

Dersingham Village Voice

Issue 38

February 2006

Was This Your Class? What Year Was It? Who Has Not Been Identified?



BACK ROW

Sally Blowers, Mary Riches, Glenda Humphries, Doreen Bugg, Barbara Smith, Elizabeth Flegg, Celia Barnard, Margaret Bennett

THIRD ROW

Archie Reed, Brian Pike, George Axton, Bob Riches, Owen Green, John Pitcher,

SECOND ROW

?, Dorothy Fryatt, Jane Hunter, Diane Melton, Mary Read, Pauline Griggs, Mary Pease

FRONT ROW

Reuben Riches, Alan Goff, Dennis Back, ?, Trevor Riches, ?, Alec Howard

This photograph was submitted by Mrs Non Burrell of Dersingham who tells us that it was taken in the playground of the old Village School (now the Community Centre) opposite the Feathers Hotel in Manor Road. The date and occasion have not been identified, but it is believed to have been taken in 1948 or 1949. Do you know better, if so please let us know.

Council Reports

At their meeting on 28 November the Members were pleased to welcome three new colleagues to their first meeting since being co-opted, these being Joanna Jones, George Pratt and Gillian Sergeant, who were introduced to readers in the last issue of the 'Voice'. It was announced that a Carol Service was being arranged to take place on the Recreation Ground on a date to be organised by Councillors Benn and Seal. By unanimous agreement it was decided that funds should be set aside for the provision of materials for the erection of a large public notice-board which would be used for the benefit of organisations within the village. Discussion took place regarding the inaccuracy of the signs which had been placed around the Recreation Ground which had included the word 'statue' instead of the intended word 'statute.' Members requested the Clerk to enquire as to the cost of either replacing the signs, or, at least the replacement of the offending word. Further discussion occurred over the inclusion of a 'no alcohol' instruction on the signs, it was explained that this was an advisory item rather than one enforceable by law. The Clerk was asked to look into what specific requirement is required by the insurers in respect of safety inspections of the playground equipment. Discussion took place with regard to the proposed precept which would require a 13% increase (approximately £4 p.a.). It was suggested that the Finance and General Purposes Committee should be asked to reconsider the budget and Committees were asked to find ways to reduce their own budgets. A question was raised about the work which was taking place to re-organise the Parish Council office and the cost involved. It was explained that this work was essential in order to meet Health and Safety standards and to protect the computer processors from dust and damage. A report was made about the recent Anti-Social Behaviour Order meeting in which certain proposals were put forward, these to be actioned by the Clerk. During the periods of public involvement in the meeting an issue was raised regarding the Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial, when, it was reported, the Police had not stopped vehicles during the period of silence, and that of those which did stand still many kept their engines running. Additionally, one of the shops in the village had been reported as not having made any effort to maintain the silence, which was considered to be most disrespectful.

At the meeting held on 12th December the Clerk reported that she had checked with the insurers of the playground and that ROSPA require an annual check on equipment as well as a weekly visual inspection by a councillor or appointed person to look for broken glass, damage etc. These inspections are to be recorded. It was agreed that Cllr Benn should carry out the weekly inspection. Cllr Seal suggested Neighbourhood Watch schemes could be set up in problem areas to report incidents of anti social behaviour and it was agreed that he should research his proposal. During the section of the meeting when the public were invited to speak concern was expressed at the lack of reporting by the Eastern Daily Press of this area. No EDP correspondent has attended any recent meetings of the parish council. It was alleged Norfolk County Council also neglected this part of the County and general opinion is that the area is badly let down by both parties. Cllr Eells thought West Norfolk was well represented by local councillors but would take the message back to her colleagues. The installation of a gate at the entrance to Beach Road is an attempt by the planning dept to stop fly tipping. There was a gate there in the past as the original gateway is still in position. The path to the beach is not a recognised roadway but a bridle path.

Editor's Notes



So we are into the New Year, with Christmas now just a memory (which is jogged whenever you check your bank or credit card statement, or find a piece of tinsel still attached to the carpet!) Looking to the year ahead I am pleasantly surprised to see how far forward looking the Parish Council and organisations in the village are, for I have been made aware of events which are planned throughout the year, these being many and varied, from boot sales to garage sales and flower festivals to arts and crafts festivals, not to mention open gardens, coffee mornings, history workshops, book fairs, quiz nights and bingo sessions. You name it, the village is sure to have it, and if it is happening, you are almost certain to find it in our Diary of Events

column, so don't forget to let us know when **you** have an event coming off!

Advertisers are advised that, if they wish to take advantage of our '6 for the price of 5' offer (which could create a cost saving of up to £80!) during the next financial year, they must book their advertisements with the Parish Clerk before the deadline date for the April Issue of Village Voice which is 22 March 2006. If you fail to meet this deadline there may be one of two consequences, that you pay full price for each edition, or, worse still, you discover that the space allocated for advertising within the magazine is totally booked up.

Dick Melton's letter, addressed to me for this edition, has struck a nerve. For 'Bernie' Twite has been as great a source of information to me as he appears to have been to Dick. Almost since the day I arrived in the village in 1997 'Bernie' has been the fount of all knowledge about it and its people. As an 'incomer' to the area, and treated by some as such, I had a lot to learn and nobody has been more willing to share his vast experience of Dersingham than the man who, as I understand it, has played a part in almost all of village life, following in the footsteps of his father Wallace who was, for many years, the Clerk to the Parish. Bernie not only helped me to discover the background to the village (along with many others who have also been my guides along the way) but has also entrusted me with many archive photographs which I shall use in future editions of the magazine, and which, at his request, will eventually be placed in the care of the village library. A former Parish Councillor, 'Bernie' has never been one to hold his opinions back, for he has continued to attend the regular monthly meetings, asking what could be described as 'awkward' question on subjects listed on the agenda, but not without having thoroughly researched the subject first, something which others who speak at these meetings may wish to emulate. I would like to say that I am fully in agreement with Dick in that we are losing two Dersingham treasures to the beautiful island of Cyprus, for it must not be forgotten that 'behind every great....', and it must be said that Bernie knows his stuff, but Rosemary knows where to find it! I wish a personal good luck to them both.

With this having been said, who is to replace 'Bernie' as my historian? I know that there are many people in the village who can fill space in this magazine with their memories, but they seem to be 'backward in coming forward', so, if you know of someone who remembers the 'good old days', please encourage them to identify themselves to me.

Finally, I am sad to report that I have been heavily criticised for the content of this magazine because I am not placing enough emphasis on the youth of the village, but what am I to do? I have repeatedly asked for them to help me to present their case to no avail, but, as with my appeal in the last issue, I have had no response, and I can't see me, a 'mature' person, being able to interpret what they do and why. I need them to help me!

Bob Tipling

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Letters to the Editor

Letter from Ebscroogesquire: Once again, may I remind writers that we are unable to publish anonymous letters, but will, on request withhold names and addresses. If the person who describes him/herself as above still wishes us to publish the letter sent to us, we would appreciate a note giving his/her name and address as we cannot, as he/she puts it ...”publish and be damned!”

Mr. W. Turner of 17 St. Augustine’s Way, Priory Park, South Wootton, King’s Lynn, Norfolk PE30 3TE writes: In the ‘Dersingham Village Voice’, Issue 37, you carried on article on page 31 under the heading of “Ancient Order of Foresters”, in which reference was made to a list of names appearing on a wooden plaque, and could anyone relate to them. I hope that the following will bear relevance to one of the names inscribed thereon. The name in question is that of a “B. Howard”. I believe this may well refer to my late uncle Bertrum Charles Howard who, together with his wife Nora, came to live in Dersingham, and in 1981 were resident in 19 West Hall Road, Dersingham, and he did have connections with the Ancient Order of Foresters. Although born in London, Bertrum was a Cambridge man, being employed in the offices of Chivers and Sons, Histon, for many years, and a regular traveller to King’s Lynn and Dersingham through his family ties here. To this end, many of your readers may well remember a Grocery and General Store in Manor Road, the proprietors of which were Reginald (Reggie) and Ellen (Nelly) Terrington. Ellen Terrington was Bertrum’s maternal aunt, and I am advised that he was a regular visitor to the shop during the mid-1900s. I don’t have any definite dates, but I think that Bertrum and Nora eventually moved to Dersingham in about 1965, after he had retired. Also, my mother, Dorothy Howard, Bertrum’s sister, moved to Dersingham in about 1924 and staying until 1941, when she married my father, to assist her aunt and uncle in their store, and to make van deliveries in the area, not least of all to Sandringham House. Due to this connection, she invariably attended the Servant’s Ball of the House, which was apparently quite an event in those days. Do any of your older readers have any recollections of these events at Sandringham? Bertrum died in 1986, and is buried together with his wife in St. Nicholas Church Cemetery, Dersingham, as also are Reginald and Ellen Terrington, who died in 1951 and 1969 respectively. According to my family records, there were at the beginning of the 1900s, a number of the Terrington family living in Dersingham, their main occupation being that of butchers. Are there any of their descendants still resident in the area? If any of your readers have recollections of some of the people or events that I have touched upon, it would be pleasant to hear of them.

Dick Melton of ‘Sunny Hunny’ writes: A month or two back the phone rang, it was a good friend of mine, Bernard Twite, to tell me that, at the age of 65, he was leaving his home in Dersingham and going to start again in Cyprus. Then on Saturday the 14th of January 2006, off he went. I, for one, will miss Bernard very much; we have been friends since we started school together at the age of five in 1944. Bernard, like his late father, was a good sportsman playing in goal for Dersingham Rovers. Also, like me, he served two years for Queen and country, and then became a motor mechanic. But the thing that Bernard is known for most is his knowledge of the village where he has lived, in Lynn Road, from 1939 until 2006. If I was writing anything about Dersingham and got stuck, I would say, “I will ring Bernard” as I knew that he would have the answer. Over the last few years Bernard has been a bit disillusioned over the rapid growth of the village. He has done a lot, and put in a lot of time, for the village, and I know that he will be missed, but on the phone last week he did say that he would be back for the St George’s School reunion next July. There is no more for me to say about Bernard except to wish him and his wife, Rosemary, all the best in the sunshine.

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Letters continued

Steve O'Donnell of Dersingham First Responders writes: I am writing to all organisations in the Dersingham and surrounding area on behalf of the Dersingham First Responder Scheme, which was started on the 6th July 2005. First Responders are basically volunteers who hold a relevant first aid qualification and respond to medical emergencies within their community. One of their primary roles is assisting people who may have suffered a heart attack by way of using a defibrillator, but they may also be called to other emergencies such as bleeding or collapses. The First Responders do not replace Ambulance staff and Paramedics, who will already be proceeding to these incidents having received a 999 call; they merely try to improve a casualty's situation by providing initial treatment when an Ambulance may not be able to get there as quickly. We currently have 6 volunteers who have now undertaken the necessary training since the scheme started operationally early in July, since this time we have attended over 170 calls within the area that we cover. This is the point in which I am basically asking for your help by way of a donation, however large or small, to help us keep running during 2006. The donation need not necessarily be money, it may be an item or goods which we can then auction or raffle, the service we offer is voluntary, and in a community such as this would possibly benefit someone you know or work with at some point, although we hope this will not be the case. We are also looking at ways of raising these funds ourselves by way of holding events as listed below

Saturday 11/02/06 - Coffee Morning - Dersingham Church Hall - 10am

Saturday 11/03/06 - Dance at Snettisham Memorial Hall

Saturday 01/04/06 - Car Wash - Budgens Car Park - Start time to be announced

Saturday 15/04/06 - Easter Raffle/coffee/stalls - Snettisham Church Hall - 2pm

If you feel you or your organisation may be able to assist us with an event we would be happy to hear from you. Finally, we are always looking for more volunteers to join the scheme. First aid training will be given free of charge so if you; or anyone you know, is in a position to give even a small amount of time each week and would like some more information on the scheme please call either the scheme co-ordinator Steve O'Donnell on 07977 155931 or our Fund raising co-ordinator Robin Willis 01485 541887. I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter and would greatly appreciate hearing from you soon.

Active for Life

The exercise class, held at Heacham Surgery, continues to offer support for those over 65 and at risk from Osteoporosis.

The exercises are specifically designed and medically approved to help improve bone building and muscle strength and to increase mobility and balance. This helps greatly to ease the problems caused by Osteoporosis and reduces the danger of falls and fractures.

Members pay an annual subscription of £5 plus a fee of £2 per class. (A reduced fee of £1.50 is charged for a second or subsequent class in the same week).

An application form can be obtained from Reception, which should be countersigned by your Doctor or Practice Nurse and taken to the class on the day of your choice. The classes run from Tuesday to Friday inc. and are from 10 to 11 am.

For further information please call June Byford on 570838

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Patients Participation Group News

The Christmas Draw in aid of PPG funds to further enhance the services and facilities at the Carole Brown Health Centre was very successful and our thanks go to all those who contributed prizes and bought tickets. Prize contributors included the following local businesses:

Budgens Supermarket; Dersingham Post Office; Moss Chemists; Tropics Fast Foods; Dersingham News; Spar Supermarket; Thaxter's Garden Centre; Scoles Butchers; Feathers Hotel; Sandringham Sawmills; Kinnerton Confectionary.

Congratulations to all who won any of the 29 prizes!

The December Quiz Night held in collaboration with the Friends of St Nicholas Church in September was well supported and resulted in both organisations funds being richer by over £150. There were the usual negotiations with the Quizmaster about the accuracy of some answers but all were conducted in good spirit!

The PPG is seeking further members to join its committee to broaden the direction of its activities, to contribute to expenditure decisions and to share the workload on any of the minor tasks that arise from time to time. Following recent unavoidable resignations, the committee now consists only of three members – too few really for a democratic society.

Why not come to PPG Meetings? As well as learning more about health related matters, it will give you the opportunity to contribute ideas to the development of the new Carole Brown Health Centre and to be involved in a variety other health matters. Call the PPG Secretary on 01485 541450 for more information.

On 21 December, the PCT approved the financial arrangements for the new Health Centre subject to a few final details being resolved. In February and March the Practice can, with the staff and patients, agree the final layout and detailed specification for the building. As planning permission has already been granted, the developer will then be able to go out to tender and start building during the summer. It is hoped to be open by the end of next year. The building will not now include any surgical facilities as it proved too costly, because of the stringent NHS regulations which apply to new operating facilities, to develop new facilities on the site. Instead the premises already at Gayton Road will be adapted to provide more primary care operating and diagnostic facilities. The Practice want patients to continue to be involved in providing a superb building which will meet their needs for the next 30 years.

Please Note: Hospital Transport has now to be ordered directly with the QE Hospital rather than with the Carole Brown Health Centre. The Hospital Transport request telephone number is: **0845 602 9205.**

T G Morris – Vice Chairman

Albert Victor Bowls Club, Manor Road, Dersingham

Require a Greens Person

We are presently seeking a greens person for the forthcoming bowls season. The position would suit an active person who would be able to cut and maintain the bowls green and surrounding areas.

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David Hines - 01485 544799

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Introducing your County Councillor - Mrs Janice Eells

Who is a Member of Norfolk County Council representing the Dersingham Division
*(Areas within the Dersingham Division are Anmer , Congham, Dersingham, Flitcham with
 Appleton, Great Massingham, Hillington, Ingoldisthorpe, Little Massingham,
 Sandringham, Shernbourne and Snettisham)*

I was born and grew up in East Anglia, and have had family connections with Norfolk since the late 1950's. I was employed in an estimator's office on leaving school, and finally worked for a taxation accountant specializing in corporation tax until I had my family. The family lived on a smallholding and among the many animals we had I kept goats. I grew and sold bedding plants, and having always had an interest in plants and loved gardening I decided to train as a florist when my daughters were in their teens. Since school I have always taken an interest in politics, and first took an active part when Local Government was re-organised in 1973, first becoming a District Councillor and then a Parish Councillor. We bought our house in Great Bircham in 1989 and since my husband's early retirement have completely renovated the house and re-organised the rear garden. Most of my spare time is spent gardening and growing plants in my greenhouse, I read gardening books, and I also enjoy reading and collecting political autobiographies. I liked campanology until a few years ago lastly ringing at Gt. Bircham and Dersingham.



A Member of the following County Council Committees

Adult Social Services Review Panel , Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee ,
 Planning (Regulatory) Committee , Schools Admission Forum , Planning (Regulatory) Urgent
 Business Sub-Committee, Children's Services Area Working Group – Western.

Outside organisations in which she participates are: King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area
 Museums Committee, Norfolk Coast Partnership (substitute), Norfolk Village of the Year
 Competition Committee, Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site Management
 Group, Hall's Exhibition Foundation and she is the Adult Social Services Member Champion
 for Mental Health.

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Home Watch Message - Death Of Ralph Platten

As a result of the tragic death of Ralph Platten following an assault and burglary at his home in the Sutton area, Norfolk Constabulary acknowledges that there may be some concern amongst the communities across the county. We would like to re-iterate that Norfolk is a safe county and that crimes of this nature are rare. However, to provide reassurance we have increased our visible presence in the area of Sutton and our Major Investigation Team are working hard to catch those responsible for this terrible crime. Crime prevention guidance is attached to this message and further advice can be obtained from local police stations, by email via the Norfolk Constabulary website at www.norfolk.police.uk or by ringing 0845 456 4567 and asking to talk to your local

Community Safety Officer. We are appealing for people to come forward if they have any information about this or similar crimes and they should ring 0845 456 4567 and ask for the Incident Room. If you do not want to talk to us you can contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Please pass the following advice onto your more vulnerable members, friends and neighbours.

If a caller comes to your door, before answering it, ensure that any other external doors are locked. Use a spy hole or window to see who is calling before answering the door. If you do not recognise the caller, keep the door locked and speak through the closed door. If you do not feel comfortable with the caller, the best advice is to ask them to call back later when you can have a friend or relative with you. We would recommend that they use/join a Nominated Neighbour Scheme.

For further information on how it works and the benefit it affords please contact
Community Safety at King's Lynn Police Station on 01553 665037

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Dersingham Horticultural Society



From the society's January Newsletter:

"Many members, enjoying one and another's company and the yummy food so generously provided, attended our annual Christmas Social. The raffle raised £72 due in no small measure to the prizes kindly donated by members. Following the buffet we took part in a quiz prepared by Doreen and Derek

Asker with at least a

dozen or so bemoaning their lack of knowledge. Aided by the attention to detail of the Fund-raising Team and their assistants we held an agreeable evening. As well as thanking the team, thanks to all those who kindly righted the room before taking off for home"

January Meeting: Alan Polaine's talk on St Kilda took his audience on a pictorial and verbal ramble through the western isles of Scotland with particular focus on St Kilda. Starting with the history of the geological forces which had shaped this group of islands – St Kilda is, in fact, part of the rim of a long extinct volcano – Alan then gave us an idea of what life on these islands was like. Alan and his wife have spent two "holidays" helping with conservation work on the island which is now under the care of the National Trust for Scotland in collaboration with the M.O.D. which now maintains a radar early warning station on the island built during the cold war. The talk, though containing much information and many interesting facts, concentrated mainly on the many slides which demonstrated our speaker's primary interest in photography. These included a multiplicity of land and seascapes, a survey of the flora and fauna which includes two distinct sub-species – the St Kilda wren and St Kilda field mouse, a sub-species of house mouse which became extinct when the population left – together with slides illustrating the geological and historic sites of the islands. The islanders had a very limited diet relying almost exclusively on the seabirds, particularly fulmars and puffins, for their food, and by-products such as feathers and oil for their other needs. The collection of the birds and their eggs often necessitated hazardous sea-landings and abailing down 1,000 foot cliffs. St Kilda, which shows signs of early settlement from as early as 1,000 BC and subsequent Viking occupation, was, in 1930, because of the hardships being suffered by the then much reduced population, "evacuated", and its people resettled on the mainland where they were given work with the Forestry Commission – an irony, as there were no trees on St Kilda!"

David Clark (543182)

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Sarah Crowe – Dersingham Correspondent for the Lynn News

Hi, my name is Sarah Crowe and I am the Lynn News correspondent for Dersingham. I was born in Hounslow London, and lived with my parents and younger brother in Epsom for a couple of years. We then moved to Southampton where my sister was born. After 4 years we moved again due to my father getting a consultant haematologist post at the Norfolk and Norwich hospital.

I went to local schools in Norwich then did a maths degree at Kingston University which led to a career in computer programming. I have worked in IT departments at Norwich Union, ASDA, Sheffield City Council and Jaeger.

In 1999, I decided to train to become an IT Trainer at the College of West Anglia. With this qualification I have taught privately, at the College and also at Pitman Training in King's Lynn.

I married Martin, who works as a consultant radiologist at the QEH, in 1991 and we have 2 daughters, Amy and Rachael, a dog called Oscar and a cat Lilac.

I became interested in writing to gain some creativity back into my life after the many years spent in IT departments! I attended an adult education short course in creative writing, then progressed to an online introduction to creative writing course at UEA and am now working towards a diploma in creative writing at the UEA.

After I had completed my initial creative writing course, I wrote to the EDP to see if I could gain some experience working with them and they offered me the post of Dersingham correspondent. Later that year I also became the correspondent for the Lynn News. This involves publicising events, attending parish council meetings, reviewing local productions and writing about the various village life clubs and societies.

My interests when I have time, is spending time with my family and friends, reading, skiing, and working towards Grade VI piano.

If you wish for your village group event to be publicised in the Lynn News, please contact me at the address below and I would be delighted to help.

Sarah Crowe, Rose Lodge, 82 Chapel Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn PE31 6PL

Tel: 01485 544998 Email: sarahcrowe@btinternet.com



Answers to December's Teaser Competition

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| A Keith Manship | B Dick Murrell | C Jean Riches |
| D Tony Bubb | E Jo Jones | F Gill Sergeant |
| G Ron Brackstone | H Valerie Brundle | I Nigel Kelk |
| | J Colin Smith | |

The competition was won by Sheila Broughton with 12 out of 20 points scored – she receives a bottle of sparkling wine.

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THE THREE NOT.SO.WISE MEN (with apologies to Compo, Foggy and Clegg!)

by Frank Nichols, Steve Nowell and Ian Stockwell

"If you could wrap a piece of string round the earth at the equator, how long would it be?" asked Miley." '25,000 miles" replied Oliver. "25,326 miles actually" corrected Larry who was renowned for his attention to detail. "Right" said Miley. "But suppose you could wrap a second piece of string round the equator, but this time it's one foot above the first. How long would this second piece be?" "I neither know nor care" said Oliver. "After all, it's not exactly a matter of universal importance, is it?" Oliver seldom concerned himself with trivia. He was far more interested in the deeper issues of life. "Go on? 10 miles longer than the first?" This was Larry who was never stuck for an answer. If he didn't know at least he would have an inspired (or uninspired) guess. In this case he didn't have a clue, but felt that '25,326 X even-a-little-bit' must be significant. "25,326 miles, 6 feet 3.4 inches". Miley surreptitiously slipped his calculator back into his pocket, where it normally resided.

This example is typical of the sort of conversation that the trio held at their weekly meetings over 1.5 pints of fine ale in the main bar of The Feathers Hotel in Dersingham on a Tuesday evening. The friends had three things in common. 1) They were all bass singers in Dersingham church choir; 2) it only took a half pint for each of them to get 'loosened up' enough to discuss unusual topics; and 3) they all had a sense of humour. So it was quite normal for a meeting to start with something like:

"I was talking to young Archibald Thingy the other day and he wondered just how hot is the centre of the earth. I told him I would bring it up at our next meeting". But the situation developed a bit. Not only did one of the men report back to Mr. Thingy that the earth's core reaches about 4,000 degrees C (but no-one really knows because they haven't been there with a clinical thermometer), but they jointly thought that other people in the village might be mildly interested as well. A suitable vehicle might be Village Voice. So the regular routine became for the fellows to meet on a Tuesday evening after choir practice and discuss something that might be of interest to at least a few people in the village. If necessary, they would go away after the meeting; do some research during the week (on the Internet or in Old Moore's Almanac or something) and come back to next week's meeting at which some conclusion, how ever far-fetched, would be reached. Then Miley, whose ambition had always been to have his piece on 'Promiscuity among Ants' published in 'Country Living', would write up the results of their deliberations and after being shot down in flames by the other two, time after time after time would eventually submit it for printing in Village Voice. The draft of the first article was tried out on friends and was an outstanding success - somebody actually read it! In fact, one elderly chap went to collect his pension one day and said to Frazer at the Post Office; "I nearly learned something from that and with more effort it could almost have been amusing". What acclaim! It spurred our three friends on to produce another masterpiece ... and another... etc. To formalise things a bit, they decided to call themselves:

THE THREE NOT-SO-WISE MEN of Dersingham

So who are Dersingham's self-appointed Three Not-So-Wise Men? They are just three ordinary chaps in their mid-sixties who enjoy each other's company; enjoy a jolly good 'sing' and rumble along in the lower registers to overpower the sopranos on a Sunday morning; and enjoy light-hearted discussion over a pint and a half once a week. But they are individuals. The most intellectual and well educated is Oliver Massingham. A great big chap with a great big heart who thinks... and laughs easily. He is 'so laid back as to be nearly horizontal'

according to the other two. He came to Dersingham 27 years ago and was a teacher at KES in King's Lynn until retirement. Oliver has always been keen on sport and in his younger days 'oop north' played a pretty mean game of Rugby. 'With a crashing fend-off from his huge right hand; sent a promising young fly-half to the Promised Land'. If you want someone to fight verbally on your behalf, then Oliver is your man. (Sorry, but 'Olly' isn't acceptable - sounds too familiar he says.) A good man who is serious when needs must; he has a traditional belief in what is right and wrong.

On the other hand, Lawrence Sinclair White - known for very good reasons as Larry the Lad for his attitudes towards ladies, young ones in particular, and a past propensity for fine ale - has a joke for every subject and every occasion. But he draws the line at 'As the actress said to the Bishop', and does not swear. Larry came up to Dersingham from London when he retired from being a Chief of Security 25 years ago. 'Short', 'dapper' and 'precise' are understatements for our Larry. He never admits to having a complex about being 5'4". 'It makes me an individual among you lanky So-and-So's in this village!' His smartness, both sartorially and intelligence-wise means that, like Oliver, he commands much respect locally. He reads the 'Telegraph', three times more slowly than anybody else, not because he is a slow reader but because, despite the modern technology involved in printing, he is convinced that he will find an un-crossed 't' or an un-dotted 'i' if he tries hard enough! Do NOT call Larry 'little'. 'You may say 'vertically disadvantaged', or even 'short' at a push. But I am NOT 'little!'

Miles Pratt is the last, but not least, of the 3 N-S-W Men. He is not over-proud of his surname bearing in mind current use of the English language but he has a good Norfolk name. He spent the first 24 years of his life in Dersingham and West Norfolk then moved up to South Durham for 23 years for employment reasons as an Electrical Engineer. After this he retired and came back to the land of his forefathers. Like his grandfather, Miles, he has no objection to the nickname 'Miley'. He admits to being a bit eccentric. After all, who else would try to fit an ejector seat to a pushbike? And who still sports a grey shaggy beard with over-the-ears hair when the rest of the world is leaning towards skinhead with designer stubble?

But enough of the individuals; how do they act as a team. Just to liven things up a bit one Tuesday, Miley threw the following question into the arena. "Suppose the speed of light is 186,000 miles per second". "Is that exact?" - that had to be Larry, didn't it? "Then Suppose a plane could fly round the equator at ground level; how long would it take to fly round the earth at the speed of light?" "Lend me your calculator, genius" said Oliver, and after a quick 'twiddle' came up with the answer of 0.0000378 seconds. "37.8 millionths of a second" he declared. "So how long would it take if the plane was flying at 33,000 feet?" Oliver 'twiddled' again. "37.8 millionths of a second again". "So what conclusion do you come to?" "That your calculator is a heap of junk!" chimed in Larry "And if the plane was flying at greater than the speed of light, what would happen then?" Oliver adopted his 'The Thinker' pose. "It would arrive before it left and would therefore appear to be flying backwards?" he mused. Larry brought the conversation to a halt with: "Whereupon it disappears up it's own tail pipes!"

The following topics are some of those that the 3 N-S-W Men have reported upon and which will, subject to the Editor's consent, appear in future copies of this publication. But it must be stressed that the findings and their interpretations are designed more for entertainment than as specific, correct answers to the questions considered.

Just four of the subjects under scrutiny were 'Black Holes in Space'; 'The Conscious, the Sub-Conscious and the Unconscious'; 'Bio-rhythms'; and 'Means and Averages'.



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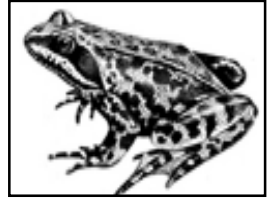
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March frogs

By David Bingham



How dreary to be somebody!
How public, like a frog
To tell your name the livelong day
To an admiring bog!

(From - *I'm nobody! Who are you?* - By Emily Dickinson)

The frogs will be returning to spawn in my garden pond when the temperature starts to rise in March. There are usually around fifty and their combined soft croaking calls can sound quite loud - particularly on a still night. At this time of year, frogs lose their usual Buddha like serenity and gather in frantic writhing heaps. My first encounter with spawning frogs occurred when I was very young. A man had waded into the water and was busily separating the amorous amphibians - and was hurling them to opposite ends of the pond. He told me that the young frogs return to their birthplace each spring and try to strangle their mothers! This was the 1950s when pre-school children spent their days wandering around the countryside chatting to the mentally deranged. What I actually saw were small frogs clasping big fat frogs around the neck - so, for want of a more sensible explanation, I accepted the mass matricide hypothesis.

I know a little bit more about frogs now, but until recently, I held another mistaken belief about them. It was generally thought that we only had one type of native frog in Britain, the common frog *Rana temporaria*. This was because the land bridge that connected this island to what would become Europe was broken at the end of the last ice age, before the more diverse population of continental frogs could make the crossing. Other types of frogs have been deliberately introduced into this country. These include the edible frogs *Rana esculenta*, which were introduced in the 1800s and now have a viable population in the southeast and the marsh frogs *Rana ribunda*, which were released on Romney Marsh in 1937. Recently, some giant American bullfrogs have also been 'set free' by irresponsible pet owners and are causing concern to conservationists. The small population of bright green pool frogs *Rana lessonae* that lived in the Norfolk Brecklands were also thought to have been introductions. Some surprising discoveries put this assumption into doubt at the same time as the population of Norfolk pool frogs were dwindling towards extinction. Archaeologists were finding pool frog remains associated with Anglo-Saxon and Bronze Age settlements and recordings of the call of the remaining Breckland frogs showed that they croaked with a distinctive Norfolk accent - resembling the northern population of pool frogs from Scandinavia. Furthermore, the Breckland pools where they lived are what are known as 'pingos'. These are shallow water filled depressions formed by the retreating ice sheets. From being considered recent introductions, it was suddenly realised that these frogs were probably a relict population isolated in Norfolk after the last ice age (in a similar way to the moths of Dersingham Bog). Genetic studies backed up this theory and it now appears that these frogs had a better claim to British citizenship than any of us! Unfortunately, this knowledge came too late to save them and the last of our native pool frogs disappeared in the 1990s. Last year, English Nature and their partners released 70 pool frogs, collected from a healthy population found around Uppsala in Sweden, at secret locations (to prevent frog-napping) near Thetford. It is sad that we lost the original native population that had picked up a distinctive local inflection to their croak. But having pool frogs back is a very good thing - and it will only take another 10,000 years or so for them to develop their Norfolk accents!

The Night of the Zeppelin Air Attack on England - January 19th/20th 1915

By Elizabeth Fiddick

By 8p.m. on the cold winter's night of January 19th 1915 Kapitän Leutnant Von Platen-Hallermund was lost although he did not realise it at the time. He had taken off in his Airship L4 from Fuhlsbüttel on the Elbe, north of Hanover in Germany at 9.05a.m. accompanied by Kapitän Leutnant Hans Fritz in the airship L3, and crossed the North Sea to attack England. Although he lost contact with L3 he crossed the English coast at about 7.55 p.m. where he claimed he was fired on. In his report he stated that he turned north to get behind the sea front and attack the Humber Industrial area from the land side. But as he stated later, "I did not find the North bank of the Humber on a North Westerly course." This was hardly surprising, as he had in fact crossed the Norfolk coast near Bacton. He followed the coast and passed over Cromer without realising the town was below as it was in complete darkness. On January 15th the Lynn Advertiser had published a very timely article recommending the "*extinction of town lights*" as a protection against bombs from enemy aircraft. "*It is much better to go home early, or find the way in the dark, than to run the slightest risk of being blown to pieces by explosives from above*". L4 proceeded out to sea but then circled back to pass between Weyborne and Sheringham at about 8.30. Von Platen descended to about 800 feet and dropped a flare and two incendiary bombs on Sheringham probably trying to get his bearings. He headed back out to sea but about an hour later he passed Thornham where another incendiary was dropped. He was next seen at Brancaster where according to a witness he circled the village twice turning on a searchlight and dropping "*a missile containing inflammable substance*". L4 then passed over Holme and came to Hunstanton where according to an official report at 10.15p.m. a bomb aimed at the wireless station dropped in a field 300 yards away. The Lynn Advertiser reported "*about 10.20 the people were startled by the unusual sound of aircraft engines.....and the Zeppelin passed slowly over the water tower and followed the shore line to Heacham. No bombs were dropped. The inhabitants seemed to take little more than a mild interest in the passing aircraft and showed no fear or panic.*" In fact the airship flew over the gasworks, the pier and the lighthouse before proceeding. Several people claimed to have seen powerful searchlights but it would appear that although Von Platen knew he was over a coast he was totally unaware of the darkened town. Apparently the local council, which had decided only a few weeks before that all but four street lights should be put out, changed their minds and ordered all streets lights to be out and all windows darkened.. The report of a bomb was erroneous. It was about 10.40 when the airship flew over Heacham. A witness described the noise as "unusual" and then saw a flash followed by an explosion and a "tremendous flare of light". The bomb hit one of two cottages in Lord's Lane. It broke off some bricks in the wall, tore off some tiling and part of the wall of the washhouse before falling into a rain tub and blowing it to pieces. Two days after the attack a second bomb, which had failed to explode, was discovered embedded in the soil of a field between the school and the chalk pit. The inhabitants of Sedgford heard the droning of the engines from about 9.30 to 11.00 followed by three explosions. In Snettisham the airship was first seen hovering over the old Grammar School, which stood at the bottom of the hill leading out of the village. It circled twice before a tremendous explosion indicated a bomb had been dropped. It would appear that the church was the target but fortunately the aim was not accurate as it dropped closer to the Sedgford road. The church was badly damaged however, with several windows being smashed. Houses near to the crater also lost windows and outbuildings at Manor Farm and the farmhouse had tiles stripped from their roofs. The vicar of Snettisham, who with his wife and friend had left the vicarage "*brightly*

lighted for the entertainment” to go out into the garden to see if they could discover the aircraft they could hear, described in his report to the press “*a long hissing sound, a confused streak of light and a tremendous crash. The next moment was made up of apprehension, relief and mutual enquiries and then all was dark and still as the sound of the retiring Zeppelin speedily died away.*” The retiring Zeppelin was now headed for Dersingham. Meanwhile news of the attack was filtering through to the authorities. At 10p.m. the Chief Constable of Lynn, Charles Hunt had been told that a Zeppelin had passed over Sheringham and was dropping bombs. He contacted the National Guard and at 10.40 was informed by a colleague in Swaffham that he had heard of the raid and Hunt should warn all the other forces. In a letter he wrote later to the Home Office, Hunt wrote, “*About 10.45 when I was trying to get through to Dersingham the Superintendent there rang me up and stated that a Zeppelin had passed over Dersingham and had dropped bombs in the neighbourhood. Before a message was complete I heard bombs being dropped close to this borough.*” A villager wrote a lengthy report for the *News and County Press*. He heard the sound of a purring engine. “*Confound it, I said to myself, J... has got stranded in his car and wants to be put up here for the night.*” The purring continued for a while but as it got louder the villager decided it was a most extraordinary car. “*Then came a shattering crash at some distance.*” The noise of the approaching airship seemed to fill the parish and according to the report, “*One who heard it at the dead of night here described it...as equal to the noise of 200 motor cars.*” The informant continued, “*I did not see the airship, but a Dersingham friend tells me that he saw it at the height of about 300 feet above his house. It was cigar shaped and almost as long as Dersingham station. No lights were showing.*” The alarming noise soon caused many lights to show in the windows and volunteers hastily went round the parish to warn people of the possible return of the airship. The informant went out round the village. “*About midnight I met on the road several groups of people and I would wish to testify to the remarkable calmness which residents showed in the midst of those alarming conditions.*” Mr. Cliff Riches recalled this terrifying night in the interview he gave during the Millennium project. He was only 4 years old but as he said, “*When they drop bombs that impress itself on a child’s mind.*” He recalled the Zeppelin coming over his house from the direction of the sea and that the first bomb fell in what is now Manorside but was then a field. Another bomb dropped on the open common and he remembered how the boys would go there to see the crater and collect shrapnel. The worst moment that night was when one of the bombs hit a row of cottages in Doddshill and blew out the end wall exposing the bedroom where two young girls had been asleep. Mr. Buckett, a gamekeeper on the Sandringham estate, lived next to these cottages. He fetched a ladder, climbed up and helped the girls to safety. Mr. Buckett’s cottage was damaged and amid the mayhem his two ferrets escaped. A lady living in one of the bombed cottages had opened the door and stepped outside in order to light her husband’s way up the path and tragically she was killed. Mr. Riches recalled that his parents took him up there the next day, “*and some old boy got a collecting box, and was sitting on the bomb crater collecting money*”. In the days following the attack there were countless rumours that the airship had been guided to its targets by spies in cars. Mr. Holcombe Ingleby M.P. wrote a long letter to the *The Times* regarding the allegations. After giving several instances of suspicious activity by cars in Heacham and Brancaster Staithe he quotes a “trustworthy farmer” who described a car that threw flashes of light towards Snettisham Church, which guided the Zeppelin there. “*This car re-appeared at the turning into Dersingham and there threw up what appeared to be a definite signal, two upward flashes and one cross flash. At the turning by the church which leads to Sandringham it threw up more flashes.*” There was certainly a rumour at the time that Sandringham had been the target. Even Queen Alexandra had written, “*This is too bad, those beasts actually went straight to Sandringham,*

I suppose in the hopes of exterminating us with the Zeppelin bombs- though thank God they failed this time." L4 then proceeded to King's Lynn, but the full story of events there and the subsequent fate of the airships, would fill another article. Suffice to say for the moment that Van Platen thought he was approaching a large city to the north of the Humber. 8 bombs were dropped on the town causing immense damage. Percy Goate, aged 14, and Mrs. Alice Gazely 26, were killed and 13 residents injured. From Kings Lynn L4 flew back towards the coast, passing close to Norwich, before returning to base. L3 had dropped 11 bombs on Great Yarmouth before arriving back in Germany at 10.00 the next morning, 15 minutes after L4. They had spent nearly 24 hours in the air. The night of the Zeppelin was over.

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Dersingham Methodist Church

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Saturday 18 March 10.00 am – 12.00 noon Coffee Morning

Saturday 22 April 10.00 am – 12.00 noon Coffee Morning

Advance notice of our Annual Flower Festival which will take place from Thursday 25 May to Monday 29 May from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on each day.

What Senior Citizens Are Worth

Source Unknown

Do you know that we old folks are worth a fortune? We have silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys, leaves in our feet and gas in our stomachs! I have become older since I saw you last, and a few changes have come into my life. Frankly, I have become a frivolous old woman! And I am seeing six gentlemen every day! As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me out of bed, then I go to see Jimmy Riddle and then it is time for breakfast with Mr Kellogg, followed closely by the refreshing company of Mr Tetley, or my other friend, who I only know by his initials - PG! Then comes someone I don't like at all - Arthur It Is - He knows he is not welcome, but he insists on being there, and what is more, he stays for the rest of the day. Even then, he does not like to stay in one place, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a hectic day I am glad to get into bed (and with Johnny Walker too!!) - what a hectic life. Oh yes, I am now flirting with Al Zheimer! The Vicar came to call the other day and said at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. So I told him I did it all the time, for no matter where I am, the bedroom, the kitchen, the sitting room or the garden, I ask myself "now, what am I here after?"

Well, I'll close now and hope that Will Power is your constant companion too, but do make sure that his friend Emma Royd does not creep up on you from behind! And watch out for then crafty one - Gerry Atric!

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Lost Dogs

Harry Thorpe recalls....

Part One of Two of his memories of his time in Dersingham from 1923 to 1929

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I came to Dersingham early in the new year of 1923, when I was six. My grandfather, Mr. J.G. Rainbow, had come to Sandringham in 1868 as a representative of the firm of Hollands, to furnish the recently purchased and renovated house of the Prince and Princess of Wales. Subsequently he was offered a position as tapisserie, and he remained in that position until the death of Queen Alexandra in 1925. In 1872 he married Mary Ann Smith, daughter of Catherine and John Smith of West Newton, and some time in the 1870's built his house, the Retreat, on Heath Road in Dersingham, which is the first house on the right as you leave Manor Road. When I started living there, the corner lot, which is now a motor dealership, was a carpenter's workshop and yard, with piles of lumber. I don't remember the name of the owner at that time. Moving along Heath Road, on the right, there were two houses adjoining Grandfather's. In the first one lived a widowed lady, Mrs. Annie Ralph, and her three children: Winifred was a girl of 11 or 12; the son Raymond was my age and soon became my best friend, and there was a smaller boy, probably aged 4, called Donald. In the next house a Mr. & Mrs. F.W. Bunn lived; Mr. Bunn was an employee of the Sandringham post office. There was then an open field, and in the next house with a large barn, next to the open common, lived a Mrs. Mann and her daughters, one of whom was named Grace. On the other side of the road, the house at the corner of Manor Road was occupied by Mr. Terrington, the butcher, and the area around the corner of Manor Road, which is now occupied by a funeral home, was the entrance to his holding pens and slaughterhouse. Directly across the road from Grandfather's house was a yellow brick house occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Jabez Chambers and their daughters. This was an adult family and except for seeing them I never really got to know them. A little further up the road there were a row of cottages, standing back from the road with nice gardens in front of them. At these there was a Mrs. Petrie, who was the widow of a retired army officer or colonial administrator, who had travelled extensively in the Middle East and Egypt and India. She was a most interesting lady who could tell you the most wonderful stories that would impress a six or seven year old, about her life in those countries, and had rooms full of things she had obtained and brought back. I used to love to visit her. Unfortunately, I believe she died before I left Dersingham. There were probably one or two other houses up to and adjoining the closed common; in one of these lived a very large, overweight man. I don't remember his name, but to us – the family, and us kids- he was known only as "The Fat Man".

One of the first things I had to do when I came to Dersingham was to go to school. I was duly enrolled in the school, and my first teacher, I believe, was Miss Catlyn. She taught in a large room adjacent to the road. The centre part of the school, running across the yard, was where the second level was taught, and I remember a Mr. Stanley there. Mr. Wheeler, the headmaster, taught in the left-hand side of the school. I never reached his grade as I was transferred to Lynn Grammar School when I was 11 years old. There were two large houses standing on the hillside across the schoolyard. I don't really know too much about them, but was told at the time that they were quite old, probably dating back to the middle of the 17th century. The way to school was of course along Manor Road. On the right hand side I remember a red brick house, I believe on the corner of Senter's Lane. This house belonged to the Insley family, another adult family who had been long-time friends of my grandfather's.

Then there was Playford's the baker, and two more small shops, and then I remember little else until you came to the corner of Manor Road and the road to Sandringham and up Sandringham Hill. About halfway up Sandringham hill was the doctor's house. Beyond the corner were some open fields, and just before you got to the schoolyard was the entrance to a region called the Emblings. On the other side of the road, immediately across from the entrance to Heath Road, there was a row of houses running at right angles to Manor Road. Next to them, just a wee bit further up the road and still across from Terrington's the butcher, was the home of the Lines family. Here I remember two girls, Stella and Mary. They were considerably older than I was, probably in their late teens. A little further along, in the end house of a row of houses just a wee bit further up Manor Road, a family named Chandler lived. Mr. Chandler was a retired Metropolitan police officer who had come there quite recently, as far as I remember. He had a son, Tom. Tom was never at Dersingham School; I only really got to know him after I had started going to the grammar school at King's Lynn. The only other building I remember along that section of the road was the Forester's Hall and then Parker's store, open fields beyond that with the football fields and the cricket pitch, and some tennis courts, I believe, and the Feathers Hotel. A favourite prank of us boys, going to school, was to ring the bell at the Feathers and then run around the corner as fast as we could to school. I don't believe they ever answered that bell because they probably had become well aware of what it was all about.

Adjoining Grandfather's garden and with property facing onto Manor Road was the shop and home of a family named Drew. I believe they were in the saddle and harness business. Across the road from them was the barber's shop, now a florist; just before you got to the barber's shop there was a building standing at right angles to the road that may have been a photographer's studio, as it was glazed with old glass photographic plates. A little driveway beside that building led to the home of Dan Grief. Dan kept horses and a trap, ran a livery stable on a limited scale, and took people about to the station and other places in the vicinity. He used to take us to our bungalow on Snettisham beach. The only other person of note on Manor Road was a lady who lived in a row of cottages just before you got to the Albert Victor Hotel. She was a Mrs. Batterbee, who ran a home laundry service, but she would also come to people's homes to undertake their laundry. Mrs. Batterbee came at least once or twice a month, on a Monday, to undertake the laundry at home. Her daughter had married one of the royal chauffeurs named Figg and they had twin boys Douglas and David who were approximately my age. I never really got to know them very well as they spent most of their time in London but were often down when the Royal Family came to Sandringham for the shooting in January and early February, and they would come down in the summer to visit their grandmother.

Perhaps here I might say a few things about the activities and the playthings we had in the early 20's. In the schoolyard, marbles were often a popular game. We had spinning tops – these required a level surface and were kept spinning by the use of a whip. We had hoops, either metal or wood or even old bicycle wheels. In the winter, if there was snow and we were lucky enough to have a toboggan, we would toboggan on the hill on the left-hand side of the Emblings. This was the best local hill for tobogganing, but unfortunately we didn't get snow every winter. In the spring birds' nesting and egg collecting was our main occupation. It was an activity that we generally pursued on our own, for every nest we found we jealously guarded, even from our best friends. We would collect one egg from each nest, and each egg had to have its contents carefully blown out and the egg preserved.

I cannot go any further along here without mentioning Mr. Dowdy, or "Old Dowdy". He had

his home in a red brick building beyond the very far corner of the closed common. This was actually a pump house and was connected to the water tower at Sandringham. This was a precaution against fire because heath fires were a fairly common occurrence. I remember seeing it used once when a rather large heath fire in the closed common was threatening to spread into the woodlands along the Lynn Road. Dowdy was a sort of a loner and nobody seemed to bother him; he just made his home in this old pump house. He would get quite noisy and raise his arms and shout at us if we boys got too close to the building. We would wait to see when he had left and gone down into Dersingham – he did all sorts of odd jobs to make a living – and then we would go and peer in at the windows to see how he lived. He had an old chair – it looked quite comfortable, I suppose – and a huge heap of bracken in one corner that was his bed, and a few other utensils and things stood around. He used to come to Grandfather's house to mow the grass, do some gardening, chop the firewood, take the refuse away and generally make himself useful on Fridays. Every Friday he would turn up and do his work in the mornings; he would then appear at the back door and receive a large dinner, which he would take to a little shelter that stood at the far end of the garden with doors that led out onto Manor Road. I believe he was paid half a crown.

Now a few words about the Dun Cow Inn. In the 1881 census my great-grandfather and grandmother, John and Catherine Smith, are shown to be innkeepers, together with a niece. Also living with them at that time was my eldest aunt, Harriet Kate Rainbow, at that time aged 7. How many other children of Grandfather's lived with Granny and Grandfather Smith at the Dun Cow I don't know, but I know my mother (Daisy) did because she told many little stories about her life there. In the early 1920's, a Laura and Tom Magness were the innkeepers; they also had a daughter whose name I have forgotten. They were my Grandmother Rainbow's (nee Mary Ann Smith) cousins; I think Laura was the actual cousin. Today the landscape of the commons and the fen have greatly changed. Then they were open, there were no trees. The closed common consisted largely, especially on the far side, of heather, with a small amount of bush growth up against the woodlands. The other side – the Dersingham side – was not so much heather but covered with rough scrubby growth and small bushes. There was a very large rabbit warren which no doubt kept the growth of the invading birches at bay. The open common was completely covered with grass and gorse and at the very heart of it there was the remains of a World War I searchlight base. The fen was completely open, there was no obstruction right across to the hills that led down to Wolferton Station. The remains of the old firing range were there, the butts that held the targets and a barrier of brush and sand that stood behind it, in case a stray bullet might have reached Wolferton. The firing positions were rotting away, and the whole area was very flat and covered with patches of white sand and rough marshy growth.

When I was transferred to the grammar school at King's Lynn, this of course entailed a daily trip on the train and arrangements had to be made for a lunch. A small group of us – not all from Dersingham but from the Heacham, Hunstanton and Snettisham area – travelled on the train. Some took their lunch, but an arrangement could be made with Ely's restaurant on Norfolk Street for a boy's lunch for a shilling a day. Ely's restaurant was on the left-hand side of Norfolk Street, probably 8 or 9 shops up from the High Street. We were given a very reasonable lunch, sometimes sausages and mash, sometimes pieces of beef, whatever was on the menu for the day. Except on Tuesdays. Tuesday was market day, and we were relegated to an upstairs room with the hired hands of the farmers and dealers and other people who occupied the main eating rooms downstairs. The service up there wasn't very great. After the lunch – we generally had about two hours for lunch at the school – we would wander through

the Market Square and past the Globe Hotel, down the quays. In February, of course, Lynn Mart was in full swing and I am afraid there were times the shilling we were given for our lunches was spent on the attractions of the Mart and on Thurston's entertainments. On long summer evenings, we often on a Sunday would take a walk. This would involve Mother and myself, my sister, and visiting aunts and uncles, whoever in the family who happened to be living with or visiting Grandfather at the time. One of the favourite walks we had was across the common, towards Sandringham. After passing through the little wood – that was the area between the common and the Princess's Drive – we would walk along the Princess's Drive towards Wolferton. Now the Princess's Drive – it is rapidly today being obliterated and overgrown – started at the top of Sandringham Hill, and ran along the crest of the hills overlooking the fens and marshes, until it exited at the Wolferton Road. It had been constructed quite early in the Prince and Princess of Wales' residence at Sandringham and at that time a number of overlooks had been cleared through the trees so that there were excellent views across the fens and marshes to the distant Wash. At the time we would make walks along there some of the overlooks were being overgrown. Just after you left the entrance to the Drive at Sandringham Hill you came to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Boughen and their son Leslie. Mr. Boughen was the estate's forester. Somewhere along the Drive toward Wolferton and standing a little back from the road there was a fine stand of edible chestnuts. I can assure you we raided them regularly in October. They weren't great big chestnuts, but they were sweet little things with a very spiny outer cover.

There were occasions we – that is my mother, my sister and myself – would visit Grandfather at his office at Sandringham House. Sometimes when his duties did not allow him to get home every evening – perhaps this would happen on a weekend – mother would say "Well, we'll go to visit Grandfather today." We would walk up across the common and through the woods, and up to where the War Memorial is, and then walk along the road and past the Norwich Gates until we came to the entrance to the back of Sandringham House. I don't really remember much about Grandfather's office. He had a little living room beside it where he could stay at night. We would always end up being taken into the servants' dining room to have a little light refreshment. Here I met a number of the senior servants of the household, but I only remember Miss Noon, who was the housekeeper, by then a stately and middle-aged lady, in fact probably quite an elderly lady. Ultimately, after the death of Queen Alexandra in 1925, she was put in charge of York House in a form of semi-retirement. We visited her there once or twice but it is not something I remember very much about, except that she had a young lady that looked after her requirements – and ours – and served us whatever refreshments were offered.



Brothers in Arms

Wesley and Hubert Tuck - 1916

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Part Two of a Series of Three*

The Battle of the Somme

Perhaps one word in the vocabulary of the Great War, 'Somme', sums up more than any other the bloody and grim experience which was the 1914-1918 war. In some minds the very word has become a synonym for mindless waste of life, serving to deepen the mythology of this most important of battles. The battle was, many historians now agree, the breaking of the German army; a battle that therefore ultimately decided the final outcome of the war. The Battle of the Somme commenced following a seven day continuous artillery bombardment of the German positions by British and French guns. At 07.30 on Saturday 1st July 1916, in the light of a summer morning, 100,000 men went 'over the top'. By the end of the day 19,249 were dead and over 35,000 wounded or missing. It was the worst day in the history of the British army. Four months later, as the first snows of winter fell and nearly half a million soldiers of the British Army had become casualties, of whom 131,000 were listed dead and missing, the Battle of the Somme ground to a halt. One observer later wrote 'no pen or drawing can convey this country... Evil and the incarnate fiend alone can be the master of this war, and no glimmer of God's hand can be seen anywhere. It is unspeakable... Godless, hopeless...'

A Remarkable Meeting

About the time of the Battle of the Somme, a letter home from one of the brothers informed the family of an incredible coincidence; quite by chance Wesley and Bert had met.

The 21st Canadians, Bert's battalion, arrived on the Somme on the 5th September. On successive days they then marched in the oppressive September heat until they arrived, exhausted, at Albert on Sunday 10th September. They were ordered into billets in the Albert Brickfields just to the north of the town; it is likely that their billets were tents. After five days marching, however, any accommodation would have been welcome.

Wesley's battalion, the 9th Norfolks, had arrived on the Somme in early August and on the day Bert ended his march just north of Albert, Wesley was bivouaced just south of the town, near to the village of Meaulte, at a position known as the Sandpit. That morning at 11.30 the Norfolks attended a church parade.

Albert was the principal town in the British sector of the Somme battlefield. The town is actually within the valley of the River Ancre, the River Somme itself flows a few miles to the south. The town was the main supply and billeting centre. Soldiers would have recognised the famous Basilique Notre Dame de Brebieres, a church whose tall tower could be easily seen from the surrounding countryside. At the top of the tower was a golden statue of the Virgin Mary holding aloft the infant Christ. In January 1915 an explosion had caused the statue to precariously lean, a spectacle which was to become one of the enduring symbols of the Great War.

During the Battle of the Somme the area around Albert was marked with military camps, with stores and the equipment of war everywhere. Albert buzzed with life and the men were drawn to its estaminets and the other comforts that could be found amongst its streets.

It may have been that after the Canadians, despite their undoubted exhaustion, had arrived near Albert and the Norfolks had finished their church parade, that men from both units had been granted the rest of the day free. Perhaps Wesley and Bert independently decided to walk into Albert with their respective friends, both curious to explore the

attractions of the town. Was it here that they accidentally met? It certainly was a time when both units were located close to each other and Albert would have provided an obvious attraction.

One can only imagine the emotion of the moment when the two brothers recognised each other. No doubt they laughed and perhaps even embraced; certainly they would have been overjoyed to once again be in each other's company. Perhaps they shared a drink in one of the many smoke filled estaminets and compared their experiences, the horrific and amusing stories of their own individual war. Home was hundreds of miles distant but news of the family would have been eagerly exchanged, news of mother, father, brothers and sister. Eventually they said good-bye wished each other good luck and parted. Perhaps as they walked back to their camps, and the distance between them grew, they looked back, waved and shouted a fond 'au revoir'.

The Battle of Flers-Courcelette- 15th September 1916

The Battle of the Somme consisted of several stages, one being the Battle of Flers-Courcelette which began on 15th September 1916. On that morning allied units assaulted the German front line from Crombles in the south to the ruins of Thiepval in the north. It was hoped that a breakthrough at this point would allow a cavalry advance five miles to the north-east on the strategically important town of Bapaume. The Battle of Flers-Courcelette is particularly remembered for the introduction to the battlefield of a new weapon of war – the tank.

The tank was invented to combat menace of machine guns, barbed wire and trench lines, all of which had by this time become the characteristic feature of the Western Front. The tank was a slow moving beast, but its very presence on the battlefield was frightening to the enemy and morale lifting to the allies.

The 21st Canadians were ordered to attack German positions in the neighbourhood of Courcelette, astride the straight road between the towns of Albert and Bapaume. The Battalion's specific objective was the strongly fortified ruins of a sugar beet processing plant, or Sucrerie, situated just north of the road.

Bert and the rest of the Canadians moved up to the front line under the cover of darkness and as zero hour approached on the 15th September, the men silently and carefully crawled over the parapet and laid out in No-Mans-Land on positions previously marked out by white tapes. One tank had been allocated to Bert's unit to support the advance, code named 'Crème-de-Menthe'. It was to attack the Sucrerie, advancing parallel to the Albert – Bapaume road, in order to soften up the position and mop up its German defenders.

At 06.20 the air above the heads of the men 'was suddenly filled with the souging and sighing, whining and screaming of thousands of shells of all calibres, making it impossible to hear anything'. The final artillery barrage had started, the signal for the men to charge the German lines through the mist, smoke and chaos of battle. The Canadians advanced behind artillery barrage, which moved forward at a rate of 50 yards per minute. The attack was a success with the Canadians securing the German front line trenches in the first 15 minutes. 'Crème-de-Menthe', played a vital role. It advanced and broke through the perimeter-trench of the Sucrerie and, using its six-pounder guns, smashed the walls and barricades and destroyed the machine-gun emplacements.

The third and final part of this series will appear in the April issue of the Village Voice 'Brothers in Arms'

Dick Melton's Column

Bird Nesting and Egg Collecting

Just after the Second World War when I was a young lad in the village one of the pastimes in the spring of each year was to go bird-nesting and to collect eggs (illegal now). After a year or two you would know exactly where to go to find the different species, for example, on the Fen down by the old Duck Decoy there were always many mallard, coot and moorhen nests; on Flagpole Hill were the nests of pheasants, and down the many rabbit holes would nest the shelduck. Over in the Sandpit could be found the sandmartins' nests and if you were lucky you might find the nest of a snipe on the Low Bog. On the Open Common the nests to look for were linnets, dunnoek, blackbird, song thrush, red back shrike, whitethroat, chaffinch and maybe even a cuckoo's egg in a dunnoek's nest. Over in the Shut Up Common there would be plenty of woodcock, yellowhammer, skylark, robin, nightjar, ring dove, red and French partridge, also sparrow hawk. If you looked under the old bridge that went across the stream by the woods, you would always find a wren's nest. Venture up Sandringham Hill and into the woods behind the nursery, this was the best place for the nests of pigeon, gold crest, mistle thrush, jay, woodpeckers and nuthatch. Also in this wood you would find the most beautiful nests of the long-tailed tit, all made out of moss with a roof on top. Many good days were spent bird-nesting, if we wanted to find some seabirds' nests and eggs then we would just hop on our bikes and go down to the shingle pits where you could find oystercatchers, ducks and all sorts of terns and gulls.



Saint George's School



The school situated at the top of Dodds Hill was built in 1938, on land that was given by the Sandringham estate. It was due to open as a secondary school in 1940, but, due to the Second World War, it did not open until 1947. During the war it was used as barracks for a regiment of soldiers from Canada (Newfoundland). Some of these men stayed behind after the war and got married to local girls. Also at some time during the war I believe it was used as a field hospital. My father, the late Jim Melton, had got the job there as caretaker, but a temporary caretaker was taken on until he came out of the army in 1948, when he took over and was there for 25 years. A plot of land was staked out for a caretaker's house just inside the bottom gate, but, as my dad had already got a house, it was never built. My mother also worked there for some time as a canteen lady.

The first headmaster was Mr Sid Willis, who also taught religious instruction, and his wife was the school secretary. Mr Gee was the P.E. and geography teacher and would travel from Hunstanton to Dersingham every day on a 98cc. BSA Bantam motorcycle. Other teachers were Mr Jole, Mr and Mrs Bell, Mr Townsend, who liked everyone to call him Captain as he had just come out of the army, Miss Swift, Miss Fyffe and Mr Perry. I believe I am right in saying that Mr Gee is the only one still with us today.

The children who attended St George's did not just come from Dersingham, they also came from the surrounding villages such as Anmer, Sandringham, Ingoldisthorpe, Bircham, Red Barn, Fring, Houghton, Flitcham, Hillington, Congham, West Newton, Babingley, Castle

Rising, North Wootton and Wolferton. They travelled in Reg Houchen's and Easter's (Bircham) buses.

As there is today, there was a large playing field attached to the school, but in those days it was a rough area of land, so if you did anything wrong the favourite punishment was for the teacher to send you on to the field with a bucket to pick up the stones. Myself I did not like school, but it was not a bad school and it taught us a lot.

Winters Past in Dersingham

In 1947 my Mum and I lived at No. 67 (Restu) Lynn Road (Dun Cow Lane) Dersingham, my Father, Jim Melton, was still in the army serving out his 25 years, the New Year of 1947 did not start too bad, cold and frosty but no snow. Then, on the 24th of January 1947, we had our first heavy fall of snow and from then on it snowed nearly every day until the 16th of March. I well remember one morning, after a very heavy fall of snow and strong winds, my Mother opened the door and the snow was so high it all fell into the kitchen, the war had only been over for two years so a lot of things were still on ration and coal was in very short supply but everyone mucked in and no one ran out of coal, wood, or food. Also I don't know how but we always managed to get to school and them days we had to make the trip four times a day as we always came home for dinner. Snow ploughs, the old wooden type, were used to clear the roads, either dragged behind a tractor or a horse. Also there were still a lot of German and Italian prisoners of war in camps around Norfolk (one at Snettisham Beach) and these men were brought in with shovels to help clear the snow. After 1947 the next time we had a long period of snow was in 1958 by now I was 18 and had passed my driving test and was waiting to go into the army. I was working for Ken Milton the butcher (Manor Road) as a rounds-man driving a Morris 8 van that you had to crank up to start (no electric starter). On Tuesday the 26th of February 1958 it was a cold frosty morning but no snow, so I started out on my round at about 7.30am. I went to my first customers up Dodds Hill then I made my way down to Shernbourne. While I was there it began to snow and blow quite hard and by the time I made my way out of the village there was about 4 inches of snow on the road. My next calls were at Sandringham in the area of the vicarage and double lodges this did not take me long but by now it was snowing a blizzard. I then decided to go on to the village of Anmer where I had about 30 customers, and that was my big mistake! I had only got about half way down King's Avenue when I came up behind a Seaman's milk lorry stuck in a 4 foot snow drift, I tried to go back but it was no good, the snow was already piling up behind me so the lorry driver and I decided to walk back to Dersingham (no mobile phones in them days) it took us about 2 hours in the blizzard and it was several days before my van and the milk lorry were towed out. When I got back to the shop a lady who lived at York Cottage in the grounds of Sandringham House had rung up to ask why her meat had not been delivered! For the rest of the week Ken Milton delivered meat around the villages with my help with a tractor and pig trailer that he borrowed from Ken Martins, if I remember correctly both Shernbourne and Anmer were snowed in for about a week and food and fuel had to be taken to them villagers by tractors going across the fields. In 1958 there was, between January and April, 38 days when snow fell in West Norfolk and there was still snow lying under the hedgerows in May. The next hard winter we had in Dersingham was 1962/63, we did not have a lot of heavy snow but we had sharp frosts from November 1962 until the end of March 1963. I was at the



time working on a farm down on the marshes at Clenchwarton, I travelled there every day on a motor bike (350 Norton) and sidecar. I got through every day to work and I was never late, we were riddling tates (potatoes) from an outside grave (clamp) and we had to use Calor gas blowtorches to thaw the soil on the graves so as we could get to the tates. That was the year when the sea froze over at Heacham and Hunstanton, the ice was so thick on the new cut (river) at Kings Lynn that people played ice hockey on it. The next time we had a very heavy snow fall at Dersingham was on a Friday at the end of November in 1968 when we had a blizzard that lasted from about 2am until midnight, and the main road between King's Lynn and Hunstanton, especially at Cats Bottom (Babingley), Heacham Bottom, Tea Pot Corner (Heacham) and Redgate Hill. The same thing happened again in February 1979 when the old A149 was blocked in many places for a couple of days or more. Since then we have had some snow but nothing like the heavy falls and blizzards that I have mentioned. Believe it or not but we have only had five Christmas's in West Norfolk since 1900 when snow has actually fallen on Christmas Day, and those days were 1906, 1923, 1927, 1938 and 1970. In 1981 snow lay 4 inches deep at Dersingham on Christmas Day, but it had fallen a couple of days before, and Christmas Day itself was sunny with blue skies.

Be warned!

If you receive a card through your door from a company call PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) saying that they have a Digital Camera awaiting delivery instructions and can you contact them on 0906 661 1911

DO NOT CALL THE NUMBER AS THIS IS A MAIL SCAM!

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 02072396655.



Mobile Library – Timetable Information

Information about every mobile library route is now available on the Norfolk County Council Web Site at www.library.norfolk.gov.uk . Follow the link to the Mobile Library section. In this you will find information about all our routes plus the dates of the next few visits. This is available at any time.

Recreation Ground Trees

The story continues!

Further to our two recent editions in which we have been learning about tree planting on the Recreation Ground in the 60s/70s, further information has now come to hand, from records made at the time which list the sponsors of each tree, the type of tree, and the fact that each donor with one exception paid a sum of £1.50 towards the cost of each gift, with one other person financing two. We list below the names of those donors and the type and location of each individual tree. (Note that the A149 referred to is in fact now the Lynn Road)

Donor/s	Tree Type	Location
Mrs E Gregory, Dersingham Afternoon W.I. S Centre Crescent	Red Map (Cotoneaster Thorn Double Pink)	Fourth tree along Bank Road from the A149 end
Mrs Ederlin, Treasurer, Dersingham Evening W.I. Manor Road	Norway Green Maple (Acer Drummondii)	Sixth tree along the A149 from the War Memorial end
Mrs Chaham, Bank Road	Whitebeam (Pyrus Intermedia)	First tree along Bank Road from the A149
The Treasurer, The Seniors Club	Norway Green Maple (Acer Drummondii)	Eighth tree along the A149 from the War Memorial end
Mrs Mills, West Road	Flowering Cherry (Cerasus)	Fifth tree along Bank Road from the A149
Mr A E Rosaby, The Gables, Post Office Road	English Oak (Quercus Robur)	Fifth tree along the Western side from the Station Road end
Mr A Simmons, Hillside, Greenbourn Road	Copper Beech (Fagus Silyvestris)	Sixth tree along the Western side from the Station Road end
Dersingham Cub Scouts Mrs Mills, West Road	Copper Beech (Fagus Silyvestris)	Eighth tree along the Western side from the Station Road end
Dersingham Guides & Brownies Miss M Sparsman, Manor Road	English Oak (Quercus Robur)	Fourth tree along the Western side from the Station Road end
Dersingham Scouts Group Scout Leader A E Rhodes, Doddhill	Copper Beech (Fagus Silyvestris)	Fourth tree along the Western side from the Station Road end
Mr and Mrs Leggett, The Shelling, Station Road	Flowering Cherry (Cerasus)	Second tree along Bank Road from the A149
Mr F C Greenway, 10 Valley Rise	English Oak (Quercus Robur)	First tree along the Western side from the Station Road end
Mr F C Greenway, 10 Valley Rise	Copper Beech (Fagus Silyvestris)	Second tree along the Western side from the Station Road end
BN A & Tings, Greenacre, Station Road	English Oak (Quercus Robur)	Third tree along the Western side from the Station Road end
Mr J M Schorch, Tykesacre, Station Road	Copper Beech (Fagus Silyvestris)	Fourth tree along the Western side from the Station Road end
Mr G Clayton, Shangri La, Bank Road	Whitebeam (Pyrus Intermedia)	Eighth tree along Bank Road from the A149
The Tuesday Group Mrs A Tomlin, Lynn Road	Mountain Ash (Balkanis Australis)	Fourth tree along Bank Road from the A149 end
Mr S Poles, (Pole) G2 Stanford, 8 Chapel Road	Type not identified	First tree along the A149 from the War Memorial end
Mr M J Keogh, The Old Bakehouse, Chapel Rd	Purple Maple (Acer Goldsworth Purple)	Third tree along the A149 from the War Memorial end
Mr M Graham, Greengates, Manor Road	Norway Green Maple (Acer Drummondii)	Fourth tree along the A149 from the War Memorial end
Mrs A E Cross, 2 Globe Close	Purple Maple (Acer Goldsworth Purple)	Seventh tree along the A149 from the War Memorial end

The days that make us happy make us wise. *John Masfield*

Library News

February is Love your Library month and we will be launching our new loyalty card, where we reward customers who visit us often. If you visit us 9 times between February and the end of April, borrowing books as you visit, you can collect stamps on your loyalty card and then you can enter the grand prize draw to win a family break at Center Parcs. We have many special Love your library events, including:

February 6th - Be good to yourself - complementary health day - come along and sample various therapies, including Indian head massage, reflexology, ear candling, eurhythmy, osteopathy, herbal medicine and healing.

February 8th and 22nd - Personal Shopper Days. If you are stuck in a rut, or have no time to browse, then let our staff choose a selection of books to suit your requirements.

February 9th from 5-7 pm and Saturday 11th from 10-12.30 - Family History beginners session. Come along and learn how to use the Family History Netway, and pick up tips from library staff to help start your searching.

February 13th from 2.30-3.30 pm - half-term storytime with a Love theme. Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult.

February 15th from 6.30-8 pm - Girls' night in - Aimed at 8-11 years - This is a special Love your Library night for girls and their mums - come along, share your favourite reads, check out the websites of your favourite authors, make posters of the things you love, catch up with the latest good book recommendations, videos and DVDs, and slurp hot chocolate and eat chocolate biscuits. Numbers are limited and girls must be accompanied by their mums who can learn more about the latest popular authors for both adults and children, and share their childhood favourites with others. Numbers are limited to 15 girls and their mums. Please reserve your place by contacting the library.

Dersingham Reading group - This is growing fast, but is still looking for new members. Details of the next meetings and the books being read can be found on the library noticeboard.

Family History Drop-in - continues on March 6th, and April 3rd, May 15th and June 12th. A member of staff will be available to help you find information using the internet and advise you about other sources and offer advice about your research.

Beginners internet taster sessions - we still run these and have a new batch of dates planned. If you'd like to get an introduction to the joys of the internet and tips on how to master it, then please contact the library. The sessions are run with only 2 people at a time, so the atmosphere is informal and relaxed.

1st DERSINGHAM SCOUTS

HELP! The 1st Dersingham Scouts are in DESPERATE need of HELP!

Any old Scouts or Guides who read this, think of the fun you had. Would you like to give something back by helping the 1st Dersingham Scouts?

This is the HELP we need:

- * 6 hours per year to serve on the Scout Committee which meets 4 to 5 times a year - *or*
- * 2 hours a week, or 2 hours a month, to help with the Different Sections listed below:

Cubs 6.30pm to 8.00pm Mondays - Boys/Girls aged 8 years to 10 1/2 years

Scouts 7.00pm to 9.00pm Thursday - Boys/Girls aged 10 1/2 years to 14 years

Any Male/Female, Mum/Dad, Gran/Grandad who feel they can HELP in any way then

PLEASE! PLEASE! Contact Mr R. Saunders on 01,485 542885.

Without urgent **HELP** now, 1st Dersingham Scouts will no longer be able to carry on giving a valuable service to the village.

Dersingham Task Force



This voluntary group completed many tasks around the village during last year including clearing the leaves from the school playground and removing the weeds at the base of the church. Their last task was planting two sacksful of daffodils around the village sign; let's hope their efforts aren't in vain, as since the planting the moles have moved in!

If you have a job that needs tackling or would like to join the group when they resume in a few weeks, Telephone Sue on 543870.



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STORES**

LYNN RD, DERSINGHAM

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SUNDAY 10 AM - 4 PM**

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Pasta ■ Surf or Turf

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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



My first Valentine

Copyright: Hugh Mullarkey - 16-01-06



A shout up the stairs - 'You'll be too late for School!'
 Made me grab for me clothes - oh isn't life cruel!
 It was then I remembered the homework not done -
 This particular Teacher had no sense of fun!

'Your post has arrived' a giggling voice stated
 'Twas my sarcastic Sister whose teasing I hated-
 They were all having breakfast and looking so smug
 'It's so nice to see you' said Mum from her mug.

And there on the table 'gainst the milk jug it stood
 My face went a colour 'tween beetroot and blood
 'At least somebody loves you' my Dad tried to say
 With his mouth full of muesli which he tried not to spray.

He didn't succeed and my Brother said 'Urgggh!'
 As he fished out a lump from the tea that he stirred.
 'Are you not going to open it?' my Sister said grinning -
 If this was a war then I sure wasn't winning.

'Is it cornflakes or toast? But you'd better be quick
 And sit yourself down or you'll make yourself sick!'
 'Thank you dear Mother' I said to myself
 'For your kindly concern for the state of my health.'

'Twas an envelope massive and coloured bright pink
 From which there exuded a sweet sickly stink.
 All of the family were watching me now,
 Even Dougal the dog with an eager 'Bow-wow'

Sat up in his basket to join in the stare
 I felt like a rabbit transfixed in a glare.
 'Let me open it for you,' my Sister suggested,
 'To make sure that your breakfast is properly digested!'

And reaching across she grabbed for the card
 But my Brother grabbed first and held on to it hard
 There followed a struggle and the envelope tore
 And out fell the Valentine straight onto the floor.

With a pounce from his bed and a gret grizzling growl
 Old Dougal was on it and oh boy did he howl.
 They all roared with laughter with their eyes full of tears
 As my first Valentine in one gulp disappeared.



AAADD

Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder

This is how it manifests:

I decide to water my garden.

*As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car
and decide my car needs washing.*

As I start toward the garage, I notice that there is mail on the
porch table that I brought up from the mailbox earlier.

I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car.

I lay my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table, and
notice that the can is full.

So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I
may as well pay the bills first.

I take my chequebook off the table, and see that there is only one cheque left.

My extra cheques are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I
find the can of Coke that I had been drinking.

*I'm going to look for my cheques, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't
accidentally knock it over.*

I realize the Coke is getting warm, and I decide I should put it in the refrigerator to keep it
cold.

*As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye;
they need to be watered. I set the Coke down on the counter, and I discover my reading glasses
that I've been searching for all morning.*

I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

*I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly I spot the
TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table.*

I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I will be looking for the remote, but I won't
remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs,
but first I'll water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor.

So, I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill.

Then I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day:

The driveway is flooded the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there is a warm can of
Coke sitting on the counter, there is still only one cheque in my cheque book, I can't find the
remote, I can't find my glasses, and I don't remember what I did with the car keys. Then
when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was
busy all day long, and I'm really tired. I realize this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get
some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail. Do me a favour, will you? Forward this
message to everyone you know, because I don't remember to whom it has been sent.

Don't laugh — if this isn't you yet, your day is coming!

(The Editor received this article by e-mail)

Christmas Events at Park House

The Park House Hotel at Sandringham did its guests proud on two musical occasions prior to Christmas, when, on Friday 16 December the audience were presented with an evening of seasonal music, carols and song with young musicians William Fergusson (piano) and Charlotte Stratta (clarinet), introduced by the Very Reverend Alan Warren of Hunstanton (seen playing the violin in this photograph); this evening of classical and popular music was very well received by an audience which took great delight in participating in the singing of carols. The evening concluded with an amusing



epilogue by the Reverend Jonathan Riviere,

Rector of the Sandringham Churches and Domestic Chaplain to H.M. the Queen.

The second event was to be a marvellous carol concert on the afternoon of Sunday 18 December presented by the magnificent 'Fentasia' who, as the name might suggest, *were* fantastic!

'Fentasia' is a Wisbech-based ladies choir, directed by Jackie Stonham (who teaches at Springwood High School) with Janice Loose as piano accompanist. Having heard the quality of their singing and seeing their presentation it is hardly surprising that they are regular visitors to Park House, the harmonies and arrangements would put many a professional choir to shame, and the solo performances were exceptional.

y the refreshments which were provided by the management and catering team at the hotel and it is worth reminding our readers that it is not only on these 'special' occasions that the general public can use the hotel's facilities. The restaurant is open daily for light lunches, with daily specials and home made soups; Head Chef Mike utilises the finest local ingredients to provide an interesting and exciting lunch menu. The hotel is particularly suited to people who have mobility difficulties and the restaurant area is entirely wheelchair accessible.



Wines, spirits, beers and minerals are available from the bar, and it must not be forgotten that the hotel accommodation has been purposely designed for people with physical disabilities and/or their carers or companions. For information please telephone: 01485 543000 or Email: parkinfo@lc-uk.org

BT

Photos: Nigel Sisson

The ‘Community Learning Champion Scheme’ from the Scarman Trust

The Scarman Trust is a national charity committed to helping citizens bring about change in their community, in the way that they want. We fund and give practical assistance to hundreds of remarkable people with a ‘can do’ attitude.

These ‘can do-ers’ in turn mobilise many thousands of others, within their own communities and across the major institutions of society- working to make fundamental life chances available to all.

Introducing ‘**Community Learning Champions**’ We are looking for a number of people from the community to undertake some training of their choice. This scheme offers financial support with costs for registering on courses up to £500, travel, childcare and other expenses incurred up to 12 months.

This exciting scheme is funded by the European Social Fund with help from the Department for Education and Skills, and facilitated by the Scarman Trust.

The people who apply could already be volunteers who are undertaking an activity that is benefiting the community.

An example of an applicant could be;

Applicant: A volunteer running a local Womens Group Course Requested: Facilitation
Skills Cost of Course : £250 (2 week course) Location: Local College

The above is just an example – the training courses are not supplied by The Scarman Trust but chosen by the individual from any source.

Once the person has applied there will follow an informal interview followed by a decision from a panel from the Scarman Trust.

If successful the applicant must be prepared to talk about their learning aspirations and achievements with a co-ordinator at agreed intervals.

For Further Details please contact: Marvin Symes (Development Worker)
The Scarman Trust, 35 Portchester Close, Park Farm, Peterborough, PE2 8UP.
T: 01733 753 966 / M:07910 276193/ E:symesm@hotmail.com



Norfolk Trading Standards & Norfolk Constabulary Working in Partnership



BOGUS GALLERS and ROGUE TRADERS Bogus callers are conmen (or women) who use a variety of stories to gain access to a person’s home in order to steal. They may pose as an official caller from a local authority or a utility company with a plausible explanation for needing to enter the home. Rogue Traders are people who pretend to be builders needing to do ‘urgent’ repairs or sales people offering bargain products. They often pressurise householders to pay in advance for materials or do poor work at highly inflated prices. A common factor is that both Bogus Callers and Rogue Traders prey on vulnerable older or disabled people. Many offences go unreported. We need your help. Please report any information on incidents involving bogus callers and rogue traders:

*CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING LINE 0800 3286471
or e-mail to: charles.miles-reed.trad@norfolk.gov.uk*

'Chambers Court'

by Fraser Lindsay – Dersingham Sub-Postmaster



It was springtime last year. I can remember standing on the garage forecourt talking to Gary and his Dad from Admiral Construction. They talked about the forthcoming building work; I talked about the forthcoming traffic problems. They both assured me that my business could carry on uninterrupted and I wouldn't even know they were there. Naturally I took all this 'with a pinch of salt' and looked forward to six months of high blood pressure. The work begins and, to my surprise, all of their cars are on the site or parked at the Chinese Take-Away. As the weeks go on

I also noticed that most of the large /heavy deliveries were made on Wednesday afternoons which, of course, is our half day. As we moved into October and November, still no cars were parked in front of my shop. They were indeed as good as their word, which is quite rare in this day and age. As I write this piece we are fast approaching Christmas 2005 and the construction work is almost finished. Overall I am quite happy with the building opposite me, I think Admiral Construction have done a very good job and kept disruption to a minimum. My hat comes off to them. They also spent quite a bit of money in my shop! Looking forward, I hope to generate some extra business from the apartments, and the parking problem will hopefully be resolved shortly. I wish everybody a healthy 2006.



Photo: Bob Tipling



Talking about the Post Office –

who would really wish to have a job which takes you about the village, on a bike, in all weathers? We should all be grateful to those who deliver our mail (both men and women) regardless of the conditions with which they are faced. Our photo shows one such person, Fred Grimley, doing his deliveries along Centre Vale on the first real winter morning of 2005, Wednesday 27 December. The Village Voice would like to thank all of our 'posties' for their efforts on our behalf.

Photo: Bob Tipling

Dersingham Football Club - 1922/3

Photo: Loaned by Bernie Twite



J. Allen. T. Riches. W. Bucket. J. Dye. W. Twite. S. Bird. W. Fitt. W. Lines.
C. Athow(Sec) A. Hooks. F. Walker(Capt) R Stanton. C. Coxon. J. Finch. W. Jakeman(Chairman)
G. Riches R. Hooks.

Dersingham Guide Groups – Christmas Coffee Morning

The four Dersingham Guide Groups (Rainbows, 1st & 2nd Brownies and Guides] would like to thank all those who contributed to and supported their Christmas Coffee Morning. The girls and leaders are very grateful for the continued support for their events and goodwill toward them by village members. A magnificent £300 was raised which will be divided equally between the four units.

*Lynne Wheeler - Rainbow Guides, Sandra Hullett - 1st Dersingham Brownies,
Lynne Wheeler - 2nd Dersingham Brownies, Jeanette Lister - Dersingham Guides*

Home Watch Report

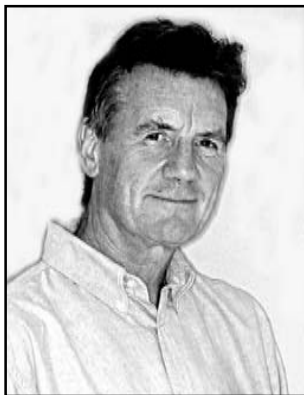
One of the latest messages to Home Watches is to be aware of bogus tradesmen offering to do jobs at low prices to you at your door, only to find that they vastly increase that price when the job is done. The perpetrators have even been known to drive the victims to the bank to withdraw the money they require. These people prey on the old and the vulnerable so let us all help to make sure that everyone of our members knows that they should not agree to work being done on their property by so called tradesman who knock on the door for business. If you help run a Home Watch why not make a list of recognised tradesman that you know will do jobs for the elderly and can be trusted, we are lucky to have several good and reliable trades people in Dersingham. If you have an elderly Neighbour warn them of these door-to-door callers and maybe you could even be available to give help or advice if needed. Nothing can be more upsetting than having a rogue take all your savings to do a job on your property that was not needed in the first place and also more than likely badly done. *Barry Chater*

War Workers – A Series of Archive Photograph



This, the first in a series of photographs taken of local people who 'did their bit' during the Second World War, shows members of the Home Guard (back row) and the ARP (front row). If you have any stories to tell of either of these groups of people, or of any of the individuals involved, please send them to the Editor at the address on page 70.

PALIN POWER AND THE VILLAGE VOICE



The brief Stop Press item in the December issue that the Friends of St Nicholas' Church had secured Michael Palin to speak at their annual literary dinner (March 24, Sandringham Visitor's Centre) resulted in a stampede on the phone by those wishing to reserve tickets. By the New Year Keith Blythe, chairman of the Friends, had to tell callers that he was starting a waiting list. Such is the popularity of the man who circumnavigated the globe in the wake of Jules Verne, followed it with the pole to pole version, then crossed the Sahara, and a couple of years back climbed mountains in the Himalayas – with the all-seeing eye of a camera watching his every move. He'll talk about these journeys, touch on Monty Python, naturally, as well as telling us – I think – about his next journey, which he'll be undertaking this summer; his Norfolk connections; and also

about a new venture this autumn, the publication of the first volume of the diaries he has been keeping since the late 1960s. If you haven't booked your place, don't hesitate to call Keith Blythe (544866), Nigel Sisson (540081), or Edgar Cooper (540865), who will put you on the waiting list. You never know, we may find a way of squeezing in a few more anyway.

Ion Trewin

A Curmudgeon Returns

By Patrick Marks © Jan. 2006

Returning to the village recently after an enforced three month absence and eager to see what, for better or worse, had changed, I set off to rediscover Dersingham. It's a bit like a dog scenting his territory; marking his boundaries, as it were; 'cept I don't cock my leg or sniff gateposts, of course.

The local pub is first stop; that wonderful, comforting and unchanging 'constant', suffused with the warmth of familiar conviviality (it says on the back of this cheque). The landlord was playing with his putters on the car park and greeted me with his usual bellow of "Fore!"

Four years ago its chalk board menu invited me to try a "Liquer (*sic*) coffee" and an "Expresso" (even more *sic*). It still does. Spelling mistakes, like old regulars, frozen in time...

Armed with a copy of *The Voice* from the bar and a pint of best from the old brass (the pump, not the barmaid), I settled in a corner, beneath the loudspeaker that has been forever silent, to catch up on local gossip and nonsense (or 'mardle' and 'squit', as the local vernacular would have it).

I got quite glum over the demise of the poor honey bee being ousted from the Bog by the big bully Bee Wasp; laughed at the thought of Chamber Pot Joe and his garden shed hoard of three hundred chamber-pots and yearned to know why poor Mrs. Phyllis Jary was considered a "legendary character....with a somewhat eccentric lifestyle". But the bombshell that rocked me to the core was news of the Village Voice 'Live' and its abandonment of the Roman Church with its 'comfy' facilities in favour of Anglican asceticism and 'shape'. Oh, and the Church Hall has a stage.

Do I detect the beginnings of ungodly thespian aspirations here? Where will it lead? An annual village revue? Surely the moral decline of Heacham, following the subversive infiltration of the Pocahontas Players, should serve as a lesson to us all? I left the bar reeling with shock before I'd even had time to digest the Diary of Notified Events.

Passing St. Nicks and rounding Jannoch's corner, I almost barrelled into a surprisingly stationary convoy of sixteen grubby white vans, parked nose to tale, outside The Old Hall. Black vans would, perhaps, have been more appropriate; tradesmen were hurriedly burying all the ghosts of that old place beneath new breeze blocks, plaster and paint. And Chapel Road had been turned into a chicken run in my absence. Now who on earth would organise that?

I hung around on my side of the road behind the convoy's corroded rearguard whilst the entire vehicular population of Dersingham came the other way. Eventually and nervously, I attempted a safe passing manoeuvre. It was passing the eighth white van, I believe, that I encountered the ubiquitous 'little old lady in ancient Fiesta', squinting through bottle-bottom glasses, nose pushed hard against the windscreen, careering towards me at a terrifying speed, oblivious to anything further than the end of her rusting bonnet. Do I swerve towards the 10 year old Transit, or the 300 year old wall? What would my insurance company want me to do? I selected reverse and headed, at speed, for the Shernbourne escape road behind me. A three-point turn later and I was bound for Manor Road - the pretty way.

It's the staggered clumps of assorted vehicles on both sides that make Manor Road possibly the longest and most technical chicane in the village, though Chapel Corner (with the tricky little obstacles parked right on the apex) followed immediately by Butchers (often obscured by cars on a pit stop) can be challenging at the wrong time of day, which seems like all day nowadays... Later that evening a small group of damp and dispossessed in-between years, now banned from the recreational park after sunset, watched me nervously from the warmth of the Budgeons extractors as I discover the shop is closed.

Kuwait Towers is just about finished, I see, and ready to receive yet more vehicles to jostle for space on the parking lot that is euphemistically called Post Office Road. Let's hope the new tenants can only afford bicycles...

And now the post-New Year visit to the Heacham dump, with a car boot full of empty wine bottles and a dead Christmas tree, is done. The embarrassed smiles that try to say "But I didn't drink it all", in response to the admonishing scowls of onlookers, (as you loudly and publicly proclaim your festive gluttony with every crash of broken glass) can be put away until next year, along with the crinkled tinsel and broken New Year resolutions.

At least the tacky Betty Boops have failed, as yet, to show their sickly faces on the corner of Whitehorse Drive. No plastic pigs are grovelling in the gravel; no sullen sheep stand guard illuminated by gaudy neon stars and multicoloured fibre optic trees. No Santa, no Shrek; no Laurel or Hardy. No cars parked on the pavement.

It's that grey and bleak time of year when Christmas is but a memory stirred only by the odd pine needle found stuck in a remote piece of lounge carpet or a piece of old Stilton hiding at the back of the 'fridge. The almost empty Quality Street tin still squats where the festive tree once stood; the half dozen orange cremes within, that nobody wants, sulk. The longest night has long since passed, but I haven't yet woken up to the idea of approaching spring. And it's just around the corner...

Dersingham Walking Group

Full details of the summer programme will appear in the next edition of Village Voice but, in the meanwhile, you may like to note that the first evening walk of season will be on Wednesday, 12th April, 6.00pm start, 4 miles walk starting at St.Edmund's Chapel, Cliff Parade, Hunstanton (map ref.LI32/675 418) led by Pat Reed.

There is no formal membership of the walking group and no fee is charged. Just turn up on the day – wearing suitable footwear!

Keith Starks (542268)

Dersingham Evening Women's Institute

Village Voice have been asked to advise you of the contact numbers for the Dersingham Women's Institute, which are:

The Secretary - 01485 543666, The President – 01485 540877

St John Ambulance 'Badger Group'

Correction to an entry in The 'Dersingham Data' – We have been advised that the above group no longer meet at the Dersingham Community Centre

Adult Education – New Spring and Summer 2006 Course Listings

Norfolk County Council Adult Education course listings for the Spring and Summer terms 2006 are now available –

To find out what's on or to request your own copy please call 0844 800 8002



Tuesday March 7th

David Clayton

The broadcaster and editor of Radio Norfolk tells us
"How to run a radio station"

St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham,
 7.30 pm Admission £2.00 including refreshments.
 Raffle

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday April 4th

Maureen Drake



This well known local artist and demonstrator will be
 showing how to create a delightful picture in pastels.

St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
 7.30 pm Admission £2.00 including refreshments.
 Raffle

Garage Sale

**at Dersingham Church Hall, Manor Road
Saturday, 29th April 2006, 9.00am to 12 noon
in aid of St. Nicholas Church**

What is a Garage Sale? Well, the idea started in America. A family will open up their private garage and sell off unwanted domestic items - not only tools and garden equipment and the other things which usually fill our garages, such as surplus mowers and bicycles, but also domestic clutter from around the home.

China, glassware, kitchen utensils, curios, bygones, books and an assortment of things also find their way into such sales. The problem is that most families do not have a sufficient number of items to sell that would justify holding their own sale and standing around all day. The alternative is to donate such items to this central grand sale at the Church Hall.

If you have any items that you can donate to the sale, you can bring them along to the Church Hall on any Saturday, 10.00 am - 12.00 noon, between 18th February to 22nd April (excluding 8th April only).

Alternatively, if you require the goods to be collected, please telephone 540857 to arrange this. Do make a note on your calendar and tell your friends, and come to the sale. Thank you.



Dersingham Open Gardens

2.00p.m. to 6.00p.m., 28th and 29th May 2006



This annual event, organized by members of the parish church, will coincide this year with the Methodist Flower Festival, giving garden and flower enthusiasts a feast of horticultural and artistic pleasure.

If you would like to open your garden - no matter how large or small, we would love to hear from you. Telephone me on 540857 if you would like to find out more. Tickets (£2.50) for the Open Gardens, and a list of the gardens that are to be open, will be available at the Church Hall and at participating gardens. Cream teas will also be available in the Church Hall. Income from the Open Garden event is for the benefit of the Parish Church.

Please make a note to come and support the Methodist church too.

Neil Adams

Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards



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Sarah's Page

Hi - Happy New Year and I hope you had a good Christmas. Well hopefully 2006 will be a year of celebrations. The Parish Council have some interesting plans, by the time this magazine gets to you I hope you have attended our Coffee Morning/Car Boot/Balloon Race and had an enjoyable time. Have you won the £25 prize for the further balloon? Did you see the Dersingham Lion? This was the start. We now have our **Open Day on the 22 April** at St Cecilia's Church. Hopefully you will attend. If you are involved with an organisation or a business in the village you may require a stall to promote your interests. This can be achieved through the Parish Office.



The next event is the **Festival, A Celebration of Dersingham Life**. This is due to take place, hopefully, from the **Saturday 29 July to Sunday 6 August**. I say hopefully because we cannot do it all without your help! We have a Circus planned for the 5 August giving one or two performances and workshops for the children or young at heart for the rest of the day. We have multi sports activities for the children during the week and a skateboard competition with Cllr Benn in a bath of Mushy Peas and Mint Sauce, won't he smell fine! We are hoping to have a music festival on one day and an old fashion sports day on another. So egg and spoon, sacks, and tug of war at the ready please. Come and see how many battered sausages you can eat! Dersingham Lion in attendance during the festival, have you seen him yet! If you are interested in having a stall in a marquee during the week for a few hours or more, please get in touch with the office. You can do anything lace making, art exhibition, face painting anything. We need to hear from you - it is your festival. If anyone has any ideas please get in touch.

The next event planned so far is our **Carol Evening**. It was not that well attended last year but hopefully we have got in early with the date and you will be able to attend. The date is **16 December 2006** more information to follow.

I am having lots of reports of fly tipping and lights out on the Sandringham View Estate. The maintenance for this is still down to Mr Suiter and should be reported to him on 01553 761880. If your problems are still not sorted please then contact the Parish Office.

I still have the diary of village events in the office but as yet I have received no information from any of the village organisations etc. Please tell me what is happening as you may find it beneficial to your event.

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 PE316LH

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Dersingham Village Voice 'Live'

It's the evening of the 6th of December at around 7 o'clock. The seats in St Cecilia's are set out, the stage is readied and we await our "Antiques Roadshow". Members of the public trickle in bearing bags and bundles for the experts opinion. By now our conscientious parish clerk, Sarah, should be here with the refreshment paraphernalia but she isn't. More worryingly, neither is the expert. **7.29pm** – Sarah's long suffering husband bursts through the doors with some, but not all, of the catering bits and pieces – she has come down with a bug and will not be with us, (b****r). We turn on the oven for the sausage roll and mince pie warming. We also discover that we are sans milk and sugar. A runner is despatched to Budgens for milk and our landlord, Len Mathews, produces some sugar. **7.30pm** – we are due to start, but still no expert. We find that the sausage rolls are raw and need cooking and not just warming so we crank up the oven. **7.35pm** – It looks like yours truly will have to become an "expert" and I proceed to the front of the hall to share this little nugget of joy with the audience. They have sensed that there is something up and are getting ready to slip into "mob mode". **7.36pm** – a breathless and dishevelled bearded gent appears at the back of the room and announces that he is our expert and, after a brief sort out of his kit, the evening gets under way. In the kitchen the timing of the break is being calculated, we like these evenings to run with military precision (don't ask whose army) and the critical matter of when the sausage rolls should be put in the oven to cook is high on the agenda. At the appointed time the rolls enter the oven, yum yum! Out in the hall the various treasures produced by the audience are being considered but in the oven very little is happening, the temperature on the dial is not corresponding to the temperature in the oven. The dial gets wound round to the max position, fingers crossed, where is the fire extinguisher located? Break time and the sausage rolls are rather pale so we let the expert have his head for another few minutes. We can wait no longer so the hatch is opened for business and the crowd are refreshed. The sausage rolls are favourably commented on by eager consumers, little knowing the anxiety that they {the rolls that is) caused.

It was all downhill after that, with the man from Keys of Aylsham coasting through the second half by telling us some auctioneers secrets and receiving a good round of applause for his efforts at the end. Roll on January!

Tony Bubb



On the evening of Tuesday 3 January an appreciative audience were entertained by the 'Strolling Players' with their presentation of 'Here we come a wassailing again'. The audience were welcomed on arrival at St Nicholas Church Hall by the offer of a choice of beverages (from a selection of wine, mulled wine, punch or something a little less potent) following which, our host, Tony Bubb, introduced the 12 strong group who went into their seasonal programme with fervour. The Christmas theme was carried throughout the performance by song, monologue, comedy sketches and readings,

including variations on such well known musical pieces as 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' and 'The Holly and the Ivy' and with extracts from the writings of, amongst others, Charles Dickens and Richmal Crompton, these being accompanied as needed by flute, two guitars and various timpani instruments including bongos.

cont on P55

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Every item received a great deal of applause and, where appropriate, laughter, by a more than satisfied audience, who then joined the group to enjoy the delights of a wide selection of what were described as ‘festive nibbles’, accompanied by a further opportunity to imbibe in the offered beverages, which had been prepared by Tony and his team of enthusiastic volunteers. There is no getting away from it, these evenings are proving to be a major success, and this is due in no small part to the input of Tony Bubb, Sarah Bristow, Keith Manship and others who arrange the booking of entertainers and venues, organise the advertising, provide the raffle and refreshments and carry out the physical work needed. If you haven’t attended one of these events yet I would suggest that you do so – you will certainly not get much better value for money anywhere! I must point out that I write this report completely without bias, as, despite the ‘Village Voice’ part of the title, I have no input into the organisation and was myself simply a member of the audience! Congratulations to all concerned!

Bob Tipling

St Cecilia’s Roman Catholic Church, Dersingham

Fr James Fyfe writes:

Last September my Bishop inducted me as a priest of the Catholic Parish Of Our Lady and St Edmund, Hunstanton, which includes the newer church of St Cecilia in Dersingham. As the fairly new Parish Priest I am still in the “getting to know you” stage. I was very pleased to attend the Induction of the new Vicar at St Nicholas Church, Dersingham last year and to meet various villagers afterwards. It is my hope that as Christians we continue to look for the ways in which we can grow closer together in friendship and witness our shared faith in Jesus Christ. As I write this we are beginning the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January) so let us pray for each other and for all who are seeking to discern the Lord’s will that we may all respond to that prayer of Jesus to the Father; “That they may all be one, as we are one.”

St Cecilia’s is an attractive, modern building with excellent facilities available for hire to groups. From 1st January the rates of hire are as follows:-

Nave (larger room, capacity seated c.70+)	£40.00 per session
Hall (Smaller room, capacity seated c.40+)	£8.00 per hour
Meeting room (capacity seated c. 20+0)	£5.50 per hour

There are good toilet and kitchen facilities and the heating is very efficient. We host many groups, including the Dersingham Evening WI and Weight Watchers, but are very happy to try to accommodate others who might like to use our rooms. Please apply to Deacon Len Matthews at St Cecilia’s, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham. Telephone 01485-543168. The church is open every day, so do feel free to pop in for a quiet moment of reflection and prayer. My very best wishes to all in Dersingham for happy and peaceful New Year.

Extract from Picture Post – 1 June 1957

JOKE OVER

Owing to a printer’s error in the ‘Fairy-ring’ cake recipe last week, ‘two ounces castor oil’ was given for ‘two ounces castor sugar’. We apologise to our readers and to Mary Bannock for this silly mistake.

- Reveille

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St Nicholas Church

Event	Date(s)
Church Hall Coffee Mornings with Farmers'	1st Friday in the month, 10.00 am – 12 noon
Market and Church Stalls	
Lent Lunches	Fridays in Lent, 12.00 noon – 2.00 pm 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st March, & 7th April
Garage Sale	Saturday 29th April
Easter Egg-stravaganza	Sunday 16th and Monday 17th April
Open Gardens	Sunday 28th and Monday 29th May
Flower Festival	Thursday 20th to Sunday 23rd July
Arts & Crafts Festival	Friday 29th, Saturday 30th September and Sunday 1st October
St Nicholas Christmas Tree Festival	Friday 1st, Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd December

1st Friday of Every Month

10 am to 12 noon

COFFEE MORNING

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pies – books – preserves – plants and flowers – nearly-new clothes

If anyone has very good nearly-new clothes to donate, could they please contact

Pat Moss on 540517

LENT LUNCHES

Each Friday in Lent

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st March and 7th April – 12 noon to 1.30 pm

In St Nicholas Church Hall

Soup and Roll and Cup of Tea - £2.50

Proceeds from each lunch will go to one of the following charities;

* Hope Now * Samaritan's Purse * Cancer Research * Christian Aid * Tear Fund * C.M.S.

On the day of the lunch one of the charities will be drawn to receive that day's proceeds, so
by the end of the six lunches, each charity will have a donation

St Nicholas Church Hall Bookings - Contact: Terry Moss, 01485 540517

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DERSINGHAM EVENING.W. I

November 2005 - The November meeting is the most important of our W.I. year, this is the time of our A.G.M. when yearly reports are read and achievements acknowledged, a new Committee is formed ready for the year ahead, this was tinged with sadness as Janet our President was leaving, her place to be taken by Dianne. The serious part of the evening over we turned to the lighthearted side of the evening. Goats! ! For those amongst us who enjoy Goats Milk and cheese they are a source of something both tasty and nourishing and not as their image portrays a creature with a pair of sharp horns waiting to head butt the unwary who might venture into their path, this soon became very clear when Liz Stockley, a goat keeper of many years explained. . Listening to Liz there may just have been some converts to these beguiling animals though they are not for the faint-hearted.

December 2005 With Christmas approaching fast we were already in a Festive mood for our December meeting. To enhance the feeling for everyone the evening opened with a carol concert by 'The Phoenix Singers', a beautiful blend of voices. The ladies of the choir introduced us to unusual but very captivating carols, and of course we were not there just to be their audience, we too were encouraged to join in. The conductor, Marcus, was without a doubt a star in his own right, his enthusiasm was very infectious and not lost on us, and one of the most important members of the choir, Cynthia, the accompanist, kept us all in good voice. To keep the evening's spirit going, and as we all enjoy a good reason to have refreshments, especially if they are prepared by ourselves, we all enjoyed a break. Gilly and Phy our storytellers weaved their magic in the form of two fairy tales written in their own unique way, a very good end to 2005.

Eastern Cuisine

By Kathy Jordan © January 16th 2006



Mustard from Norwich is hotter than hot,
At Yarmouth they make mouth-watering rock,
There too the bloater's a culinary hit,
Whilst cider from Wells throws a powerful kick!

Cromer crab salads are special for lunch,
Followed by heart-warming herbal punch.
Renowned are the turkeys – and 'bootiful' too,
(So long as they don't catch dreaded bird 'flu).

Norfolk's fine honey is sweeter than sweet,
Those cockles from Heacham – a tempting treat.
Succulent samphire is fit for a king,
Pheasants so pleasant that praises will sing,

Yet 'Norfolk dumplings' should also take heed,
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News from your village schools

It seems amazing that we are already writing about our end of term events, but we have lots planned for our children and for the village to support.

Both schools will enjoy taking part in the West Norfolk Schools Cross Country Race and in the High 5 netball tournament. Both schools have travelling Bookfairs visiting their schools. St George's starts on 20th February for a week and the Infant schools' starts on 22nd March for three days. Parents and children have the opportunity to come into to the schools at the end of the day to purchase books from the wide selection on display. Clifford Norgate will be entertaining the children with dramatised readings from some of the books during St George's Book Week.

The children at **Dersingham Infant and Nursery School** have enjoyed a good term so far and our six and seven year old children especially enjoyed their Young Town Planners day at Heacham Infant School. It was great fun building houses and making a town. Our children have also followed a village trail looking at houses and plan to visit St Nicholas Church as part of their study on places of worship. We have some special events this term including: Ladies Pamper Night on Friday 3rd February at 7pm when ladies can try out some beauty treatments and later in the term a sale of quality children's clothing on 24th March from 6.30pm. Tickets for these events can be obtained from our school office on 540022. Please come along if you can.

The Friends PTA of **St George's Junior School** are organising a Quiz Night at 7pm on 28th February and an Easter Bingo on March 21st. Both events are popular family events that are open to the village community. The Easter Fair on Friday 24th March gives an opportunity for the children to organise stalls/games and fundraising ideas and this year the Easter Bunny will make an appearance. The results of the decorated egg competition will also be announced at the Easter Fair. Some of the money raised at the Christmas events is being used to purchase collections of books for the Catch Up Reading Scheme. The schools' Easter Service is at 10am on Wednesday 29th March in St Nicholas Church.

The last day of term for both schools is Friday 31st March and our children come back after Easter on Wednesday 19th April. Happy Easter everyone, from all of us!

Jackie Austin
Headteacher

Dersingham Infant and Nursery School

Carol De Witt
Headteacher

Dersingham St George's
Church of England Junior School

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Extract from Picture Post – 1 June 1957

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Ralph Waldo Emerson

Bog News - January 2006

After some beautiful, crisp days during Christmas, temperatures are now rising and the resident birds have broken into full song, signalling that spring will soon be on its way. The early morning visitor to the reserve may be rewarded by a glimpse of a golden pheasant as it makes a dash for cover, roadrunner style, with its long tail trailing behind. Whilst not a native species to Britain, the pheasants make a welcome addition to the area's avifauna, adding a splash of colour during the dull winter months. The pheasants were released near to Wolferton in about 1967 and approximately six pairs still survive in a small area centred on the Wolferton Triangle – the area of woodland between the scissors cross-roads and the A149. The birds attract bird-watchers from all over the country, who patiently come to stand and wait for an appearance. Some, however, attempt to spot the pheasants by stealthily creeping along in their cars, leading to several reports annually of curb-crawlers!

The winter management programme has progressed well and contractors have cleared almost 6.5 hectares of small scrub from the margin of the bog. The cut material has been chipped and will be used to repairs the paths around the reserve. Volunteers have continued pulling up small birch and pines that have regenerated on the restored heather areas. The attractive display of heather in bloom across the reserve last summer was testimony to the achievements of the volunteer's efforts so far and, to celebrate their successes, English Nature hosted an event at the Victoria Hotel in Holkham on the 21st January. In total, 65 volunteers attended and, following a buffet meal and talk by local goose expert Andy Bloomfield, we headed off down to Holkham Dunes National Nature Reserve to watch the awesome spectacle of over 70,000 pink-footed geese flying in to roost in the evening. These enormous flocks comprise a large proportion of the World's total population of this species and must surely rate as one of the greatest wildlife spectacles in Earth.

Before Christmas, Assistant Site Managers Chris Betts and Will Stewart mowed the newly restored heather areas to break up the dense canopy of bracken in order to allow more light in to the establishing heather plants underneath. The mowing will also promote a more vigorous growth of heather, effectively blocking out competitive species such as birch, bracken and pine. Will and Chris will be working with contractors throughout February to clear invading birch and pines from the bog using a 'Softrack' – a machine with ultra-low ground pressure that can traverse the bog without causing damage to the sensitive plants that grow there. As well as benefiting the plants that grow there, the work will also favour birds such as the lapwing.

Volunteers play an important active role in managing Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve. Organised volunteer days are held throughout the year and offer a good opportunity to contribute to the protection of this internationally important area. For further information, contact English Nature's Site Manager, Ash Murray on **01485 543044**.



Ash Murray
January 2006

Dersingham Bog
Volunteers B B Q
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DIARY OF NOTIFIED EVENTS								
Day	Date	Month	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue		
Fri	Last of every month	Every	10.00 am to 12.00 noon	St Nicholas Church	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas Church Hall		
Fri	Last of Mar and	Mar +	12.00 noon - 1.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Lent Lunches	St Nicholas Church Hall		
Thu	9	Feb	5.00 to 7.00pm	Dersingham Library	Family History Beginners' Workshop	Dersingham Library		
Sat	11	Feb	10.00 am	Dersingham First Responders	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas Church Hall		
Sat	11	Feb	10.00 to 12.00pm	Dersingham Library	Family History Beginners' Workshop	Dersingham Library		
Wed	15	Feb		Norfolk Constabulary	Mobile Police Station	Butger's Car Park		
Sat	18	Feb	10.00 am to 12.00 noon	Dersingham Methodist Church	Coffee Morning	Dersingham Methodist Church		
Mon	20 to 24	Feb	At the end of the day	Dersingham Infant & Nursery School	Book Fair	Dersingham Infant & Nursery School		
Wed	22 to 24	Feb	At the end of the day	St George's Church of England School	Book Fair	St George's Church of England School		
Mon	27	Feb	7.15pm	Dersingham Parish Council	Full Parish Council Meeting	First and Nursery School		
Tue	28	Feb	7 pm	St George's Church of England School	Gill Night	St George's Church of England School		
Mon	6	Mar	6.30 to 7.00pm	Dersingham Library	Family History Group in Surgery	Dersingham Library		
Tue	7	Mar	7.30pm	Village Voice 'Live'	David Clayton from Radio Norfolk	St Nicholas Church Hall		
Sat	11	Mar		Dersingham First Responders	Dance	St Nicholas Church Hall		
Wed	15	Mar		Norfolk Constabulary	Mobile Police Station	Butger's Car Park		
Sat	18	Mar	10.00 am to 12.00 noon	Dersingham Methodist Church	Coffee Morning	Dersingham Methodist Church		
Tue	21	Mar	7 pm	St George's Church of England School	Easter Songs	St George's Church of England School		
Wed	22	Mar		Village Voice	Deadline for Advertising and Copy			
Fri	24	Mar		St George's Church of England School	Easter Fair	St George's Church of England School		
Fri	24	Mar	6.00 pm	Dersingham Infant & Nursery School	Sale of quality children's clothing	Dersingham Infant & Nursery School		
Fri	24	Mar		Friends of St Nicholas Church	Literary Dinner with Michael Palin	Dersingham Village Centre		
Wed	29	Mar	10.00 am	St George's Church of England School	Easter Service	St Nicholas Church		
Sat	1	Apr		Dersingham First Responders	Car Wash	Butger's Car Park		
Fri	7	Apr	12.00 noon - 1.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Lent Lunch	St Nicholas Church Hall		
Wed	12	Apr	8 pm	Dersingham walking group	A mile walk	St Edmund's Chapel Hunsdon		
Sat	15	Apr	2 pm	Dersingham First Responders	Easter Raffle/Coffee/Tea	St Nicholas Church Hall		

Sun	16 & 17	Apr		St Nicholas Church	Easter Egg-strenganza	St Nicholas Church Hall
Sat	22	Apr	10.00 am to 12.00 noon	Dersingham Methodist Church	Coffee Morning	Dersingham Methodist Church
Mon	27	Mar	7.15pm	Dersingham Parish Council	Full Parish Council Meeting	First and Nursery School
Fri	31	Mar		Dersingham Schools	End of Term	Dersingham Schools
Mon	3	Apr	5.30 to 7.00pm	Dersingham Library	Family History Drop-in Surgery	Dersingham Library
Tue	4	Apr	7.30pm	Village Voice 'Live'	Museum Drake Postal demonstration	St Nicholas Church Hall
Wed	12	Apr		Village Voice	Publication Date	Citizen Newspaper
Wed	19	Apr		Dersingham Schools	Term Commences	Dersingham Schools
Sat	29	Apr		St Nicholas Church	Garage Sale	St Nicholas Church Hall
Mon	15	May	5.30 to 7.00pm	Dersingham Library	Family History Drop-in Surgery	Dersingham Library
Sun	28 & 29	May		St Nicholas Church	Open Gardens	Various locations in the village
Mon	12	Jun	5.30 to 7.00pm	Dersingham Library	Family History Drop-in Surgery	Dersingham Library
Thu to Sun	20 to 23	Jul		St Nicholas Church	Flower Festival	St Nicholas Church

COULD YOU BE A VOLUNTEER APPROPRIATE ADULT?... (With Norfolk Social Services)

...Could you help to support vulnerable people who find themselves caught up in the Criminal Justice System?

There is an urgent need for Volunteer Appropriate Adults across the County. The role is important and interesting, training is given, as well as conferences and regular support meetings for volunteers. Appropriate Adults are a requirement of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act of 1984, to safeguard the rights of vulnerable people in custody. The Appropriate Adult is anyone who is independent of the police, who will ensure that the detained person understands all that is happening, who will aid communication, advocate when necessary and make sure that the due process of law is followed.

If you are over 18, can commit some time to this most interesting and important task, if you have empathy with the vulnerable members of our society and have good communication skills, we would like to hear from you.

For further information please contact either:

Elizabeth Halford - 01603 495103 or Janet Dean - 01502 678256

News in Brief

Nearly £700 was raised in a Dersingham fashion and beauty event held in memory of two young people from the village who died in road accidents. Staff at Charlie's Hair Tanning and Beauty Salon in the village organised the fundraising day on Saturday 26 November at St Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church Hall in Mountbatten Road, with a sponsored haircut raising a lot of the cash. The money was donated to the neuro-science critical care unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, where Dersingham residents Carly Gosnell (22), of Bank Road, and Jamie Griffin (17) were treated. Jamie was hit by a car in Manor Road on June 3, and died a week later. Carly was involved in an accident on the A149 at Heacham on 26 July, and died on 1 August. Her boyfriend Martin Haywood (23), also died in the same accident. As part of the day Kelly Fox who knew Jamie and Carly, and who works in the production department at the Lynn News, managed to raise £420 after being sponsored to have her waist-length hair cut to above her shoulders. Around £250 was raised by other events. Facials, manicures and mini-makeovers were available, with by a catwalk show at the end.

Sugarcraft specialist Dorothy Whitehead (77) held her third exhibition and sale at the end of November when around 100 of her pieces were on show at Dersingham Community Centre, many of them for sale. Mrs Whitehead, of Iveagh Close, uses sugar paste to create realistic three-dimensional botanical pictures. The proceeds of refreshments served throughout the exhibition will go the Lynn News Helipad Appeal for Lynn's Queen Elizabeth Hospital. **Helen and Liz have done it again!** Helen Buckenham and Liz Smith have once again raised a substantial amount through collections on behalf of 'Action for ME' which should benefit the charity to the tune of some £500.

Charlotte Dady has blown it! Her flute that is! Once again the twelve-year-old from Park Hill has been entertaining visitors to Thaxter's Garden Centre with her virtuosity on the instrument, whilst raising cash for her chosen charity, the RSPCA. It doesn't seem like a year since we issued a similar report about her efforts.

Well-done Duncan Goose! We reported in the August issue that former Dersingham resident Duncan Goose had set up a charitable organisation named Global Ethics to sell bottled water which is called 'One', the profit from which is to provide funds to enable people in the third world to extract and conserve fresh water by a unique system of children's roundabouts. Duncan has now overcome a major stumbling block of sourcing outlets for the bottled product, which will be available at Total petrol stations and at Morrison's supermarkets. He is currently in discussion with other potential retailers who may also become involved. We at Village Voice wish him well in his venture.

Helen and Keith Rowlinson of Dersingham are to be complimented on their achievement in donating 19 specialist wheelchairs to children and adults in North West India. The wheelchairs were ordered by Lions Club International and manufactured for them in India, thus also providing aid to the local economy.

Congratulations go to Dersingham residents Alan Melton and David Watts who have received the Royal Victorian Medal in the Queen's New Year's Honours List. Alan is a forestry foreman at Sandringham, having served on the estate for 24 years, while David, a former estate carpenter who served for 47 years, received the gold award having been given a silver medal in 1993. Other estate workers who have been honoured include Mark Perry of Bircham and Darren Gallacher of Flitcham, along with Tony Fitt-Savage, the recently retired organist at Sandringham Church.

cont on P69

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News in Brief

Is our local Dersingham Fire Service under threat? Cuts are forecast! It has been announced that there are likely to be severe cuts made to the service provided by the Norfolk Fire Service, which could have an impact on the Sandringham station based in Dersingham. The threat, according to Norfolk's Chief Fire Officer Richard Elliot, comes about due to a potential shortage of funds with which to support the present county service if local council tax increases are not set at 4% or more. Mr Elliot also says that even if this level of increase were achieved, cutbacks would be still be needed in other areas. Our Dersingham team average some 150 to 200 'shouts' a year, which would be greatly affected if one or both of the vehicles should be withdrawn due to a reduction in the level of staffing by the retained firemen.

Village Vandals have been at it again – this time putting lives in danger! – Flashing rope lights put up in their garden for the Christmas period by the Race family of Manor Road were pulled from their supports causing damage to the electrical supply unit which serviced it. The damage caused, had it not been discovered almost immediately, could well have been the catalyst for a major electrical fault within the Race's home, or worse, could have led to a fire, putting their home and lives at risk. We ask again, what possible pleasure can the people who do these things get from destroying other people's property?

Local line dance teacher Yvonne has made another charity donation – with the help of her Heacham and Dersingham dancers Yvonne has managed to give a cheque for £500 to help breast cancer patients at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the figure now raised by Yvonne and her friends, through monthly raffles, amounts to £8,000 for the Save a Life fund.

St George's Middle School pupil Poppy Hawkins is to be congratulated for having achieved success in a bible competition which saw her receive bible from Her Majesty the Queen, which bore the sovereign's signature. 10 year old Poppy, of Snettisham, was accompanied at the presentation at Sandringham House by her parents, Marcus and Estelle.

A Walpole St Peter man has appeared at King's Lynn Magistrate's Court accused of carrying out the 4 April 2005 ramraid at Thaxter's Spar supermarket he was remanded on conditional bail until committal proceedings take place on 3 February. The charges against the defendant include the theft of a cash machine and cash valued at £24,190 and the theft at Barton Bendish of a red Mitsubishi Shogun worth £5,000 which was used in the ramraid.

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

The West Norfolk Community Transport Project operates the Dial-a-bus service and the Shopmobility scheme in West Norfolk. The Dial-a-bus operation involves easily accessible minibuses providing door-to-door rural and urban bus services answering the transport needs of those people who have mobility problems and those who have difficulty accessing public transport. At this present time we operate a weekly Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday service into King's Lynn. We also bring people into Hunstanton from the Docking area on a Wednesday. The Shopmobility scheme is specifically for those people who have difficulty accessing shops and services because of long term or short term limited mobility. Members have free use of powered scooters, wheelchairs, walking frames and self propelled wheelchairs. This scheme is now available 5-days a week in King's Lynn. The project is always looking for volunteers to help in the provision and expansion of its current services. If you have mobility problems and cannot access public transport then please let us know.

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

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; Wednesdays – 15 February and 15 March 2006, when Public Enquiry Officers Linda Forder and Pete Shaw will be in attendance along with P.C.Stan Cobon.

Services which include; Advice, Crime recording, Information, Lost and found property, Crime prevention advice and literature. Useful contact telephone numbers are; Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111 and Norfolk Constabulary: 01953 424242

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

Advertising in Village Voice

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

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

For those readers who perhaps provide a local service but who do not currently advertise with us, you may consider a fee of from £10 for an eighth of a page per issue, to be very cost effective.

Advertisements for inclusion in the next newsletter should be in the hands of Sarah Bristow, Parish Clerk, Dersingham Parish Council, The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LH **by Wednesday 22 March 2006** Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.

Articles for publication in the April edition of Village Voice must reach the editor at 45 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Dersingham, before the **deadline date of Wednesday 22 March 2006 for publication on Wednesday 12 April 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 Newsletter of Dersingham Parish Council

The Production Team consists of

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