words “confides that” were used, they would have to be spelt out with a long string of flags. The word “expects” was substituted instead.



## First blood

The first shot was fired at the English ship Royal Sovereign at noon. This salute of iron was received in silence by the Royal Sovereign, who waited until she had drawn astern of the Spanish three-decker, Santa Anna, then raked her decks with a murderous fire that killed or wounded 400 of her crew.

In the meantime, Nelson's ship was moving on, silent and intent, searching for the French Admiral's ship.

Eventually, right in front of her, lay the huge Spanish four-decker, Santissima Trinidad. Guessing correctly that the French Admiral's ship must be nearby, Nelson bore down on her. As he did so, the Bucentaure, Villeneuve's ship, and seven or eight other enemy ships, opened fire on the Victory. Still she advanced without firing. By the time she had come close enough to rake the Santissima Trinidad with her larboard guns, 50 of her men were dead and 30 wounded.

It was at this point that the Victory came into collision with the French Redoubtable. Locked together, and wrapped in sheets of flame, the two ships drifted slowly through the smoke of battle. Gradually, although the fighting had continued unabated, the smoke cleared a little from the decks of the Victory, enough for the marksmen to see the epaulets of the English officers.

A marksman kneeling in the mizzen-top aimed his musket at Nelson. On the quarterdeck of the Victory, Captain Hardy had turned to leave Nelson's side to give an order when Nelson fell, mortally wounded. Immediately, Hardy, a Sergeant of the Marines and two Privates, rushed forward to lift him up. Nelson was then carried down to the cockpit, where he ordered that his face should be covered with a handkerchief so that he might not be recognised. In the meantime, the Redoubtable's top marksmen had shot down 40 officers and men, destroying so many that the French, seeing the upper deck clear of all but dead or wounded, tried to board her. It was an enterprise which was to cost them dear. A boatswain's whistle piped, "Boarders; repel Boarders", and the order immediately summoned swarms of smoke-begrimed blue-jackets to the deck, where they killed every man who had managed to board the Victory.

Below decks, Nelson's life was now ebbing away fast. But he was still alive when Hardy returned from the fighting above to inform him that fourteen enemy vessels had given in. "That's well," Nelson said, "but I had bargained for twenty." He lingered on for a little while longer. After murmuring some inarticulate words, he said distinctly, "I have done my duty. I thank God for it!"

## Ruined dream

Above, 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. Trafalgar was the decisive battle of the Napoleonic Wars. It had always been essential to Napoleon's master plan to control the world that he should have command of the seas. With his Allied fleet now ruined as a fighting force that dream had been destroyed forever.

Trafalgar, moreover, established England's supremacy at sea for nearly a century and a half, during which time the Royal Navy remained the bedrock on which her control of the far-flung British Empire rested, through the age of steam and into the 20th century.

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We never know the love of a parent till we become parents ourselves.

*Henry Ward Beecher*

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## Patient Participation Group (PPG) News

At a well attended PPG Meeting on 16 November, attendees were briefed by the Executive Manager and the Practice Manager on the latest Carole Brown Health Centre developments. The new chairman – Mrs Vanessa Blythe - took the chair for the first time.

**New Carole Brown Health Centre.** Planning permission has now been received for the new health centre at the Manor Farm location. Negotiations are still ongoing with the Primary Care Trust regarding the financial commitment required but these are expected to be resolved in the not too distant future. Regrettably, there is an inevitable delay in the operational date of the new centre but the practice is endeavouring to keep the delay to a minimum. Once the financial matters have been agreed, the PPG will again be asked to propose and comment on the furniture and fittings.

**Patients Survey.** The patient survey conducted in the summer produced very encouraging results. Most aspects of the service provided by the Carole Brown Health Centre were considered very satisfactory and in many cases, excellent. Clinics are now provided at Dersingham for most chronic conditions and it was most revealing to hear that the doctors at the surgery provided over 20,000 appointments in the last year and that the nurses 35,000! The doctors, nurses and receptionists were highly praised by many PPG members for their work but, inevitably, there were some aspects where improvement is limited by the present location. Parking remains a problem as does the provision of privacy at the reception area. Concern was also expressed by some members regarding the appointments system but this was, in part, due to a misunderstanding by some patients of the appointments system and the limitation placed on all practices by the need to meet the 48 hour target dictated by the Department of Health. To help patients, the appointment system is explained below.

**Appointments.** If a patient calls the Carole Brown Health Centre for an appointment and is informed by the reception staff that there are no appointments available for that day, he/she can take the following action:

- Ask for an appointment with a **Nurse Practitioner** who, as a highly qualified and senior nurse, may be able to help.
- Ask for the **doctor at Dersingham** to **telephone back** and this will usually be done after 10.30 am. The patient can then describe the condition for which help is required and the doctor can take appropriate action
- Ask for the **Triage Doctor** - who may be from Gayton Road - to **telephone** and again appropriate action can be taken relatively quickly.

**Future Staffing.** As of 3 January 2006, Dr Cupper and Dr Allen will not normally be available on the present part-time basis at the Carole Brown Health Centre. They will be replaced by Dr Summers, a highly experienced GP, on a full-time basis. Dr Lawrence and Dr Baluch will also be full-time and supported by Dr Kenny on a part-time basis.

*T G Morris  
Vice Chairman  
CBHC PPG*

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Nearly every man who develops an idea works at it up to the point where it looks impossible, and then gets discouraged. That's not the place to become discouraged.

*Thomas A Edison*



## War and Peace in Norfolk Part Two

*by Tom Ebert*

Juvenile crime in the village was practically non-existent. ‘Scrumpping’ apples and giving another kid a ride on a bike’s crossbar was the height of our depravity. One poor man, ‘Cocky’ Sayers, used to phone his girl friend regularly from the phone box opposite Linford’s. A carefully hidden rope was tied around the box leaving ‘Cocky’ to ring somebody, we never knew who because we never stayed around to find out, to come and untie him. Some nights a few gates were removed from their hinges and replaced upside down – all harmless stuff. The only lad in our group of about twenty kids who did get into trouble around the age of eleven or twelve succumbed to temptation by taking a ten shilling note from a customer’s table when he was delivering her groceries. He was immediately found out, taken to juvenile court and received probation for the offence. That frightened the rest of us as much as him. The local bobby, Mr Hall, was always greeted politely when seen and responded in kind. There really was never any vandalism or trouble. Most nights we heard the bombers go out from Snettisham and Bircham airfields and saw the searchlights home in on lone planes until they were established as ‘friendly’. The ‘Queen Mary’ recovery vehicles with the crashed planes on board drove through the villages back to the airfields. A daytime activity was watching planes towing a target ‘drone’ whilst gunners practised their marksmanship on the drone. The pilots of those planes must have really blotted their copybooks to get that job. We never saw much of the American servicemen in Dersingham; the Snettisham kids got all the chocolate and gum from them. During the latter war years the military took over Jannock’s Hall opposite the church. It was some sort of headquarters preparatory to the D-Day invasion. Field Marshall Montgomery turned up one time for a few days with his rather large camouflaged caravan concealed under the trees in the grounds. We lads used to sneak around the grounds to see if we could spot him. A few weeks before D-Day the eastern region was designated a ‘no-go’ area as a build-up of men and materials took place. I remember line after line of vehicles hidden under the trees on the approach roads to Sandringham. No one was permitted to travel in and out of the area without a permit and we had a heck of a job getting such a permit for my cousin, a sixteen year old girl to visit us for a couple of weeks from London. Each village competed with each other to raise funds for the war effort. A week would be designated for each of the three services. ‘Wings for Victory’, ‘Navy Week’, and I suppose the other was imaginatively, ‘Army Week’. The village concert party, the ‘Dersingham Amateurs’ would put on a show in the village hall for one of the fund raising weeks and a visiting concert party from one of the other villages would come along to do the honours at one of the other fund raising weeks, the locals having exhausted their repertoire. This would be on a reciprocal basis. The cheaper seats at the concerts being at the back of the hall, this was where the local kids gathered, jostling each other for pride of place on top of one of the two wooden cupboards placed along the back wall. There used to be a model of Nelson’s flagship the ‘Victory’ in a glass case on that wall with King George V’s photo looking at it from the left and Queen Mary’s peering from the right. How it and they survived the silent in-fighting I’ll never know. Sports events for the children were organised during those weeks, the prizes being National Savings stamps and there was usually a fete and carnival to round the week off with an appearance by members of the particular service benefiting from the fundraising. Freddie Mills and Eric Boon, two famous boxers of the time, both serving in the RAF put on



a boxing exhibition at one such event. Charlie Playford was the local baker and an enthusiastic cine-photographer. He used to film all those local events, which usually ended in a carnival procession through the village. Charlie was a leading light in the village, he was involved with the football team and I believe many other local organisations. He was always Mr Playford to the village lads, never Charlie. He had our respect. He used to rent feature films and on Saturday evenings would set up a screen and projector in his bake house and limited by space invite a few lads around to view the films. His immediate family would sit on chairs in the front and the rest of us would sit on top of the well-scrubbed mixing troughs in the warm bake house eating new bread and jam tarts, drinking 'Corona' soft drinks purchased from Mr Playford whilst watching the film. We all knew that anyone messing about would not be asked back for future shows so behaved impeccably. Our other entertainment during the war years consisted of Saturday afternoon visits to the cinema, either to the 'Princess' in Hunstanton followed by a soft drink and a bun, if finances warranted it, in Abbs tearooms while waiting for the bus home or to King's Lynn where the cinemas were the 'Majestic', the 'Theatre Royal' and down by the docks, the 'Pilot'. Mr Fisher the proprietor of the fish and chip shop was an active socialist and organised a 'Young Socialist' group within the village. Politics then, as now, being as boring as watching paint dry the only reason we joined was to be eligible for the social evenings he arranged; there we could meet girls. I was a card-carrying member of the Young Conservatives and the Young Farmers at the same time for the same reasons. This usually lasted until the next subscription date fell due when lack of funds meant lack of membership. Later on at the age of sixteen we were eligible to join the Old Time Dancing club, which met in the village hall on Friday evenings and danced to records. Quite a few young people attended, we had tutorage for the dances, travelled to other old time dance venues and had a whale of a time. Latterly, a travelling cinema came to town. Every Thursday night an entrepreneur set himself up in the village hall and gave a cinema performance. Initially, one had to wait while he changed each reel, but business must have been good because eventually he had two projectors and we saw the feature film uninterrupted. His poster on the notice board outside the hall showed four weeks offerings on the one poster and the 'blood and thunder' films always played to a packed house. I'm not sure whether this particular man was involved in an incident regarding the showing of the original black and white film of George Bernard Shaw's 'Pygmalion'. Liza Doolittle in the film has the line "Not bloody likely!" which attracted much comment in the press at the time. The local clergy, both Church of England and Methodist urged their congregations to boycott the film when it was shown at the village hall. It played to a capacity audience! On V.E. Day a large bon-fire was organised on one of farmer Richard Stanton's fields on the Sherborne road when the fireworks that had been put away at the beginning of the war were brought out and let off. Poor Mr Mason-Jones the schoolmaster was leaning on his stick watching the bonfire oblivious to some of the older lads lining up rockets at his hat, which, as he was wearing it at the time, could have been dangerous. He was saved by Mr Riches the boot mender's son pushing him out of the way at the last moment.

The long summer holidays meant that lads over fourteen could ask one of the local farmers for a 'harvest' This meant working on the farm, helping to harvest the crops until 'all were safely gathered in' For this you were paid an agreed sum. Whether the 'harvest' lasted for two, three or four weeks you got the same money. The worst job during threshing was sacking chaff and this was always given to a harvest boy. The threshing machine was towed to the field by a steam driven traction engine and driven by leather belts from the



flywheel of the engine. It was always set up so that the prevailing wind blew the dust away from the men on the stack and towards the boy sacking chaff. Barley was the worst; those prickly 'harns' got everywhere.

We had one visit from a travelling circus about two years after the war ended. This was an open-air circus – not from choice but necessity. Apparently the Big Top had burnt down a few weeks before and in the tradition of 'the show must go on'. a high wall of hessian was erected around the circus ring and the ground level acts went on. The trapeze artists were redundant as there was nothing for them to swing from and anyway, those of us outside the hessian who couldn't afford a ticket would have seen them for nothing. As it was, getting close to the hessian meant we kids could see the blurred shapes of the performers anyway. Not as good as a front row seat but sufficient - and we could still hear the band for free. Eventually, I worked on the Sandringham Estate until I joined the RAF. I returned to Dersingham a few times on leave and then, whilst I was serving abroad, my family moved back to Essex. Apart from one visit a few years ago where I looked up some friends and my old headmaster, Mr Willis. I haven't returned. When I retired I intended to come back 'home; but my last visit convinced me that the old adage 'Never go back' is a true one. It wasn't 'my' Dersingham. I owe the war-time Dersingham and its people a lot. I've nothing but fond memories of living there. Impossible, I know, but the sun always shone and the sky was always blue then as I remembered it. That's how I'll always remember it.

*Tom Ebert (e-mail [TomEbert@tomebert.worldonline.co.uk](mailto:TomEbert@tomebert.worldonline.co.uk))*

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Dersingham.com**



## King's Lynn Charity Grants Available

It has come to our notice that anyone who is in a condition of need, hardship or distress, and who do not qualify to receive relief from public funds, may apply for grants to cover the following:

- Special payments for sudden distress
- Assisting in meeting bills from public utilities
- Provision of furniture, bedding, clothing, fuel, heating appliances
- Washing machines
- Radio or TVs for the lonely, bedridden or housebound
- Recuperative holidays or respite breaks
- Travelling expenses in special circumstances
- Adaptations for the disabled
- Telephone installation charges
- Provision of food for special diets, medical or other aids, invalid chairs, etc.
- Special payments to relieve sickness or infirmity

For further information please contact the Secretary, Mrs Veronica Stiles, on 01485 533352

Life is easier to take than you think; all that is necessary is to accept the impossible, do without the indispensable and bear the intolerable.

*Kathleen Norris*

## A Sign of The Times



The sign depicted above has been placed on the Recreation Ground to advise users of what is and is not acceptable in the area.

## Ancient Order of Foresters

Above the entrance to Supreme Carpets in Manor Road, on the inside, is the large wooden plaque depicted below. Guy Playford, who now owns the hall, told me that it was placed there after it had been removed from the Foresters Hall in King Street, King's Lynn, thus saving it from possible destruction. Indeed, Guy has retained all the various memorials around Dersingham's Foresters Hall, where he now sells carpets.

Listed below are all the names which had been placed there

### "FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE"

**Can any of our readers supply information relating to these names? As this was rescued from Lynn some of the names will be less local than others but should be familiar to some.**

**J Hodgkinson, W Merrkin, T Folkard, H Beeson, A Ormiston, W Goldspink, W Webster, R Hall, W Alcock, R Green, W Bowsher, W Wells, T Green, W Stevens, W Walsh, H G Fisher, C.F.Ward, I Dent, T G King, W Jones, G Richardson, W Gotobed, R Fake, C W Regester, R Stannard, J Williamson, E J Johnson, G Lungley, W J Hyner, G Griggs, G E Ogle, R Bunnett OBE, R G Walton, J W Ager, B Howard, R A Ferguson, G G Duffield, F Maidens, J I Pennington, J Chambers, H B Fisher OBE, L C Rout, A T Watson, W J R Baxter**

Guy is happy for anyone to inspect the panel in the "wood" during his opening hours.

*Photo: Tony Bubb*



## Not A Patch On The Real Thing But He's 'Armless'

Councillor Dick Murrell does his bit to celebrate the anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar ...

... and how about that outfit?

Homemade: from the cardboard tricorn hat and the aluminium foil 'medals' to the long john pantaloons. You could say it was an **admira(b)l(e)** performance!



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### **Dersingham Methodist Church**

invites you to join them for any of their Christmas activities.

Saturday 10 December 10.00 - 12 noon Christmas Coffee Morning, with cards, cakes, gifts stalls. Church decorated for Christmas.

Friday 16 December 7.00 pm Christmas Party, bring and share supper.

Sunday 18 December 10.30 am Family Carol Service with Rev. David Caink.  
6.30 pm Candlelit Carol Service

Sunday 25 December 10.30 am Christmas morning service with Rev Kim Nally.

Sunday 1 January 2006 10.30 am Service led by Wallace Ward.

**May Peace, Joy, Love and Hope be with you all**





## Post-War Memories of Dersingham Hall

*by Bryan Tann of Chestnut Close*

I was enthralled by Elizabeth Fiddick's encyclopedic history of Dersingham Hall (Village Voice issue 36). What a pity she was unable to cover the post-1945 period, preferring to leave this to other villagers. I was only 12 when war ended and living not in Dersingham but in King's Lynn, so my recollections of that part of the Hall's history are sketchy. However, I have memories of accompanying my parents to social events at the Dersingham Hall Social and Camping Club, to which Elizabeth refers. It was based in the now-refurbished outbuildings bordering Chapel Road. The steward was "Sonny" Skipper, a large, jolly ex-Londoner whose descendants still live in the Lynn area. In that time of post-war austerity, the club's furnishings and fittings were far from luxurious. Double seats taken from old buses were used as sofas in many licensed premises. George Stratford, who set up the club, had begun in business at a shop in Norfolk Street, Lynn, selling Army surplus clothing. His shop was called Stratford's Army Stores; it is still there, shortened to Stratford's, now selling gear of the active leisure type more suited to the 21st century. My father, Bert Tann, was an accountant with Hayhow and Co in Lynn and Mr Stratford - like my dad, a tall, distinguished looking man - was among his clients, so he would obviously have advised George in launching the club. I believe that the late Kenneth Bush, a well-known solicitor living in the village at The Haven, Shernbourne Road, was also financially involved; he founded the Lynn law firm, which still bears his name. Incidentally, the names Stratford and Bush are preserved in road names on the Old Hall housing estate, which began to develop in the Hall grounds in the late 1970s. Two other names mentioned in Elizabeth Fiddick's article, Pell and Kerrich are likewise kept alive in road names in other parts of the village. And now, the name of Theodore Jannoch, the Hall's German owner in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, is being given to the residential development taking place at the Hall at the moment - Mr. Jannoch's nursery was much favoured by King Edward VII through its proximity to Sandringham and it was he who had encouraged Mr. Jannoch to launch his business. To return to the late 20th century: After the club's demise, its premises were the venue of a weekly auction conducted by Peter Leech, known as "the man in the red waistcoat". The Hall itself was the home of Mrs Phyllis Jary, a legendary character in the village with a somewhat eccentric lifestyle. Then, in 1980, there was another incarnation for the then dilapidated premises in the shape of the sadly-missed Gamekeeper's Lodge restaurant, with the Hall itself becoming the associated Dersingham Hall Hotel. Elizabeth Fiddick refers to Mr. Jannoch initially running his nursery business from Brandenburg House, now Lane End, opposite the Hall. Next door to this is Mecklenburg House, which was built by Mr Jannoch in an attractive German chalet style. Appropriately for neighbouring houses, Brandenburg and Mecklenburg are the names of two adjoining states, or provinces, of Germany. As with its neighbour, Mecklenburg House did not survive an anti-German urge to rename; during the Second World War it was known as East Stanton. However, the present owner, Mr John Fell, with an admirable sense of history, returned the original name after he moved in.

PS: It might be worth pointing out for the benefit of newer residents that the Institute, correctly referred to as such in the article in an historical context, is nowadays better known in the village as the Church Hall.





## That's My Business

### Charlie's Hair, Beauty and Tanning



The concept of Charlie's was an idea of Lynne's for years prior to its opening in March 2004. Lynne was also the proprietor of New Image for 12 years and had become aware of the need for expansion, not only in respect of the hairdressing, but also for the beauty and training business. The needs in the community demanded more stylists as well as beauty therapists, and there were continual requests for upright-tanning rooms, the nearest being King's Lynn. And so Charlie's was born. No reason for the name

whatsoever, except that the staff are all Angels! Charlie's has a hardworking and professional attitude and yet is a fun place to be for both staff and clients alike as we have such a friendly and conscientious team of 'Angels'! A coffee/juice bar and a quiet area means those who want to escape the madness and relax for a while, between hair and beauty appointments or while they have colour on etc, can! Due to Lynne's qualifications and teaching abilities, staff are continually aiming to be the best, attending shows, courses and exhibitions in London and other venues where appropriate. Juniors are continually training under Lynne, Vicky and Jenny, as well as attending college on day release, and are, therefore, always looking for models to let them practise their skills and to achieve assessments. Clients are charged at a huge discount with juniors and, in certain cases, the service will be free. Lynne also attends regular standardisation meetings for her own continuous professional development and to ensure that her teaching and assessment methods are up-to-date. She also regularly 'researches' by making appointments in London to sit and observe. Checking that our stylists, trainees and services offered are at least as good, if not better. This, along with regular team meetings (parties and other social events!) to trips and photo shoots, means that, upon assessment by the Good Salon Guide, we have been given a 5\* award, which we are very proud of.

#### Meet Charlie's Angels!

**Vicky** is an established hairdresser, having trained under Lynne some 12 years ago. Her own teaching skills are excellent and, even on the most busy and stressful of days, Vicky is the one you will hear singing somewhere among the madness!

