

Dersingham Village Voice

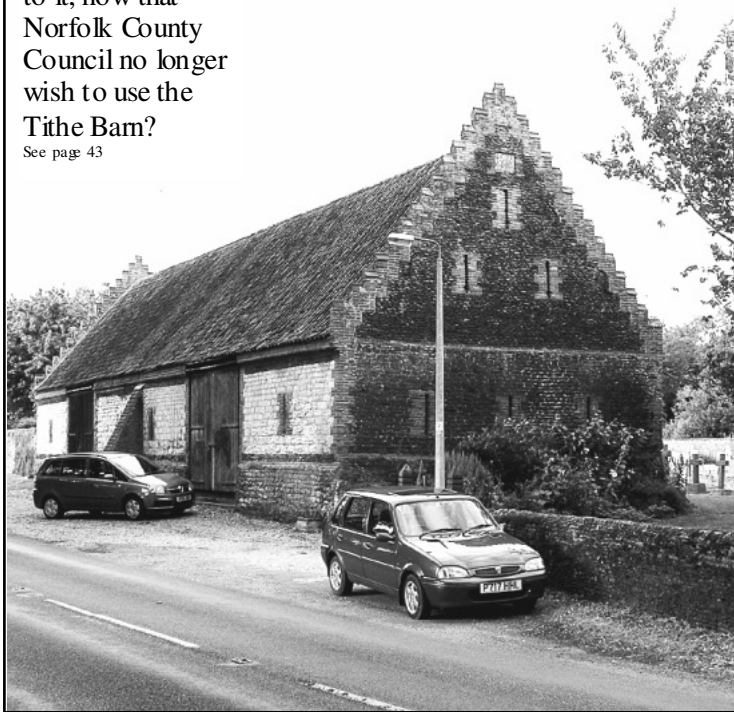
Issue 48

October 2007

THIS VILLAGE BUILDING, PART OF THE HISTORY OF DERSINGHAM, APPEARS TO HAVE A CERTAIN FUTURE!

What will happen to it, now that Norfolk County Council no longer wish to use the Tithe Barn?

See page 43



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Editor's Notes



Well, the 'summer' is over! We now approach autumn and are all wondering what happened to the weather over the last couple of months, raising the arguments for and against so-called 'Global Warming.' The media are continuing to bombard us with evidence that it exists, the politicians are using it as an excuse to extort more and more money from us, and even the scientists are not agreed on the subject, so what chance have we, the people in the street, got? Whatever, it would be nice to think that we are going to see an improvement, with less of the damage which has occurred across the country, and indeed the world!

As far as this area is concerned it is fortunate that there have been no major flooding incidents, which would have been reminiscent of 1953, and that the people who live in the most vulnerable areas have not had to be evacuated as those in places in the north have been. Long may this be.

This magazine continues to be 'flooded' - fortunately with articles, not water - and this has led once again, to a full content of most interesting reading which I hope will appeal to all.

In reading some of the items one or two have caught my attention, one in particular being that Jackie Austin, Head Teacher of the Infant and Nursery School, has made the decision to take retirement in July of next year. Jackie will be sorely missed as she has played a big part in the lives of many of the young people of the village during her time here, but we wish her well in her future years, which will, I am sure, not be idly spent.

It was the 'Tribute to Alan Bell', the former Bell Captain at St Nicholas Church, which decided me to include the two articles related to the 'Church Clock' and 'The Birthplace of Bells' as a way of paying our respects to him.

The issue surrounding the County Council's wish to part with the Tithe Barn seems to have arrived at a satisfactory conclusion, for, although it is a listed building, the thought of a property developer getting hold of it fills me with horror.

Our newly formed Safer Communities Policing team are now fully functional, and, looking at the report of the result in Gayton, are already beginning to have an impact on the area.

It was very pleasing to read of the major success of the Fun Day which was organised by the very industrious Dersingham Entertainment Committee. Well done to you all!

Those of you who read every item in the magazine will see that we have a new team member in that Rob Smyth is taking over the role which was formerly that of his late sister, Stella Cant, and has now accepted the responsibility for layout.

The Members of the Parish Council seem to be increasing in number as each issue of the magazine comes out, but there is still a need for further co-options in order to create the full complement of eighteen Members, have you sufficient interest in the village to become involved in the decision-making surrounding it? If so, please contact Sarah at the Council office, who will guide you through the procedure.

In the meantime, please keep your articles and comments coming in - the more the merrier as they say - for without input from the various clubs, associations and individuals in the area there would be nothing to read, which would make for a very boring magazine.

Until next time, many regards, Bob.



Hunstanton and West Norfolk Lifeboat Guild

Invites you to its Christmas Fair

At Hunstanton Town Hall on Wednesday 14 November from 10.00 am to 12 noon

RNLI gifts and Christmas cards - Cakes - Produce - Bric-a-brac - Jewellery - Raffles

Entrance 50p to include Coffee and Biscuits

Letters to the Editor

Ion Trewin writes; BLACKHEATH LODGE- I did not respond to Dick Melton's query in the June issue because he was asking about the whereabouts of Blackheath Lodge in 1904. Elizabeth Fiddick's answer in the August issue is, however, incorrect, at least the last part is.

It is true that Beck House in Chapel Road (not Manor Road) – where we live – was previously called Blackheath Lodge, but not in 1904. As the deeds to our house show, in 1904 our house was called 'The Shieling'. I can't be precise as to when its name was changed to Blackheath Lodge, but certainly not until the 1950s. On moving to Dersingham in 2002 my wife and I changed the name to Beck House in memory of Captain Frank Beck, celebrated for leading the Sandringham volunteers into battle at Gallipoli and failing to return. The Sandringham Estate had given his widow the use of The Shieling for the rest of her life. On her death in 1936 the house was sold by the estate – King George VI was one of the signatories to the sale. We thought it appropriate to remember the Beck connection with Dersingham in this way. Sorry Dick Melton, this means that your query about the whereabouts of Blackheath Lodge in 1904 remains unsolved.

Helen Buckenham writes; Our fundraising continues (as ever) but our latest news is that at last we have made it to London to meet up with our newest Patron, Michael Xavier who is currently starring as Raoul in The Phantom of the Opera in the West End. The weather was very kind to us and the day was a delight. Michael is absolutely charming and a very easy person to get along with, in fact we didn't feel as though we were meeting a stranger at all. He is going to try and help us with our fundraising by contacting some of his showbiz friends and former colleagues. The photograph, taken with the Portland Gallery in the background, (which we got to visit before we met Michael) features, left to right, Anne Reynolds, (our Mum) Liz Smith



(my sister) then me and Michael Xavier.

Chris Bond, now of Blakeney, writes; My mother was brought up in Dersingham, she lived with her parents (Porter) and grandfather (Mickleburgh) at 'Pleasant Place'. I came across an old photo recently which I believe may show her outside the shop (HJ Cobbald) where she worked as a young girl, if so this would be around 1930. The shop appears the same one as your 'H8' in village views on the web-site. My distant memory is that the shop was in or around Kings Croft. I attach an image of my card which you are welcome to include if you wish.



Mrs Alice Worth of The Copse 53B Chapel Road Dersingham writes; Attached is an article a neighbour of mine has written - Mrs Jean Barber of Old Hall Drive. I thought it worthy of sharing with others and suggested that she send it to you for the Village Voice but she said she didn't think it good enough. I told her I would send it to you on her behalf. If you can find room to print it I would be very pleased.

THE WINDMILLS OF MY MIND – by Jean Barber

Looking and thinking of windmills made my mind wander; the water that helps power the mill is akin to the water we need to live. Sometimes it can cause untold damage and then again it can be tranquil and serene and we cannot survive without it. There is the wind that drives the sails around. Sometimes so calm and placid, other times too powerful and so very cruel that it will destroy anything that's in its way. Just as in life, we meet our obstacles to be overcome and we realise that some people are like the wind, blowing everything away that gets in their path of life. Others bring sunshine and kindness to balance our lives, just like the sails of the windmill going around. I look at the sails and see a symbol of our mortality. We are born leaving a dark and warm safe place cosseted in the womb, then we push our way into the light when warm and caring hands reach out to us to care for our every need. We are loved. The sails move round; we grow; we meet people from different walks of life; we meet the kind and helpful and we meet the cruel and unfeeling. We meet different cultures and we learn.

We are educated at school by dedicated teachers. As the sails turn, so we progress to our teenage years, full of different emotions and "dramas". Then we become adults. Many may marry and have their own young to give the love and care that we had given to us when we were young. Slowly the sails grind down. They have finished their revolution and they have aged, as our minds and bodies age. Our babies have flown the nests but if we are lucky we will have been given the wonderful gift of grandchildren. Life is always changing and turning like the sails of the windmill and when one of our family or friends die we feel great despair and some times depression and anger and then, eventually, the time has come to accept what has passed. For that is life and how it is meant to be. Just look at the beauty of the heavens and pictures in the clouds and those in the fires that we saw when we were young. There was also the beauty of the windmill grinding the flour for our daily bread. My mind is old now but memories are very precious. The windmills of my mind are my parents; the animals that I loved and cared for; my dear friends that I have laughed and at times cried with when one of us was sad. My lovely children and other children that come to us in life; my dear friend and husband and last, but by no means least, my four grandchildren and beautiful great-granddaughter, Anna Louise.

Ann Chapman of West Hall Road, Dersingham writes; Should residents have complaints about the inadequacy of our bus service i.e. buses not running to time or not running at all, they should lodge a complaint, either by telephone or in writing, to;

**Richard Hollis Bus Compliance Manager - Southern Region Vehicle & Operator Services Agency
Enforcement Section Goods Vehicle Testing Station, Garretts Green Industrial Estate
Granby Avenue Birmingham B3 30SS Tel 0121 783 6665 Fax 0121 6034400**

This is the organisation that polices the efficiency of bus services. I know the County Council pays for the service but the Vehicle & Operator Services Agency ensures that the bus companies keep to the authorised timetable, if they don't, the Traffic Commissioner has the power to call them before a Public Inquiry and has a number of disciplinary powers at his disposal should this occur. I have complained to VOSA about an incident and am aware that similar complaints are being investigated by them. Many residents of our village rely on the bus service being reliable.



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Sarah's Page

Hi

I hope that you all had a good holiday; unfortunately the weather has not been very kind to us. The children are now back at school and everyone is trying to put off thinking about Christmas. The Council have been looking into Christmas Lights, please can you let me have your ideas regarding lighting the thirteen trees around the Hunstanton Road side of the Recreation Ground or just lighting up the big lime tree around the War Memorial. What would you like, what would your children like? Please let me know.

Unfortunately we had to cancel the Summer Sports for the children due to a lack of children. Can you please let me know if you had a problem with anything, was the venue wrong, did you require more for one age group, were the times wrong for you? Would you

please let me know?

Did you all enjoy the one day festival put on by the Dersingham Entertainment Committee? It was a shame that the weather was horrid for the evening. We will have to book better weather for next year. I hope the children who attended the Pyramid Rock Club put on by St Nicholas Church enjoyed themselves.

Green bags unfortunately have now been taken away for Dersingham residents but if you live in Wolferton, West Newton etc and do not have the option of a brown bin you can still purchase from us. In the meantime I hope that you have been able to order and obtain your brown bin or are working out to share with a neighbour to help with the cost. It only leaves me to say that Anita and I will miss seeing you come in for your bags.

Still keep the posters coming for the Public Notice board. It is well used and must be an asset to the village and its organisations. The suggestion box is being used more often, which is good; keep your ideas and concerns coming in. Hopefully more news rebottle bank soon.

We still have seven vacancies for councillors and if you wish to come and join us please apply. Well I think that is all from me. If there is something happening in the village that you wish to know more about, or not happy about, please do not hesitate to contact me at the office, and I will do my best to help.

Sarah

Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening Times

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

The Dersingham Parish Council Office is at

The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham, Norfolk PE3 16LH
Tel: 01485 541465 E-mail: Dersingham@wnpcb.net

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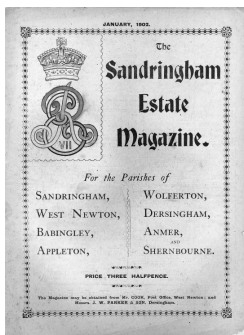
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The Editor has been fortunate enough to have been given the loan of many copies of 'The Sandringham Estate Magazine' dating from 1898 to 1903, which also incorporate 'The Church Monthly'

Permission has been kindly given by the Sandringham Estate for us to publish extracts from these magazines for which we are grateful



The following article has been reproduced from the 16

January 1899 edition and we will publish further extracts in future issues of the Village Voice.

THE BIRTHPLACE OF BELLS

By F. M. Holmes,
Author of "The Gold Ship," etc.

"Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light!
The year is dying on the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die!"

TENNYSON



ANCIENT TRADEMARK.

THE music of the bells is so sweet, and has mingled with human life for so many centuries, that it is not surprising the dulcet tones and tender associations have inspired many a song and many a poet.

The very thrill and melody of the New Year's bells seem to throb through Tennyson's well-known lyric; and it is interesting to know that, according to his biography, it was penned in a cottage in Epping Forest, within sound of the bells of Waltham Abbey, whose chimes suggested the beautiful lines to him.

So also that eccentric genius, Edgar Allan Poe, was inspired by the music of the bells. In one of the finest of his poems—almost unique for its curious yet perfectly rhythmical versification—he depicts the joyous tinkle of the merry sledge-bells, the happiness of the mellow wedding-bells, the shriek of the alarm-bells and "the solemn tolling of the iron-throated death-bell. And there is Father Prout's "Bells of Shandon" the fine poem on the famous peal which everyone who goes to Cork makes a point of hearing.

Bells are of such old manufacture that we should not be surprised to find some ancient foundry still flourishing, but dating back for some hundreds of years. Such indeed is the case. The Whitechapel foundry of Messrs. Mears & Stainbank was established as far back as 1570, that is, eighteen years before the defeat of the great Spanish Armada; even then the originators of this firm were casting bells in

Whitechapel, and their successors have continued to do so ever since. In the entrance yard to their works stands a large bell, the work of the Whitechapel foundry, bearing date 1594, and the name Robertus Mot, who originated the works.

From that time to the present some of the most noted bells in England have been born there. "Great Peter," of York, with its monster weight of 10¾ tons, "Great Tom," of Lincoln, half the size, but still enormous; "Dunstan," of Canterbury, with its 3½ tons, and the mammoth "Big Ben" of Westminster, eclipsing them all with its burden of over 13½ tons; all these and many more including the great bell of Montreal, weighing 11 tons 11 cwt., and the clock-bell of St. Paul's (1709), weighing 5 tons – first saw the light at the ancient Whitechapel foundry.

And now how are the bells made? The principle is very simple, but like many simple principles the application is difficult. In fact, bell-founding requires very great skill and care; it might almost be called an art rather than an industry. Most persons perhaps are aware that bell-metal is



LINING A CAST-IRON BELL MOULD WITH LOAM.

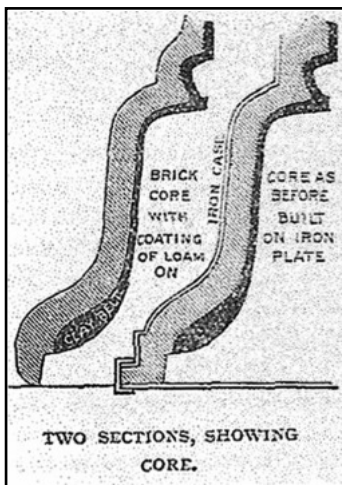
composed of about three parts of copper to one of tin; but slight variations in the proportions are doubtless made to obtain the best tone, and the best qualities of the metals must be used.

Moreover, all the preliminaries must be carried out with great exactitude to obtain the beautiful swelling shape and handsome proportions and suitable thickness of the bell, upon which, as well as upon the materials, the tone depends.

These proportions having been decided upon, according to the knowledge, skill, and experience of the founders, the next step is to prepare the moulds. These are, roughly speaking, two in number – the core, which forms the hollow and the inner side of the bell; and the cope, which fits over it like a larger pot over a smaller one. A space is left between the two, into which the molten bell-metal is poured.

The core is often first built up with bricks and soft clay, or loam, plastered over them; the clay is then moulded to shape by an instrument called a crook.

The crook is like the leg of a gigantic pair of compasses, one leg of which is fixed in the center of the core, the other leg is shaped to the required swelling proportions of the bell, and, being carefully swept round and round the clay, the crook soon produces a





perfect circular mould of the proportions required for the interior of the bell. The core is then baked hard. By a former method of bell-making a coating of loam and haybands, the thickness of the bell, was next formed over the core, and moulded by the crook to the shape of the outer side of the bell. Over this mould the cope was formed, the inside being the exact copy of the outer side of the bell. When dried, it was removed; the haybands and loam representing the proposed bell itself were also removed; and when the cope was smoothed inside, and any device or lettering added, the cope could be let down over the core, and the vacant space remained to be filled up by the molten metal.

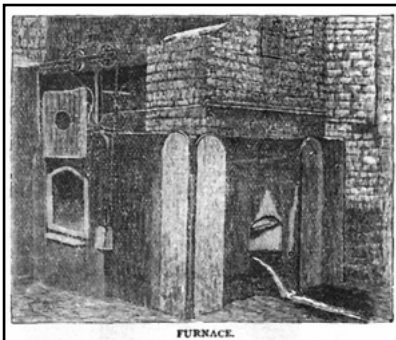
But by an improvement of this process iron cases or moulds are now generally

used for the copes an arrangement which prevents the constant breaking of the clay; but the essential feature of the core and the cope remains unchanged. The core is built up on an iron plate and moulded to shape as before, while the iron cases are set on their heads and lined with loam to the required thickness. They also are then shaped with the crook, and swung on their side. Any lettering or decoration can now be moulded in the soft loam. When dried in the oven at the end of the mouldingroom, the iron-case cope can be clamped down over the solid core leaving the requisite space between for the thickness of the bell. A set of iron cases of various sizes lies about the large mouldingroom, and by regulating the thickness of the loam inside the cases, they are rendered suitable for different-sized bells.

The core, with the cope over it, is generally placed in a pit with the moulds of other bells, and earth or loam rammed hard all round. The molten metal can be conveyed in plumbago crucibles from the furnace, or, if the casting is very large, the clay door to the furnace is knocked away, and the metal pours forth in a fiery stream, flashing off consuscating sparks, to the channel leading to the apertures communicating with the bell moulds below.

In another large room lie a peal of bells on their heads, with their mouths gaping wide upward, waiting to be examined and tuned before being sent away to their church. The sound is modulated by shaving off a few curls of metal inside the bell, an instrument being used for this purpose which works something like the crook.



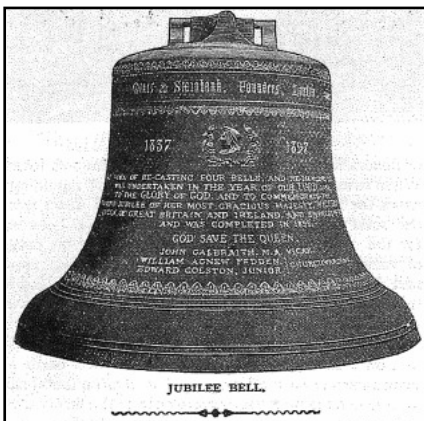


side is broken, so that it is useless for sounding purposes, and it is mounted on granite and used as a sort of chapel. The largest bell in actual use is also at Moscow, and weighs about 128 tons.

But the method of making is practically the same for small bells as for large. To nicely proportion their thickness and weight is, we say, a work of art. And it is in the quiet designing-room of the bell foundry, before even the metal is molten, where the tone and volume is heard in imagination, and where the mellow voice is born that for ages to come will ring out the cheery chime or mark the passing hours with solemn sound.

The largest bell of this peal is the big tenor, weighing $25\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.; but there is one larger still, weighing 30 cwt. It is a Jubilee bell, and on its shapely side behold! A fine portrait of the Queen appears, with the memorable date; 1837-1897, and beneath runs a suitable inscription setting forth that the peal is to celebrate her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

Almost all decoration indeed can be moulded on bells, from a simple lettering to ornate figures; and the great "Czar" bell of Moscow - probably the biggest bell in the world - exhibits somewhat elaborate decoration. Its weight is more than 198 tons; but its



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PARACHUTE PLAY, BODY BALLS, RIBBONS
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A Tribute to Alan Bell

Alan grew up in Dersingham living at No. 2 Hawthorn Cottages. He attended the village school at the bottom of Dodds Hill then on to King Edward V11 Grammar School in King's Lynn. After qualifying as a teacher he taught general subjects and rose to the position of Headteacher of Loddon Junior School. Alan retired early from teaching, and after the death of his parents returned to Dersingham with Cyndy to live in the family home on Fern Hill.

Alan was a gifted teacher and used his gifts not only in schools but also in the bellringing world. He became Tower Captain at St Nicholas in 1999 and as well as leading the bell ringers here, he trained bands of ringers from Bircham and Holme and these have flourished through his enthusiasm and encouragement.

Alan loved life and had that wonderful capacity not only to enjoy many aspects of life, but also excel as well. One of his loves was sport. He liked to tell the story of how he learned to swim at the open-air swimming baths at Hunstanton and how they had to break the ice to get in.



At teacher training college he was a proficient long distance runner. Later on in life he was a keen walker and walked the Nar Valley Way to raise funds.

He also played the guitar and at college played in a band called the Zenith Four. He obtained a private pilot's licence at Seething and had a special affection for the airfield; his ashes will be scattered there in the near future.

But with Alan not only do we celebrate his life, what he did and what he achieved but we also give thanks for the person he was. Many of us will recall his kindness, generosity and his thoughtfulness. When Carolyn and I first arrived in the parish, we were delighted that the tower captain was a man called Alan Bell, a name we couldn't possibly forget. But we were very touched when he offered to take us up the tower to look at the bells and also to take us onto the roof tower. Alan took great pride in showing us the village he loved - from a different perspective.

His gentleness was revealed also in his wonderful sense of humour – one of his dogs was affectionately called Mutley. Who else but a bell ringer, named Bell would call a dog 'Sally'. He loved to walk to the top of Fern Hill and walk along the lavender fields looking across to the Wash and looking down over Dersingham. Sometimes I would bump into him with our two laboradors who were always very eager to make Sally's acquaintance.

We shall also remember the way he faced his final illness, with enormous courage, dignity and quiet patience that revealed a strong faith. He found tremendous love and support from Cyndy and from his family, telling them that they were his light in his darkest hour.

Michael Brock

SANDRINGHAM FLOWER SHOW

WEDNESDAY 25 JULY 2007

In spite of everything the British summer could throw at us, the 126th Sandringham Flower Show was held on Wednesday 25th July. In spite of dire weather forecasts, over 18,000 people attended the Show, which, as it transpired, was largely dry apart from a few light showers.

Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall arrived at the Show at 11 am to the National Anthem played by the Band of the Parachute Regiment. They then spent more than two hours touring the Royal Marquees, charity stands, and meeting members of the public and exhibitors.

The Show gardens competition was won this year by Sue Huckle of Seven Acres Garden Design from East Tuddenham, and the Peoples' Choice for the public's favourite Show garden went to Ant Messent for his Italianate-inspired garden.

In the local Horticultural Clubs competition for small garden displays, Grimston Greenfingers



retained the title and trophy they won last year for Best In Show in this class. The Royal Marquee featured some amazing displays by nurseries with Large Gold awards going to Peter Beales Roses, The Plant Lovers, Choice Landscapes, Rougham Hall Nurseries and



Allwoods, with Silver Gilt awards going to Country Garden Landscapes and Norfolk Lavender. In the Horticultural Trades Marquee the Best in Show for this class went to The Knot Garden.

The centre of the showground featured a Victorian steam fairground with



a beautifully restored steamride of galloping horses. The sight, smells and sound of this ride evoked nostalgic memories of an age long-gone.

With over 200 trade stands, horticultural stands, a craft marquee, gardening talks and Main Arena events running all day, there was something for everyone on the showground including all the much-loved regular attractions and familiar faces which make Sandringham Flower Shows such a unique event.



The show is run by a Committee of volunteers and the profits from each show are donated to local charities. Since 1977 the Show has donated £367,000.00. The profits from this year's show will not be known until October.

Planning is already well under way for the 2008 Show which will be held on Wednesday 30 July, 2008.

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The Original Dun Cow Public House

From a photograph loaned to us by Mrs Catherine Nunn



The Dun Cow Public House

just before its demolition to
make way for the present
Budgens Supermarket



And after

As it appears now





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THE LAST OF THE WINTER ALE

By Frank Nichols, Steve Nowell & Ian Stockwell

"Hey! Larry!" shouted Miley as he ran after him heading towards the Feathers Hotel one Thursday evening when Choir Practice had been cancelled. "I saw Oliver in the Post Office this morning and pestered him until he told me what he was winding us up about when we left him last week. It seems that a huge asteroid might collide with earth in 2019. Might wipe out a whole continent apparently. Horrendous thought isn't it?"

"It certainly is. It makes you wonder what else would happen. Did he say anything more?"

"Nope. Deal casual about the whole thing he was. You know our Oliver; the damn thing would have to hit him before he batted an eyelid!"

"Coo-err" whispered Larry to himself as he opened the pub door for a rather charming young lady then said "My absolute pleasure" and bowed as she thanked him.

"Come on, 'smoochie'" said Miley, lifting Larry's jacket collar and pushing him forwards into the Sandringham bar where Oliver was already seated.

"You've got our mutual friend here in a bit of a state" said Larry to Oliver. "If we weren't actually obliterated ourselves, what else might happen when this asteroid thing hits the earth - in your opinion, that is?"

"Well" - Oliver went into his 'The Thinker' mode - "the earth might well shift on its axis producing huge changes in the world's climates. A new ice age and all that goes with it; that sort of thing. Then there could be terrible earthquakes and splits in the earth's crust and volcanic eruptions. All in all a bit messy."

"Thanks a bunch! Glad I asked! See you later" said Larry, rather glumly.

"Where are you going?"

"Home. To start digging a massive hole for a huge reinforced concrete bunker with its own built-in ecological system. Sorry; can't stop."

"Laaa-ry" called out Oliver. "No need for that. We're talking about 2019 remember, by which time a) you may well not be around to bother, b) technology will almost definitely have developed to such an extent that we can blow it to pieces before it gets anywhere near us, and c) all we know at the moment is that the asteroid *might* be coming towards the earth. OK?" Miley had been listening intently and was now more relaxed than when he came in. He was pensive though. "It makes you wonder, doesn't it?"



WHAT OF THE FUTURE

What will things be like in 2019? How will our Church and all that goes with it have changed?" The three friends pondered over their halves' and the silent Desingham Think Tank of Three Not-So-Wise Men was in operation. Larry was the first to venture a suggestion. "Humphrey the Vicar will be as bald as a coot, according to the way he's going at the moment. His present 'monk cut' will be a thing of the past. It might even be trendy for bald vicars to have the Cross tattooed on their scalps so that as the congregation leaves church all the Vicar has to do is to bow slightly to give each person a sort of blessing."

"Humphrey might not be here though" said Miley. We might not even have a Vicar. After all, there could be a communications network linking the whole diocese such that each church has a large screen and all services are taken by a Bishop or someone from a central point. It's called 'streamlining middle-management' you know - all in the interests of economy." The trio debated this for a while and decided that Humphrey would not lose his job on the grounds that Holy Communion would still be in place and would still be a one-to-one, very personal affair. They settled for diocese-wide sermons, prayers, and church music however. Larry was not over happy with this last idea. If there were two things he enjoyed they were in singing his little heart out every

Sunday morning and chatting up the lady choristers at Choir Practice on a Thursday evening. Centralised church music implied a single, elite choir, the positions in which would be competed for and he was not over confident in this idea. But not to worry, the hymns would all be 'happy-clappy' anyway and Larry would still be adidhard, traditional, fourpart hamony man.

The men had digressed a little. Humphrey's position needed further clarification. With less 'churchy' duties to perform (the Churchwardens' work would be increased considerably because they come a lot cheaper than Vicars) Humphrey would become increasingly involved with pastoral duties. Probably to the extent that he would be supplied with a modern, high-speed electric scooter (petrol for vehicles would be extinct) with which he could efficiently roar round the parish in a suitably embellished crash helmet and with his surplice streaming out behind him. It may be that, by 2019, due to unification of the durdhes, the Church of England may have adopted the Roman Catholic principle of administering last rites. In which case Humphrey could qualify for flashing lights on his scooter as well. Also, communications systems and televideo transmission networks would be cheap and easy to install and use such that Humphrey could keep in touch with his flock, individually or collectively, on a speak and see basis. What would become of the Three Not-So-Wise Men in 2019? They would be in their mid-eighties, assuming they had outlived wars, famines, and runaway asteroids and strangelets etcetera. One thing was certain - they would still turn up for their meeting over three halves' on a Thursday evening. Oliver would be even more overweight than he is now, due to a propensity for good living. He would still be reading the science articles in the Telegraph and saving them in his fine memory to put the wind up the other two at their meetings. But he would have even more trouble in bringing their meetings to order as Larry and Miley sparred with each other verbally, and undoubtedly with walking sticks by that time. No doubt Miley would still spiral off into realms of fantasy at every opportunity.

Talking of fantasy, Oliver and Miley agreed that the dapper, diminutive Larry would always have his dreams about women. He might mellow a bit with the years and may even say 'Well, hello there my dear' instead of his current fad of saying 'Hi there, sexy honey child'. He would remain pemickity to the bitter end insisting that if a word could not be found in his 1986 edition of his Wizard Pocket-Sized Gem version of the Shorter Oxford Dictionary - then it did not exist! His hair would still be long, black, and immaculately groomed; except for the occasions when Miley ruffled it just to get him mad. Despite protestations from the other two, Miley felt that if he saw New Year's Day 2019 it would be a miracle, and for this reason he was determined to make the most of what time he had left. He was obsessed about leaving his mark on the world before he left it which is why he had blown years of dust from the electrical engineering textbooks in his loft in the hope of applying 'Transient Waveform Analysis' theory to the mental condition of 'acute schizophrenia'. He had also, in an attempt to gain a modicum of horticultural recognition, mown futuristic art patterns in his lawn and sent appropriate photographs to Gardeners World. But an

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impromptu meeting of the neighbours who overlooked his property put paid to any development of that idea! However, 2019 was a long way off. For the time being the Three Not-So-Wise Men would continue to be content with their weekly meetings over three halves'; sorting out the world's mysteries and perhaps enlightening, and to some extent amusing, the residents of Dersingham at the same time.

Nurse Tina Seabrook a.k.a. D.S. Mel Silver has come a long way!

Spotlight on a popular actress who was brought up in the village

It isn't often that local siblings can be seen to be celebrities, but Duncan and Claire Goose can be two of those who are identified as being the exception to the rule, although for different reasons, Duncan's having been previously reported in the Village Voice.

Claire Goose was born on 10 February 1975 in Edinburgh and lived there till she was two-and-a-half, in a little village called Clerwood. From the age of three she grew up in Dersingham, attending, in turn, the nursery school run by Mrs Palmer, Dersingham First School under Mrs Shorten, and then Dersingham Middle School.

Her parents are mother, Joy and father, David, who is a local GP, who still reside in the village. Claire also has an elder sister, Caroline, a nursery nurse and counsellor, and, as mentioned, her elder brother, Duncan, who was featured in the last issue of this magazine. Claire was in the Brownies with Miss Baker in charge, had piano lessons with Liz Bowers, was a member of the Gladiators Swimming Club in King's Lynn, acted with the Fourville Players in Grimston, was a pupil at the Jane Ashley-Emile Dancing School and the Jenny Duda Theatre School in King's Lynn and was involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme with Tom Wilkinson in Dersingham.



At the age of 16, she attended the Italia Conti Stage School. She had many jobs before achieving eventual fame on television, including being a silver service waitress, a story telling racon in a theme park, did administration work for the NSPCC and had also done modelling. You may recognise her as the model in the "Wash'n'Go" advert who was seen washing her hair in a public fountain. Claire enjoys cooking, running and cinema, she has also been dancing since the age of three. Before her big break in 'Casualty', she nearly got the role of Tiffany in Eastenders, but was beaten by Martine McCutcheon, and she was also down to the last two for a part in 'Soldier Soldier'. She is probably most well known for her roles in 'Casualty' and 'Waking the Dead'.

In 2002, Claire went to Ethiopia, Cambodia and Mozambique with Oxfam as part of the 'Make Trade Fair' campaign to see for herself what effect the slumps in world coffee prices were having on farmers.

Claire is quoted as saying that "Back home, I'm used to popping in for coffee and a chat with friends. In Ethiopia, I was being ushered into mud huts by families who literally had nothing. So many people in Ethiopia rely on growing and selling coffee to get money for food, clothes and education. If they can't sell their coffee for a fair price, they don't have enough money to support themselves and their families. The bottom line is that if farmers don't get a fair price for their coffee they will starve."

On top of all the above, Claire is also an active promoter of her brother, Duncan's, charitable organisation, "Global Ethics," of which we reported in the last issue.

*Claire can be contacted by writing to her, c/o C.A.M., 19 Denmark Street, London
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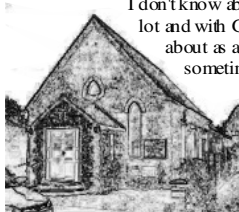
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Greetings from the Manse



I don't know about you but I talk a lot! In fact I gain my daily bread by talking a lot and with God's help, I hope I make some kind of sense about the things I talk about as a minister and as a person. Sometimes I can talk so much and sometimes so quickly that I can fall into some classic "spoonerisms." One classic for me is "carpark" or "carparking", which become "parcark" and "parcarking!" I wonder what spoonerisms are lurking out there in your conversations!

Swapping the initial letters of words was the habit of the Reverend Dr William Archibald Spooner. Dr Spooner was Warden of New College Oxford between 1876 and 1924. He certainly had a way with ones that delighted and amused generations of students. One morning in chapel Spooner announced the hymn as "Kinquering Cong's their title take" This was not the first time that the much-loved doctor had made the same kind of mistake. He once told a wayward student who was being sent down for his laziness: "You have deliberately tasted two worms, and you can leave Oxford by the town drain."

At least, that is what he is supposed to have said. Once he gained a reputation for such transposing of letters, with comical results, it was easy enough for students to invent other likely or unlikely examples and attribute them to him. Equally he earned a reputation for kindness and hospitality. He also made it his business to know all his students by name and he and his wife always made them welcome to their home. Life had not been easy for William Spooner. He was an albino and suffered all his life from weak eyesight but he overcame his disabilities courageously. Dr. Spooner was described by a contemporary as a good man, "undisturbed by storms."

Spooner's life was remembered by his contemporaries and biographers as a harmonious combination of words and deeds. We are also blessed in having the words and deeds of Jesus available to us in the New Testament. The Saviour's words help us to get our daily lives in the right order as we follow the lines and directions our Heavenly Father has set for us to maximise the joy and usefulness of our lives lived for Him and for others. The incomparable deed of his cross and resurrection, his life laid down for us, give us that assurance of pardon and acceptance in our confusion and sin, when we not only get things wrong but also stand in the wrong. Christ's straight talking and decisive action are there for everyone, now where did I put that "Tew Nestament!"

With every blessing, Kim Nally

OFT warning regarding scam telephone calls on bank charges

The OFT has been made aware of a scam involving consumers being telephoned by people, alleging to be from the OFT, asking for personal and financial information including their bank account details in order for the OFT to reclaim bank charges on their behalf.

These calls have no connection with the OFT, and their intention is to use the information for identity theft or to run up bills or commit crimes using stolen details. The OFT will never contact consumers asking them for personal bank details.

The OFT is warning consumers not to pass on personal or financial information to cold callers either over the phone or via email, and if they have already done so, to contact their bank as soon as possible and review their credit card and bank account statements to see if there have been any unauthorised transactions.

For advice call Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06 or visit the scams area on the OFT website:
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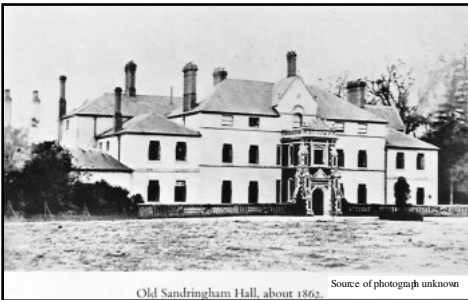
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DERSINGHAM AND THE ROYAL ESTATE

By Elizabeth Fiddick

The basis of this article is a book entitled 'The Mann and Walker Families and Their Consorts' written as a family history by Mr Don McLean of Shipdham in Norfolk who has given us kind permission to use whatever material is included. Elizabeth has, in her usual efforts to tell the full story, done additional research which is used to supplement the original.

On June 19th 1836 at the Auction Mart in London after fierce competition John Mottaux bought Sandringham Hall Estate for £76,000. The estate had been put up for sale after the death of Henry Hoste Henley. John Mottaux was never to live at the Hall and indeed it is said that although he never finished the house he did plant many pear trees in the grounds. These he visited regularly while he waited to harvest their fruit. John's forebears had fled from France in the late seventeenth century when civil rights were withdrawn from French Protestants and there was an influx of Huguenots into this country. Pierre Anthony Mottaux arrived from Rouen and quickly established himself in the silk trade. Four years later after French Protestants had been given official protection by William and Mary Pierre's nephew John arrived here and went immediately to his uncle's warehouse. Pierre



had anglicised his name to Peter and gradually handed over the running of his business to John and other family members who arrived from the continent. John became naturalised in 1693 and Peter began to follow other pursuits. He translated French books into English and also wrote several plays that were produced at a theatre in Lincoln 's Inn Fields. By 1700 his name was known to a wide circle of Londoners. On the day of his 58th birthday leaving his wife at home he set out to celebrate with several friends. It was a boisterous party and it is said his friends decided as a joke to stage a mock hanging. Peter Mottaux was strung up for sport! All would have been well except that at the precise moment Peter was "hanged" a procession passed by the house. With delighted cries the friends rushed out to watch and quite forgot the unfortunate Peter. When they eventually returned it was too late. Peter was dead. John continued to run the warehouse and erected a Huguenot hospital for the aged and poor.

He died in 1741 but his successor, also a John, was only 4 years old at the time. Later this John bought land at Beachamwell. This was then a desolate hamlet not far from Swaffham with a few poor cottages, a Norman church and a forge. John turned it into a model village of 22 brick cottages, a stately hall and a well-ordered Church. Several pretty brick cottages still surround the village green and attractive church. John died at Teignmouth in 1793 and the villagers and friends erected a stone memorial still to be seen in the church. His second son Robert was left the estate in Banstead Surrey while John the oldest inherited Beachamwell. He greatly increased the family fortune by negotiating army contracts during the Napoleonic wars. He continued to improve the Beachamwell estate and established a village school. His social position also improved as he was a frequent guest at Woburn and became a firm friend of Earl Cowper who was an influential Whig and very close to the government of the time. Mottaux spent much time with the family and became very fond of the youngest son. It was at this time that he bought the Sandringham Estate. However shortly after the purchase the news came that his brother Robert had died in Paris just five

days before and was to be buried in the Pere Lachaise cemetery. John now owned not only Beachamwell and Sandringham but also the property in Banstead Surrey. During the next four years he added a further 1,000 acres to the estate at Sandringham. The Tithe Schedule of 1839 records his property in the village, which included many acres of the Marsh as well as the woods and plantations at the top of Sandringham Hill. He owned land and houses along Manor Road close to the present Feathers Inn then known as the Cock and Abraham Gay was the victualler. The Coach and Horses run by Ann Gamble with its surrounding land, and Manor Farm next to the church, worked by Joshua Freeman, were other properties of the estate. Mottaux owned the land as you look up towards up Doddshill. These pastures had the attractive names of Clak's Pasture, Dotshill, Candle Hole Close and Emletts Hill Common. The shepherd's garden worked by George Mann on the Marshes was part of the Mottaux holdings. So although he never occupied the house he was an important person in many villagers' lives.

During his renovations to Beachamwell Hall John took lodgings in King's Lynn from where he went to Divine Service at St. Nicholas Church. He sat in an empty pew but much to his discomfiture he was politely asked to move so its usual occupants could take the seat. This he did only to be asked again to move from his new seat. He discovered that the 3000 seats in the church only allowed room for one fifth of the population of the town. He promptly gave £1500 for the erection of a new church and subsequently the Marquis of Cholmondeley of Houghton and Lord George Bentinck contributed a further £3000. The church of St. John was duly built and consecrated on June 14th 1843. (This church stands in The Walks close to the railway station.) Six weeks later on July 30th John died. He left his estates in Norfolk to Charles Spencer Cowper the son of his great friend. The plaque to John Mottaux in Beachamwell Church erected by Charles reads, "*This tablet was erected out of respect to his memory by the Hon. Spencer Cowper.*" (This charming church is well worth a visit as it also houses an unusual iron chest designed by John and given to the church in 1835. If the church is locked you have only to cross the road to the Post Office where a very friendly lady will hand you the fantastic iron key.)



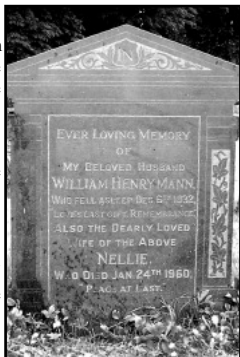
Spencer Cowper sold the Beachamwell estate but divided his time between London, Paris and Sandringham. He married in 1852 and brought his wife to Sandringham. It must have been quite a change for many villagers not to have an absentee landlord any more. In 1860 when he and his wife were in Paris there was a report that Harriet had died. This was quite false but it enabled Palmerston to suggest to the Queen that Sandringham was now deserted and would be an ideal sanctuary for the Prince of Wales. It was in 1862 that the Prince of Wales and a Mr. White stayed at The Globe Inn in King's Lynn from where they drove to Sandringham the next morning. The estate had been purchased for £220,000. The house was not the building we know today. Although it was a large cemented brick mansion set in a park of 300 acres it was not considered large enough so a new wing was designed and built. Labourers who had been constructing the new Railway line from Lynn to Hunstanton were switched to work on the new roads that were to cross Sandringham Heights. Cottages disappeared, new lodges were built and fresh vistas appeared. On the 10th March 1863 The Prince married Alexandra of Denmark at St. George's Chapel Windsor. Eighteen days later they travelled to Sandringham on the Royal train the engine of which had been painted white and decorated with flowers. So began the association of this area with the Royal Family. A small dance was given and visitors were picked up from Wolferton Station. Not all visitors alighted there.

Sir Henry Keppel, who was a frequent visitor, once recorded, "*By 10.57 train from Shoraditch. Arrived Dersingham 3.20. Carriage to meet us.*" On the 22nd birthday of the Prince a feast was held for every village child in the district, and all the building and agricultural labourers. They sat

down to "roast beef, boiled beef, roast mutton, potatoes, plum pudding, cheese, apples, oranges, nuts, raisin, and plenty of beer." There must have been many Dersingham villagers there. The local people must have been excited to see the Royal party when they joined the West Norfolk hounds at Snettisham. By 1866 public interest was so great that at one hunt 200 carriages, and 500 horsemen blocked the roads to see the Prince. Further interest would have been sparked when the decision was made to pull down the existing house and rebuild. This was carried out in 1870 and the builders were Messrs J and M Goggs of Swaffham. The 1871 census records *John Goggs, born in Swaffham, a Contractor employing at this time 66 men*, residing at Dersingham Hall. He lived there for several years with his wife Hannah Maria, 7 daughters aged from 6 months to 10 years, and 2 sons aged 4 and 2. They employed a governess, a nurse, a cook, housemaid and under nurse. So the house at Sandringham we know today took shape. There were much larger arrangements for the domestic staff, kitchen maids' and footmen's rooms, brushing and boot cleaning rooms, laundry rooms, and a pump room with an adjacent tank of 3000 gallons of water. At a later date the Prince also built a Bothy block to house the bachelor gardeners. There were separate bedrooms for each man and it was described as, "*a street in itself at least 300 yards long.*" Thus the Sandringham Estate became an important employer for many villagers including members of the Mann family.

Sometime after 1869 Rachel Walker who was to marry Henry Mann of Heath House became a housemaid to Princess Alexandra. She later became the Head Housemaid and was joined by her sister Lydia as deputy. Rachel dearly became a trusted employee as she was driven to her wedding at Sandringham Church in a Royal carriage drawn by a pair of greys. Her daughter Ruby remembered that, "*because the Princess's boudoir was so full of trinkets and ornaments only Rachel was entrusted with its care and cleaning. She was known to the Royal children as 'Mama's Rachel.'*" Another family member recalled Princess Alexandra visiting Rachel at Heath House Lydia's gravestone in the church records, "*for many years a faithful servant to H.R.H. Princess of Wales.*" Ruby Mann attended Queen Alexandra's School of Art and Needlework and Henry and Maria's son George worked as an electrician at Sandringham when the electricity was generated on site. It is thought that his health was damaged by working long hours in hot, humid conditions maintaining the boilers and generators.

Another interesting member of the Mann family was William Henry Mann son of Robert, the brother of Henry's father George. He was placed in charge of the Fire Brigade at Sandringham in 1882. There was a disastrous fire at the house in 1891 when men on horseback rode through West Newton and Dersingham shouting out the news of the disaster. It is recorded that a Mr. Mann from the farm organised gangs of men in bucket chains from the lake while the head coachman was at work with the estate fire brigade and an inadequate pump. William Henry was also the sub postmaster at the house as the estate then had its own post office. He was a very busy man as the directories of the time list him as Farmer, Jobmaster and Proprietor of The Feathers where he advertised it as, "*a family & commercial hotel & posting house; good stabling for hunters, & first class accommodation for visitors in the neighbourhood; conveyances to meet any train at Wolferton or Dersingham.*" Not to be outdone Thomas Magness of The Dun Cow then advertised, "*Seaside visitors can have good accommodation near to Sandringham.*" William retired from the Fire Brigade in 1904. Returning home one night the car he was driving overturned and he was trapped beneath it. One of his legs was seriously injured and had to be amputated a short time later. William was fitted with a wooden leg. William built several cottages in the village and made many generous donations to the various village charities. He died on Dec. 6th 1932.



The Prince of Wales also made many donations to the Cricket Club, the Athletic Sports Association, and the Clothing Club. In 1875 he gave the land at the bottom of Doddshill for the village school to be built and donated £500 towards the cost. Further amounts were always forthcoming to support the various school treats that were organised. The school log book for the early 20th century often records the influence of the Royal Estate with entries such as, "Poor attendance with the Sandringham shooting season. A large number of boys absent engaged by trippers at the Sandringham Grounds. 4 boys away shot carrying."

In 1896 Theodor Jannoch the nurseryman and florist at Dersingham Hall stated he was Lily of the Valley grower by special warrant to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. In more recent times Eric Cross recalled being an apprentice cabinetmaker at Queen Mary's Capentry School on the estate. He said that many boys from the village worked in the gardens, the carpenter's yard, and the wood yard or were employed as bricklayers and painters. Sidney Mitchell recalled that the school was where the stud is situated now. He worked as a houseboy to the head Keeper when the week was 52 or 54 hours, 6 days a week with a half day on Saturday. Both men remembered that at 1 o'clock you would see all the workers flying down the hill on their bicycles to get home in time to turn out for the village football or cricket teams. He recalled that the highlight of the Royal visit at Christmas was the distribution of beef on Christmas Eve. The beef was home produced and all the workers would assemble in alphabetical order. "Depending on your length of service and position in the pecking order you were allocated the beef. You took a nice clean towel and when your name was called you would plough through the clean straw on the floor and put your cloth down and the beef was bang in. You would acknowledge the Royal family as they sat and you'd be on your way with your dinner."

Many villagers must have further memories of the Royal Estate, which would make up another article for the future.

*My thanks to Tim Mann for additional information on William Henry Mann.
Apologies for re-siting Beck House. It is of course in Chapel Road not Manor Road.*

Parish Council Report



The meeting of the Parish Council held on 30 July had a long session about protecting the village from crime. The administrator of the Home Watch scheme explained how this deterred crime and invited the Parish Council to encourage more Home Watch schemes in the village.

This was followed by a presentation about the development of the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team; this team covers the Dersingham/Gayton area and is primarily aimed at dealing with such local problems as vandalism. The Team can be contacted on 01553 665333 (the 999 number

should still be used for all emergencies).

The Council heard that repairs were needed at the Community Centre, which is leased by the Parish Council from the Sandringham estate on the basis that the Council will keep it in good repair. Some concern was expressed about the ongoing costs of maintaining the Centre and it was agreed that all Councillors will be invited to a meeting at the Centre to assess the situation.

The Council received the annual RoSPA report on the Recreation Ground play equipment. A number of problems had been identified and the Council agreed to investigate how to correct these.

Andrea Smith - who lives at 3 Post Office Road - was co-opted to the Council. This brings the total number of Councillors up to 12, with six places still vacant.

Dersingham Waking Group

Despite the uncertain weather over the last few months the rain kept off for most of the walks of the group. We have encountered flooded paths, overgrown paths, thistles and stinging nettles - but those are all part of the fun of walking! The programme for the autumn includes our 50th walk and, over all of them, we have averaged a very creditable 18 participants per walk. Come on some of the walks below and see if we can increase our average.

The leaders met in July to agree the walks they would lead over the autumn and the winter: the first part of the programme is given below. They felt there was a need to stress that *'participants should wear suitable clothing and sturdy footwear'* and that *'although we are happy to organise and lead walks, each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety.'*

Wednesday 10 October start at 2.00pm from the junction of Green Bank with the Ringstead/Holme road (400 yards north of the windmill) (map ref: L132/708 420). A 5.5 miles circular walk to Holme and on the Norfolk Coast Path led by Pat Reed (540757)

Sunday 21 October start at 10.30am from Bircham Windmill (map ref: L132/760 327). A 4.25 miles circular walk around Great Bircham led by Elizabeth Fiddick (540940)

Wednesday 14 November start at 1.30pm from Ringstead Village Hall (50p per car) (map ref: L132/707 403). A 4.5 miles 'figure of eight' walk around Ringstead led by Elizabeth Fiddick (540940)

Sunday 25 November start at 10.30am from Dersingham Village Sign (map ref: L132/686 295). A 4.5 miles circular walk around Dersingham and Sandringham led by Christine Taylor and Geoff Toop (542807)

Wednesday 12 December start at 1.30pm from Sedgeford church (map ref: L132/707 365). A 5 miles circular walk around Sedgeford and on Peddars Way led by Valerie and Michael Smith (540728)

There is no charge; just turn up on the day (bearing in mind the points mentioned above!). Well-behaved dogs are welcome provided they are kept at the rear of the group.

If you have any queries contact me or the walk leader.

Keith Starks (542268)



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October and November 2007

Friday October 5th is National Bookstart Day

From that day 0-4 year olds can collect stickers on their collector's cards each time that their parents or carers bring them to the library. After three visits and three stickers, they can exchange their completed card for a certificate and a little Bookstart Bear. You are never too young to join the library and we have a great collection of board books specially for very young children. We will also be relaunching our pre-school story time as a Monthly Bookstart crawl on Thursdays from 10.30-11.30am on October 18. Meet other parents, share stories and rhymes and a simple craft activity. Please pick up a flyer with the dates for 2007-2008 when you next visit the library.

**Family Learning Week runs from 6th-14th October
and Friday 12th October is Get Online Day.**

The idea is to get families into their local libraries and learning about what they could do on the internet, and what the internet could do for them. You can use library computers for free and can book ahead before your visit to make sure a computer is reserved for you. The internet can help with homework, you can order your weekly shopping online and get it delivered to your door, you can find out information about family tax credits on Directgov or health queries on NHS Choices, plus keep in touch by sending family photos to far away relatives. If you want to know more about computers then ask about our beginners internet tasters and come along and find out what you're missing. On Thursday 11th October at 5.30pm the library will be running a family Book Bag decorating hour. Bring your own library bag or you can buy one for just a £1 and we'll give you lots of ideas on how you can make your book bag one of a kind.

West Norfolk Food Fortnight - 27th October - 10th November - a celebration of Norfolk food and drink The library will have various activities for children and adults during the two weeks and we're also planning a wine and cheese tasting evening. If any one is interested in coming along or wants to know more, ask for more details when you next visit the library.

Happy Reading, Aliso

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

Dersingham and Gayton and all their surrounding parishes are now covered by a dedicated Safer Neighbourhood Team, consisting of Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers based in Dersingham.

This is in addition to the normal 24 hour police cover.

One of the ways that we intend to keep in contact with the public is to hold regular surgeries allowing the public to air their views face to face with the teams and be able to be kept updated of the result of any actions requested. It is not feasible to hold surgeries in every parish so we have selected venues around the neighbourhood, and the public are welcome to attend any surgery they wish. The dates of the forthcoming surgeries in 2007 are:

22 October - 16 November - 17 December from 3pm to 5pm at St Cecilia's Church, Mounbatten Road, Dersingham.



These are the members of the local Safer Neighbourhood Team. From the left they are;

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Dick Melton's Column

The rights of way, tracks, roads, and footpaths that lead from Dersingham village to the Snettisham foreshore (beach) is a topic that never seems to go away, twice in the last week I have had people ring me up about it, the first was a person who was going along the carstone track that runs from the concrete road to the Wolferton pumping station, the second person was with his grandchildren when he was stopped near the first bridge, both of them were told that they were walking on a private road. I could write a book about this subject but instead I will just write what I think.

There has always been a track (The Drift) that starts at the top of Manor Road and ends up at the pumping station (Boathouse Creek), this track

used to link up with a small road from Wolferton (Pennington Way) and the track, road, from Wolferton village (Steer Road) but this way to the foreshore was blocked off when the large drain was put in alongside the concrete road, there are tracks or small roadways shown on many old maps and some up to date ones. The concrete road from the old station at Dersingham to the foreshore was laid down in 1942 to allow the farmers better access to the marsh so as they could grow crops there to help the war effort, but there had been a track there for many years before that. When you get to the end of the concrete road, Dersingham boundary, the rough track that takes you up to the old sea wall is in the parish of Snettisham and it is registered on their parish footpath map as footpath number 22. Before the shingle pits were excavated this path went straight on to the foreshore, now you have to turn left and go around the RSPB bird reserve to the foreshore where this footpath joins footpath number 21 that takes you from Snettisham beach to the common (Wood's Corner). On the Dersingham footpath map the concrete road is shown as footpath number one and it only goes as far as the old dairy, but this track is shown on many old maps even as far back as 1870, when the first gates were put up on the Steer Road from Wolferton. I wrote to the estate and asked them the reason for putting them up and their reply was that it was to deter people from stealing their farm implements that were kept on the marshes, a good enough reason, but they did say that it was still possible for people to walk or cycle along these tracks and small roads.

Not all of the land down the marshes belongs to the estate at Sandringham. When I was a lad there were many farmers who had or rented land on the marshes, some of the names that come to mind were Mr. Bird, Mr. Jackson, the Lincoln brothers, the Balding family, Fred Wagg, Stantons from Manor Farm, Mr. Gent from Inmere, and also Mr. Youngs from Ringstead, but no doubt this has all changed. So we come back to the first question, are the tracks and roads that go down the marshes at Dersingham and Wolferton private or not? Well, I can see no reason for people to not be able to use them as long as they keep to the roadways and tracks and do not wander off on to the fields, who knows, someday someone might come up with a positive answer, mightn't they, in the mean time it is a very interesting subject.

I thought that with all the talk about King's Lynn Post Office being shut down I would send you this bit of information about the post office at Dersingham, taken from Kelly's Directory 1904. Miss Alice Maude Beckett was the sub-postmistress. London and other letters were received through King's Lynn by mail cart. Letters arrived at 5.30 am and were delivered at 7.00 am and 10.30 am, and were dispatched at 10.45 am and 6.20 pm. Sunday delivery was at 7.00 am and letters were dispatched at 6.20 pm. Wall letterboxes - box near the Feathers Hotel cleared at 8.40



am and 6.00 pm. Sundays 7.55 pm. Station wall box cleared at 9.50 am and 5.35 pm. Sundays 8.10 am. The Station Master was Mr. Arthur James Chilvers. Just a little bit about the Dersingham Elementary School (mixed) the school was enlarged in 1904 to take 326 children, the average attendance was 210, Mr. Alfred Firth was the Schoolmaster and Miss Emily Cook was the infants' mistress.

I have just finished reading a very good book, it is called, 'Maids Head to Hamburg', written by an old friend of mine, Rick Meek, who spent over forty years in the music business mainly with local groups and bands. Rick was born in 1943, and lived with his late mum and dad in a bungalow called "St. Margaret's" just near the Common in Lynn Road, Dersingham. Rick came from a very musical family, his mum played the organ at Shembourne Church and dad, Eric (Lofty) Meek, played the violin for many years in a band that was first called 'Hank, Luke, and Lofty', which they then changed to the 'Snettisham Hill Billys' - a lot of people will remember them playing all over West Norfolk. At an early age Rick learnt to play the guitar, but then he went on to learn to play the drums, it is as a drummer that he is better known, as you can tell by the title of his book, he started playing at the Maids Head pub on the Tuesday Market Place in Kings Lynn, then in 1964 he joined a band called 'The Sabres' and it was with this band that he played for a while in the clubs in and around Hamburg. In the early Seventies Rick had a very bad car smash when he was on his way home from a gig at the N.C.O Club at Mildenhall, and was very lucky to get over this, but he did, and was off out playing his drums again, in 1981 he formed a band called 'Maureen and the Three Piece Sweet', this band stayed together until 1990 and they played at all the popular venues all over West Norfolk and beyond including the old KitKat pub that stood on the front at Hunstanton and where I was the bar manager. Rick played in a lot of bands in East Anglia over the last forty years and he was a very popular and well respected musician, unfortunately, due to ill health, Rick plays no more, his book is a very good read and I know a lot of people in Dersingham will remember him and his parents who lived in the village most of their lives. There are a lot of Dersingham lads who done well in their lives, and Rick Meek is one of them, well done old mate.

Water and Wells, what a subject When I lived at No. 3 Station Road, East Winch, during the second world war, we had no water on tap in the house it was all drawn from a well in the garden of No 1. My granny, or my uncles who lived with us, would use a yoke, this was a wooden pole that went across your shoulders, it had chains on each end and to these chains you would hook your buckets. Just inside the pantry door we had a large earthenware jar or vessel and the water in this was just for drinking. When we moved to Lynn Road, Dersingham, in 1946, we had water on tap but this was in the backyard just outside the kitchen door. There was an old disused well in the garden and just before the war a lady had fallen down this well, but she was pulled out no worse for wear except that she was a bit wet, so my father and Joe Painter, who lived just up the road from us in Pleasant Place, filled it in with old bricks and rubble, then put a concrete base across the top. In those days everybody had a water butt in the back yard and my mother always used this water to do her washing in on a Monday. We had an old brick copper up in the corner, she would fill this up with water from the butt and the fuel she used was old wine-bush sticks from off the common. We never had a bath room those days, or a sink, all the washing up was done in a large enamel bowl on the kitchen table, and to have a bath, every Friday night, we used a large galvanized bath that hung on a hook in the shed, this would be brought in and placed in front of the fire in the living room and the water, hot, put in from kettles that were continually boiling on the old black range in the kitchen. We were some of the lucky ones when we first lived in Lynn Road, as I have said we had a water tap in the back yard, but a lot of people in the village had to go out into the street to get water, as a group of cottages like Garden Cottages near the Dun Cow, or Asker's Row in Manor Road just had one tap to serve all the houses. A lot of villages had a village pump that could be used by everyone this would bring the water up from an underground stream or bore hole, I myself cannot remember there being one in Dersingham though I can remember my father telling me that there was one on the green up Dodds Hill and another one in Chapel Road, and of course a lot of villages had and still have a group of cottages called Pump House Row.

DERSINGHAM EVENING W.I. REPORT



At their July meeting members were hoping to have a cookery demonstration so were a little disappointed when the expected chef did not arrive. However, in true W.I. spirit, member Shirley Brooks stepped into the breach and, having taken her mother's advice 'to go to college and train as a teacher of infants, because they finish work at 3.30.pm.' kept everyone highly amused with her account of working as a teacher for over 35 years at various schools in Lancashire. Treasurer Betty Gallant reported our institute had won £12 in the Norfolk Federation 500 Club Draw.

On August 4th afternoon tea was served in the garden of President Dianne Neeve, where members enjoyed not only brilliant sunshine but a magnificent selection of sandwiches, cakes and scones. A Raffle, Bring and buy stall, and Guess the name of the Teddy (it was Graham) all added to the final total of £194.00 towards W.I. funds.

On August 29th another afternoon tea, with a selection of delicious home-made cakes was enjoyed by 21 members at the home of member Pam Manship raising a further £32.00.

August 22nd was the date for our Mystery Tour, which included visiting Boston, Spalding and Baytrees Nursery. The weather could have been better, it was cold, windy and overcast, but at least it didn't rain until we were almost home. Our thanks to Dianne Neeve for organising this.

Any ladies interested in the W.I. are always welcomed at our meetings, held on the third Wednesday of each month, starting at 7.15 p.m. in St Cecilia's Church Rooms, Mounthatten Road, Dersingham.

Phyl Jones (01485540669)

Dersingham Minors

Mini sixes tournament held on July 8th

	Winners	Runners up
U12 girls	WSM Purple	Dersingham
U14 girls	North Lynn	WSM Yellow
U16 girls	Hungate	March
U12 boys	Acoms	WSM
U13 boys	Downham ab	Downham aa
U14 boys	Mundford	Shoulham

Preseason mini tournament held on Sunday August 12th

	Winners	runners up
U7	Fakenham	Reffley
U8	WSM Yellow	West Wind Black
U9	Woottons B	Woottons A
U10	Reffley	Woottons
U11	Dersingham	East Lynn
U12	Dersingham	Fakenham

Many thanks to everyone who supported these events.

Special thanks go to Misses Richard & Edward Stanton, Dewhursts Trophies, Redgate Bakery, Rowlinsons Sports and all sponsors in the programmes.

Dersingham Entertainments Committee – Well done on your efforts this year. Congratulations to the Heavyweights. Hope to have some competition again next year, looking forward to it, hope the weather is better.

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Bernie's Bytes

Thoughts from ex-pat Bernie Twite (now resident in Cyprus)

Congratulations to my old friend John Bunn on being named 'Norfolk Groundsman of the Year'. John has been associated with the football club for over fifty years, forty of them helping to keep the ground in good condition. Like a lot of lads John joined the football club on leaving school. At school he was a good sprinter, so the obvious position was on the wing, and he was probably the fastest winger in the league. Sadly, a knee injury brought playing to a stop. Wanting to keep involved he joined the committee and gradually got involved with the ground. What does this groundsman do?



The answer is a bit more than paint lines. Over the years he has dug out the ditches so the drains in the ground run clear, cut the hedges, mended fences. At the end of the season there are all the bare places to reseed or turf to get the pitches back to good condition for the new season. In the summer every Thursday he drives the tractor and mows and cuts the whole ground. When a new season comes round there are three pitches to mark out, plus pitches for the minors. These then have to be prepared every week during the season. Usually there are two Saturday games plus, perhaps, one on Sunday, and the minors. As the ground is known for being heavy when wet a lot of extra work is sometimes needed to get the water off the surface and the pitch playable. Over the years there have been times when on match days, usually when the weather has been bad, the committee have not turned up and John has got the ground ready and perhaps run the line, made the tea and then cleaned the dressing rooms at the end. On more than one occasion he has said to me "I have had enough, I am packing up", but by the end of the week he is back.

The club now play in the top level of football in the county and one of the criteria was the ground and its facilities, the fact they were accepted was in no small way down to the groundsman. Well done my friend, an honour well deserved! Having heaped all this praise on John there is some one else he would be the first to want me to mention - John Barrett. He looks after the cricket square and prepares the wicket for all the matches. How long he has been doing this I don't know but would guess at twenty years. John also walks the ground every week collecting all the litter that accumulates. In his earlier playing days he was a regular playing for Norfolk, scoring a lot of runs, also a useful slow bowler.



The cricket club also play in the top level of the game in Norfolk, so again the wicket and facilities have to be at their best. If these two were asked what the biggest problem is that they have, they would probably say vandalism and litter. I believe the Pastures is the biggest sports field in Norfolk to be maintained by voluntary labour. And the appearance is a credit to these two men's efforts.

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LINKS WITH THE PAST

Reproduced (by kind permission of the estate) from the "Sandringham Estate Magazine" dated 5 March 1899

We have heard of a town where it used to be said that if one wished to live a long life the best plan was to become an inmate of the workhouse, as the plain, wholesome fare and regular habits of that institution were the only effectual means to counteract the unhealthy surroundings. A glance at our obituary notice for the last twelve months will show that Dersingham has no need of a workhouse on those grounds, as we find that fourteen persons have died during that period with an aggregate age of 1,094, giving an average of over 78 years each. The figures are: 4, 86, 86, 80, 80, 79, 78, 77, 75, 73, 73, 69, 65-

Mari Hudson, who peacefully passed away at the residence of her son, Mr. William Hudson, carpenter, heads the list. This cheerful old lady could give her recollections of the times of the first Napoleon, when the inhabitants of this part of Norfolk would be anxiously looking out seawards for the fleet of ships which "Boney" had threatened to invade England with;

when careful housekeepers kept their "bits of silver" packed up ready to hide or carry away at a moment's notice, and when, further north, a lookout would be taken the last thing at night to see the fires were lighted on the beacon-tower of Blakeney Church or any of the Beacon Hills.

Rebecca Daw and Abraham Davis were each 86. The quiet voice of the latter (the obliging old carrier) was heard for many years on the Lynn Road on market days, urging on his steady old horse. Did he ever use a whip?

John Smith (79) and Catherine Smith (80) were well known as host and hostess of the Dun Cow Inn, and also for many years at the "Tuns," West Newton. They could converse of the years before H.R.H. The Prince of Wales came to Sandringham, and to them the names of Henley, Motteux and Cowper were familiar as household words. "Kate," as the many friends and admirers of the good-hearted and voluble hostess liked to call her, was, with her husband, lovingly cared for in their later years at the house of their daughter, Mrs. J. G. Rainbow.

Honest old John Greene (79) was for many years a very familiar figure in our parish, his bent back being in striking contrast with the stories of his doings at cricket in his early days, when on one occasion he "was in" a day (or was it a day and a half?) at Sandringham. Henry V at Agincourt, said to his soldiers, "Old men forget"; but is it true of the cricketer as the King believed it would be of the soldier? "He'll remember with advantages. What feats he did that day?"

John Mann, the cheery old Marsh shepherd, was 77. He always had a pleasant word for everybody on the road, though his deafness, we fear, prevented him hearing many a pleasant one in return.

Elizabeth Steele (75), with her husband, carried on for many years the business now



owned by her son, Mr. Bird. Her cheerful "Yes, yes, my dear," to her customers will be long remembered.

Mr. Geo. Rix was rather a link with the past to the neighbouring village of Gayton Thorpe, where for many years, perhaps we may say, he was looked upon as lay representative of the parish. His portly figure and upright character will be missed from his public duties, and his many acts of kindness and liberality by the labourers of the village.

While touching on a few particulars of some of the better known of those who have left us during the year and crossed over to the great majority, we feel our notice would be sadly incomplete did we not refer to the large number who have borne long and painful illness with Christian fortitude and submission. It is inevitable that many of the best of our young people should never leave their native village yet we trust there will never be wanting among us the best of all links with the past, that faithful discharge of duties in the trivial round and common task as well as in the kind and noble actions of life.

"No Cold Calling Zones" for Dersingham?

Norfolk Trading Standards Service have been instrumental in setting up the first of these Zones in Norfolk, with others planned throughout the county.

A "No Cold Calling Zone" is set up when a consensus of residents in a clearly defined area, agree that they no longer wish to have cold callers knocking at their doors. Signage is used on lamp-posts etc to make it quite clear that an area does not welcome cold callers.

Priority may be given to those areas which either have been targeted in the past by Doorstep Rogue Traders, or may be potential targets in the future. Areas with a high proportion of retired residents are particularly attractive to Doorstep Rogue Traders, but other areas may also be affected.

Norfolk Trading Standards, working together with Norfolk Police and other local agencies are aware that some residential areas of Dersingham have been subject to unwelcome attention by some of these con men and criminals. It has been suggested therefore, that No Cold Calling Zones may be a good idea for some parts of Dersingham.

It is envisaged that if residents are keen to set up "No Cold Calling Zones" for their area, then a local "Champion" or organiser will be required. Perhaps if you feel you are able to volunteer yourself for such a role, or could suggest a suitable person, then perhaps you could inform the Parish Council either before or at the next meeting.

We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. If you are unable to attend in person, or have any queries,

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

The Governors of both our two schools have both now voted in favour of benefiting from the government's "Building for the Future" money for schools should it become available to us. The LEA has been undertaking discussions with schools in Norfolk over recent months and will be extending their consultations with parents and other interested parties this month in relation to extra funds being available. It is designed to upgrade local schools so that they more closely fit both current and future requirements. As you may know St George's Junior School was one of the most affected schools post the re-organisation of schools in this area in 2004 and it seems vital that we take any opportunities that come our way to further improve educational opportunities in this village. There are no firm plans as yet and no guarantee of any money but we want to be at the forefront of anything on offer! It is an exciting time for the village and I am sure people will read more about it in the press in the coming weeks. At the moment neither of us as Headteachers or our governing bodies have any further information to pass on to you, but it is important that we continue to work in partnership with each other for the best interests of all our village children.

News from the Infant School

The summer holiday seems to have flown by and once again we are welcoming our children back to school. It doesn't seem long since we were enjoying all our end of term activities. We have a number of new families joining our school as part of our nursery and also coming into main school. We are looking forward to another successful year and making learning fun and exciting. On a personal note I would like to let everyone know that I have given in my notice to the Governors. I plan to take early retirement and will leave next July. My husband and I always promised ourselves 30 years ago when we qualified as teachers that we would retire at 55 if we could. Well I reach that important milestone birthday in March and so the time has come to retire. I shall miss teaching enormously but I know that I will leave the school in a very good stage of development which was highlighted in our Ofsted earlier this year. I have given the school plenty of notice so that the Governors can appoint someone to take over when I leave to ensure that the school has good continuity. There will be time for special goodbyes later but I would at this point just like to thank everyone in the village for their huge support for our school; we are blessed with many people taking an active interest in the very many things that we do. I shall of course continue to give 110% of my time and energy during my final year here.

News from St George's School

At St. George's we were very pleased with our mini production of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at the end of last term and are very grateful to Smithdon High School for lending us their costumes. Yes, the summer has indeed gone by very quickly but we are ready to welcome both old and new children to the school to take part in our new cross-curricular approach to learning. This approach was welcomed by Ofsted who visited earlier this year and was seen as a good way to improve standards. We were praised for the sport provision especially as we have received the Sport Active mark this year. We will continue to build on the work started last year to improve the education provision for all children. I am looking forward to an exciting year of learning where the children are able to take more responsibility for their own progress. This year St. Nicholas' Church is working with the school to provide an after school church club for our youngsters and we look forward to welcoming them to St. George's.

Jackie Austin
Headteacher

Ann Pope
Headteacher



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The Great Barn

By Elizabeth Fiddick

The date stone high on a gable end of our barn records its completion as July 31st 1671. The barn is often referred to as a Tithe Barn on postcards and other printed references, but as was suggested to me recently, perhaps a more accurate description would be the Great Barn as the date is incompatible with the collection of tithes. It is built of dunch and carstone and features a brick dressing. The Pells who were at that time a very influential family in the village built the barn. Their wealth came from the wool trade and they ran several ships that operated out of King's Lynn and Wolferton. In 1553 they built the large Manor House that once stood in the Pastures by the Institute. At the time the barn was constructed they also built the house we now know as Dersingham Hall. A Pell became a Mayor of Lynn in 1560 and in 1571 represented Lynn in Parliament. They were active parliamentarians during the Civil War and also became Justices of the Peace and Attorneys. Visitors to our church can see the numerous tombs, and memorials to this family. When the barn was built the land immediately behind it was known as the "conny ground". One John Pell bequeathed to his wife, "My Dovehouse and the Barne and yard thereunto called the conney ground." In early times rabbits or conys were reared close to the Manor House as their meat was considered a delicacy for special occasions. The Tithe map of 1839 shows this area of land as pasture called *Dovehouse Close*. It was not until 1935 that the churchyard was extended to this area using stones from the demolition of Pakenham Manor House to build the wall. Close to the area where the barn was built once stood a "suddal day House" that was the vicarage. This house fell into disrepair and became such an eyesore that John Pell had it pulled down. When the barn was built the church still had its spire with a lantern that was used as a marker by the ships in the Wash. Also the whole area was watched over by at least one of the windmills that stood on the high ground near Mill Road. When the last Pell died he left his land to Robert Walpole, Lord Orford of Houghton Hall. A map of about 1738 shows the Barn, the Church with its spire, the Conny Ground, Dersingham Hall, and the house in the Pastures all as the property of Lord Orford but occupied by Samuel Kerrich the vicar about whom I have written before. For hundreds of years the Great Barn was an essential part of farm life in our village and I'm sure there must be some old villagers who remember it in use. The Barn and its surroundings are a tangible link to the past. All the

people I have written about from the past, the Pells, the Kerrich's, Nathan Coward, and the villagers through the centuries were familiar with it, walked past it and would still recognise it today. It is a beautiful and distinctive part of our village and we must treasure it accordingly. The latest information on it's future is that it will be returning to the Sandringham Estate where it will be cherished and continue to be used for storage.





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Park House

Coming Events this Autumn

**Two Definite Dates For your Diary – and
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Sunday 28 October at 8.00pm

'An Evening of Light Classical Music'

By popular demand, following last year's highly successful recital, and featuring works by Debussy, Chopin, Beethoven and others, we are delighted to welcome back the acclaimed concert pianist **BRANT NUTTALL**

Tickets in advance £10 to include programme & interval refreshments from Park House Reception, Sandringham PE35 6EH, or Tel 01485 543000

Wednesday 14 November at 7.30pm

'Park House Quiz Night'

Why not form a team of 4 and test your combined general and specialist knowledge
Entrance fee £5 per team member, to include refreshments for brain and body during the interval.
Ask Reception for more details and book yourselves in for an entertaining evening
Tel: 01485 543000

And now look out for:

'A Celebration of Christmas Concert' - Peter Hook & The Sandringham Church Choir

'A Christmas Extravaganza' by 'Clearer Productions' - A team of top class professional Artists and Musicians already well known and appreciated by Park House guests and audiences
Also in December, another Christmas concert will be presented by the choir we have appreciated so much in previous years 'Fentasia'

Dates and other details for these will be announced as soon as possible.

Caxton Cottage

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SAM stands for Speed Awareness Message - an innovative way to remind Norfolk drivers about the dangers of speed.

SAM will display a happy smiling face when motorists are driving within the speed limit. Those drivers who are speeding will be shown their speed against the correct maximum speed for the road in good conditions.



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Will SAM replace speed cameras?

No. SAM is an additional road safety initiative.

Will SAM work?

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SAM allows us to spread the speed awareness message to your community. An added benefit of the SAM road safety initiative is partnership working with your local town or parish council.

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"498 people were killed or seriously injured on Norfolk roads during 2006"

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Dersingham Horticultural Society



For the second time I have been asked to follow in David Clark's footsteps, firstly it was as Newsletter Editor and now doing copy for the Village Voice. I realise our styles are somewhat different but I hope the information will be of interest to readers.

The past few weeks have seen much activity in the Society. After the deluge of rain that began the summer season, an outing to the RHS garden at Wisley followed by a visit to Hampton Court Flower Show, was blessed with fine sunny weather and

proved a pleasurable experience for all who participated.

The annual village Horticultural Show took place on 8th September and with the show in mind our speaker at the July meeting, Mr John Bridge, gave an illustrated talk on judging shows and informed us of the high standards set by the RHS. He explained the points system used in judging and gave tips on presentation. He urged us not to forget the children's classes, as they are the gardeners of tomorrow.

The society received a gold award at Sandringham Flower Show for its entry in the local garden club's competition. Eight gardens were displayed each in a 5 ft square space, with a theme 'Reflections.'

A social evening with a theme 'Tacky Ties and Tiaras' was enjoyed by more than forty members. Guests enjoyed Pimms on arrival before the supper of cold cuts, salads and new potatoes, followed by strawberries and cream. A quiz occupied time between courses and afterwards the Minstrels entertained. Dressed in Elizabethan costume, they played instruments from the period and told stories of the court of Henry VIII and the position musicians held in that time. The two gentlemen then chose the tackiest tie and best tiara and presented silver spoons to the winners.

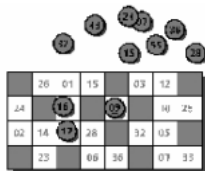
Stalwarts of the Society, show secretaries Doreen and Derek Asker, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on that evening, were presented with flowers and wine.

The guest speaker at the August meeting travelled from Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire. Andrew Sankey lectures widely on cottage gardens and his own garden is open for the National Garden Scheme. His talk on plant histories revealed an interesting insight into our few native plants and their uses in times past and how the many we now have came to be here. We can thank our intrepid Elizabethan explorers for starting the gardening 'craze' that we know today.

In September a small party of our members visited the gardens at Highgrove, home of HRH the Prince of Wales. This has come about after a three-year wait since the initial application. Unfortunately cameras are not allowed but we may be able to obtain videos so that our 140 plus membership can share the event.

Horticultural Society meetings are on the second Thursday in the month at St Cecilia's Church at 7.30 pm.

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The Churchyard Tree *By David Bingham*



Yew trees and churchyards go together like palm trees and desert islands. They are a familiar feature of our local churchyards. Some are neatly trimmed while others grow wild in neglected corners. Our local yews may be old but none could be described as ancient. Truly ancient

yews can be found growing in churchyards all over the country, with the exception of East Anglia and Cornwall. The 'Ancient Yew Group' website lists 889 ancient churchyard yews, including one in Fortingall, Perthshire. This tree has been estimated to be around 5,000 years old, making it the oldest living thing in Europe. Local oral tradition has it that the young Pontius Pilate once played beneath its boughs - regrettably, he failed to carve 'PP was here' into the trunk so we can't prove this! The closest ancient yew to Dersingham is in a churchyard in Darley Dale, Derbyshire (shown in the picture taken from an 1840 painting). This one is estimated to be around 2,000 years old. So just why are yews that have been around for up to five millennium found growing in Christian churchyards in 2007AD? The answer seems to be linked to the Druids whose tree worship was described by the early Roman colonists of Britain. The Romans were originally tolerant of this religion but following the rebellion of Queen Boudicca the Druids were forced back to their stronghold on Anglesey, where they were slaughtered and their sacred groves destroyed. The yew was probably the most sacred of all the trees to the Druids and even after the massacre a large number of these trees (and an unknown number of Druids) remained at sacred sites around the country. These were the places where the early Christians built many of their churches. It has been said that this was to demonstrate power and authority over local pagans. A more generous explanation is that it may have been done in a spirit of togetherness. Medieval carpenters often carved the head of the 'Green Man' into gothic churches so pagan symbolism was probably more tolerated in the past than it would be today. The yew in Darley Dale churchyard is right in front of the main door and actually dominates the church. The walls on the original parts of this church are decorated with primitive carvings of wolves - again suggesting an early pagan origin. It is possible to get a glimpse of what the ancient sacred groves of yew would have been like by visiting Kingley Vale in west Sussex. This is the largest yew forest in Europe and contains some very venerable trees growing together in groups just as they would have done in Druidic sacred groves. I visited Kingley Vale for the first time last year and thought it an amazing place. The vale is only a short walk from Fishbourne Roman Palace with its splendid mosaic floors. It is

not difficult to imagine these yews being spared by the Romans because of the close relationship they had with their local client king Togidumnus. The British in India did the same (more or less) for the sacred Hindu and Buddhist trees in the days of the Raj.

Yew trees have had practical as well as spiritual uses. The longbows of English archers were made of yew and even today a powerful cancer drug Taxol (from their scientific name *Taxus baccata*.) is produced from the leaves of yew trees. The red berries – or if you want to be pedantic the ‘arils’ (true berries are only found on flowering plants and yews, like other conifers, evolved long before any flowers existed) – are poisonous. This poison was once used throughout Europe to tip arrows in the same way as South American tribes use poisonous frogs. There is a large yew tree behind St Nicholas church in Dersingham with some very fat juicy ‘berries’. These exude a clear viscous liquid when squeezed and are a favourite food of winter thrushes. The berries don’t stay in their gut long enough to do any damage and the poison is concentrated in the seed not the juice. Just four or five of these seeds could kill a child so take care if you feel inspired to start looking at yew trees!

1st DERSINGHAM RAINBOW GUIDES

The Dersingham Rainbow Guides have been celebrating the 20th Birthday of Rainbows by a number of special activities and events. The Rainbows were formed in 1987 as the youngest members of the Guide Association for girls aged 5-7yrs. Girls move onto Brownies at 7yrs and Guides at 10yrs. The Dersingham unit was formed in September 1993 and will soon be celebrating its 14th anniversary.



During this year the Rainbows have taken part in the Anglia Guiding 20th Birthday challenge, provided exhibits for the Dersingham Methodist and St Nicholas Church Flower Festivals, visited Banham Zoo as part of the Norfolk Guiding 20th Birthday celebrations and participated in many other events.

The Anglia 20th Birthday Challenge involved completing activities for each letter of the word Rainbows. The girls “R”aised money at a Bingo evening, had an “A”dventure at Sandringham by building a den, learnt about the “I”nternational aspect of Guiding, learnt a “N”ew skill with a visit from the St Nicholas Church bell-ringers to try out hand-bell ringing. They had a “B”ring a Granny evening when they entertained four ladies during a meeting, they enjoyed the “O”utdoors by visiting Pak Farm and “W”rote about their dreams for a display about Joseph and his special coat. For the letter “S” they were silly with 20, singing 20 songs and playing 20 games at one meeting.

They visited Banham Zoo on 30 June, joining 1500 Rainbows from all over Norfolk. They enjoyed a tour of the Zoo, a picnic, amazing animal show and a party.

The girls have also produced a special display for the Library and participated in the Annual Guide and Scout Fete.

Rainbow Guides in Dersingham meet every Thursday at the Scout & Guide HQ, Manor Road and enjoy a variety of activities including crafts, games, stories, outings and visitors. At their enrolment they make a simple promise and become a member of the International Guide family. They participate in Village and Guide events and support good causes.

Further information from Lynne Wheeler, Rainbow Guide - Tel: 544753.

That's My Business
Featuring Barry's Window Cleaning Service



I am Barry Mardell, I am 41 years of age and have been window cleaning for 3 years. How did I get into window cleaning? Well, I started off by working on my own as a car valet whilst also cleaning the outside of caravans at Manor Park and Searles holiday parks in Hunstanton, and on a few other sites in Heacham and Snettisham, then one day someone asked me if I could clean their windows and from there it has taken off! Now I only do window cleaning and conservatory cleaning using 'The Water fed pole system' by which your windows will be cleaned on our visits using a method which will soon be the industry standard. As a company wanting to be at the forefront of our industry, we have decided to invest in this technology which involves the use of telescopic poles and 100% pure water, which we filter through a 5 stage Reverse Osmosis system and then through a de-ionisation vessel to make 100% pure water. We are embracing this technology for a number of reasons;

- 1). Better cleaning results. The major advantage of pure water is its desire to return to its impure state; hence its capacity to absorb large amounts of dirt from your windows. A word of warning this process involves brushing your windows clean with pure water. As such they will be left wet and will need time to dry naturally. This may be a bit disconcerting at first, as obviously this is not what our customers are used to.
- 2). Health and safety. Legislation being brought in from Europe will limit the use of ladders as temporary workstations. The law now states that ladders can only be used when all viable alternatives have been considered, and now water fed pole systems are seen as a safer viable alternative and I don't want to be held liable to prosecution for accidents to customers. Accidents do happen and if we can do the job to a high standard whilst standing on the ground so much the better. Also we have been forced to pay increasingly higher public liability insurance premiums, which is becoming unaffordable for the use of ladders and ladders are no longer an option for my business.
- 3). Environmentally friendly. Pure water only is used, eliminating the need for detergents and chemicals.

- 4). Reduced disturbance. No more dents in your lawn obviously we tried to minimise this aspect but sometimes the 'old fashioned method' made it very difficult.
 - 5). Increased privacy. No more odd faces peering through your upstairs windows. No more embarrassing moments.
 - 6). Windows will stay cleaner. The absence of sticky soap residue means that dirt will find it harder to cling to your windows, hence your windows stay cleaner for longer.
- Additional Benefits;
- 7). As your windows will be brushed clean your frames will almost unavoidably be cleaned at the same time.

We can now reach previously inaccessible aspects of your property with ease, third floor windows, conservatory roofs, and windows above conservatories, which had previously to be left. Please note that over the space of two or three visits the process will 'lead' all deposits from around the frames, resulting in an improved finish each time, until ultimately the finish will effectively be sterile. Please be patient if the initial visit is not perfect, as we have been forewarned by our suppliers that two or three visits can be necessary for maximum effect.

I hope this has covered everything. That's it, lots of increased benefits! Our aim continues to be to give a high level of service. Please feel free to phone or discuss any part of the above or indeed any other aspect of our service. If you have any concerns about this new way of cleaning your windows please let me know and we will endeavour to alleviate them.

Local Pub Goes Continental!

The French game of pétanque is now being played at the Coach and Horses public house in Manor Road following the introduction of a playing area in the garden. Pétanque is a game that can be played by people of all ages and athletic ability and is one of Europe's most popular outdoor games. Pronounced 'pay-tonk', it's a distant cousin of the game of horseshoes and a close relative of bocce. The aim is to toss, or roll, a number of steel balls as close as possible to a small wooden aim ball, called a 'but' or 'cochonnet' (which means 'piglet' in French). Players divide into two teams composed of up to three players. After deciding who goes first (the traditional coin toss decides this usually), a player throws the cochonnet from a starting circle. The rest of the game involves throwing your boules closer to the cochonnet than the other team. After all boules have been thrown, the team with the closest boule receives a point for each boule that is closer to the cochonnet than their opponents.



The first team to earn 13 points wins the game. The rules of Pétanque/Boules aren't complicated. The challenge comes in trying to master your throwing skills and learning the strategy of the game.

Unlucky for Some! - No Post on Friday 13th



Richard Blomfield Dan Gardner James Asman Jamie Gammon Steve
Howell
Shaun Felgate (kneeling) Digby Frammingham (seated)



A MESSAGE TO THE PUBLIC

Britain's postal workers – members of the Communication Workers Union – are asking you to support our campaign to stop Royal Mail's cost-cutting business plan which will mean cuts in your postal service (with hikes in stamp prices, fewer collections and deliveries and more post office closures) and cuts to our members' pay and pensions.

CPW members exist to do our jobs serving the public. We have tried every measure possible to seek a fair resolution to this dispute. