#### Dersingham Village Voice

Issue 39 April 2006

#### Village Open Day Come and find out what the clubs, societies and other organisations have to offer you

From 2 pm - 4 pm on Saturday 22 April at St Cecilia's Catholic Church, Mountbatten Road



#### The organisations taking part will include:

Carpet Bowls
Dersingham Minors Football
Dersingham Bowls Club
Dersingham Horticultural Society
Dersingham Infant & Nursery Schools
Dersingham W I
Dersingham Parish Council
Flower Clubs
Guides & Rainbows
Ladies Royal British Legion
Methodist Church
Mothers Union
Royal British Legion
St Nicholas Church
St Nicholas Parent & Toddler Group

Refreshments

Entrance free

#### **Parish Council Report**

The council met on 16 January to discuss the precept (budget) requirements for the next financial year. An approximate increase of 5%, depending on banding, was approved. It was resolved that for 2007/8 any increase would be limited by a 5% ceiling.

The 30th January meeting was very run of the mill with no noteworthy items arising as most of the month's business was done at the previous meeting.

News at the 27 February meeting gave considerable joy to the Councillors as we learnt that the Old Hall Development would be finished on 23 March and our resulting traffic problems at the site would be disappearing. Councillors expressed the hope that the building of the new surgery would be better organised. Also at this meeting we were addressed by Mr Dave Rodwell on the work of the Youth and Community Service.

Over 50 angry members of the public attended an extra meeting on 13 March called to consider an application from Mr D. Suiter for a builder's yard accessed from Prince Charles Close. The council recommended refusal which was in accord with the wishes of the public attending.

## Sarah's Piece



Hi - It does not feel like spring yet but we can only hope that it comes soon. Plans are well underway for the **Open Day on 22 April** at St Cecilia's Catholic Church. Hopefully you will be able to attend and come and support the festival fund by buying a balloon and you could win £25.00.

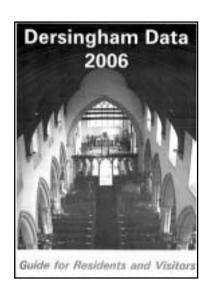
We are holding some Thursday afternoon **Car Boots.** These are to take place on **30 March**, **13 April**, **27 April**, **11 May and 25 May so far**. Hopefully these will go down well. So come along and have a stall or buy a bargain. Cars £5.00 Cars & Trailer or Vans £7.00.

The next event is the **Festival**, **A Celebration of Dersingham Life**. This is due to take place from **Saturday 29 July to Sunday 6 August**. We will be having a table at the Open day explaining what is already planned. If you are in an organisation within the village and would like to promote your organisation or project please come and have use of the marquee during the afternoons and evenings of festival week. I still need to know of people interested in the all faith, open air gathering for the afternoon of 30 July. A pull-out programme will be attached to the next issue of Village Voice. Watch this space.

Now looking even further to the end of the year our **Carol Evening** will take place on the Recreation Ground on **16 December 2006.** We are hoping to be able to close the upper end of Station Road and have a Christmas/French Market. More details to follow.

The Parish Council along with Estate Agents in the area are going to offer a welcome pack to anyone moving into the village. If any organisations would like to provide anything to go into the pack would they please give me a ring at the office.





## Editor's



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## Letters to the Editor

Mr D W Pike of Edinburgh Way writes: re- the front cover picture of Dersingham Data, Photograph of St Nicholas Church – 1904. What a lovely internal picture of our village Church and what clever manipulation of picture by the photographer to have inserted the overhead halogen lighting, the ramp for use by disabled members of the congregation, the removal of the front two pews to allow the Church to be used for other purposes and lastly the introduction of white boxes on the Church columns – my guess is some sort of sound enhancement. As a new photographer with a folding plate camera I would be interested in the (time) exposure given. Bryan Tann of Chestnut Close writes: I am an avid reader of Dick Melton's regular contributions to Village Voice (and, of course, his letters to the Lynn News). I am a bit of a local historian myself, but, unlike him, only a novice of a mere ten years' residence. His piece on another man with a fund of local knowledge, Bernard Twite, leaving the village and retiring to Cyprus, brought back old memories. I first met Bernard when he was a teenager and I was a young reporter on the Lynn News, occasionally visiting his parents at their Lynn Road home, appropriately named "Gladwal". His mother, Gladys, was then the long-serving village correspondent for the paper; his father, Wallace, worked on the Sandringham Estate as well as being parish council clerk and thus knew a lot about the activities of the Royal Family when they were in residence. Bernard obviously inherited his parents' great love and knowledge of the area, Incidentally, Dick Melton's "Sunny Hunny" appellation always makes me smile. I wonder how many know who thought up this phrase? In the early 1980s, Terry Wogan, in his long-running Radio 2 morning programme, obviously found the name of the Lincolnshire town of Scunthorpe amusing, and would inevitably refer to it as "sunny Scunny". By this time, I had risen to the dizzy heights of the Lynn News subeditors desk. When writing a headline, a "sub" is always seeking short words to make it fit the requisite width. Previously we had invariably used the abbreviation "Huns'ton" for that seaside town, as had generations of true sons of West Norfolk. Then one of my colleagues - I believe it was in fact the deputy editor, Paul Watson - came up with the variation "Sunny Hunny". And it stuck - so much so that it is now widely used all over West Norfolk, even, sometimes, by no less than the august officers of the borough council for publicity purposes. Talking of abbreviations for place names, when I was a lad the aforementioned true sons of the area would never refer to the town as anything other than Lynn, the original name (albeit with a changed spelling), and those born there (of whom I am proud to be one) as Linnets – still recalled in the town football club's nickname. The adjective "King's" was inevitably dropped. The Lynn News still uses the term Lynn (think how many thousands of words THAT saves!) The custom goes back a long way, as every nearby town or village with a road leading towards the town calls it Lynn Road - with the notable exception of Hunstanton (or Huns'ton, or Hunny!), which is a mere stripling town created a century-and-a-half ago by ardent royalists, the Le Stranges.

Neil Adams writes: Dersingham Open Gardens - 28th and 29th May 2005 - 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm The success and enjoyment of this annual event is due to the villagers who kindly agree to open their gardens to the public for these two afternoons. Some of the gardens ar old favourites from previous years, but there are always some new horticultural gems to see. It is fascinating to discover the variety of gardens hidden away behind fence and hedge around Dersingham. There are woodlands with little streams, borders brimming with colour and interesting plants; there are formal and informal ponds, rockeries, bonsai collections and many other unique attractions. You can join the tour of the garden at any point, although most start at the Church Hall where there is suitable parking. The entrance fee is £2.50 (under 16s: free). You will receive a plan of the village and a list of the open gardens. You can travel round on foot although getting to some of the gardens in this large village you may need to use your car. Please park carefully and avoid blocking gateways - or go by bicycle. Look out for the yellow signs outside participating gardens Cream teas will be available at the Church Hall, where there will also be a bric-a-brac stall. There are toilets at the Church Hall and the Church. As with last year 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 Neil on 540857 if you would like to find out more. Income from the Open Garden event is for the benefit of the parish church. Please tell your friends and make a note to come and support the Methodist church too.

Non Burrell of King's Croft writes: Many thanks for including the photo of Dersingham class of 48/49. It has provoked a lot of interest amongst many former pupils and we have managed to identify the missing names. I am enclosing two more photographs showing the football team and cricket team of the same era as previous. I hope you can use them in future editions of the Village Voice. They have been loaned to me by my brother Brian Pike. Hope you can find use for them. Many thanks to you and your team for a great village magazine.

(Editor's note: The mentioned photographs are included on page 12 of this issue along with some information given to us regarding the picture published previously)

Mrs Sybil Pugh of Queen Elizabeth Drive writes: I was particularly interested in Harry Thorpe's article in the February Village Voice, as I also lived in Heath Road during the time he was there. Mrs Mann was my grandmother and I lived with her and her daughter, Grace, in the house with the barn at the top of the road. Mrs Annie Ralph, Harry's neighbour, was another of her daughters, whose son, Raymond, was Harry's best friend. The youngest son, Donnie, emigrated to Australia. I do not remember 'The Fat Man', but in one of the cottages opposite lived an eccentric gentleman called Mr Leake, who always wore morning dress, spats and a buttonhole. He was nicknamed 'The Everlasting Bridegroom', At school I was taught by Miss Hudson, Miss Cattyn, Miss Alexander, Mr Clarke and Miss Amy Cook. The latter's classroom was large and had two fires, but, sitting at the back on some winter days it was very cold and it was not easy to write with numb fingers. Periodically a caravan was parked in the playground – not always a welcome sight. The school dentist had arrived! We were not short of physical exercise as we walked to school in the morning. back home for dinner, back to school and home again in the afternoon. Also skipping and hopscotch were popular, at least with the girls. Weather permitting, we spent hours playing, mostly on the open common. There were no trees, so there was plenty of space for cricket, rounders, etc... We had picnics and made dens amongst the gorse bushes, despite the prickles. On Saturdays I would spend my one penny (old money) pocket money at Playford's, where you could buy two different ha'porth of sweets. There was a good selection – aniseed balls, coconut strips. Gobstopppers, liquorice laces, etc. Sometimes on Saturdays there would be a film show in the Foresters' Hall. My grandmother often gave Arthur Dowdy a glass of ginger wine, if she saw him going past. Sometimes, if we knew he had gone to the village, we were curious but did not interfere with any of his meagre possessions. It was his home after all, and, to him, his 'castle'. As our father was a gardener on the estate, my sister and I remember going to the Christmas

celebrations at Sandringham. Most of the Royal Family would be there distributing presents to everybody. Harry's sister, Catherine, was a friend of mine and one of our pastimes was to make miniature gardens in the woods at Sandringham. After one episode, Catherine, my cousin Pauline Mann and I were all off school sick the next day presumably from handling poisonous toadstools. We learnt the hard way. A Miss Stanton was the district nurse who visited her patients on a pushbike, in all weathers. One winter's night she came to do a dressing for me. It was cold and blowing a gale and she had just cycled from tending a patient at Wolferton. No car for her. Those days in Dersingham we had the space and freedom to play and roam, which may be denied to many of today's children. I can look back on a happy childhood.

Ion Trewin, Beck House, 88 Chapel Road, Dersingham.(Ion130743@aol.com) writes:Sir Alan Lascelles (private secretary to King George VI and known to his friends as Tommy) kept a diary. extracts from which will be published as a book under the title, King's Counsellor, in November. As the publisher of the book I have two queries, which I trust a Village Voice reader will be able to answer. Was Sandringham House closed down for the whole of the second world war? Certainly the royal family on its wartime visits stayed at Appleton, which I believe had been given by Edward VII to his daughter, later Queen Maud of Norway. Or was Sandringham requisitioned for war use, and, if so, who by whom and for how long? The second question requires me to quote from Lascelles' diary entry on January 20, 1945 when he records the visit to Appleton of the then Bishop of Norwich, Rt Rev Percy Herbert: 'The Bishop of Norwich enlivened the evening by going off into a dead faint in the drawing-room after dinner, while the King was telling golf stories. I had just time to steer him into an arm-chair before he became unconscious; we then laid him out on the floor, and H. Campbell, acting on medical lore picked up in some naval cockpit, vigorously massaged his legs and stomach. Whether as a result of this treatment, or in spite of it, he eventually came to after about twenty minutes, and we got him to bed and summoned the doctor from Dersingham to have a look at him.' The following day, a Sunday, Lascelles adds: 'The Bishop, apparently none the worse for his syncope, preached a good sermon about death, in Sandringham church, and took a brisk walk with me after luncheon. He is a good, broad-minded man.' The Bishop was to live on to 1968. But my question for Village Voice readers; who was the Dersingham doctor in 1945?

J.D. Tomlinson of Windsor Drive writes: Having read Dick Melton's column, and after phoning him, I would like to submit the following for publication. St. George's School – Mr Gee must have been Eddie Gee! After St. George's he went on to now what is Smithdon School (The Glasshouses as it was called), he used to punish by a Size 10 trainer across the rear end, and it hurt!! Myself getting more than one!! Winters Past – I served my apprenticeship at Carter's King's Lynn, as a bricklayer from the age of 16, with a Mr Willie Hohol who was Ukrainian, lives in Snettisham, who actually was at Snettisham Prison Camp, I may add, captured by mistake and totally innocent. I was born in June 1946 and I remember my mother saying that winter was very bad, and I didn't, and couldn't, venture out, as a baby, until late spring. I can recall, also, the winter of 62/63, my first winter at work, living in Heath Road at the time. Milk was delivered, and the bottle-tops were a good 2 inches above the bottle in a matter of half-an-hour!! I had a little 50cc moped and had to travel to Lynn every morning and back again to Dersingham. I phoned Dick and asked him "Do you know what 715 NG means?" - "No!" he answered – I told him this was the 350 Norton motorbike I owned after him, + sidecar. "Oh, Yes" he replied and suggested I write to yourselves. I have very fond memories of Dersingham, we have got it all, haven't we? The right side of the road (unlike Heacham,, the benefit of lovely walks on the much worked upon Common, and no traffic as it used to be before the bypass!

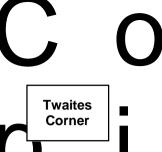
Steve Donoclift. NCC Countryside officer writes (to the Chairman of the Parish Council): Just to let you know what we are trying to achieve on Dersingham Fen. Many of the older generation

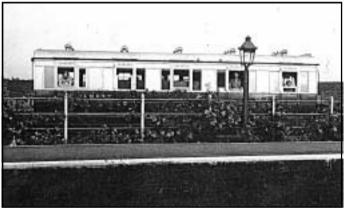
of Dersingham can remember the time when they could look from the hill across the open Fen. On meeting with the Trustees of the site, it was decided that we should try to re-create that open aspect to some degree. The way it used to be'. The felling work was carried out by a local contractor with Forest Enterprise and English Nature consent. However I am well aware that we need to tidy the site up and will NOT be happy until this has been achieved, I will be liaising with the contractor very closely in the next few weeks to fulfil this goal. I will not be widening the trees any more because the vista created, I think, gives a great view across the Fen and the view from the fen back to the hill looks impressive also. However in the future I may consider thinning the tree belt adjacent to the Fen to reduce the seed source, I will of course keep all parties informed. Ash Murray has given his valuable and helpful advice, as always. The trustees are also supportive.

David Wright of 116 Dorridge Road, Solihull, West Midlands B93 8BN (who receives the Village Voice by mail) writes: Thank you for my February Dersingham Village Voice—as ever there is much of interest. Page 5-letter from Mr Turner - There are two butcher Terrington relatives that I know and I will tell Pat Linford, whose mother was Maisie née Terrington about the entry. Her father was the same Mr Terrington mentioned as living near the corner of Manor Road and Heath Road in 'Harry Thorpe recalls' on page 26. On page 27 is mentioned 'the shop and home of a family named Drew... across the road from them was the barber's shop'. I believe he means a family named DEW – they were opposite the barber shop of George King. The Dews ran a fish and chip shop in the 1930's and Mr Dew kept pigs I recollect on the allotments. I have no recollection of any harness business. Could that have been run before the Dews arrived? Certainly there were quite big sheds by the property which could have been used. I have spoken to the widower son in law of the Dews and he has no recollection of any such business being spoken about by the Dews or his wife who was Doreen Dew. There is still a son of the Dews, Jim, living in Canberra, who I visited two years ago. I found Mr Thorpe highly interesting. He mentions his Grandfather Mr J R Rainbow in 1868 at Sandringham as tapissier; he must have known my Great Grandfather William Wells who started at Sandringham as an upholsterer and Carpenter in 1876 On page 32 mention is made to teachers Mr and Mrs Bell. The William Wells to whom I have just referred was Mrs Elsie Bell's Grandfather. Dersingham Football Club 1922/23 appears on page 44. It is the second time that I have seen that photo. You may recollect an article you published by Peter Hooks about his Father Alec Hooks, written as he approached 100. A year or so ago I went

#### क के के के के के के के के के DERSINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH \$ ANNUAL FLOWER FESTIVAL THURSDAY 25th MAY TO MONDAY 29th MAY THEME - ALL GOOD GIFTS AROUND US We invite you to come and see the stunning displays daily from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm and from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm on Sunday. The theme is food and each display is based on a story or event from the Bible. We will be serving morning coffees, lunches, afternoon teas & you can purchase cakes gifts, plants, books and cards. On Sunday 28 the 10.30 am service will be conducted by the Rev Graham Thompson and the 6.30 pm service will be a Songs of Praise. Funds raised will be for our Refurbishment Fund. We look forward to seeing you. Further information from Elizabeth Batstone 01485 541068. \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$







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#### **News From Dersingham Library**

The Dersingham Library Reading group is still going strong with an average of one new member each month. A reminder that they meet on the third Monday of the month from 6pm, so if anyone is interested in joining please come along. The next Family History drop-in for those who are stuck with their research and want a few pointers to where to go next, will be on Monday April 3rd, then May 15th from 5.30-7pm. This slot may be changing times soon, so keep an eye on Village Voice for details.

Channel 4s Richard and Judy Book Club has come to an end and there's a reminder that we have all the titles at the library if you fancy trying them. I'd recommend Eva Rice's Lost Art of Keeping Secrets!

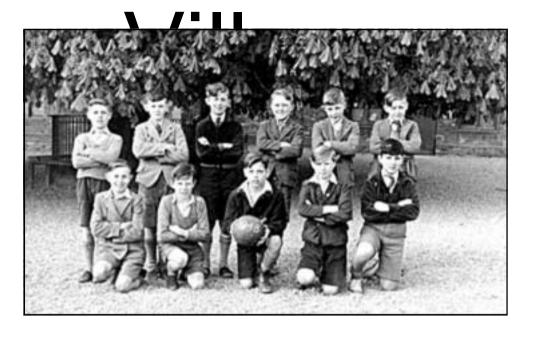
Our holiday time will



Easter storybe on

Wednesday April 12th from 2.30-3.30pm. Under 7s must be accompanied.

And don't forget that you still have until the end of April to collect stamps on your Love your Library Loyalty Cards. All completed cards will be entered into a prize draw to win a family break at Center Parcs.









#### NO NAMES OR NUMBERS Mick Mossendew © Feb 06

Is your home anonymous, has it got a name?
Has it got a number, on a road or down a lane?
Delivery drivers young and old, First Responders too,
Fire, Police and Ambulance Could have problems finding you!

Navigation systems are commonplace today,
But if no name or number how does one find the way?
Let's talk about your number, put on when the house was new,
Have you painted over it, so it is out of view?

The screws have rusted, it's fallen off, no longer to be seen, Why bother to replace it? The paperboy's just been If you haven't got a number you've probably got a name, But if it's hidden behind the hedge who really can we blame?

If the name is on the gate, is it low or high?
Is it really legible, or does one drive straight by?
With no name or number one plays a dangerous game,
Your postcode really does not help if you live down an un-named lane.

It's time to take some action, we must know where you live,

If you have an emergency, our expertise we give.

If we cannot find you could it be too late?

Is the name still hidden, where's the number on the gate?



Deliveries or emergencies, we need to get to you, Make sure your name or number is clearly in our view. Go outside and have a look, do a name or number test If either's clear then say "Well done, we know we've done our best."



#### Since publishing the 2006 edition of Dersingham DATA (please contact us on 01485 541465 if you have not received a copy), we have received the following amendments:

- \* The contact for the 1<sup>st</sup> Dersingham Brownie Guides is now Mrs Sandra Hullett (telephone: 543960)
- \* The telephone number for the Carole Brown Health Centre on the 'Useful Numbers' page is incorrect: it should be 01485 541788 (the correct number is given in the yellow page directory section).

#### THE FIRST OF THE WINTER ALE By Frank Nichols, Steve Nowell & Ian Stockwell

(not to be confused with 'The Last of the Summer Wine')

Miley Pratt's mother still lives in Dersingham and is 87 years old. For her age she has a remarkably agile mind and it bothers him that she can still do any crossword quicker than he can. (In fact he hasn't finished one this year.) But such subjects as astronomy and physics are not her forte. So it wasn't really a surprise to him when she said to him one day: -

"Miles, I really think you should always wear a crash helmet in case a 'Black Hole' drops on vou."

"Pardon?"

"These 'Black Hole' things - they're very heavy you know."

"Yea! but..."

"Quiet Miles! Mother knows best!

And so it was that the Three Not-So-Wise Men decided at their first official meeting at the Feathers to look into the subject of: -

#### BLACK HOLES IN SPACE (just to put Miley's Mum's mind at rest)

In his student days Oliver was a widely read young man and he recalled, he thought, a book by that renowned Astronomer Royal, Sir Murgatroyd Stunfiddler FRS (long since deceased), entitled 'Instant Oblivion'. This epic, far-seeing work was well ahead of it's time and even then defined a 'Black Hole' as a massive star which has collapsed in upon itself until it's immense weight is contained within a very small volume. Thus creating a minute body of almost infinite density. Because of this, the black hole has an exceptionally strong gravitational field associated with it that draws other bodies towards it such as stars and galaxies.

"We can't print that!" Said Miley. "Our readers will worry in case the sun turns into a black hole and sucks up the earth".

"OK, we'll have to explain that our sun is far too small ever to become a black hole" replied Oliver.

"Excuse me, but shouldn't we be talking about 'colourless holes' instead of 'black holes'?" chipped in Larry. "After all, we do live in an age of political correctness".

"Colourless substances transmit light. Black holes are so dense that even light cannot escape from them. Sir Murgatroyd says so, so we stick with 'black' holes. OK?" countered Oliver sitting erect with his thumbs behind his lapels.

"Yes SIR!" muttered Larry.

The three men continued their deliberations and wondered what would happen if a black hole passed close to the earth. Firstly they thought that the situation couldn't arise because the nearest black hole is billions of miles away and is far too busy gobbling up other galaxies to worry about having our puny little earth for breakfast.

"But just suppose..." threw in Miley who is a bit of a worrier anyway. Oliver did little to reassure his friend.

"Then you would be reduced to something like a mega-billionth of your size and would disappear upwards rather rapidly."

"Oh. cheers!"

Oliver went on to quote from Sir Murgatroyd who had said that anything disappearing into a black hole goes right through it and emerges into another universe on the other side.

"Where fine ale and petrol might be cheaper than here?" suggested Larry.

Sir Isaac Newton proved that the force of attraction between two bodies is dependent on the sizes of those bodies. Thus a big body will have a greater force of attraction (gravitational force) to another big body than it will have to a small body. The deep-thinking three some pondered for the duration of a whole half pint on what would happen if a black hole passed over Dersingham Church at a particular height one Sunday morning whereby it exerted some, but not too much upward force. They considered that, generally speaking, gentlemen are larger than ladies therefore

the gents would fly skywards leaving large and expensive holes in the church roof, while the ladies would remain in their pews (possibly with their hair standing on end) looking at the empty pulpit which the Vicar had vacated vertically in such a hurry. The sopranos and altos might hear a rushing sound as the tenors and basses behind them followed the Vicar; but that would be no great loss they thought as the men always made too much noise anyway (They chose the word 'noise' carefully!). For the next Sunday service the bells would simply ring 'dong, dong, dong' instead of 'dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong' because the three gentlemen bell-ringers would no longer be there to supply the remaining three 'dongs'.

Miles was still a bit worried.

"Fine. I know it can't happen because Sir Murgatroyd said so; but just suppose it did? How would we know if a black hole was going to pass overhead?"

Larry saw this as an ideal opportunity to 'wind up' his friend.

'Well, you keep an eye on the church flag. Things higher up would be more attracted to the black hole than things lower down. So you might see the flag pointing straight up, perhaps with a stream of sparks going up from it, whereas you might only feel that horrible beard of vours twitch a little".

"What do I do then?"

"Dig a great big hole in a great big hurry then jump in it!"

The Three Not-So-Wise Men finished their third 'half and sat back in a self-satisfied mode. In a few days time their findings would be publicised around Dersingham and Miley's Mum could return to her crosswords with an easier mind. They walked round from the Feathers on their way home. As they turned the corner by the church the wind was blowing quite keenly. Larry looked up and to his sheer surprise he saw the church flag pointing downwards in a taut state and flapping at the edges; bathed in a narrow beam of intense light.

"Good grief; we're being attacked by a 'White' hole! What do we do now?"

Oliver, as ever, was the calm one.

'Climb the highest tree you can find then jump up and down!"

It was only Alan 'ding-a-ling' Bell, the Tower Captain and Ringing Master at St. Nicholas Church trying to free the flag from it's flagpole with the aid of a torch in the high wind. (With that surname he just had to be the Ringing Master, didn't he? True though.)

#### St Nicholas Men's Group

The St Nicholas Men's Group meets in the Church Hall, on the second Wednesday of each month at 10-30 am Membership of the group is open to males of all ages and religions. The group meets for fellowship, education (in the widest sense of the word), and, of course a cup of tea or coffee. New members are welcome. Guest speakers address the group on a wide variety of topics. Recent talks have included Horatio Nelson, old Lynn, and Norfolk's vanishing villages. The group has monies available which can be used to assist local groups or charities. If a Dersingham group or charity has, or is planning a specific project which would benefit from a donation then, the first contact should be with the groups chairman, Mr Edgar Cooper. (telephone no: 540865) who will be pleased to receive details of the project. It should be noted that prospective recipients may be asked to present details of the project to the SNMG Committee

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# Greenish Fingers

11 March 2006

My first Greenish Fingers' Notebook appeared in April 2000, when the Village Voice was in its infancy. It was written six years ago to the day, a sombre piece about a dead starling, with reflections on how we try in this garden to be wildlife friendly. I was upset, not by the starling's death, but by the manner of it. It was trapped by dead brambles and must have died slowly.

Of course, all wild creatures, all living creatures, must die. We know this. But I still find



myself accepting only unwillingly, and rather bitterly, the manner of some wild creatures' dying. The squashed frogs and hedgehogs on our streets, for instance. It happens. They get in the way. It can't be helped. There were two flattened frogs yesterday on our own short road. I cycled by. Am I accepting? A few years ago I would have returned with a shovel and given them at least the dignity of lying beneath the orchard turf. But yesterday I didn't.

Why? I don't know. Am I more realistic? Perhaps hardened, inured to road slaughter? Perhaps leaving the shovelling-up to others, having tired of being the one who always does it? Perhaps just tired; and older. The frogs will gradually be ground away to nothing by the tyres that roll relentlessly over them.

Blackbirds. They do swoop across roads on what seem to be suicide missions. When they are hit, there they lie,

forgotten. I have buried a few, over the years. Alive, they are the most delightfully entertaining of creatures, so bouncy, vocal, inquisitive yet cautious, greedy and dog-in-the-mangerish. Who hasn't seen a blackbird chase another from the bird table, only to swoop off without taking a single crumb or seed itself? I watch them from the kitchen window, and I could swear I know some of them individually.

Sparrowhawks target our garden birds, despite our efforts to camouflage the feeding stations, hanging them under evergreen leaves, etc. Cats, too, are quick and agile. However, having in the past thirty years kept numerous moggies, I'd say that cats only take a very fair share of birds. The worst are the cats that are left to roam at night, for they are ready to pounce on hungry birds at dawn. I feel cats should be provided with litter trays, kept in till after breakfast. Of course, there comes a time in a cat's life when it's really no longer interested in hunting, home comforts being all it wants.

There's good news about goldfinches: the RSPB garden birds count this winter found

#### Credit Card Scam A Report from the Local Home Watch Team

By understanding how the VISA & MasterCard Telephone Credit Card Scam works, you'll be better prepared to protect yourself. One of a national bank's employees was called from "VISA" and another employee was later called from "MasterCard".

Note, the callers do not ask for your Card number; they already have it! The scam works like this: Person calling says, "This is (name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My Badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card that was issued by (name of bank). Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for £249.99 from a Marketing company based in (name of any town or city)?" When you say "No" the caller continues with, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from £150 to £249, just under the £250 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?" You say "yes". The caller continues - "I will be starting a Fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 0800 number listed on the back of your card and ask for Security. You will need to refer to this Control Number. The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. "Do you need me to read it again?" Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works. The caller then says, I need to verify you are in possession of your card". He'll ask you to turn your card over and look for some numbers". There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are part of your card number, the next 3 are the security Numbers that verify you are the possessor of the card. These are the numbers you sometimes use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card. The caller will ask you to read the 3 numbers to him. After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, "That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?" After you say "No", the caller then thanks you and states, "Don't hesitate to call back if you do", and hangs up. You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the Card number. But after being called, the employees called back within 20 minutes to ask a question, and are they glad they did! The REAL VISA Security Department told them it was a scam and that in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of £249.99 had been charged to their card. A long story made short - a real fraud report was made and the VISA account was closed. VISA issued a new number.

What the scammers want is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card. Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or Mastercard directly for verification of their conversation. The real VISA said that they will never ask for anything on the card as they already know the information since they issued the card! If you give the scammers your 3 Digit PIN you think you're receiving a credit. However, by the time you get your statement you'll see Charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost too late and/or more difficult to actually file a fraud report. What makes this more remarkable is that following the reported incidents one of the people involved got a call from a "Jason Richardson of MasterCard" with a word-for-word repeat of the VISA scam. This time s/he didn't let him finish, but hung up! A report was filed with the police, as instructed by VISA. The police said they are taking several of these reports daily! They also urged everybody to be told that this scam is happening.

Please pass this on to all your family and friends. By informing each other we protect each other.

#### School Photograph on Front Cover of Issue 38

The Editor has been contacted by readers who have informed him of the following:

George Axten's name was incorrectly spelt

The photo was taken in the summer of 1947

Missing names are (2nd Row left) Gillian McPherson (related to the Riches family)

(Front Row 4th from right) Michael Whitty (Front Row 2nd from right) Beris Davison

#### Can You Help Dave Perry Piece Together His Step-Father's Time in Our Village?



Dave Perry of Wymondham has contacted us with a view to finding information which relates to his step-father's connection with this village. Dave's father, Sergeant, Acting BSM, James Plain MM (who is seen in the photograph on page 19, which were taken at about the time of his service in Dersingham, Dave's mother is seen in the picture below), a regular soldier with the 284th Norfolk Yeomanry, Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, 'P' Battery, was stationed in Dersingham in the 1950s, training members of the Territorial Army (The Commanding Officer of the Battery was Peter Chapman, seen 8th from left in photo above, and to his immediate right is Second-in-Command Bob Roy, a member of the Burnham Market farming family of Roy's Farms). Dave remembers attending Christmas parties which were held for the families of serving soldiers. He



recalls that at times his father was sent to Weyborne to fire guns at targets that were towed by aircraft. As an ex serviceman (army) in the local regiment Dave has a great interest in military history but knows little of his Dad's time at Dersingham. He tells us that his father was a World War Two soldier in the Northamptonshire Regiment and won the Military Medal against the Japanese in Burma. After the war he re-enlisted into the Royal regiment of Artillery when he did some service training of the Territorial Army at Dersingham. The above is a photo of the Dersingham Unit which he thinks was taken some time after World War Two, maybe on training in North Wales. Dave tells us that the men are badged to the Norfolk Yeomanry which were an Anti-tank regiment during World War Two, and that maybe some one in the village might recognise a face, or even the time and place when the picture was taken. By making contact with George Pratt it has been possible for the Editor to establish that the Dersingham Unit were the 389 Light Ack-Ack Regiment, Norfolk Yeomanry, and, as well as giving us the identity of

the two officers named above, George was able to inform us that the third person from the left on the front row is Maurice Bix who still resides in the village. George believes that the person at the right of the second row is himself. Dave, who, apart from looking up his father's past is also researching other military history, is also interested in learning something of a World War 2 holder of the Victoria Cross whom he believes is buried in St Nicholas Churchyard.

With a bit of luck some one somewhere in Dersingham and district can help him, if so, please call or write to him at: D.A. Perry, 48 Pople Street, Wymondham, Norfolk NR1 8OPS – Telephone: 01953 603953.



#### PRINCE CHARLES CLOSE

Almost 100 residents affected by the proposal to create a builder's yard at the end of Prince Charles Close turned out on the cold afternoon of 11 March to show their opposition to this planning application.

The Parish Council recommended refusal when it met to discuss the matter on 13 March after an eloquent presentation by Mrs Sue Eastmure on behalf of the 50 or so residents who attended, condemning the proposed plan.





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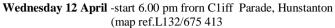
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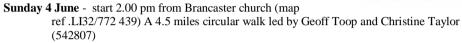
#### DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP

The number of walkers has kept up well over the winter months and we look forward to even more joining us in the summer. For the period April to August the leaders have planned the following programme which we hope will enable everyone interested to come on at least some of the walks:



A 4 miles circular walk to Holme led by Pat Reed (540757)

Wednesday 10 May - start 6.30 pm from lay-by on A149 near Burnham Deepdale church (map ref .L132/804 443) A 4 miles circular walk around Burnham Deepdale Farm led by Pat Reed (540757);



- Wednesday 14 June start 6.30 pm from Dersingham old railway station (map ref .L,132/680 307) A 4.5 miles circular walk to Snettisham led by Michael and Valerie Smith (54O728)
- Wednesday 12 July start 6.30 pm from Syderstone church (map ref. L132/833 327) A 4.5 miles circular walk around Syderstone Common led by Christine Taylor and Geoff Toop (542807)
- **Sunday 16 July** start 10.30 am from junction of Peddars Way with Snettisham/Great Bircham Road (map ref. L132/708 330) A 5 miles circular walk led by Elizabeth Fiddick (540940);
- Wednesday 9 August start 6.30 pm from junction of Green Bank with,Ringstead/Holme Road (map ref.Ll32/7OB 42O) A 4 miles circular walk to Holme led by Sue Eastmure (543870);
- Sunday 20 August start 10.30 am from car park behind Dogotel on A148 at Harpley Dams (map ref.LI32/772 255) A 5.5 miles circular walk led by Michael and Valerie Smith (540728)
- Wednesday 30 August start at 5.00 pm from lay-by south of Ingoldisthorpe on B1440 (rnap ref .L132/683 325) A 4.5 miles circular walk to Snettisham led by Keith Starks (542268).

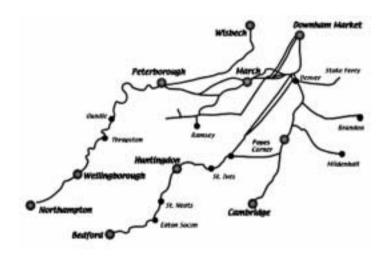
There is NO CHARGE for joining the group nor for the walks: just turn up at the starting point (wearing suitable footwear) before the time shown. Notices advertising the walks are displayed at various points in the village.

Any further information can be obtained by contacting the walks leader or me, Keith Starks (542268)

#### St Nicholas Church Holiday Activities 2006

Following the very successful Holiday Activities Club held in August 2005 we will once again be providing Activities, Games, Singing, Drama and Storytelling for the 4 to 10 year age group

from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm on each morning from Monday 7 to Wednesday 9 August 2006 in St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road



## Norfolk's Natural

## Areas

#### The Fens

#### Part One of a Series by David Bingham

To outsiders, Norfolk is usually seen as a flat county with very little to offer in the way of landscape variety. The flatness may be more or less true, but Norfolk can be divided into five terrestrial and three coastal 'natural areas' - each with its own unique landscape, wildlife and even cultural interest. Nature does not respect political boundaries and most of these areas are shared with neighbouring counties.

The Fens are one such 'natural area' and Dersingham sits right on the edge of a thin slice of Fenland that wraps around the eastern shore of The Wash. This is typical flat arable farming country protected from the sea by a seawall and intersected with straight drainage dykes. This area was originally saltmarsh so the soil is silty rather than the black and peaty variety characteristic of much of Fenland. This black soil was produced by the decay of freshwater vegetation in a shallow wetland. The huge shallow bowl that would become The Fens and The Wash was formed during the Ice Age. The mudflats of The

## DERSINGHAM Carpet Bowls Club

Friday Nights from 6.45pm-9.15pm At St. George's Middle School Admirals Drive, Dersingham

Come and have a go
Age no barrier.
Beginners welcome
Pick you up from home!

For Further Details, Please Contact any of the below: David on 01485 543678.01485 540292/07980 846087 Also or Maureen on 01485 544883 August on 01485 541397

#### CAMPAIGN CARE '94 ANNUAL PLANT SALE

on 28th May 2006 from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm at rear of Church Crofts, Manor Road, Dersingham

Campaign Care '94, which raises funds for Tapping House and the Bob Champion Cancer Trust, has its 9th Annual Plant Sale this year, details shown above We also have cake and white elephant stalls plus our usual raffle, any item donated will be very much appreciated

> We look forward to your support Thank you Ros Taylor - Tel: 01485 544419 Lilian Barnes - Tel: 01485 544041

Wash would have originally been bordered



#### A Dersingham Resident's Account of Volunteering at Tapping House

by Sue Trewin



As a comparatively new resident of Dersingham, I kept hearing Tapping House Hospice being mentioned and decided to investigate for myself as I had already decided to do some voluntary work. I knew the hospice offered Day and Home Care

services to people with life-limiting illnesses, such as cancer or multiple sclerosis. My image of a hospice was a hospital-type environment: hushed voices, sadness and depression, frail people wrapped in shawls sitting around with nothing to do. When I arrived I was met with a very different scene lively and happy with the smell of home cooking, the sight of a well- stocked drinks trolley being pushed into the day room, and patients with energy and humour in the face of adversity. I realised I had got it completely wrong.

The day before I was due to start, I was lucky enough to meet Roy Henry at the flower festival at St Nicholas Church. He was already a well- known and much loved volunteer at Tapping House and when I told him it was to be my first day the following day, he said 'don't worry, I'll look after you' and there followed an all too short friendship sadly culminating in his death a few months ago.

Tapping House is situated off the Dersingham bypass in a quiet road at the Snettisham end, surrounded by open space. It has a lovely garden, with visiting ducks, rabbits and a good bird population who know they are on to a good thing if they hang around the patio area, waiting for patients and staff to feed them.

Being a volunteer involves being flexible, having good communication skills, a sense of humour, being able to listen and respond, paying particular attention to the underlying issues patients may wish to communicate, and being able to hold confidences. We work as a team with nursing staff. Dersingham plays a major role in so many ways at Tapping House; the hospice 'Pets as Therapy' dog and her owner, and a mother and baby, all village residents, visit regularly.

Volunteers are asked to make a regular commitment negotiated at interview and in addition to hosting patients, there is also administration, driving, escorting patients on the minibus, helping in the Hospice shops, and many other ways in which you can help. There is a selection process and ongoing training. It is a humbling experience and a valuable contribution to the community.

I enjoy being cross examined by patients about my life, listening to fascinating stories of days gone by – one day I played dominoes with some over eighties who soon realised I hadn't a clue how to play and proceeded to try and teach me – learning so much from people who are doing their best to live life to the full with limited time left.

I know that my experience has and continues to be immensely rewarding and challenging. I would like to encourage anyone who may be considering doing voluntary work



#### Harry Thorpe recalls....

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

Reproduced here by kind permission of the Webmaster of www.dersingham.com

As members of Grandfather's household, we were invited to the Christmas tree and celebrations that were given for the staff. I think we attended that function in 1923 and again in 1924. There wasn't one in 1925 because Queen Alexandra had died. I still have in my possession a small doll that was given to my sister Catherine at one of those functions and a permanent desk calendar that was given to my mother. We conveyed to Sandringham probably by Mr Hyner's taxi, because it was wintertime, and refreshments would be served. Finally we would assemble in the ballroom. A huge Christmas tree would be standing in the middle, all lighted up. We stood around in a huge circle around tables, and



a present was found for each one of us. We had a number, and when the number was called we would indicate where we were, and one of the members of the Royal Family or the Household would come and present us with this present. Of course we had to be very polite and say a very nice thank you.

The highlight of the Sandringham year of course was the flower show. It was held toward the end of August every year, just adjacent to the church. This was a highlight, not so much for the flowers, from a boy's view of it, but for the opportunity to sneak into the grounds of the House itself. We would then go around to the back of the lake and climb up into the little summerhouse that overlooked the lake. This had been built by the King – the Prince at the time – for Alexandra and was lined with blue Danish tile. He had built it just to remind her of her Danish homeland.

Even after the flower show was over, we could sneak into the grounds through the gates, because they were open. I'm not sure quite how we did it, but Raymond and I were able to find a way into the grounds to sneak up and play around that summerhouse. We did it quite a number of times and were never intercepted or challenged.

Now I will turn my attention to Snettisham Beach. In 1908, or maybe 1905, Grandfather built a summer cottage, always called the bungalow in the family, on the shingle ridge overlooking the Wash, in sight of the end of the road to the beach. Before the development of cottages along that stretch of beach there had been a number of huts. Most of these, I think, had been day huts, because the beach, in the late Victorian period and through the Edwardian period, had remained a popular watering place for the villages of Snettisham, Dersingham, West Newton and Wolferton, etc. As far as I know, only one of these huts was used year round. I will come to that in just a minute.

The road to the beach started in Snettisham and ended at the beach; it passed over the shingle ridge and down onto the cockle flats. These were beautifully clean sandy flats and were used for both commercial cockle gathering and for those people who went out to gather them for their own use, which we did frequently. There were two or three other beachfront cottages built at approximately the same time as my grandfather's; the first one was owned by a family named

Knight. It was later sold to a family named Spaulding. Next to it was an inhabited hut lived in by a man named Bob Pepys. Bob Pepys was a year-round resident of the beach. He lived by gathering cockles, gathering mushrooms, acting as a refuse removal man for the cottages that were being developed, and by beachcombing and by whatever odd jobs he could get. He did some of the shingle work as well. Next to Bob Pepys was Grandfather's cottage; the next one to that was owned by the Insley family of Dersingham. I think that was probably all the cottages that were built before the First World War. There may have been one or two others.

When the First World War came, within a matter of days an officer turned up at the house at Dersingham and demanded the keys in the name of the King. It was August, and the cottage was furnished; all the bedding and flatware and dishes were in place because this was the holiday season. The members of the family were certainly expecting to use it. However, it was requisitioned, and Grandfather was not allowed to go to remove anything. It had to be exactly as they took it over, and they took it over within days of the outbreak of war. It was returned to Grandfather shortly after the Armistice in 1918, but, oh dear, the interior had been absolutely, totally wrecked. Everything that could have been broken up and burned had been, the tables, the chairs; the bedding and sheets had been stolen or destroyed; the cutlery, the crockery – just everything that could have been smashed or broken had been done so. Really, the bungalow was just an empty shell, and as far as I know no recompense or restitution was ever made. From photographs that I have, we were back into the bungalow in the summer of 1919. Some considerable refurbishing had taken place by that time.

At about the same time that Grandfather built his summer cottage, King Edward built a cottage on the shingle ridge on the other side of the road, some two or three hundred yards down the beach. It was built for the Queen, and was built of the hard red sandstone called carrstone. It was surrounded by a wall of the same material. At the end of the beach road, when you made a right hand turn to go to the Queen's cottage, there was a gate across the road there. It was on private property, but with the beach access it wasn't really very private. I was taken by Grandfather – on what exact occasion I don't know – but I was taken to the Queen's cottage and remember the interior only vaguely, but the part that I do remember is that the interior walls were plastered, and inset into the plaster were all kinds of different seashells.

When Queen Alexandra died in 1925, the cottage was partially demolished and was left standing, as Princess Victoria told Grandfather, as a little ruin by the sea. I suppose it remained that way until it was obliterated by the tidal disasters of the early 1950's.

Before you reach the beach, on the beach road, there were two farms, which were of importance to

those people who were summering on the beach. The first one, which stood on the right hand side of the road, just at the second bend of the road where you cross an old embankment, was where we got our water supply. Further down, on the left-hand side and just before the shingle beds started, was another farm. This was owned by a family named Parsons. There was a Mr. and Mrs.



Parsons, and a son called Wilfred. From the Parsons' farm we obtained milk and eggs. From the other farm we had to fetch our drinking water. This was a daily routine by some member of the family, who, with a wooden yoke, would carry two pails of water back to the beach. The actual drinking water was placed in a big crock that was actually a charcoal filter, and there was a little tap where you could draw off a glass of water to drink.

At the very end of the beach, also standing on the shingle ridge and on the right hand side of the Beach Road, was a Burton's teahouse. They carried small supplies of bread and those sorts of basics that could be obtained by people on the beach. This was all right in the very early days but as the beach expanded, especially after the first world war, in the twenties and thirties, and especially in the summer months, delivery systems from Snettisham began to appear.

Also, in very late twenty-nine or thirty, a small teahouse and shop opened up on the beach. This was run by a lady named Lemon and assisted by her two daughters, aged about eleven or twelve. I can't remember their names, but along the beach they were affectionately known as the "Lemon Pips".

Of course there was lots to do at the beach. We would gather cockles, and we would go shrimping and dab-sticking in the creeks when the tide was way out, in the channels between the sandbanks. Later, when we got a little older, we would dig for clams and we would gather winkles at the old shore protection piers at the Heacham Creek outlet.

I think the early shingle removal seems to have just been removing the shingle from the beach itself. Later digging for shingle started, and where the parking lot is on the right side of the beach road and into the nature reserve you can still see the heaps and humps of where the shingle was removed. This was carted and heaped along the shingle ridge just to the right of the Burton's teahouse, and from there it was transported by horse and cart a little bit further along the beach to where it was loaded by wheelbarrow on the little boats. Sometimes there were as many as three or

four of these barge-like boats lined up waiting to be loaded. This method of loading shingle on that side of the beach continued until at least the 1930's. I remember even small power driven boats instead of the wind powered boats coming and settling down and being loaded in that manner.

One morning, a messenger came down from Sandringham to tell Grandfather that the Queen, Princess Victoria, Charlotte Knollys and Sir Henry Stretfield would be at her cottage that afternoon, and they intended to come to see Grandfather at his beachfront cottage. This of course entailed a certain amount of



sprucing up and tidying up; my father and Uncle Fred decided they were not going to stop their building project and continued to work. In due course, the Queen's Daimler, driving down the beach road and turning right through the privacy gates to her cottage, was spotted. After a while, three-quarters of an hour or so, the Daimler returned. By now. of course, it being summertime, and relatively busy, quite a lot of people had gathered at the entrance to her cottage to see their dowager Queen leaving her beach. Instead of making the turn to return to Snettisham they drove straight on and stopped by our cottage. Grandfather was out to greet his Queen and the Princess, and the first people he introduced them to were my father and Uncle Fred. Since their hands were soaked in creosote, it was quite impossible for them to shake hands. However, the Queen rose to the occasion and instead of shaking hands with them she grasped each of them by the elbow and gave it a vigourous shake. The Princess and Lady Charlotte Knollys followed suit.

In the meantime the chauffeur had turned her Daimler around and was sitting outside the cottage waiting for her return. I don't remember how long the visit lasted; we were introduced to her and made our little bows and curtseys, and then were told we could go back on the beach and play. In due course the party left, and by then the whole roadway from our cottage back to the turn

onto the beach road was completely lined with people wondering why on earth the Queen had turned up at our particular cottage.

After Grandfather's death in 1929, the family retained the cottage until the end of the season in 1932. Since then, I only visited the beach on three occasions: the first was a short visit just after war broke out, towards the end of September 1939. The beach was totally deserted at that time except for myself and three friends. The cockle-gatherers were still busy; we bought a large bucket of cockles and then drove home to Bedford to a feast of freshly steamed cockles. The second visit was a very brief one sometime in 1946; the gunnery range was still being dismantled and the only area of access was at the beach road and along to the cottages. There had been considerable erosion by then, and a retaining wall had been built along the front of all the cottages. The last visit was in August of 1996. So much had changed, as far as I was concerned, decidedly for the worse.

These are some people I remember well by name, but have no other recollection of: Harry Margetts, and a Mr. W. Asker: (I have a feeling he might have been the undertaker) and Mr F

Bridges, and a man called Mr. W. Tupper, who was something to do with Sandringham



## Meet The

#### **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 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

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#### St Nicholas Dersingham Flower Festival 2006

"Through all the Changing Scenes of Life"

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July

- Magnificent Floral Displays
- Live Music
- Variety of Stall
- Country Crafts
- o "Best Dressed Front Door" Competition
- Raffle
- Refreshments, Teas, Coffee and Snacks
- Facilities for Disabled Visitors
- Free Parking
- Coach Parties Welcome please book in advance\*
   \*Tel: 01485 540696 or e-mail FF05@wncb.net

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2 - 4.00pm

Children's Activities – Fun and Games for all ages including a "Teddy Bear's Picnic" Children accompanied by a favourite Toy – Free!





#### The Dersingham Fen



View across the common in the 1920's. Are you the child in the picture?

The whole of the Dersingham Fen is bordered by the road coming into the village from the Sandpit Cottages around to the first properties in the village, then down towards former railway line. The boundary then approximately follows the railway towards Wolferton and then winds its way back roughly around the base of the hills back to Sandpit Cottages. The Fen was divided some years ago when the bypass was built. Only the area north of the bypass (the village side) was ever registered as Common Land and this now forms part of the 75 acres of village commons. This very flat area of the Fen has for several years been designated an SSSI and was divided by the introduction of the bye pass. The larger area towards Wolferton is under the control of English Nature and the village side of the Fen is now a nature reserve and wetland This is managed by the Norfolk County Council with an agreement with the Dersingham United Charities. During

recent years the NCC nature department have cleared many saplings from the flat areas to encourage close growing ground plants that are natural to this kind of environment and to encourage ground nesting birds. The recent clearance of scrub and small trees that has taken place beside the main road have been done to create a visual aspect to the site and also to form a link between the cleared slopes on the Open Common and the flatness of the Fen. At one time in this

area there was a cart track from which peat and sand were brought from the Fen. Up until the 1950s the whole of the Fen used to be much more open than it is today mainly due to the steam trains that used to cause many fires in dry periods and on some occasions the fires would sweep across the whole of the Fen and the firemen would have to rely on the road as a firebreak. Many fires however were dealt with in their infancy by beating out with birch branches as



Aerial view of the common C1950 without trees.

no appliances could be taken onto the Fen. In some dry periods the LNER had an employee cycling to and fro beside the railway line to put out fires before they had a chance to spread. After these fires had passed over the areas were totally blackened, but within two or three weeks fresh young growth would re-appear and recovery was fairly rapid. The fires did however keep a check on young trees who's recovery was not as rapid and thus kept the areas much more open. The sad thing was sometimes seeing shells of birds' nests that had been destroyed by the fires and which we had failed to find in our earlier searching. Since the 1950s and until the area was classified as a nature reserve very little management was carried out on the Fen and the tree line around the road used to be very thin. In this period of time it has gradually encroached onto the flat area and is now some 50 or 60 yards deep. There used to be a 600 yard long rifle range on the Fen that started just down from the village corner of the Fen and extended beyond the pass. The target area and marker butts were eventually buried by the Borough Councils land fill site that now appears as a long slender hill on the south side of the bypass. This range was used by the Territorials as well as the army and the Home Guard during the second world war. Red flags were flown from flag poles on



The common today with the opened view.

two of the Fen hills when the range was in use. It is possible for the public to walk around the Fen site. A path has been cut roughly around the perimeters just inside the tree line. This path has been cut over natural terrain and whilst it is possible to walk around. wheeled transport of any kind is not practical. Waterproof footwear is advised. Would dog walkers please remove any waste from all footpaths and open spaces. Enjoy your walks wherever they are around all the commons. AX

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## PAKENHA MANOR

by Elizabeth Fiddick

In the late autumn of 1934 many villagers and children, would have gathered to watch as a gang of workmen began to demolish a pair of old carstone cottages. These cottages had stood for as long as even the oldest resident could remember close to the grand old chestnut tree in the playground of the village school. The last occupants, the Melton and Biggs families, had moved to other cottages, but no doubt they watched as their former homes were reduced to a pile of rubble. The best of the stones were then removed and used to build a wall around the land granted to the village by the King for an extension to the churchyard. The whole event was recorded in the local press on December 30<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Ken Martins recalled it in his interview for the millennium project.

"There was a house in the school yard and they were pulling it down. Us boys had the job of wheeling the bricks and the rubble rather than doing our lessons. We used to volunteer for that."

The school log book records a meeting in January 1935 when the school managers met Mr. Beck, the Sandringham Agent, to discuss plans for the schoolyard and garden. Later in the year it was noted, "Since the last report the playground has been extended and about one-quarter acre of land acquired for the school garden. It is well planned to include flowers, fruit and vegetables. All the children take part in the gardening and much interesting handwork is done by the boys. Although the work is only in progress for just over a year the garden has already become an attractive place." Doreen Asker remembered, "My brothers did a lot of gardening there. The garden was at the back, the raised piece up the hill. We used to grow marguerites. If you were good you were allowed to pick a bunch to take home." The garden and the extended playground were a great asset to the school but as is so often the case there is a downside to the march of progress. For with the demolition of those old cottages the village lost a tangible, visible link to its ancient history. The area around the school, The Feathers and Doddshill was all part of the Manor of Pakenham and the old cottages formed the Manor House that had been erected there at least 400 years earlier. Records reveal that in 1366 a considerable part of the Manor of Pakenham was conveyed to the Priory at Binham, which already had considerable assets in the village. Before 1425 the Manor had been in the possession of one William Adderton and his wife Joan. On his death in 1425 it passed to William's daughter Joan who was married to John Church of Bassingbourn. Later in 1488 during the reign of Henry VII Sir John Windham granted the Manor to John Fox and his wife Catherine for the use of their son John. In the 16th century William Rogers held the Manor and in 1553, the first year of the reign of Queen Mary, he willed at least a part of it to the poor of Norwich. It was about this time that the Pell family of Oldhall Manor built



their large house in the pastures where the bowling club now stands. Exactly when Pakenham Manor House was built I have not yet discovered but it would have been around this time I believe. In a Poll Bill of 1692 a Thomas Rogers Snr. and Thomas Rogers Jnr. and his wife are recorded. Also the area around Parkhill is marked on some old maps as Mr. Rogers' Park. They may not be related to William but I would like to think that the family connection continued in the village. In 1565 the Manor passed into the ownership of the Cobbes of Sandringham who were a leading Norfolk family. They were great friends with the Le Strange family in Hunstanton and feature regularly in the account books of Hunstanton Hall. They supplied the Le Strange's with sheep from Dersingham and often gave pheasant and woodcock to the family. The Cobbes were Roman Catholics and during the English Civil war William Cobbe became a Colonel in the King's army. He was with Sir Hamon Le Strange when he raised the King's Standard in King's Lynn in 1643. The town was besieged by Cromwell's troops and was soon forced to surrender. At the end of the war Colonel Cobbe's estates, which included Pakenham, were sequestrated and all his revenues appropriated for the use of the Commonwealth. In 1650 he begged for discharge and confessed his recusancy. Although his rights were restored in 1652 the family fortune never really recovered. His son Geoffrey inherited the estate in 1665 but it was sold to the Hoste family in 1686. So Pakenham Manor lands once again passed into new hands. The Hoste family were of Flemish extraction. A Jacques Hoste or Hoost, escaped from Holland in the 16<sup>th</sup> century during the savage repression of Protestants. He reached London in 1565 and soon took English His son Theodorick married Jane Desmastres the daughter of a rich merchant and was politically active as a Puritan during the Civil War. It was their son James who bought the Sandringham estate (including Pakenham) and settled down to the life of a country gentleman. One of their grandchildren, Theodore settled his family at Ingoldisthorpe Hall. On some maps the area in Dersingham now referred to as Life Wood is shown as Mr. Hoste's Plantation. The Hostes wielded great influence in the area although Dixon Hoste, son of Theodore, lost much of the family fortune campaigning for Coke and the Whigs in the election of 1784. He had to sell the Ingoldisthorpe property. He took Holy orders and became a parson at Godwick near Tittleshall. The village of Godwick no longer exists although the church ruins can still be reached by a pleasant walk across fields. The other noted member of the family was Dixon's son William who sailed with Nelson as a young lad and pursued an illustrious naval career. He is remembered by

# BINHAM PRIORY MANOR

by Elizabeth Fiddick

Soon after his coronation in 1066 William 1, the Conqueror, ordered a survey of all the lands in his new kingdom. By 1085 the Domesday Book gave the complete account of all his property. By 1086 the richest and most populous counties were Suffolk, Norfolk and Lincoln. With a few exceptions William gave to his Norman followers the estates belonging to Saxon Lords. This was particularly true of Norfolk where about 389 manors were disposed of in this way. Peter de Valognes, his nephew, was granted considerable property in and around Dersingham and the Domesday Book describes the estates. We are told that one free man held Dersingham as a Manor before 1066. At the time of the survey this Manor consisted of 7 villagers, 4 smallholders, and 2 slaves. There were seven and a half acres of meadow, plus one plough and one salthouse. There was I cob and although there had been 3 head of cattle, 18 pigs and 300 sheep apparently there were none of these by 1085. Another freeman called Anand also held lands in Dersingham as a manor. Here there were 30 villagers, 6 smallholders and 7 slaves. He had 18acres of meadow, 1 mill, and 1 fishery and 1 salt house. Unlike the previous small manor Anand had 5 cobs, 4 head of cattle, 21 pigs and 646 sheep. Peter De Valognes was now Lord of these Manors, plus ones in Appleton and Babingley, and entitled to an income from them. De Valognes augmented his land by seizing 12 acres belonging to a freeman. As he appears to have accomplished this with impunity he proceeded to seize further lands belonging to 21 other freemen. In 1091 de Valognes founded the Priory at Binham for Benedictine monks and granted to it some of his lands in Dersingham and two parts of his tithe. This gift was witnessed by Hugh de Dersingham and his brother Picotus and thus the Manor of Binham Priory was established. The Priory itself was situated SE of Wells-by-the-Sea. In the 13th century Christiana de Mandeville, Countess of Essex, gave a yearly rent of 40s in land and heath to the priory along with a farm plus sixty acres of land in Dersingham. This was done for prayers to be said for the health of the souls of William de Mandeville, Earl of Essex and Reymund de Burgo Christiana's late husband. Further gifts to the Priory were recorded from William Derham who gave a marsh called Chesholm, and Thomas Lording of Dersingham who gave lands. Richard de Secford, the prior of Binham, also exchanged

lands lying near the chapel of St. Andrew in Dersingham with Sir Thomas de Gelham. (I will write about Gelham Manor later.) In the deed effecting this transfer there is an account of 86 acres of land, 108 acres of pasture, and 8 acres of meadow. Later in about 1366 a considerable part of the Manor of Pakenham was also conveyed to it. From all this it is clear that the Manor of Binham Priory was of some considerable size and value and that many villagers were accountable to the Priory for tithes and rents. So in this way the village was involved with Henry V111's battle with the church. During the years 1534 –5 Thomas Cromwell had organised a complete inventory of monastic and other ecclesiastical properties and revenues. So began a revolution in English ecclesiastical life and in the structure of society with the dissolution and suppression of monastic houses. Their lands and revenues were granted or sold to friends of the King. Many families were to become rich and important with the spoils they acquired. Binham Priory itself was, like other monasteries, gradually pulled down. Binham Priory Manor in our village was granted to Sir Thomas Paston. The Paston Family were from North East Norfolk and were particularly influential during the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Subsequently Sir Thomas conveyed the

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Parish Council Chairman, Councillor Tony Bubb, receives The Norfolk Waste Partnership Award on behalf of the residents of Dersingham





## Brothers in Arms Wesley and Hubert

## Tuck -1916

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#### Part Three of a Series of Three

With the Sucrerie safe in Canadian hands it meant that Courcelette itself was open to assault and later that day Canadian units, waiting behind the lines for such an opportunity, launched a totally successful attack on the village.

It is believed that on that day, at some point after the successful attack, Bert was helping to clear the battlefield of casualties, when he was hit by a sniper's bullet and badly wounded. He was taken 15 miles behind the front line to Number 44 Casualty Clearing Station, located close to the village of Puchevillers. The next day, Saturday 16th September, Bert died and was buried in the nearby British cemetery. Another grave among the dense rows of white Portland stone headstones.

On the same day as Bert went into battle and just over four miles south west of Courcelette, Wesley and the 9th Norfolks, were tasked with attacking the German front line. The Germans occupied the high ground just to the east of the small village of Ginchy and had constructed a formidable four-sided trench complex approximately 300 yards by 150 yards. It was called by the British the Quadrilateral. The Quadrilateral was the Norfolk's objective, a position which other units had attempted to take in previous days; attempted and failed. Trenches immediately to the north were the Norfolk's objective.

At 01.00 on the 15th September the Norfolk battalion had taken up temporary positions on a road south of Ginchy. There they waited; tense, frightened, believing and hoping they would escape injury or death in the forthcoming encounter. Just over five hours later, in the light of dawn, the Norfolks moved forward to take up final positions ready for the attack.

The Norfolks were ready but the Staff who had planned the attack were guilty of a serious error of judgement. The customary artillery barrage normally used to smash defences and prevent the advance of reinforcements, was zeroed on ground 500 yards beyond the Quadrilateral! The Norfolks were therefore expected to advance and engage the Quadrilateral's defences with only one tank to support their valiant efforts.

The authors of some historical accounts believe that yet another human error would play a hand in the battle. One tank assigned to support the attack was believed to have inflicted heavy casualties with its machine-guns on the Norfolks as it started forward before zero hour! If this 'friendly fire' incident did take place it is perhaps strange that no reference is made to it in the War Diary of the 9th Norfolks written at the time. Perhaps the tank's appearance in the British lines provoked a German bombardment and it was this that caused many casualties in the British positions.

At 06.20 the British artillery barrage began and the ground either side of, and beyond, the

Quadrilateral, where there were few or no Germans, erupted in smoke, flame and violently disturbed earth. On the Quadrilateral itself hardly a shell fell. The Norfolks rose up from their positions and began to advance the few tens of yards towards the enemy but having first to negotiate the British front line itself. Immediately, however, their ranks were thinned by devastating machine-gun fire from the Quadrilateral, left intact by the inadequate artillery preparations. The wire was also uncut barring any further advance and the men found themselves, after moving forward only a short distance, pinned down in No-Mans-Land, desperately seeking sanctuary in the numerous shell holes. By 09.00 that morning, two and a half hours after the attack had started, it was evident it had failed.

The tank that had passed through the Norfolk's lines earlier in the day, attacked the Quadrilateral but, under intense enemy fire and riddled with armour piercing bullets, it returned to the British positions leaving the infantry with no covering fire. Tragically, later that same day, those Norfolks still alive and lying out in No-Mans-Land, were subjected to British artillery fire. All too late the allied guns were attempting to neutralize the defences of the Quadrilateral. One can only imagine the anger and fear in the Norfolks as the so-called 'friendly fire' poured down on them

As darkness fell the Quadrilateral remained intact. The Norfolks had paid a heavy price for their gallant efforts with 17 officers and 431 other ranks becoming casualties. In the fighting Wesley had received a very bad gunshot wound in his right leg. Having been passed down the line he was admitted, on 18th September, to Number 11 General Hospital at Carniers, near Etaples, on the French coast. His case was a 'Blighty' one and on the 8th October Bert was admitted to the Third Southern General Hospital at Oxford where he spent the next few weeks recuperating. At Oxford it was comparatively easy for the family to visit him and his brother Cecil, on the 23rd October, did so. When Cecil saw him, however, he became very worried about his deteriorating health. Cecil wrote a postcard to another member of the family: 'I arrived here this morning. Have just seen W(esley) he is awfully weak. Hemorrage set in. There is hope but small. I am staying overnight with M & F. I will write later, now off to see him again.'

When getting out of bed the next day, Tuesday 24th October, Wesley's exertions caused his wound to break open. The resulting hemorrage could not be stopped and he bled to death.

#### Wesley's Funeral

Wesley's body made the long journey home to Dersingham by train and on Friday 27th October his funeral service took place at the Wesleyan Chapel. Many friends had gathered with the family to pay their last respects and remember this young man. The service over, a section of the local Volunteers, led by a squad of regular soldiers, preceded the funeral procession along Chapel Road to the parish church. There Wesley was laid to rest. The Last Post and the loud crack of a rifle volley disturbed the normal peace and quiet of this Norfolk village.

#### **The Brothers Remembered**

Two days after the funeral, on the afternoon of Sunday 29th October 1916, a memorial service was conducted for Wesley, Bert and Private Thomas Nurse. The church was full. The parents, like so many other parents at that time, sought a way to express their deep personal grief. Frederick crafted a poem, which was privately published for family and friends.

Wesley and Bert's parents were heartbroken to have lost two sons; war was indeed a cruel business. Julia was admitted to hospital in 1918 but she had lost the will to live and on the 5th April she passed away; a few days later Julia Tuck was buried alongside her son Wesley.

After the war a book of remembrance was created for the Parish. In it were recorded the names of the men of Dersingham who laid down their lives in the service of their country. A handwritten introduction to volume simply and powerfully notes 'In the fullness of life they bade farewell to the pleasant things God hath given to the children of men and took for the portion hard toil and little ease, weariness and pain, going down even into the shadow of death that they might make safe the honour of their country and leave to those who come after them an example of duty well done'. It continues 'We have committed them to his keeping in thankful remembrance both of



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## SAN-

## DRINGHA MAND

#### Dick Melton's Column



#### **Dersingham Marshes**

Having read the report in Village Voice No 38 about the installation of a gate at the entrance to the Marsh Road, (not Beach Road – Dersingham has no beach within its Parish boundary), I thought that's a rather good subject to write about, Dersingham Marshes.

The Parish of Dersingham covers 3,573 acres and the marshes take up between 650 and 750 acres of that area, they form an oblong strip from the bypass westwards to the last bridge about 200 yards from the old seawall where the Dersingham Parish Boundary ends. Over half of the area belongs to the Sandringham Estate, the other being in private ownership. Up to the start of the Second World War only the fields nearest to the village were cultivated, then, with need for more food, the rest was ploughed up, and at the same time Sandringham Park was ploughed up too. In 1940/1 the Ministry of Agriculture, at that time known as

WARRAG, paid for a concrete road to be laid from Dersingham Station across the marsh, and also from Wolferton village across their marshes so that the farmers had better access to their land. Then, later on, the Sandringham Estate laid the carstone road to connect the two roads. It was found that although this was good land it still held a lot of water so a pumping station was built on the edge of the marsh at Wolferton, and it was opened on February 2nd 1948 by the late King George VI, and it has been pumping away ever since. In 1964/6 another 300 acres of land were reclaimed to the south of Wolferton marsh for grazing.

The shingle pits were opened up in 1942 and until then they had been part of Snettisham and Wolferton foreshore. Dersingham marshes over the years had been farmed, owned and rented (from the estate) by a lot of different people including the Stantons from Manor Farm, the Lincoln brothers, the three Balding Brothers (Fred, George and James), James Jackson (who also had Centre Vale Farm), Ken Martins, John Young from Ringstead and Tony Gent from Inmere (Snettisham). At one time James Jackson had a strawberry field down the marsh and, as you can imagine, it was very popular with us lads, but the two main crops were barley and potatoes, and also the Stantons and JohnYoung grazed a lot of sheep down there.

Dersingham and Wolferton marshes have always been open areas for anyone to go, so, about five years ago, when Sandringham Estate put up a steel gate on the Dersingham Road next to the cherry trees, and another one on the Wolferton Road by the RAF Memorial, I wrote and asked them why, and they said it was a case of security, to stop people taking farm machinery from their farm sheds near to the pumping station, but of course people can still walk and bike along these roads from Dersingham and Wolferton.

As for the roads being a bridle path, this I am not sure about. On a lot of maps it is shown as a small road (four metres wide), I can only find one map where it is shown as a bridle path. Years ago the main track down to the sea was The Drift that came out in the area where the pumping station now is, and the track from the station only went about 500 yards onto the marsh. One farmer who I have missed out was Mr Billy Bird, who was also a coalman, and who had a herd of dairy cows and a small dairy down the marsh, some of which is still there. In the Great Flood of the 31st of January 1953 the whole of Dersingham and Wolferton marshes were flooded right up the station (bypass) so after the water had gone back thousands of tons of lime had to be spread across the marsh, and it was a year or two before it could be cropped again.

#### Another True Story about the Great Flood and the Marshes

On the night of the Great Flood, 31st of January 1953, the late Mr Fred Cross, a Dersingham man born and bred, was enjoying a drink in the White Horse Public House when someone came in

around nine o' clock and said that the sea had come over and was up to the railway line. So Fred went off down there to see if there was anything he could do. He saw that there were 30 dairy cows and a bull trapped by barbed wire and debris in the water the other side of the signal box. So Fred got a pair of wire-cutters from someone and, struggling against the gale and the swirling water, waded in and groped his way in the dark to find the wire and cut it to release the animals. Fred saw afterwards that it was a bit of a job as there were bales of straw, notice boards, and even mattresses, floating as he cut the wire.

#### Dersingham Fen 2006

I have had the good fortune to have a guided tour around Dersingham fen by the Site Manager, Mr Ash Murray, and my word how it has changed since I was a lad and used to go over there every day, 40 years ago! One of the things that took me aback was the large area of water that runs along the western boundary, which, in some places, is up to 2 feet deep. 40 years ago this was a mud flat that you could walk over, with lots of cotton flowers growing on it. The wildlife has changed a lot, with no more redback shrike, whitethroats, very few linnets and not many shelduck. The loss of numbers of shelduck, there were hundreds when I was a lad, could be due to the fact that since rabbits caught mixamatosis in the early 50s they live above ground now, so they do not burrow, therefore the shelduck have nowhere to build their nests. With the loss of the gorse bushes at the eastern end of the fen this has changed the habitat for a lot of birds, this means some have gone, but others, like the skylark, partridge and hawk, have returned, especially on the areas of the hills where the birch trees have been cut down and there is now plenty of heather. I was very pleased to see that the public footpath from the old A149 alongside the Red Dyke over the bypass and onto Wolferton Cut is still there, though I do not think that too many people use it nowadays. I was also pleased to see the sandmartin's holes at the Cut, and Ash told me that they still come back to nest there every summer. When I was a lad and if we went to King's Lynn by train, we would always look out for the sandmartins when the train went through the cut. Over the years since the bypass was built and the southern area of the fen was fenced off to the public I have often criticized what English Nature were trying to do, as I was in favour of an open space and controlled burning, but now that I have been and had a good look around to see what they are trying to achieve, I wish Ash and his team the best of luck, and I hope that in the future a lot more people will take the opportunity, like I did, to have a good look around Dersingham Bog.

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The Fair will be held from 10.00 to 12.00 on the morning of Saturday 13th May 2006 at Orchard Close Community Hall, Dersingham (off Post Office Road). There will be stalls for Plants, Cakes, Books and Games, Raffle, Tombola and Tea/Coffee. Many bargains will be on offer. Proceeds are used to support the Society and other local organisations and charities. Any gift of items for sale will be gratefully received on the morning of the event.



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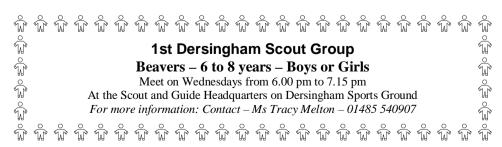
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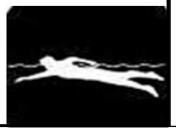
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#### 'A Crabbit old Woman' - Anon

What do you see, nurses, what do you see?
Are you thinking when you look at me A crabbit old woman. Not very wise.
Uncertain of habit with far-away eyes,
who dribbles her food and makes no reply
when you say in a loud voice 'I do wish you'd try.'
Who seems not to notice the things that you do
and forever is losing a stocking or shoe.
Who, unresisting or not lets you do as you will
with bathing and feeding, the long day to fill.

Is that what you're thinking? Is that what you see?

Then open your eyes, nurse.

You're not looking at me.

I'll tell you who I am as I sit here, so still

as I rise at your bidding, as I eat at your will.

I'm a small child of ten. with a father and mother: brothers and sisters who love one another; A young girl of sixteen, with wings on her feet dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet; A bride soon, at twenty, my heart gives a leap remembering the vows that I promised to keep. At twenty-five now, I have young of my own who need me to build a secure, happy home; A woman of thirty: my young now grow fast bound to each other with ties that should last. At forty my youngsters, now grown, will be gone, but my man stays beside me to see I don't mourn. At fifty, once more babies play at my knee;

Dark days are upon me - My husband is dead. I look to the future: I shudder with dread.

again we know children, my loved one and me.

My young are all busy with young of their own, And I think of the years and the love that I've known.

I'm an old woman now, and nature is cruel.

'Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool.

The body, it crumbles, grace and vigour depart: there is now a stone where I once had a heart.

But, inside this old carcase a young girl still dwells, and now and again my battered heart swells.

I remember the joys: I remember the pain, and I'm loving and living all over again.

I think of the years - all too few gone too fast, and accept the stark fact that nothing will last.

So open your eyes, nurses, open and see

NOT a crabbit old woman, look closer 
SEE ME.



#### **Tuesday May**



A variety of music to be sung with friends by:-

## The West Norfolk Singers

St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham. 7.30 pm Admission £3.00 including refreshments.

Raffle

#### VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

#### **Tuesday June 6th**

Professor Walter Blaney
"BEACHCOMBING THROUGH"
OUR
MARITIME HERITAGE"



This fascinating local speaker is presenting an illustrated talk looking at how the sea has affected the British people through the ages

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

#### War Workers - A Series of Archive Photograph



This, the second in a series of photographs taken of local people who 'did their bit' during the Second World War, shows members of the CHSS Nursing Team. If you know what this organisation was, or have any stories to tell of this group of people, or of any of the individuals involved, please send them to the Editor at the address on page 70.

#### Ot Michouas Dersingham Flower Pestival 2000

#### "Best Dressed Front Door Competition"

We are looking for the most colourful, creative or imaginative display of hanging baskets and/or tubs in the Parish of Dersingham. The area to be judged will be a 6 feet radius of your Front Door. Our independent judge will visit all entries from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and announce the winners on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 5pm in the Church Hall.

Entrance Fee is £1.00. To enter please complete this form and send to: Dersingham PCC BDFD Competition.

6 Fern Hill, Dersingham PE31 6HT

#### Entries must be received by Friday 14th July 2005

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THE WORKSHOP MARSH FARM WOLFERTON KING'S LYNN PE31 6HB News from ...

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

The Summer Term is here again, although as I write this article in March we are still experiencing snow showers!! Ever hopeful that good weather is on the way the children from both schools will be taking part in the area sports, the swimming gala, netball and the off road cycling. It will be good to have the off road cycling event at St George's school in June again this year. In addition St George's children are also taking part in football and Kwik cricket matches competing against other schools. Both schools like to take a full and active part in community events and will therefore be singing at the Methodist Chapel Flower Festival in May and exhibiting work at St Nicholas' Flower Festival in July.

Dersingham Infant and Nursery School are looking forward to educational visits to the Dinosaur Park and a farm visit at Stow Bardolph. Our children really enjoy the excitement of going out on coaches and we thank the village community who support the Friends of the School events to raise money to pay for the transport for our visits. Other special events coming up include: taking part in the Hunstanton Arts festival, enjoying an Architecture Day and keeping fit and healthy.

Summer Term at St George's is always busy with SATs and exams in early May. This is followed by their annual Creative Arts week, when the children enjoy taking part in art, music, dance and drama workshops. This year the theme will be Animals. Pupils from Smithdon High School will be entertaining us with their musical expertise. Children in our year 5 class are busy raising funds to purchase new football and netball kits for our teams. Once again both schools will be taking part in the very successful transition programme that prepares all our village children for their move to their next school, and we have lots planned during the Summer Term.

Finally thanks to everyone who continues to support our schools in so many ways. Your support is very much valued.

Jackie Austin Headteacher Infant and Nursery School Carol De Witt Headteacher St George's Junior School



#### Bog News - March 2006

As the days grow longer towards the end of winter and the night time temperatures begin to rise. Dersingham Bog stirs from its winter torpor. Perhaps the most noticeable change is the increase in bird song. Woodlarks are one of the first species to break into song and can often be seen performing their distinctive, fluttering display flights over the heath. Their mellifluous song is arguably the most beautiful of any British bird, however, up until recently the chances of seeing or hearing a woodlark were very slim, following a dramatic decline in the UK's population as a result of a habitat loss - by 1975, there were just 160 pairs of woodlark left in Britain. The heathland restoration works carried out at Dersingham Bog during the past fifteen years have extended the area of suitable habitat available for woodlarks and, as a result, the number of breeding pairs has increased from just one pair in the early nineties to three or four pairs in 2005. This year, a repeat of the National survey carried out in 1997 is underway to determine the current National status of Woodlark. Woodlarks are a ground-nesting bird and establish their nests very early in the season and by mid March most will have a full clutch of eggs. Whilst it is extremely unlikely that dogs would actually catch a woodlark, they are particularly adept at searching out nests, disturbing the parents and allowing the eggs/chicks to chill. For this reason, we are requesting that owners keep their dogs on a short lead throughout the breeding season.

By Mid April, the bird breeding season is well underway and the majority of summer migrants have returned from their wintering grounds and begin to establish nesting territories. The return of the summer migrants coincides with an increase in insect abundance. Bumblebees are one of the more obvious insect species that can be seen on the heath. Fertilised queens hibernate throughout



View across Dersingham Bog in 1931 with steam train in top right.

Copyright: British Geological Society

the winter and, after emerging in spring, begin searching for suitable nest sites. Once they have established a colony, the queens rely upon their daughters, the workers, to tend to the colony whilst they concentrate on laying eggs. As well as defending and tending for the nest, the workers collect pollen and nectar to feed the developing brood. The wide variety of plants at Dersingham Bog ensures that there is a constant supply of food, reducing the time spent searching for flowers and therefore ensuring that the developing nest has the best chance of survival.

The onset of the breeding season also signals the end of major habitat management works on the reserve. Throughout the winter, contractors, reserve staff and volunteers have been working to clear regenerating scrub from the mire and dry heath. To avoid causing damage to the sensitive mire vegetation, contractors have been using a rubber-tracked, low ground pressure machine with a front-mounted chipper. It is important to remove the chipped scrub in order to maintain the nutrient-poor conditions required by the bog plants.

On Dersingham Fen, Norfolk County Council's Highways Department has been clearing small scrub and treating rhododendron to prevent it spreading into the mire. In addition, they have cleared a section of trees from the border of the mire to open up views across the mire from the village seat on the open common.

Ash Murray, Site Manager,

English Nature

#### Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve's Village Voice Walks Evening Guided Walk: Wednesday 21 June 2006

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

This walk will last for approximately two hours and will start at 8.30 pm. Please bring sturdy footwear, warm clothing, insect repellent and waterproofs.

#### Guided Walk: 11 October 2006

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

This walk will last for approximately two hours and will start at 10.30 am.

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

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

I would like to attend the guided walk(s) at Dersii Wednesday 11 October 2006:	ngham Bog on Wednesday 21 June 2006 and/or
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#### That's My Business! Introducing James Pond Ltd of Hunstanton Road

#### WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, MR. POND

In August 2004 the pond and garden shop on Hunstanton Road. Dersingham changed hands and was renamed James Pond Ltd by the present owner, John Green. Of course there's nobody there by the name of James. John says he needed a catchy name for advertising the business on the internet and on the radio. (James Pond - Licensed to FILL.....etc!) For several years the shop has enjoyed a brisk spring and summer trade in plants and aquatics, and is renowned for high quality, plus competitive prices. Many of the shrubs for sale are still supplied by the previous owner's nursery business because the quality is so good. The rear garden (accessed through the shop) was expanded last year. During Spring and Summer it abounds with flowering plants, herbs, alpines, evergreens, conifers, climbers galore, hanging baskets, grasses, perennials, plus hedging and a selection of trees for good measure. For the water garden there is a good range of water plants, oxygenating weed and lilies too.

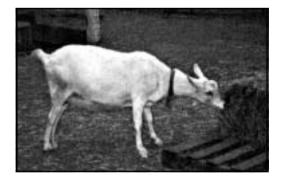
Inside, one half of the shop is dedicated to aquatics, and the other half to fishing tackle. From March to September there are large tanks full of goldfish, comets, shubunkins, koi, orfe, tench and other pond fish. There is a good range of pond equipment - liners, pumps, filters etc plus fish foods, water treatments and medicines. John has recently introduced a new aquarist section (open all year) with aquariums, tropical fish galore and some fancy coldwater fish, plus everything for the aguarist such as air pumps, filters, lighting, ornaments, plants & gravels.

The shop used to close from late Autumn to early Spring, as nobody wants pond fish or plants in winter! John hopes to stay open all year and has introduced a range of famous name fishing tackle and baits. James Pond are authorised dealers for Shakespeare tackle. Freshwater fishing is more popular in summer and sea fishing is more popular in winter.

Outside can usually be seen an array of lifelike garden ornaments (many more are inside now than outside) John says the farm animals are the most popular, especially the full size sheep and



## Dersingha m



# Horticultur al Society



A gathering of some seventy members assembled to hear a slide presentation by our secretary, Walter Blaney, who is, I venture to say, our most popular speaker.

His subject, "Desert islands of the Middle East", concentrated mainly on Egypt – hopefully there is a further instalment to come – and with some recently acquired hi-tech equipment projecting slides of superb quality and accompanied by a narrative of constant interest, Walter took his

audience on a journey along the mighty River Nile which encompassed its history, geography, archaeology and agriculture.

Starting with a picture of the simple life of the nomadic tribes who have to cope with the harsh conditions of the desert, Walter then, with too many facts to recount here, began our journey with an account of the architectural glories of the ancient Egyptian civilisation including the development of burial chambers from their simple beginnings through the step pyramids to the pyramid of Cheops, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

There followed an exploration of the Valley of the Kings and the temples at Abu-Simbel after which we took a boat trip along the River Nile - with its echoes of Agatha Christie's Poirot – which demonstrated its vital importance to the country.

With virtually the whole of the population and agriculture occupying two narrow strips along its edge it is quite easy to understand how dependent the Egyptian economy is on this, the longest



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#### DERSINGHAM EVENING W I



January 2006 - All too soon the Christmas holidays are over, decorations carefully packed away (though it won't be long before we are being told there are only so many months till Christmas) and as we meet up again our president Dianne wished us all a Happy New Year. Being a very active W.I. there are quite a few plans in place for various groups that members belong to: the Dining Group, Walking Group, Outings and of course, "Keep Fit" as the more limber ladies will agree is very helpful in keeping them that way! For the creative members there is a craft group who meet at Ingoldisthorpe Village Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

It is always a special treat to have one of our own members as our Speaker for the evening and this was definitely the case with Linda Mitchell a quiet reserved lady, yet we learned through her talk "My life

in the Media" that she was very open to challenges. Linda started her career at the B.B.C., at the age of 22 years, in the Fifties, as a secretary working in Radio.

After one year she moved to Television, at the most exciting time in its History, which continued into the 60s and 70s.

At Lime Grove after her training (1 month and 2 days) she became a production assistant and met many famous people, including the late Frankie Howard. Whilst there she met Dennis Mitchella producer of documentaries (who was to become her husband) he was a pioneer in this field and they travelled together to many locations in America, Europe and the Middle East.

By now Linda was skilled in different aspects of film production, so when Dennis decide to form his own independent production company, the Dennis Mitchell Independent Film Company, Dennis and Linda enjoyed a long association with Granada Television. Some of their work was cutting edge, an example of which was a film about Quintin Crisp - "The Naked Civil Servant" and, by contrast a series entitled "Western European Journey"

Linda has so much interesting and historical knowledge of Television yet to be told and we were allowed a small glimpse into this truly fascinating life and left wanting more.



#### The Son of a Railway clerk

Part One

A delightful recollection by the late Alan Cresswell

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#### **FOREWORD**

I am often asked "What was life like during the war"? "What did you do during the war"? "Where did you serve during the war"? I have difficulty recalling from memory the answers to these questions so now I am endeavoring to put my memories into print. Everyone's reply to the questions will differ; no two people had the same experience during this period. I have set out the foregoing answers to the questions from memory as best I am able.

#### BANDSMAN to CRAFTSMAN One Mans Recollections Of Life During World War 2 1939-1945

I was born in 1914 the second child of a



railway clerk, my sister having been born about eighteen months earlier. I am an upholsterer by trade and was settling down to life with my wife and young daughter. The country was just recovering from the first world war, but in 1938 following a meeting in Germany between Neville Chamberlain, (our Prime Minister), and Hitler when an agreement was signed saying that our two countries would never go to war against each other again; an uneasy peace existed and defence preparations went ahead. Public buildings were fitted out with blackout blinds, air raid shelters were made available for employees and civilian organisations were trained for rescue, first aid, fire fighting, nursing; and schools were prepared for use by evacuees from disaster areas.

On the 1st of September 1939 it was announced over the radio that all forces reservists and Territorial Army members were to report to their depots, I was a Bandsman in our local "Terriers" company and on reporting was ordered to parade in full battle dress the next day and on doing so was billeted, along with other members, in a house nearby where we were to feed and sleep, However, we were a motley ill-disciplined lot and I for one went home at night but had meals at the lodgings, the people there treated us very well indeed. On Sunday Sept 3rd we paraded to St Nicholas Chapel and whilst we were there the Prime minister announced over the radio that we were now at war with Germany.

Our lives were about to be disrupted for a number of years. We now carried our Army Pay Books at all times and three identity disks embossed with our regimental number, name and religion were issued. These discs were made of hard fibre material and hung round our necks on a string. Gasmasks issued to service personnel in a canvas bag were carried on the front of the chest with supporting straps over the shoulders. Those issued to civilians were much lighter in weight and were carried in a small card box suspended by a string around the neck.

Strict blackout laws were introduced, this meant windows and doors had to be heavily draped with dark material, or shuttered so that there was no light emission, street lights were turned off and vehicle's lights were masked so that they gave only a narrow horizontal downward beam of light, people were allowed to carry torches which had to be used with extreme care, never to be pointed upwards. Air raid wardens were appointed who patrolled the streets after dark had powers to enforce these rules. We were soon to learn what discipline was all about; it came in the shape of an ex-Guards drill sergeant who was posted to us with the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major.

A strict disciplinarian he lost no time in making his presence felt, including taking on the officers. From being Saturday afternoon soldiers, as the "Terriers" were affectionately known, he made us into real soldiers. The bandsmen carried on with first-aid and stretcher-bearer training, which is traditionally their role in times of war. This we did on the Walks football ground possibly spending more time playing football than doing our training, all very well until the surprise appearance one day of the R S M. The following day we were ordered to parade in full marching order and he let us have it, foot-drill, rifle-drill, marching, turning, wheeling, I think at some time each of the sections, signallers, machine-gun squad, headquarters staff, received the same treatment. We were given medical checks and a Jab or two, inoculated, had Dental checks and received treatment.

After some discussion between my wife and I and my parents it was decided it would be best to leave the house we were renting in West Lynn and we moved in with my parents in Lynn. My wife was now several months pregnant with our second child. A friend who had some space to spare stored our home

On the first of November we had to tear ourselves away from our loved ones and all the people who had been so kind to us since we were called up. We boarded a train at King's Lynn, which took us to Aldershot the renowned garrison town in Hampshire where we were accommodated in Talayera barracks

By this time my wife was about due to give birth and one day I was called to the Guard room to answer a phone call, it was my father calling to tell me my wife had been taken to hospital where she had given birth to a stillborn child. I went to the company office hoping to be granted some leave but was refused admission to the office, and on turning away from the office door I spotted the R S M, I approached him in the best military manner I could muster. In his usual sharp manner "Yes what is it you want" he barked and as I somewhat nervously told him my problem he suddenly became human and without further to do marched me back to the company office, "wait there lad" he barked, although at this time his voice did have a tone of kindness, it had lost some of it's parade-ground harshness.

He marched into the office leaving me standing outside, I heard some loud conversation and after a few moments he emerged saying to me "someone will be with you shortly lad" and with that he marched off. After a short time a sergeant came out and gave me a four-day leave pass and a travel warrant, I was very soon entrained on my way home to spend a couple of days with my wife and daughter and my parents. So that seemingly heartless character did have a heart after all. During November the battalion trained and were involved in field exercises including our role as a pioneer battalion to the 51st Highland infantry division. During this period orders had been received that we would proceed overseas in the New Year and the band played for the last time, leading the battalion to a service at the garrison church. After this we were given embarkation leave. We had our first Christmas dinner, army style, in the men's mess. We embarked at Southampton on the 13th January 1940 and sailed for France. On arriving at Cherbourg we boarded a train, in cattle trucks, it was a long bitterly cold journey, we were now well and truly parted from family and friends; the question was "for how long?" For the majority who were taken prisoner in France it was to be for five years; for a few, such as myself it was to be a few months. Some were killed in action and never returned. Our letters home had to be left unsealed to be censored by the officers, which made it difficult to write passionately to those close to us. Our address was simply B E F France. So people at home did not know exactly where we were. During January we received parcels of Woollen Comforts from the King's Lynn depot for Servicemen's Comforts. These parcels contained Scarves, Balaclavas and Gloves knitted by a group of ladies headed by Winifred Catleugh, Mayoress of King's Lynn.

Meanwhile at home the Local Defence Volunteer (L D V) force had been formed, to provide defence in the event of invasion and first aid and rescue work during and after air raids. From this

force the Home Guard (Dads Army) was formed, as was the Air Raids Precautions (A R P) group. My father served as a First Aid worker in this latter group. Civilians volunteered for work of their choice then met at allotted points in the evenings to do training ready to carry out rescue work should it be required.

During the day, if their services should be needed they were called from their places of work by the sounding of air raid Sirens. Although these people were allowed to choose the type of work they wished to do it became compulsory to do something. Cellars were fitted out to be used as airraid shelters; candles and matches were in great demand to light these shelters if required, tinned foods were also stocked and somewhat crude toilet facilities assembled. Concrete shelters were built in the streets for communal use.

Two types of shelters were supplied for family use where there were no cellars and street shelters were not practical; Anderson shelters for outdoor use were made of corrugated iron and were sunk into the ground about 4 or 5 ft, the roofs covered with earth and turf; provided shelter for about 6 to 8 people. The Morrison shelter designed for indoor use, was a large steel table the top being a sheet of steel about 6 ft x 4 ft with angled steel legs at each corner, in the bottom was a steel mesh bed base on to which a mattress and bed clothing could be laid, and so one crawled into bed under a protective steel sheet, in your own living room. These proved very popular with elderly people and saved many lives when buildings collapsed during air raids. Air raid wardens kept a record as to the position of these indoor shelters within the houses so as to facilitate rescue work. Stirrup pumps to extinguish fires with water, sand and long-handled shovels and sandbags to extinguish incendiary bombs were issued to households.

As for the other members of my family, my sister joined the local company of the Auxiliary Territorial Service (A T S), the women's section of the army, my older brother was already a member of the same T A company as myself serving in the signal section, my younger brother was





still at school, on leaving school as soon as he was old enough he joined the Royal Navy. As already mentioned my father was serving as a first-aid worker, my mother kept the home-fires burning, later in the war some Canadian A T S were billeted with her but there was always room for us to come home to. Now we really were a family at war.

The weather in France was quite atrocious. Bitterly cold, frozen roads and heavy falls of snow. We were billeted in cowsheds, in lofts above cattle sheds and other farm outbuildings, at times the snow came in through the roof and covered our beds as we slept, our beds being two blankets on a wooden floor. We slept with our clothes on removing only our boots, which we placed inside the blankets otherwise they were frozen stiff in the morning. Water for washing and shaving we drew from a well and iced over while we were using it.

The ground was frozen solid. It was while we were in this area we saw the huge military cemeteries with thousands of headstones to the memory of men killed during the first world war, each stone carved with the soldiers regimental badge, his name, rank and army number and a short epitaph. After a few days we moved further north to the Metz and Alsace Lorraine area, our billets here were more comfortable, though still very hard. Patrols went out at night beyond the Maginot line to find out what the enemy were up to. We were now living close to the enemy who began to shell the woods where they suspected we were. We witnessed aerial Dogfights between Spitfires and Messerschmitt and saw one of the Messerschmitts shot down.

The enemy dropped leaflets urging French soldiers to give up their arms assuring them they would be well cared for. A message arrived at the company office saying that if I so wished I could proceed to a Royal Army Ordnance Corps Workshop for Trade testing as a Textile refitter. This meant if I were successful a few pence would be added to my wife's weekly allowance. After medical tests known as (F F I's) fit and free from infection, I said goodbye to my brother and pals and boarded a train at Metz destined for "I knew not where".

My instructions were to report to the Railway Transport Office (R T O) on arrival at a named railway station where I was given instructions and boarded a train to report at another stop. At Rouen I was taken to a hotel and fed and slept the night, after breakfast I boarded another train, which took me to my hitherto unknown destination, Nantes.

The R A O C workshops I had been posted to was in a large Peugeot Garage which had been taken over by the French authorities and on my arrival all of the personnel were gathered round a radio which was high on a pillar in the middle of the workshops, with the exception of the radio there was dead silence.

During my three-day train journey I had no idea what was happening in other parts of Europe, I was soon to learn, through that radio, the Germans had invaded Belgium and were advancing south into northern France. I reported to the office and was allotted a bed space on a balcony overlooking the workshops.

The next morning I reported for duty to the Staff-sergeant in charge of the textile refitting workshop and was duly put to work making new canvases and fitting them to stretchers which I had previously stripped of torn, muddy and blood-spattered canvases, this after serving as a stretcher-bearer in an Infantry battalion.

After a few days I ventured forth into the outside world to observe the pitiful sight of thousands of refugees fleeing southwards ahead of the advancing German army. I wondered what had happened to all the pals I had left behind in northern France. I had received no letters from home and no idea how much they had learned of the disaster unfolding here on the continent. We were very soon uprooted and were taken to an aerodrome on the outskirts of St Nazaire, where we stayed the night, sleeping around the perimeter, under the stars. The next morning we set off marching to the Docks, a long tiresome march brought about by the volume of bodies making for the docks and hoping to be able to board a ship to get home to England.

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#### ALBERT VICTOR BOWLS CLUB, MANOR ROAD, DERSINGHAM

The Albert Victor Bowls Club will be opening the bowls green for the coming season on Sunday 23rd April with play starting at 2.30 pm. All players past and present are invited to come along for a game, also anybody who wishes to join the club or just have a go (bowls shoes or flat smooth shoes only). The club will again this year be competing in leagues on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings and odd Sunday mornings. Please come along and enjoy a friendly game and relax in the clubhouse after. We also run prize bingo sessions on the second Wednesday of the month through the winter period of September to April – eyes down 7.30 pm – open to anybody, young or old, who enjoys a game in a friendly environment. For further details please contact Barbara Daw 01485 542414 or David Hines 01485 544799 (Evenings)

#### TREFOIL GUILD

The District Thinking Day Celebrations were held at Redgate Middle School - Hunstanton, and St George's School - Dersingham. The North-west Norfolk Guild gave their support to the gatherings of Rainbow Brownies, Guides and Rangers representing 25 groups in this pocket of Norfolk. Songs, charades and numerous activities were performed. At Dersingham each unit put on a stage show in 5 minute slots. The narrative steered us through the history of the Guides Movement from the 1909 Crystal Palace Rally, with sketches from different countries dressing in costumes accordingly. The North-West Guild acted out o sketch representing Mexico. Both groups finished the events with a renewal of our Guide Promises.

Mrs Amy Reynolds - 3 March 2006

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# News in Brief

St Nicholas Church's PCC Coffee mornings go from strength to strength and are evolving into what seems to be becoming a miniature version of a farmer's market. Well done to those who are contributing to its success.

"The Dersingham Lion" – the village's new mascot – made his presence known at the first Coffee Morning and Boot Sale held in February on the Recreation Ground. The Holiday Activities Committee are working hard to produce many new events within the village, for young and old alike, and look forward to seeing many of you there – keep an eye out for the notices in shop windows, on notice boards and in this publication.

Two year old Thomas Buck of Dersingham has been nominated for the Lynn News Super Kids courage award - Having gone through many difficulties since birth, Thomas has been nominated by his grandmother, Mrs Jane Barrett, for his bravery in coping with the situations in which he found himself. We wish him well in his bid for the award.

A new bench seat is to be found on the sports ground thanks to the generosity of the Sandringham fire-fighters who have donated it in memory of the ever popular Jamie Griffin who died after an accident involving a car in June. At the presentation were Jamie's parents and his girl friend Jade Rand who lost part of her leg in the same accident. An inscription on the bench reads "IN MEMORY OF GRIFF AGE 17"

#### War Memorial Design Competition

When it was built the war memorial was on the northern edge of the village. Traffic consisted of little more than horses and carts with the very occasional mechanically propelled vehicle. However, with the passing of the years the village has grown as has the traffic. The Parish council has lately been asked to increase the available standing area for those attending Remembrance services. Currently, if there is a good crowd, quite a few people have to stand in the road. The area could also do with a bit of sprucing up, the tarmac is breaking up and it is generally in need of a bit of TLC.

To answer these points the council are moving the fencing back from its present position to create a bigger area. Combined with this we wish to commemorate the long and valuable service given to the village by our late chairman, Malcolm Nurse, by creating a Memorial Garden in the new area.

So we are running a competition for the design of this garden. Open to all ages, this should give a real chance for you budding designers to make your mark on the village.

For entry forms and a design brief please contact Sarah at the Parish Council Office. Closing date for entries is 30 June.

# Prancing On Ice by Kathy

#### **Village Voice Live**

#### 7 February 2006

A crisp winter's evening saw our best-attended event yet with some 73 souls settling down to hear Dr Paul Richards lecture us on the history of Lynn and the North Norfolk Ports. Sadly, nobody brought a supply of pins to drop, as these would have been easily heard, such was the high level of concentration given to our speaker by the attentive and warm audience. I say warm as, following recent complaints, the heating system in the hall had been given a good seeing to and was pumping out the watts causing some of the gathering to almost break into a sweat.

The well-illustrated talk was bisected by the usual refreshment and raffle break during which Paul managed to sell the bulk of the books he brought with him which expanded his topic of the evening. If you lost out on this retail opportunity you can get the titles in question and a lot more from True's Yard in King's Lynn.

#### 7 March 2006

Those of you that missed this event definitely missed a treat. David Clayton from BBC Radio Norfolk gave us a really entertaining evening, as one might expect from such a seasoned broadcaster, and had his audience rocking with mirth. He started with a short history of his career so far touching on such wide-ranging elements as accountancy and naturists. After demonstrating his passion for chocolate cake during our refreshment stop, David gave us his thoughts on the Licence Fee, broadcasting during the World Trade Centre attack, the death of a colleague and all the other considerations that a station head must deal with on a daily basis.

The evening ended with some lively questioning by the audience and a good round of applause.

#### **DIARY OF REGULAR EVENTS**

Day	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Every Mon, Tues, Thur &	9.00 to	Dersingham	Playgroup	Dersingham Community
Fri	11.30 am	Playgroup	Meeting	Centre, Manor Road
Every Mon & Fri in Term	9.30 to	Puddleducks	Toddler Group	Dersingham Methodist
Time	11.00 am	Toddler Group	Meeting	Church Hall
1st Monday in the	2.15 pm	Royal British Legion	Dersingham & Sandringham Branch	Albert Victor Bowls Club,
Month	2.15 pm	Women's Section	Meeting	Manor Road
2nd Monday in the Month	7.30 pm	Royal	Meeting	Orchard Close
Zira Worlday in the World	7.00 pm	British Legion	Mooning	Community Room
Last Monday in the Month	7.15 pm	Dersingham Parish	Full Council	Infant and Nursery
-	·	Council	Meeting	School, Saxon Way
Every	6.00	2nd Dersingham Brownie	Meeting for	Scout & Guide HQ
Tuesday	to	Guide Group	girls aged	Dersingham Sports
	7.30 pm	D 14 ( 121 : O )	7 - 10	Ground
Every Tuesday	8 pm	Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes	Sandringham Lodge Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
1st Tuesday of the Month	7.30 pm	Village Voice	Presentations by Guest	St Nicholas
Tot ruodady of the Month	7.00 pm	'Live'	Speakers/Groups	Church Hall
1st Tuesday of the Month	7.30 pm	Dersingham Methodist	Meeting	Dersingham Methodist
_		Church Art Club	_	Church Hall
Every Wednesday	10.00 am	Dersingham	Recreation & Leisure	Dersingham Community
	to 4.00 pm	Day Centre for the	Activities	Centre,
		Elderly	and Mid-day Meal	Manor Road
Every Wednesday	6.00	Beavers	Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ
	to		for children	Dersingham Sports
5 0 134 1 (4	7.15 pm	D : 1 :	aged 6 - 8	Ground
Every 2nd Weds of the Month	5.30 to 7.00 pm	Dersingham Junior Flower Club	Meeting of Children aged 8+	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every 2nd Weds of the	10.30 am	St Nicholas	Men's Group	St Nicholas
Month	10.00 am	Men's Group	Meeting	Church Hall
Every 2nd Weds of the	7.30 pm	Albert Victor	Prize	Albert Victor
Month		Bowls	Bingo	Bowls Club,
Sept to April		Club		Manor Road
Every	10.30 am	North West Norfolk Phobbies	Meeting	Dersingham Community
Thursday	to 3.00 pm	Club		Centre, Manor Road
Every	4.15 to	1st Dersingham Rainbow	Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ
Thursday	5.30 pm	Guide	for girls	Dersingham Sports
	5.55 p	Group	aged 5-7	Ground
Every	6.00	1st Dersingham	Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ
Thursday	to	Brownie Guide	for girls	Dersingham Sports
	7.30 pm	Group	aged 7 - 10	Ground
Every	7.00	!st Sandringham	Unit	Dersingham
Thursday	to	Guide	Meeting	Community Centre,
	9.00 pm	Unit		Manor Road
Every	7.00 to	!st Dersingham	Group	Scout & Guide HQ
Thursday	9.00 pm	Scout Group	Meeting	sports ground
Every	7.00 to	Norfolk Army Cadet	Sandringham	The Drill Hall,
Thursday	9.30 pm	Force	Detachment Meeting	Dodds Hill
Every Thursday	7.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Badminton Club	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every Thursday	2 pm	Park House	Rubber Bridge	Park house
Sept to June	_ 2 μιιι	Hotel	Nubber Bridge	Hotel
1st Thursday of month		Dersingham flower club	Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
1st Thursday of month	7.15-10pm	Dersingham Evening	Meeting	St Cecilia's
13t Thursday Of HIOHIT	7.10-10pm	Weomens Institute	weemig	Church Hall
		77 COMONS INSTITUTE		Ondi on Fidir

2nd Thursday of the Month	7.30 pm	Dersingham Horticultural Society	Meeting	St Cecilia's Church Hall
3rd Thursday of the Month	9.30 to 10.30 am	Dersingham Methodist Church Jigsaw Club	Meeting	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Friday	6.30 to 8 pm	1st Dersingham Guide Unit	Unit Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ Dersingham Sports Ground
Every Friday	6.45 to 9.15 pm	Dersingham Carpet Bowls Club	Club Meeting	St George's Middle School
Alternate Fridays	2.15 to 4.30 pm	Dersingham Seniors Club	Entertainment and Outings for the over-60s	St Nicholas Church Hall

DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS						
Day	Date	Month	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Sat	22	April	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Dersingham Parish Council	Village Open Day	St Ccilia's Church Mountbatten Road
Sun	7	May	2.00 pm to 5.00 pm	National Gardens Scheme	Open Garden	Croft House, Manor Road
Sat	29	Apr	9.00 to 12.00 noon	St Nicholas Flower Festival Fund	Garage Sale	St Nicholas Church Hall
Wed	10	May	10am - Noon	Norfolk Constabulary	Mobile Police Station	Budgen's Car Park
Sat	13	May	10.00 to 12.00 noon	Dersingham Horticultural Society	Gardeners' Fair	Orchard Close Community Hall
Wed	24	May	2.30 pm	Village Voice	Deadline for copy & adverts	Parish Council Office
Thur	25		10.00 to 5.00	Dersingham	Annual	Dersingham
То	To	May	(Sun-from	Methodist	Flower	Methodist Church
Mon	29		2.00 to 5.00)	Church	Festival	Post Office Road
Sun	28	May	11.00 am to 3.00 pm	Campaign Care '94	9th Annual Plant Sale	Rear of Church Crofts, Manor Road
Sun &	28	May	2.00	St Nicholas Church &	Dersingham	Various
Mon	&		to	Dersingham Methodist	Open	venues in
	29		6.00 pm	Church	Gardens	the village
Sun	4	Jun	7.30 pm	Park House Hotel	Music for a Summer Evening	Park House Hotel
Wed	7	Jun	10am - Noon	Norfolk Constabulary	Mobile Police Station	Budgen's Car Park
Wed	14	Jun	2.30 pm	Village Voice	Deadline for copy & adverts	Parish Council Office

#### TAKE NOTICE

There are currently 4 Parish Council Notice Boards in the village. These are located at Thaxters Car Park, Outside the Library entrance, on Lynn Rd opposite Budgens and on the wall of the Police Station/Parish Council office.

Here we display agendas for Parish Council meetings, notices of Parish Council events- Village Voice Live, Open Day etc., etc., and other official announcements. We are unable to display details of other village activities, mainly for reasons of space.

We have just erected a much larger display board for the announcing of village events, which has been planted in the recreation ground by the corner of Bank Road and thus is highly visible from Hunstanton Road for the world and his wife to see. To use this facility please contact the Parish Clerk. 01485 541465

#### 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 – 10 May and 7 Jun 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 10 May 2006 Enquiries regarding advertisements







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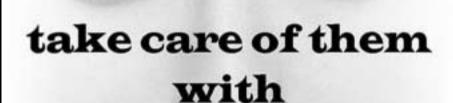
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