**Jenny** is also a qualified stylist. She is hungry for success in her career and is the first to find the show and events to attend, to improve her skills. She is a particularly good barber and her male client bank is huge. Again, Jenny is a great mentor for the juniors, and her energy and enthusiasm for hairdressing means her teaching skills are excellent. You'll see Jenny on TV one day!

**Leah** is fast-tracking on level 2 and is expected to qualify 6 months early for her age. She will then go straight on to advanced level 3 and, again, she is eager to become the best. She is producing some outstanding work, particularly in areas like braiding and weaving, colour work, hair up, and anywhere where she can use her very artistic skills.

**Little Bob** Also training towards level 2, she will qualify in June and then go on to level 3 next academic year. She will cheer anyone up on a dull winter's day, but don't book with her if you want total peace and quiet, as Little Bob loves to talk!



**Nik** is only 15 years old. Still at school but showing fabulous potential. He attends college as well as the salon, on day release from school and we are therefore confident Nik will qualify by the time he is 17 and go on to great things.

**Jackie** (ITEC & IHHT) and only available Tuesdays. She has 17 years experience and specialises in Deep Swedish Massage, Aromatherapy, Reflexology and Indian Head Massage. Full details of the benefits of these treatments are on our price lists.

**Alison and Gem** are our two part-time Beauty Therapists. Both fully qualified but also both training to specialise. Gem is also qualified in holistic therapies like aromatherapy, reflexology and massage and Alison is a qualified Colour Therapist (Ask Alison!) and is training to become a specialist in Swedish Massage.

**Pet and Wendy.** These are the two, who without them, we'd all fall to pieces! They are like the 'behind the scenes' technicians in a West End show. They sort us out in all sorts of ways but you don't often see them on stage! We know they are around if we mess up or make anything dirty though!

And lastly, the fluffy white ball is **Bailey**, the salon mascot! She is always around making friends with someone or hoping that someone might not want to biscuit with their coffee!

We offer facilities for the disabled and Bailey just loves the vehicle, which transports wheelchair users from Park House, jumping in as soon as the wheelchairs are out!

Other services offered are listed in our extensive price tariff. Continual offers mean that prices on our state of the art tanning rooms can be as low as 30p per minute.

Our opening hours. We try to accommodate people who work 9 am - 5 pm and therefore have four late night openings per week until 8 pm.

It is also a more relaxing time of the day and therefore the best time to take advantage of services such as massage, reflexology, facials and tanning, etc.

**Bogus Callers Target The Elderly!**

Bogus callers will try to gain entry to older peoples property. They may offer to carry out work in their homes and gardens and then charge far too much. They may pose as meter readers or officials. Some criminals will simply ask to use the phone, or request a drink of water.

Please help keep your elderly relatives, friends and neighbours Safe. Keep reminding them to

**Stop! Chain! Check!**

**Stop** - Do you know this person, have they made an appointment? If the answer is no, don't let them in.

**Chain** - Always use your door chain or other restraint.

**Check** - Carefully check callers ID, if in doubt ask them to make an appointment. Phone for help if necessary.

If you would like any advice on personal safety and security for the elderly contact your local Police Crime Prevention Department, their advice is **FREE**

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Kings Lynn Police Station

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For further information phone 01553 616666 or email [homeenergylink@west-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:homeenergylink@west-norfolk.gov.uk)

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## An Introduction To More Of Our Parish Councillors

### Councillor Valerie Brundle

I was brought up and educated in Enfield, Middlesex. In 1958 my parents moved to Winchester, Hampshire, and I continued my schooling in Romsey at another convent.

On leaving school at 17 years of age my first job was as a 'Hello Girl', working for Southampton telephone exchange. After 2 years my voice was heard all over Britain – I was the 'Speaking Clock'!!

Another 2 years on I was working in London for a law firm and after 8 years I joined the Civil Service as an Immigration Officer.

I came to Norfolk in 1984 and bought Red Pumps Garage which I managed for several years. After my husband died I bought the 'White House Guest House' and have now had the lovely old house for 8 years.



### *Recently co-opted Member, Councillor Joanna Jones*

My husband and I have lived in the village for 27 years, having come here when our son was a few months old. In the 1980s I trained as a social worker and then worked for Norfolk County Council as a field worker and later as a local manager. After retirement in 2000 I took a 2-year course in photography at the College of West Anglia. I am now working as a freelance photographer and digital photo restorer. Over the years I have always tried to support village activities, either by attending them or by helping behind the scenes. In the early years it was

giving a helping hand at jumble sales or other events. In more recent years I have been involved in publicizing Dersingham Open Gardens, as well as opening our own garden some years. I have put my name forward to be considered as a Parish Councillor as I now have a little more time that could be devoted to village affairs. Although still a relative newcomer by some standards, I have acquired a basic knowledge of the village and of the changes that have taken place over the years. What I believe I could bring to the Council would be abilities such as listening to various points of view, gathering information, and negotiating with people in order to reach agreement. I am particularly interested in clear, open communication within the village and beyond, in environmental issues such as recycling, and involvement in schemes which can enhance the quality of life for the residents of Dersingham.

### *Recently co-opted Member, Councillor George Pratt*

Our former Chairman, for 43 years a member of the Parish Council, who resigned from the post a little over a year ago due to health reasons, has decided that he wishes to do more for the village than he already has done, and has, therefore, again offered his services.





### Recently co-opted Member **Councillor Gillian Sergeant**

I was born in Kingston upon Thames in Surrey in the memorable year of 1953 and went to school in at the Royal Masonic School for girls in Hertfordshire. I have lived over the years in Devon, Sussex and mainly London where I met my husband Steve. I have two grown-up children, my daughter who lives in Essex and my son who lives in Australia and I am happily awaiting the birth of my first grand child due on New Years Eve. I have worked in many industries since I left school, although my main experience is in the transport industry where I have worked with various companies in London and once owned a mini-cab

business in Peckham with my husband. In 1997 I decided to learn "The Knowledge" to become a London Black Taxi Driver and passed this within 22 months of starting. My biggest love these days are my animals, 3 dogs, 4 cats, a guinea pig and an aviary full of birds! My husband and I enjoy nothing more than long walks with the dogs in Sandringham, Wolferton or on the numerous

gorgeous beaches that the surrounding area has to offer. I have always spent time out of London and had a holiday home in Kent whilst my children were growing up so my husband and I decided a few years ago that we wanted to spend some more time out of the Big Smoke. We came to Norfolk for a few days and found ourselves in Dersingham looking at houses! We purchased our first home in Dersingham in 2001 and felt so at home here that we moved out of London permanently in 2004. Now that I am settled in Dersingham I would like to give some of my time and life experience to the Parish Council and look forward to the challenges that this may offer me.



Hugh Mullarkey has recently returned from a visit to the Austrian village of Oberndorf where 'Silent Night' the carol was written by Joseph Mohr the village curate. Franz Gruber, his organist, wrote the music. The picture above shows the Chapel which was built on the site of the Church of St Nikolas where 'silent Night' was first sung on Christmas Eve in 1818.

## Silent Night

*Hugh Mullarkey © 13/11/2005*

The purest joys of Christmas  
Find expression in this song  
It brings to us some simple thoughts  
Of things for which we long.

\*

Some peaceful thoughts, some loving thoughts:

A mother and her child  
Some quiet contemplation  
Some anger reconciled.

\*

A silent night, a holy night  
A faith, a hope restored  
When a simple sense of purpose  
Will be its own reward.

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## **BRIDGE AT PARK HOUSE**

Rubber Bridge is played at Park House, Sandringham, every Thursday afternoon from September to June at 2 pm. We would welcome newcomers to the village to join us for social Bridge.

**For further details call 541804**



## Brothers in Arms

### Wesley and Hubert Tuck - 1916

*by Andrew C. England © 998  
and published with his kind permission  
Part One of a Series of Three  
Author's Note*

This short account of Bert and Wesley Tuck arises as a result of visiting the annual flower festival at the church of St Nicholas and discovering Wesley Tuck's grave in the churchyard. It has been written using the few primary sources now available but sadly lacks

the personal insights into the lives of the brothers, which evidence such as letters and diaries may well have provided. The historical narrative for Wesley's and Bert's story, however, remains accurate and is largely drawn from the respective War Diaries of the units in which the brothers served. A serious attempt has been made to ensure the information used is accurate. For any failure to achieve perfection in a fast-changing world, I apologise.

### Introduction

At 11 o'clock on 11th November 1918, the thunder of battle fell silent. After 52 months of appalling bloodshed, the Great War, the war to end all wars, was over. The conflict had claimed 38 million British casualties, nearly a million of whom died; few communities and families were left unaffected.

Lying just north of the royal estate of Sandringham, in West Norfolk, is Dersingham. In 1911 its population was 1,500 of whom 42 were to lose their lives in the War and subsequently be commemorated on the village's war memorials.

Just inside the south gates of the village churchyard, almost unnoticed amongst the many headstones, is one substantial memorial above a grave, a grave belonging to one of the 42 who fell in the War. Picked out in plain lead lettering on the now weathered marble surface, is the name of Wesley Tuck who died in October 1916, aged just 25 years. Sharing the inscription, but not his grave, is Wesley's elder brother, Hubert, who had died the previous month. This is their story.

### Early Days

Frederick Tuck was a farmer at Nordelph in Norfolk. He married a distant cousin Julia Tuck, and they became the parents of eight children; seven boys and one girl. Hubert Henry, the third child was born at Nordelph on the 19th February 1889 and Wesley Edgar Reuben, the fourth child, two years later. When Frederick Tuck retired from farming he moved to Dersingham, establishing the family home at Hill Side and taking an active part in the local community, becoming a Justice of the Peace and a Methodist lay preacher.

Little can now be verified regarding the early lives of Wesley and Hubert. Bert, as Hubert was normally called, emigrated to Canada before the Great War and the first reference to him is linked with Ontario in late March 1915, seven months after the Great War began. Equally little is known of the early life of Wesley. He worked in Leicester before the war gainfully applying his artistic talents, a family trait, as a graphic designer with a wallpaper manufacturer. In Leicester he met and became engaged to Sally whose surname remains unknown. Sally kept in touch with the Tuck family after the war and, it is believed, never married.



## From Enlistment to the Somme

The Great War demanded men, lots of them, and the British and Canadian Governments vigorously promoted recruitment into the armed forces. As a result, families were separated from their loved ones. Some men joined the colours for patriotic reasons, others because they desired to leave their uncomplicated existence for the promise of a better standard of living and perhaps even adventure. The pressure from the authorities, newspapers, friends and society in general, to take an active part in the war was considerable and men often signed up because the alternative would have been too unpleasant.

On Monday 22nd March 1915, after spending his last weekend as a civilian, Bert walked into the recruiting office at Lindsay, in the province of Ontario, and joined the Canadian Army. He was given a medical examination, which showed he was of 'good' physical development despite having haemorrhoids and a small number of defective teeth! He was five feet eight and three-quarter inches tall, of fair complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. Such details were important to the Army. He was inoculated and assigned the regimental number 60002. At the age of 26 years, Bert had enlisted with the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, specifically the 21st Battalion, a unit that had begun its existence only one week earlier.

Bert's training began immediately and within two months. On 4th May, his Battalion sailed on the *R.M.S. Metagama* for Britain, 42 officers and 1057 other ranks strong. As Canada receded into the distance, the sadness of the men leaving their homes and loved ones was perhaps counterbalanced with an excitement for the coming adventure. Eleven days later the *Metagama* arrived in England and Bert and the rest of the Battalion moved to a camp at West Sandling, near Folkestone.

Wesley meanwhile, emotional at leaving his friends and Sally, in Leicester, undertook the journey to Norwich to enlist in the regiment of his home county. The Norfolk Regiment had begun the War with two battalions of regular soldiers, a training battalion and three battalions of territorial or part-time soldiers. Within six months of the start of the war, following the government's recruiting drive, the total number of Battalions had risen to nine. The 9th Battalion Norfolk Regiment had been formed on the 9th September 1914 at Norwich.

The date on which Wesley enlisted with the Norfolk is unknown. He was probably initially sent to the 3rd Battalion, a training unit stationed at Felixstowe. Its duty was to equip raw recruits with the relevant skills and knowledge, and dispatch them for active overseas service. Following the completion of their training, a draft of men, including Wesley, left England for France on Monday 30th August to join the 9th Norfolks. The 9th Battalion's own service on the Western Front had begun when they had landed in Boulogne on 30th June 1915, two months before Wesley arrived. By the 21st September the unit's fighting strength reached a total of 1,017 officers and men.

The 21st Canadians, meanwhile, had spent the dry summer of 1915 training in the Kent countryside; they were still preparing for their part in the war when Wesley crossed the Channel for France. On Thursday 2nd September King George V, accompanied by his Secretary of State for War, Lord Kitchener, inspected the 2nd Division, of which the 21st Canadians were a part, indicating that the Battalion would soon be sent to the front. It was. Just 12 days later the Canadians marched the short distance to Folkestone where they embarked for France. On disembarking, the Battalion was moved to a camp near the French town of Hazebrouck. Having been issued with heavy British pattern boots and coupled with





the seasonally hot weather, many of the men found the march to Hazebrouck a severe test of their endurance.

By the end of 1914 the Western Front had been established. From the Swiss frontier to the sand dunes of the Belgian coast, the great armies of Europe dug lines of sinuous trenches and faced each other in a deadlock of war. The opening months saw the start of a disastrous campaign in Gallipoli. Senior strategists soon realised, however, that the war could only be won on the Western Front and therefore it was here that the main effort would be made.

Loos, a mining town on the Western Front, was the location for a disastrous battle, the Battle of Loos, which began on the morning of Saturday 25th September 1915. Less than an hour after the British released poison gas along their front line, 75,000 soldiers scrambled out of their trenches and advanced towards the well fortified German positions. Many of the men unfortunately became casualties as a result of their own gas, a new weapon introduced to compensate for the lack of artillery shells, others fell as German shells and machine gun bullets scythed into the advancing lines of men. The 9th Norfolks were one of the units kept in reserve on the 25th and because of the desperate need for fresh troops, they were hurriedly sent to the front.

Getting to the front was not easy for the roads were crowded with the wounded making for the rear and transport desperate to move forward; the journey was all the more difficult because of pouring rain. Despite such difficulties the Norfolks arrived in their allocated positions in the early hours of the 26th September. Their first experience of a battlefield must have been a ghastly one. Horribly mutilated corpses littered the surface, shell holes half filled with water trapped the unwary and the persistent rain turned the broken ground underfoot into energy sapping, oozing mud. As the Norfolks moved nearer the front they were subjected to terrifying artillery and machine gun fire from the German positions. Ahead of them the town of Loos was engulfed in flames. This was hell on earth.

The Norfolks received orders for an attack at 03.45, only three hours before the zero hour, giving them scant time for adequate preparations. In the half-light of the September morning, Wesley went into action. The fighting was severe. The historian of the regiment was to later write '...the battalion made a gallant effort to advance.... So heavy, however, was the fire they met, especially from the numerous German snipers that they could make little or no progress and were compelled, after suffering very heavy casualties, to.....seek cover in the trenches. The trial had been very severe, and the battalion certainly had rather bad luck in being sent into a big battle almost the moment it arrived on the fighting front and before it had got accustomed to its conditions'. The price paid by the Norfolks was a heavy one with 209 men becoming casualties. Wesley survived physically unscathed but the frightening memory of that first action undoubtedly remained with him for the rest of his days, his baptism into the hell of warfare on the Western Front was to be less than a month after he had arrived in France.

With their role in the Battle of Loos over, the Norfolks moved north to take over trenches around the Belgian town of Ypres, known to the British 'Tommies' as 'Wipers'. Here in the Ypres Salient two further enemies, mud and water, were encountered in plenty.

At the same time as Wesley was initiated into the hell of trench warfare, Bert's Canadian battalion was holding the line 18 miles to the north. Bert spent the early months of 1916 just north of the French town of Armentieres, famous for the soldier's marching song 'Mademoiselle from Armentieres'. The weather was atrocious and the Battalion's existence there became a miserable one. Rain made the trenches, often little more than



raised lines of sandbags, collapse, the earth turning to liquid mud. There was little escape from the harsh elements and the Canadians endured deep water in the trenches for days at a time. The more fortunate were issued with waders. The Battalion served six-day tours rotating between the front, support and reserve lines, undertaking a monotony of fatigues and working parties. At their rest billets in the battered towns behind the lines the men, extremely weary and filthy, snatched what rest and comfort they could before once again being despatched for the front.

It was almost inevitable that given the miserable conditions in which the men existed illness should take its toll and, like many others, Bert succumbed to influenza. Consequently on Monday 18th October he was admitted to hospital. When he recovered he spent the Christmas of 1915 away from the front line at Ridgewood in Belgium, three miles south west of Ypres. Christmas in France was designated a rest day for Bert's unit, with no fatigues or working parties; the battalion diarist noted that the holiday was 'celebrated in a very quiet manner with plenty of Christmas puddings'. Only one year before, many men in that same sector had witnessed Christmas truce, the war this year took no account of the festive season. Unlike Wesley, Bert's introduction to the horrors of battle was not an immediate one. By the end of 1915, mine warfare had reached a stage where the Allies and Germans regarded it as an important factor characterising the deadlock of the Western Front. Six months after Bert's arrival at the front, on the 27th March 1916, six large mines were blown in the Sr Eloi area of Belgium, three miles south of Ypres. The terrific explosions shook the earth erupting debris and smoke violently into the air; the German units on the ground immediately above the mines were annihilated. The topography of that part of the front line was instantly changed, large craters, the resulting scars of the explosions, now characterised the landscape. Trenches, if they remained at all, were reduced to shallow ditches, shell holes and dug-outs were flooded with water. All around, the dead were buried, or half buried in the mud. St Eloi was probably the worst section of the Ypres Salient. One week later the Canadians took over the line.

At midnight on the 8th/9th April 1916, Bert's battalion attacked one of the craters, which had now been fortified by the Germans. In the dark the Canadians advanced on the enemy positions only to be repulsed by heavy rifle and machine-gun fire forcing them to retreat to their own front line. The fire fight with its intense noise, flashes of light and screams of wounded and dying men, would have been a frightening experience. The next day the Canadians attacked again but this time with success. Bert survived his first action unscathed but, like Wesley, would carry with him for the rest of his days the intense memory of his initiation into the horrors of fighting on the Western Front.

Wesley, still with the 9th Norfolks, left the Ypres Salient and entrained for a move south on a hot Wednesday 2nd August 1916. Three days later they took over trenches near the village of Mailly-Maillet some five miles north west of the town of Albert.

Three weeks later on 30th August, having also completed their tour of duty on the Ypres Salient, Canadian units began to take over front line positions around the village of Pozieres, three miles north-east of Albert.

**Part Two of this series will appear in the February Issue of the Village Voice**  
**'Brothers in Arms'**

Wesley and Hubert Tuck -1916, Written by Andrew C. England  
Copyright © Andrew C England 1998

First Published 1998 by 'The Friends of St Nicholas Church', Dersingham  
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The original publication was printed at 'The College of West Anglia'



## Saint Nicholas Guild of Bell Ringers

Sunday 23 October 2005



A Quarter Peal of Doubles was rung before morning service to celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of Admiral Lord Nelson's victory at Trafalgar.

The ringing consisted of 480 St Martin's, 360 St Simon's, 480 Plain Bob and 120 Grandsire.

Treble: Elizabeth Wheeler. 2: David Emerson. 3: Tony Owen . 4: Alan Bell.  
5: Gordon Wilkinson. Tenor: Alan Polaine.

Conducted by Tony Owen.

On Saturday 22 October we had the honour of a visit by members of the Royal Naval Guild of Bell Ringers.

Five of the six bells in Dersingham church tower would have been ringing at the time of Trafalgar. The Tenor bell, cast by Thomas Newman, was exactly 100 years old at the time and the number four cast by John Draper, our oldest bell, was 175 years old in 1805.

### To The Hard of Hearing

You may be a little hard of hearing or you may be deaf.

However, did you know we have a FREE lip-reading class at the Methodist Church Room in Austin Street, Hunstanton?

We are a small group at present but I am sure there are lots of people around who could benefit from these classes. We welcome new members so please don't be shy, come and join us. We have fun and there is lots of support and help with all sorts of things to do with your hearing difficulties. Classes are held on Tuesday afternoons from 1.30 - 3.30 pm

*You can just turn up, or, if you would like further information contact  
Adult Education, Kilham's Way, King's Lynn PESO 2HU or  
Telephone 01553 772766*

### News from Dersingham Library

After the Christmas excesses maybe you would like to join us at Dersingham Library for a day of complementary therapies. Our 'Be Good to Yourself' Day is being held on Monday 6 February from 10-1 and 2-5. Come along to sample such delights as Indian head massage, reflexology, herbal medicine and healing. Local professionals will be on hand throughout the day to explain the various procedures and offering demonstrations. We will also be promoting our Health Netway which guides you to useful websites on many health matters such as healthy living, health services and diseases and conditions.



## Dick Melton's Column

### *Dersingham Old Hall*

I was very interested in the story by Elizabeth Fiddick in the Village Voice Issue 36 about Dersingham Old Hall. In 1910 my grandfather, Mr. William Drew Melton, sold paraffin from a shop (tin shed) in his garden in Manor Road and he supplied Mr. Theodore Jannoch with paraffin for his greenhouses. One day he asked my grandfather if he wanted to buy the Old Hall and the land that went with it for £1,000, but unfortunately, my grandfather could not raise the money. As Elizabeth Fiddick rightly says, during the Second World War the hall was taken over by troops from Canada and Newfoundland, as was St George's School up Dodds Hill. After the war it was used for all sorts of things, the main building was turned into flats, the barn on the end was made into a dance hall, with a club between that and the hall. At one time a chap called Joe Jary was the steward (Joe had been a wireless operator in the RAF during the war, so he used to mend TV sets and radios on the bar at the same time as was trying to serve you with drinks). The local TOC H branch used the club as their headquarters for many years. Once there was a lot of land that went with the hall including a meadow with a pond in the middle that went right down to Centre Vale. There was quite a large wood down the corner near the Institute (Church Hall) and I can remember a local family living in there in a caravan. Also after the war we would get travelling fairs and circuses set up in the meadow once or twice a year. The scout hut was in the grounds of the hall and when it was abandoned a chap used it to breed rabbits in. Also at one time the meadow was ploughed up and barley grown on it. Then for many years Mr Jacobs, who lived at the bottom of Sandringham Hill, had hundreds of chickens on the meadow, as he did around the pit next to Parker's Stores. Then another use for the outbuildings was the auction center that was run by Mr. Peter Oliver Leech ('the man in the red waistcoat').

Prior to these the outbuildings had been used to fatten pigs in, and then, of course, Mr. Dick Sutton took it over and turned it into the Gamekeeper's Lodge. So you can see that over the years the Old Hall at Dersingham has led a very varied life, and no doubt even now that most of it has been taken away (destroyed) it will still be known as Dersingham Old Hall and Jannoch's Corner.

### *Dersingham Duck Decoys*

Some local people say that there were four active duck decoys (for shooting wildfowl) within the parish boundary of Dersingham but I think in fact that there was, and still is, only one.

I have no recollection of any wildfowling going on at the moat which was on Dun Cow Farm land owned by Fred and Bob Balding about 500 yards down The Drift on the right (now Sandringham View) this moat was part of the old manor house that was demolished many years ago and it was shown on Bryant's Map of Norfolk in 1826 as a moat, today it is almost all filled in.

The decoy on Cranberry Fen, Dersingham Fen, or Dersingham Bog as English Nature renamed it, is in fact on the edge of Wolferton Warren and is on the Wolferton side of the Dersingham Parish boundary posts, this decoy was created out of a bomb crater that was made when a Zeppelin dropped a bomb on the fen during the 1914-1918 war the same Zeppelin dropped a bomb near Snettisham Church. The decoy on the fen was made by putting an island in the middle with a foot bridge, and sinking barrels in holes on the island to use as hides, this decoy was used by the royal family for many years.





The small lake at Boat House Creek down the marsh not far from the carstone road that runs from Dersingham to the pumping station is right on the Dersingham boundary, there was always a Heligoland trap in there that was used for taping and ringing all sorts of birds, I do not think that it was ever used as a duck decoy for shooting, in the early sixties a blackbird was caught and ringed in this trap, a year later it was caught and ringed in Siberia and the next spring it was found dead on the Lynn Well Lightship at the mouth of the Wash, and as far as I know the remains of this trap are still there though I do not think it is used anymore.

The only true decoy (to my knowledge) is the one in the woods down the marsh in a north westerly direction from the concrete road, this decoy was used a lot and is about 100 yards inside the Dersingham boundary with Snettisham/Ingoldisthorpe, Decoy Farm (Lincoln's Farm) was so named after this decoy, and as far as I can make out this is the only decoy that is in the parish boundary of Dersingham, but, who knows, I may be wrong.

### **Definition of the words duck decoy**

A large pond with a number of curved channels leading off it that is used to catch ducks, they are enticed along a channel by the intermittent sight of a trained dog, which they follow to drive it away from the waters edge.

Duck Decoy Close on the Sandringham View estate was named after the body of water half way down The Drift on the right but this was not a decoy it was a moat and had been for hundreds of years.

### ***Autumn Fruit***

Summer has gone, the harvest is safely gathered in, and autumn is upon us. The next thing on the agenda for us lads in Dersingham in the 50s and 60s was the gathering of the autumn fruit (sloes, walnuts, cranberries, sweet chestnuts and blackberries). There were quite a few walnut trees in and around Dersingham, two big ones stood on the meadow at the top of Sugar Lane, and up the Shernbourne Road at the back of Snoring Lodge Wood stood two more, though **the** place for walnuts was in the park at Appleton House just past the water tower, where there were about six trees. The worst thing about walnuts was getting them out of their husks, it didn't half make your hands black, and it took weeks to wear off! As for blackberries, well, in those days there were plenty of hedges all around the village where they grew, but the best two places were the little wood just past The Drift and over the railway line (bypass) and all the way up Ling House Road, also, if you went up Ling House Road and turned right along the track to Sandringham Barns, the thicket that was beside the track was full of sloe (small plum) trees, and my mum would make them into jam. To get cranberries you had to go over Dersingham Fen and make your way around the fire track to the first hill, then, there on the right, near to the parish boundary posts, was a big area of cranberries. They are not the easiest of fruit to pick as the little red fruit are only the size of a pea and grow just above the ground amongst the heather, but it is well worth the effort when they are made into jelly. The end of October well into November is the best time for sweet chestnuts as if you are trying to gather them too early, or knock them off the trees, they are still in their prickly husks, but if you pick them a day after a good blow then they will just lay there on the ground. Of course, as we all know, Sandringham Woods is full of sweet chestnut trees, with a long belt of them running in a southerly direction from Sandpit Cottages (George Pratt Roundabout) as far as Folly House (Wolferton Crossroads). My late father and I would go up the woods and gather as many sweet chestnuts as we





could, then he would lay them out on sacks on the lawn to get them dry. They would then be put in earthenware jars with the stopper sealed tight, and put in a hole in the ground and buries. Then, at Christmas time, we would dig them up and eat them, either roasted, boiled or just raw. They were really good for you and delicious to eat!

### ***Nicknames***

On reading Tom Ebert's article called 'War and Peace in Norfolk' he mentions Fyffe (sic) Wilson the coalman and asks if this is his real name. Well I don't think it was, I am pretty sure that it was his nickname. Then I began to think about all the other residents of Dersingham who had nicknames. One of the strangest was 'Uncle Two Foot' who lived in the cottages next to the Coach and Horses Pub, and who, if he was not working, would lean on the wall and talk to everyone who went by. 'Hubby' Cross lived in the white house at the top of The Drift, he too was a good gardener. 'Paddy' Batterbee lived down Centre Vale but he was not Irish. Then there was 'Farmer' Daniels, so called because he had five allotments up Fern Hill. 'Tor' Riches was a roadman, 'Cocky' Sayer lived in Garden Cottages, 'Hic' Bird was another coalman, 'Cobbler' Riches was the son of a boot-maker, 'Chamber-pot Joe', whose real name was Philip, had a collection of over 300 chamber pots in a shed up his garden. Other names that I can bring to mind are 'Hoddy' Middleton, 'Char' Daw, 'Mally' Nurse, 'Ninky' Cross, 'Hocker' Wade, and 'Rocky' Steel. No doubt other people in the village will come up with many more - one name that I nearly forgot was 'Sonny' Skipper; Sonny had the most important job in the village, he was the 'honeycart' driver!

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## **A First Greeting or a Final Farewell**

*Kathy Jordan © 11/11/2005*

A baby's very first Christmas, is a time of hope and joy,  
When Mums and Dads are all so proud of their darling girl or boy.  
Gathering round the Christmas tree surrounded by gifts galore,  
But the infants are indifferent, loving boxes or wrapping more -  
For they do not really understand what on earth is going on,  
But they pick up on the excitement of a happy family throng

\*

But maybe you've just lost a loved one in a grieving year near past,  
Not knowing that two thousand and four was to be the very last -  
Yuletide you could be together, so you feel no festive cheer,  
Devastated by their departure how you wish they were still here.  
But they would not want you unhappy on this ancient babe's birthday,  
So if a first or final Christmas - make the most of it - come what may!!

Editor's note: Kathy's thoughts are prompted by having lost loved ones before two previous Christmas days, and the present joy of having been blessed by the birth of a two new grandsons during the past year, Georgia May Scott in June, and Samuel John Richard Jordan born on 26 October. Our best wishes go out to Kathy and the families concerned.

## St Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church Mountbatten Road, Dersingham

With the welcome arrival of their new Parish Priest, Father James Fyfe, at St Cecilia's, there were also regretful farewells to be made to the three visiting priests, who had looked after the Dersingham congregation so well for several years: Fr Michael Rear, Fr Paul Trinder and Fr John Heley. A well-attended Mass of Thanksgiving, led by the Dean, Fr David Finegan, was held at St Cecilia's on Thursday, 20 October, followed by an enjoyable party. Presentations were made to them all, and also to Deacon Len Matthews in recognition of his steadfast support in the absence of a parish priest.

The Parish of St Edmund's in Hunstanton with St Cecilia's in Dersingham is celebrating a Centenary Mass in Hunstanton on Sunday morning, 13 November, at which the Bishop of East Anglia, The Rt Rev Michael Evans, will dedicate the Centenary stained glass window. This depicts St Edmund and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. It was designed and made by Peter Quail, and echoes another window he had made for the church, depicting a lighthouse.

St Cecilia's hosted a shared lunch for the ladies of the Parish on Saturday 5 November, where women from the Hunstanton and Dersingham congregations had a chance to get to know each other better. It went so well that the St Edmund's ladies have promised to host another shared meal in the spring.

*May Davey*



*Inspired by the re-naming of the former Q8 Filling Station as 'Chambers Court',  
Mrs Janice Cross looks into the life of the man for to whom it is dedicated*

### James Chambers

James Chambers was born into a family of four generations of builders in 1895 at the Temperance Hotel (currently Ashdene House) at the corner of Chapel Road and Hunstanton Road. As a boy he had to take food to his father and uncle who were building the carstone wall around Sandringham House. After being educated at King Edward VII Grammar School for Boys he volunteered for service in the First World War where he served in the Medical Corps in Egypt. After the war he came back to the family building business and helped his father and uncle to build the Drill Hall on Dodds Hill Road. He ran the first Scout Group in the village. When his father died he took over the business and built a bungalow on Post Office Road next to the Chapel, High Farm Bungalow on Hunstanton Road, two bungalows at Ingoldisthorpe and four bungalows on Glebe Close (which he named). He also built the pillbox on Station Hill, one at Hillington and one more. During the Second World War he served as a Special Constable and was a member of the TocH. He was secretary of the Dersingham Court of the Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society for forty years representing the Court at District and National level. His ancestors built the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Chapel Road, and the Foresters Hall in Manor Road, also many houses in Dersingham. James Chambers died in 1970 aged 75 years.

One friend in a lifetime is much, two are many, three are hardly possible. Friendship needs a certain parallelism of life, a community of thought, a rivalry of aim.

*Henry Brooks Adams*



## The Village School Part 3

### The Schoolmaster's Son

by Elizabeth Fiddick

In the church at the rear of the side altar at the east end of the south aisle is a memorial window in memory of Alfred Richard Firth the eldest son of Alfred Firth, *"the greatly respected schoolmaster of the village."* The window is of three lights. St. Mary is shown in the right hand light kneeling at her prayer desk. On a scroll over her head are the words of her reply to the salutation of the Archangel, *"Behold, the hand maid of the Lord, be it unto me according to thy will."* On the left is St. Gabriel the Archangel carrying a banner on which his words are inscribed. In the centre is a beautiful vase of Madonna Lilies. Above, a representation of the Holy Spirit is shown running through the heads of the three lights. Angels appear holding scrolls upon which are written the opening words of *The Magnificat*. In the base of the lights are shown on shields, *"The Tower of David," "The Fountain,"* and *"The Lily"* three emblems associated with the Virgin Mary. Above, in the tracery, are shown the figures of angels playing musical instruments. The dedication is in the right hand corner.

*To the glory of God and in loving memory of Alfred Richard Firth, one of his Majesty's Vice-Consuls, who died at Kobe, Japan, on October 12<sup>th</sup> 1912, aged 36, this window is erected by relatives and friends.*

Alfred Richard Firth, or Dick Firth as he was known in the village, was the oldest of



Photo: Tony Suba

three brothers. He was born in Castle Rising in 1876 just before his father took up the position of schoolmaster in the newly built Dersingham School. His two brothers, Harry and Fred, were born in the village. All three boys attended the village school and took a full part in the life of the village. Harry is recorded as captain of the village cricket team in 1900. Dick was the first of the brothers to leave the village school to attend the Grammar School of Lynn. At the end of his studies there, he received the gold medal for academic achievement from King Edward VII. The fact that all three boys achieved this honour must have been a source of pride to their father. Dick, while still in the sixth form, graduated from London University and then spent some time on the continent to improve his French and German. In 1898 he passed an examination and was appointed by the Foreign Secretary, Lord Salisbury, as a

Student Interpreter in Japan. He spent the next few years in Tokyo and Yokohama passing several exams in Japanese. In 1903 he was in Manila as Acting Consul General. In 1905 he had leave of absence and returned to England where he enrolled in the Inner Temple completing half the course and exams before returning to his consular duties at Hakodate. He also served in Formosa. Dick wrote many letters home and sent articles to the Parish Magazine. He wrote of experiencing an earthquake during a tutorial, *"everything began to rattle and then the house shook for about one minute like the last carriage of a long train."*







He described the houses where the walls, "consist chiefly of paper panels stretched on wooden frames." His accounts of New Year, his ascent of Mount Fujiyama and travels throughout the area are full of detail and humour. In a time when international travel was the privilege of the few it must have seemed a fascinating if not exotic life to the villagers back in Norfolk. He left the island on his last leave of absence on Christmas Day in 1910. On arriving home he continued his legal studies and qualified as a Barrister in 1911. He returned to Kobe as Vice Consul but died there tragically after an operation for appendicitis in 1912. The news of his untimely death must have been a great shock to everyone. Queen Mary hurried over to the village to offer her sympathy to the family. 300 villagers contributed to the cost of the window, which was produced by Messrs. C. E. Kempe of Nottingham Place. Some of the stained glass in Sandringham Church came from the same studio. The service of dedication was held on Friday 25 July 1913. The Rev Lewis of Dersingham and the Rev Copeman of Ingoldisthorpe officiated. The Rev W Boyce, headmaster of Lynn Grammar School unveiled the window and it was then dedicated by The Bishop of Thetford. The church was full to capacity to hear the Bishop's address. He gave a moving account of the life of Alfred Richard Firth and praised his family and the village of Dersingham. "Where would the leaders of this world be without the villages. The village boy of today might in the future become one of the world's leaders. It was in the village that the foundation of his character was laid."

Alfred Firth Senior continued as schoolmaster until 1916. After he retired he continued to pursue an active life in the village. He served as chairman of the Parish Council, President of the Football Club and the Cricket club for many years. He died in 1932 and his headstone can be found in the churchyard.

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## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2005

With 2005 being the 60th Anniversary of the end of WWII hostilities both VE Day and VJ Day were poignant reminders to everyone of the enormous sacrifice made by those serving in the armed services at that time. Old newsreels also brought home the fact that the lives of those left at home either as wives and mothers or those who were unable to take part in active service for one reason or another were also deeply affected.

Dersingham is a growing village. We are fortunate in having over 30 tireless volunteers who go from house to house at Remembrance time collecting for veterans and the present day servicemen and women still in need of support. The village shops are excellent for allowing the poppy boxes to be displayed, and the men of the British Legion pull out all the stops and waylay any passer-by on the Saturday before Remembrance Sunday and so adding enormously to the funds. Sandringham and West Newton are also part of the area and the churches of Dersingham, Sandringham, Castle Rising and Wolferton also donate generously from their collections.

Grateful thanks go to all those who collected and also all of you who gave so generously to what is such a worthwhile fund. No donation is too small - equally, of course, none too large either! We are, it would appear, a very big-hearted village.

Understandably, every year some collectors feel they can no longer continue the role and new volunteers are **always** needed desperately. This year there were several roads in the village where there was not a collector available. Anyone who is able to offer two hours per year of their time (all it takes) to help next year, please phone *Dee Morris* on 01485 541450.



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# CHRISTMAS TEASER

**A****C****E****G****H****I****B****D****F****J**

You should by now have spotted a trend in this edition - Baby Pictures. Believe it or not, most of your Parish Councillors were children once. Here is a selection of the little dears.

Just match the photos with the names below, and the entry with the most correctly matched will win a bottle of wine.

Can't guess? Just nominate boy or girl for any you are struggling with. This will score less than a name but more than a blank.

Entries to the office or by e-mail to: [dersingham@wncb.net](mailto:dersingham@wncb.net) to arrive by Jan 12th 2006.

**Dick Murrell**  
**Valerie Brundle**  
**Tony Bubb**  
**Jo Jones**  
**Keith Manship**

**Colin Smith**  
**Nigel Kelk**  
**Jean Riches**  
**Ron Brackstone**  
**Gill Sergeant**

AAAAAAAHHHHHHH!!!!



**Tuesday January 3rd**

**THE STROLLING PLAYERS**

**PRESENT**



*"Here we come a  
wassailing again"*



**!!!!!!! NEW VENUE !!!!!!!**

**St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor road,  
Dersingham**

**7.30 pm Admission £2.00 including Festive Nibbles.  
Raffle**

## **VILLAGE VOICE LIVE**

**Tuesday February 7th**

**Dr Paul Richards**

The well known local historian, town guide &  
former Mayor will be giving:-



**An illustrated talk on  
A HISTORY OF  
LYNN AND THE NORTH NORFOLK PORTS**

**St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.**

**7.30 pm Admission £2.00 including refreshments.  
Raffle**



## Village Voice Live

The lure of the East Anglian Film Archive was sufficient to give us our biggest crowd yet. Nearly 70 eager filmgoers poured into St Cecilia's causing us to rapidly deploy extra seats into a suitable position for viewing. This highlighted a basic failing of the venue - the layout. With this and one or two other logistical problems inherent in this hall, your committee have decided to re-locate to St Nicholas's Church Hall from January. Whilst it isn't quite as cosy as St C's it is the right shape, the seats are not linked and are therefore easier to move and there is a stage. We think this will prove to be a good move. Back to the films then. Starting with some old but brief footage (perhaps 'inch'age would be more appropriate) of Dersingham we were shown a huge selection of local goodies including royal funeral processions, flooded fens and the old flax factory. After the break - many thanks to the ladies who do the tea and cakes - we were tested on our local knowledge with an elderly travel film showing some 27 unidentified locations in the region with the chance to offer suggestions as to their identity to the very able projectionist. They do have a vast amount of material in the archive and the feeling of the meeting was that we should see some more in the future.

November saw Helena Aldis telling us how to trace our ancestors. This popular activity is made much easier these days with the internet and censuses etc, available on discs for home use. Helena led us through the various routes for tracking our roots and warned us of some of the pitfalls and nasty surprises that could await. However, even with some past wrong side of the blanket work, it should be possible for most to get back to the 1700s without too much trouble. Breaking for the inevitable tea and cakes again - I thought the Angel Slices were particularly toothsome! - Helena was grilled by individuals from the audience with their own queries. (We also discovered that she is related by marriage to the late Oliver Reed.)

Part two and the computer projector was cranked up and we looked at records on disc in an effort to track relatives of the audience, with varying degrees of success. Helena does run classes in the subject. For more details you can find her in the library. *AB*

## Do You Wish To Attend The 'Village Voice Live' Meetings But Have Difficulty In Getting There?

If so, we may be able to help! The organisers are looking at the possibility of providing transport to and from these events should there be a demand. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01485 541465.

## Answer to October's Bowls question



The players in the picture were identified by Dick Murrell as being (from left to right); Mr Ringer; Mr Bunn; Mr Green; Walter Dyble; Mr Lawson; James Jackson; Mr Jarvis; "Cropley" Batterbee; Mr Williams; Mr Bugg and Herbert *Steward*

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## Samaritan's Purse International Relief CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

I would like to take the opportunity to thank people in the village for their generous response to the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. Through the schools, churches, WI, Guides & Brownies and many unknown kind people who just left boxes in my porch 200 shoe boxes were filled for needy children. These have now gone off to a collection point where they are checked and sealed ready for loading onto trucks - from our area they will be heading for Romania this year.

Last year boxes were delivered in 95 countries worldwide regardless of nationality, political background or religious

beliefs. The above appeal meets critical needs of the victims of war, poverty and famine, disease and natural disaster. They have an extensive feeding programme, a thriving water filter project and a growing HIV/AIDS awareness teaching programme. There is a website [www.samaritanspurse.uk.com](http://www.samaritanspurse.uk.com) for anyone wanting to know more.

*Joan Schorah*

*Editor's Note: Joan has asked me to appeal to all you people, (and I know that you are not all in the classification of 'ladies' or 'women', as I myself, have, on occasion, taken up the knitting needles to do the odd 'knit one, purl one'!) who may have some spare time and wool, and who would be prepared to knit gloves and scarves for those who may be less fortunate than we are, to make up these pieces of essential clothing to be forwarded to those in need. Contribution should go to the usual reception points, or, if in doubt, contact Sarah at the Parish Council Office, who will guide you in the right direction!*

### **VOLUNTEER SECRETARY URGENTLY REQUIRED**

A secretary is urgently required for the Dersingham Community Centre

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## Introducing Dersingham's very own ...

Very few English towns and villages are honoured by having a member of our fauna and flora named after them. In the bird world, we have the Dartford warbler and Sandwich tern. While our butterflies include the Camberwell beauty and Lulworth skipper. The only wildflowers I can think of that come into this category are the Nottingham catchfly and Cheddar pink, although there may be more. And



Dersingham? Well Dersingham has a moth (or more correctly two moths). The 'Dersingham Bog moths'



*Choristoneura lafauryana* and *Archips betulana* are

members of the Tortricidae. In this country, they have only ever been recorded on Dersingham Bog - where they were discovered in 1880 and 1881 by A E Atmore. *Betulana* was last seen here in 1900 and *lafauryana* 1962. Repeated attempts have been made to relocate these moths - most recently by Jon Clifton who carried out an unsuccessful search this summer. The technique used was to look for the larvae on their food plant, the bog myrtle *Myrica gale*. This is not an easy task because the defence mechanism of the larvae is to roll up into a ball and fall to the ground when approached. Therefore, not finding them doesn't necessarily mean that they don't exist - but the smart money would probably go on the likelihood that our claims to fame are now locally extinct.

Does this matter? Well in the big scheme of things probably not much - but the fact that these moths were found, until comparatively recently, on Dersingham Bog tells us a lot about the history of the site. Both these species are widespread in northern Europe and Scandinavia. This means that they were probably stranded on Dersingham Bog when the ice sheets retreated at the end of the last ice age. I can recall learning about how ice age glaciers sculpted the landscape of northern England and Scotland. The fact that the retreating ice also left behind intact ecosystems complete with delicate little moths seems somehow harder to believe.

These cold winter days are a good time to get a feel for the origins of the bog, which occupies the low ground between our village and Wolferton - forming the core of English Nature's Dersingham Nature reserve. An easy way to view the bog is to walk the footpath that runs west immediately after leaving the village on the Lynn road. This is also the best place on Dersingham Bog to find bog myrtle, which is an attractive low growing aromatic shrub. It is strange to think that if we could place a Neolithic hunter-gatherer from this area onto modern day Dersingham Bog, he would probably know where he was and be able to recognise the plants and animals around him.

This is not something we can say about many places in England. *David Bingham*

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In poverty and other misfortunes of life, true friends are a sure refuge. The young they keep out of mischief; to the old they are a comfort and aid in their weaknesses, and those in the prime of life they incite to noble deeds.

*Aristotle*



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## Dersingham Horticultural Society

**September Meeting** - Unable to attend our September meeting, I quote from the society's monthly newsletter. "Due to the enthusiasm of Ernie Dix all found the meeting one that we will all remember for a long time. He began his talk with a list of the types of bee, and went on to tell us that although he has as many as 30 hives, it is still a hobby. I must add that his wife, Trixie, is well involved with the beekeeping and attends many exhibitions, winning prizes at most of them. Although a bee lives for just six weeks, their family life is quite sophisticated and very productive. Ernie and Trixie showed surprise that we had so many members (currently 138) and hadn't, therefore, expected to sell so many of their products." The newsletter also contained a poem by Gilly Canny, expressed in her own unique style, which encapsulated many aspects of a bee's life.



**October Meeting** – A talk entitled "The flora of New Zealand" turned out to be much more than that! Four members had recently toured these islands and Jane Baugh-Ward guided members through the fascinating slide sequence which illustrated their travels. Jane began with a survey of the development of the island's flora which is very varied since New Zealand has climatic zones ranging from sub-tropical to arctic and all types of habitat. We were also told of the arrival of the Maori in 1530 and Jane related some of their legends and traditions. Among the many other facts - too many to mention here - Jane told us of the similarities between English and New Zealand domestic gardens and the dissimilarities, unexpected in many ways, between the flora and fauna of Australia. There followed a brief survey of New Zealand's unique avian fauna - many flightless birds from the extinct giant moa to the kea (a parrot) and the kiwi the only bird in the world with a nostril at the tip of its beak. Jane finished with an account of the principal aspect of her talk and surveyed the flora of these islands from the earliest primitive mosses, lichens and ferns to the native species and those introduced by the European settlers, not forgetting the giant indigenous 150 foot kauri gum trees. An interesting and informative evening enjoyed by all present.

**November Meeting (our AGM)** – As usual November saw our well-attended Annual General Meeting with all serving officers and Management Committee members being re-elected together with a few new members to other committees. The Management Committee's recommendations for the society's annual donations to local organisations were agreed by members, these being: £250 to the local Community Nurses, £250 to the Day Centre for the Elderly, £50 to Tapping House Hospice and £50 to the Dersingham Infant and Nursery School Garden Club. These donations have been made possible, not only by the generosity of our members but also by all those villagers who supported our Gardeners' Fair and Annual Show. Our thanks to you all. The evening ended with a slide presentation "Mainly Croatia" given by our retiring President.

*David Clark (Tel: 543182)*

Success or failure depends more upon attitude than upon capacity. Successful men act as though they have accomplished or are enjoying something. Soon it becomes a reality. Act, look, feel successful, conduct yourself accordingly, and you will be amazed at the positive results.

*Dupree Jordan*



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## News from Dersingham Schools



Both schools are starting preparing for Christmas so that it will be very special for our pupils and parents.

Last year the two schools joined together with the church to produce a Carol and Christingle service. This was so successful that it is going to be repeated again this year at 6.00 pm, on 15 December, at St Nicholas Church. This is a family occasion and the children will be able to hold and take home a Christingle candle, which will be lit, with parents' supervision, during the service. The Christingle candles can be collected from the back of the church at 5.30 pm, before the service. These will cost a £1 and proceeds will go to the Children's Society. If orders and money could please be sent to the schools by 9 December it would be appreciated. The service will also feature the joint schools' choir, who can also be heard singing at Thaxters' Coffee Shop and both of the schools' Christmas Fairs in December. Everyone in Dersingham is invited to join us for the Christingle Service.

### School Christmas Fairs

**Dersingham Infant & Nursery**

9 December 5.30 pm

**St George's (CE) Junior**

2 December 3.15 pm

### Christmas Plays

**"The Little Red Robin"**

13 & 15 December 9.00 am

16 December 2.00 pm

**"A Christmas Performance"**

7 & 8 December 6.30 pm

### Carol Singing at Thaxters' Coffee Shop

The Dersingham Schools' Choir 10.45 am on 12 & 13 December

Last day of term Tuesday 20 December - schools reopen for pupils on

Thursday 5 January 2005

**A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Dersingham Schools**

Jackie Austin

Carol De Witt



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## Michael Palin, Python and Traveller, visits Dersingham

Last seen on our screens travelling the Himalayas, and before that crossing the Sahara, Michael Palin, actor and one of the originators of Monty Python, will be the speaker at the annual Friends of St Nicholas Church literary dinner on 24 March, 2006.

*Details of tickets etc will be announced nearer the time.*



## Coffee Mornings

A Coffee Morning is to be held on the first Friday of  
every month from 10 am to 12 noon at  
St Nicholas Church Hall





## Christmas Services at St Nicholas Parish Church

*As well as the usual pattern of weekly services, special seasonal events in December are as follows:*

Sunday 4th	2.30 pm	A Concert featuring the West Norfolk Singers, entitled "Christmas Past and Present". Christmas music, including carols in which the congregation are invited to join in. Tickets £5.00, telephone 544561, or at the door.
Wednesday 14th	2.30 pm	The Mothers' Union Carol Service. This service is open to all. The Mothers' Union is an organization within the church which seeks to promote family values. You will be most welcome.
Thursday 15th	6.00 pm	A Christingle Service organized by, and involving the two Dersingham Schools. It is open to all. Christmas Carols and readings, and the lighting of the Christingles.
Sunday 18th	6.30 pm	Carol Service. This annual event is always a special way of approaching Christmas. Again the whole village is invited to join us for this special service.
Saturday 24th <i>Christmas Eve</i>	11.30 pm	Midnight Holy Communion with Carols. Always popular Service. A special way to start Christmas.
Sunday 25th <i>Christmas Day</i>	8.00 am	Holy Communion. A quiet service following the form in the Book of Common Prayer.
	10.00 am	Christmas Morning Family Worship. Carols sung in this all-age worship to which all are warmly invited. <i>(Please note the time of this service - not the normal service time of 10.30)</i>

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## DERSHINGHAM WALKING GROUP

In view of the support for the afternoon walks we have arranged the following programme for the first three months of 2006:

Wednesday 11 January 1.30 pm start - 4 miles walk at Courtyard Farm, Ringstead - (meet at car park off Burnham Road (map ref.723405)) led by Pat Reed.

Wednesday 8 February 2.00 pm start - 3.5 miles walk around Dersingham Commons and Sandringham Woods - (meet at Dersingham. village sign (map ref.686295)) led by Keith Starks.

Sunday 5 March 2.00 pm start - 4 miles walk around Roydon Cornnon (meet at Norfolk Wildlife Trust car park on the south side of the King's Lynn/Grimston Road approximately 500 yards west of the Roydon/Pott Row cross-roads (map ref 6597229)) led by Michael and Valerie Smith.

Wednesday 15 March 2.00 pm start -4.25 miles walk around Great Bircham (meet at Bircham windmill (map ref.760327)) led by Elizabeth Fiddick.

The group is not arranging a walk for December 2005 but anyone interested is invited to join the 'Festival of Winter Walks' organised by King's Lynn Ramblers. These walks are held between Christmas and the New Year and are open to everyone. Details will appear in the Lynn News and further information about all the above walks can be obtained from

*Keith Starks (542268).*



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## Greenish Fingers in Autumn

In mid September we picked handfuls of blackberries from the ‘wilderness’ area, sharing the bushes with frisky blackbirds and a few wasps. Now the fruits have all gone we’ll have to keep an eye out for unwanted seedlings. I don’t think I’d introduce a bramble patch to a garden that didn’t have one; but we inherited one which, despite its nuisance value, is a perpetual source of interest, not to mention gustatory delight! Brambles are great for wildlife. They offer impenetrable shelter and nesting sites for small birds. The blossoms, along with their escallonia neighbours in this particular garden, are buzzing each summer with bees and a host of smaller insects, some of which seem to live mainly on the leaves. In autumn the fruits feed not merely the birds, and us, but creatures such as woodmice, which live under the groundcover of ivy, lamium, cranesbill and green alkanet. All of these have to be kept within bounds. It has helped having a path through the centre of the wild patch, so that bramble ‘wands’ can be severed before they arch over and take root, and ivy can be prevented from snaking through the entire surrounding area. We aim to do more than that, leaving the patch almost untouched by human hand. But it is still quite hard work!

Ivy is a plant we do ‘cultivate’ in various parts of the garden, partly because it obligingly takes care of itself, needing only to be stopped from climbing into the roof space, for instance; and partly because it, too, is a boon to wildlife.

Twenty years or more ago BBC’s *Pebble Mill At One* presented a series on wildlife gardening by Chris Baines. I missed the series, but years later I found a reprint of the book that went with it. It’s called “How to make a wildlife garden”, reprinted in 2000 by Frances Lincoln Ltd. Chris Baines considers common ivy (*hedera helix*) one of the most important plants in his edge-of-Birmingham garden. Now, in autumn, ivy is everywhere in flower, its ‘familiar globes’ a source of nectar for hoverflies on bright days, and the last butterflies, such as peacocks, which hope to survive the winter here. (You sometimes find peacock butterflies sleeping the winter away in a dry shed, or even in a fold of your curtains. We once were hosts to one which slept in our living-room right through the winter). According to Baines, the yellow brimstone butterfly, which we have seen earlier this year in this garden, likes to hibernate by hanging upside down amongst shrivelled ivy leaves against a tree trunk or a house wall, camouflaged there until spring. He also mentions the holly blue in this connection: I shall try harder than ever next year to identify the restless blues that flutter around our summer garden. That is, if we are privileged once more to be visited by them.

The invertebrates of the world are very much at our mercy. I have just read an interview with David Attenborough, who is making his final nature film. It will be one not to miss, all about ‘the undergrowth’, the invertebrates at the bottom of the food chain. Some, he says, are “as small as a full stop”. Magical, but with a sobering thesis. Are we going to be worthy custodians of our planet?

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Here is the secret of inspiration: tell yourself that thousands and tens of thousands of people, not very intelligent and certainly no more intelligent than the rest of us, have mastered problems as difficult as those that now baffle you.

*William Feather*



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## News in Brief

**Congratulations are in order for the Sandringham Detachment of the Norfolk Army Cadets** for having won the Norfolk Cup for achieving the highest number of points in the county having competed in various activities against 26 other detachments. Corporal Stephen Harriman was presented with a cheque for £100 (for the benefit of the detachment) by Major Duncan Gregory of the Royal Anglian Regiment. Any boy or girl who is interested in joining the cadets, who attends secondary school, and is aged between 12 and 18, should contact the Dereham Headquarters on 01362 694515.

**The 'Flying Geese' Patchwork and Quilting Group** have announced that they raised a large sum from their recent raffle, enabling them to donate £2,500 to the 'Break' charity, a noble effort indeed!

**Five people have appeared at the Crown Court in Ipswich in connection with armed robberies** some of which have been reported in previous editions of this magazine as having taken place in our Dersingham supermarkets. The defendants have been charged with plotting to commit armed robbery, conspiring to commit aggravated burglary and possession of a firearm with criminal intent. The five were remanded in custody until 27 January 2006, when a plea and directions hearing will take place.

**Once again the 'Buffs' have come up with the goods!** On Tuesday 20 September 2005, Mr Ken Conley, on behalf of the members of the Sandringham Lodge (No. 10499) of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (RAOB), presented a cheque to the value of £1,000 to the Phobbies, represented by Mr Cyril Critchett. Mr Critchett thanked the members of the Sandringham Lodge for their most generous gift and went on to explain the workings of the Phobbies and their aims for the future.

**Jamie Griffin's friends raised £806.23 for Addenbrooke's** by playing a charity football match against Chesterton F.C. from Cambridge. The match was played on the Dersingham Sports Ground where members of Dersingham F.C. (Jamie Griffin's former team) were joined by some of his friends to win the game 10-2. As regular readers will know, Jamie died following an accident in Manor Road on 3 June of this year. A demonstration of how greatly Jamie has been missed by his family and friends was shown when on 16 October, which would have been his 18th birthday, no less than 12 separate entries were made in the birthday section of the Lynn News.

**Further to the above,** the fund for Jamie was increased by an additional amount of £400 from the sale of CDs sold by Terry Rose, who, as mentioned in issue 35, has offered the profits from his CD 'Terry Rose: 0-60 In No Time At All' to the fund.

**The newly erected skateboard park on the Recreation Ground has been vandalised** by fire and by a deliberate attempt to smash through the ramp with a scaffold pole between 1.30 am and 5.30 am on Thursday 24 September. The result has been the closure of the area until repairs had been carried out. The Parish

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Council's insurers will meet the cost of repair to the £10,000 of equipment. (See a separate report regarding the official opening of the feature in another part of this issue).

**It has been reported that West Norfolk Borough Council is to take over the open spaces on the Sandringham View Estate** although no details are immediately available of what the plans are for the future of the areas involved, and whether they are to be properly landscaped.

**Well Done! The Sandringham Caravan & Camping Club** site for being the winner of the Caravan Holiday Park prize in the 'Enjoy England Awards for Excellence' hosted by the East of England Tourist Board. It is nice to see local facilities gaining recognition.

**Problems related to parking on Fern Hill**, which recently caused an incident which almost resulted in a waste collection vehicle being run into a ditch whilst attempting to pass a parked car, have been the topic of discussion between the Parish Council and the County Council. The Parish Council are seeking to have parking banned on this road, but have agreed to allow a kerb, which was installed by the County Council to protect the ditch, to remain.

**Changes have been made to the numbering of the 'First' buses which serve Dersingham**, the former number 410/411 becomes 40/41, 412 is no longer registered, 413 becomes the 41a. Details of timetables can be obtained from the office at King's Lynn bus station, or by internet on [www.passengertransport.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.passengertransport.norfolk.gov.uk) or e-mail: [ptu@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:ptu@norfolk.gov.uk) Tel: 01603 222143 or Fax: 01603 222144

**Village Voice would like to welcome to Dr Vicki Lawrence** who has joined the practice at the Carole Brown Health Centre as one of the resident doctors. Dr Steve Summers is to be another new face at the surgery when he arrives in January, at a time when Drs Cupper and Allen will be returning to their duties at Gayton Road Surgery.

**Perhaps you are one of those people who have recently been given 'the push' by a locally based NHS dentist!** If so, you will be interested to know that it is possible to register with a new practice which has just set up at the Snettisham Surgery. The practice can be contacted on 01485 545165

**Anniversary congratulations to the Dersingham and Sandringham Royal British Legion's Women's Section** which celebrated its 60th year of existence by holding a meal and entertainment, attended by 44 members, at Orchard Close Community Room on 18 October. Following the meal a cake was cut, champagne was partaken of, and an anniversary plaque was presented to the branch by county president Mrs Elsie Nash OBE.

**A Young Person's Website is being launched** at which young people may get advice on matters such as bullying, Internet safety and drugs awareness. The website may be accessed on Wisekids (for 7-11 years) or Wiseup (for 11-18 years).

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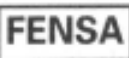
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## DIARY OF NOTIFIED EVENTS

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

Day	Date	Month	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Fri	2	Dec	3.15 pm	St George's (CE) Junior School	Christmas Fair	St George's (CE) Junior School
Wed	7	& Dec	6.30 pm	St George's (CE) Junior School	A Christmas Performance	St George's (CE) Junior School
Thur	8					
Fri	9	Dec	5.30 pm	Dersingham Infant & Nursery School	Christmas Fair	Dersingham Infant & Nursery School
Mon	12	& Dec	10.45 am	Dersingham Schools' Choir	Carol singing	Thaxter's Coffee Shop
Tues	13					
Tues	13	& Dec	9 am	Dersingham Infant & Nursery School	The Little Robin (Play)	Dersingham Infant & Nursery School
Thur	15					
Thur	15	Dec	6 pm	Dersingham Schools	Children's Carol & Christingle Service	St Nicholas Church
Fri	16	Dec	2 pm	Dersingham Infant & Nursery School	The Little Robin (Play)	Dersingham Infant & Nursery School
Fri	16	Dec	7.30 pm	Park House Hotel Sandringham	A Celebration of Christmas	Park House Conservatory
Sun	18	Dec	3 pm	Feathers Hotel	Carol Singing	Feathers Hotel
Tue	20	Dec		Village Schools	End of Term	
Thur	22	Dec	12.30 pm	Dersingham Parish Council	Christmas Closing	Council Office Manor Road
Fri	23	Dec		Norfolk Constabulary	Mobile Police Station	Budgen's Car Park
Tue	3	Jan	7.30 pm	Village Voice Live	Strolling Players 'Here we come a wassailing again'	St Nicholas Church Hall
Thur	5	Jan		Village Schools	Term commences	
Mon	9	Jan	10.30 am	Dersingham Parish Council	New Year Re-opening	Council Office Manor Road
Wed	11	Jan	1.30 pm	Dersingham Walking Group	4 mile walk	Courtyard Farm Ringstead
Thurs	12	Jan		Village Voice	Deadline for return of Competition entries	Council Office Manor Road
Wed	18	Jan		Village Voice	Last date for copy and advertisements	
Mon	6	Feb	10-12-5	Dersingham Library	Be Good to Yourself Day	Dersingham Library
Tues	7	Feb	7.30 pm	Village Voice Live	Dr Paul Richards History of Lynn & North Norfolk Ports	St Nicholas Church Hall
Wed	8	Feb		Village Voice	Publication date	Citizen Newspaper
Wed	8	Feb	2 pm	Dersingham Walking Group	3.5 mile walk	Dersingham Village Sign

Whenever you're in conflict with someone, there is one factor that can make the difference between damaging your relationship and deepening it. That factor is attitude.

*Timothy Bentley*



## Norfolk Constabulary Western Mobile Police Station

West Norfolk Constabulary advise us that the Mobile Police Station will be open in Budgen's car park as follows; Wednesday - 21 December 2005, when Public Enquiry Officers Linda Forder and Pete Shaw will be in attendance along with PC Stan Cobon. Services 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: 0845 456 4567



## Advertising in, and articles for, 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.

**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 18 January 2006** Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.

**Articles for publication in the February edition of Village Voice** must reach the editor at 45 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Dersingham, before the **deadline date of Wednesday 18 January 2006 for publication on Wednesday 8 February 2006**. (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 Magazine of Dersingham Parish Council

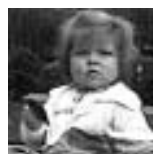
The Production Team consists of:

Editor: - Bob Tipling

In-house' Photographer and Illustrations Editor: - Tony Bubb

Layout Artist and IT Technical Consultant: - Stella Caunt

Advertising : - Ron Brackstone





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**4.30 – 10.30pm**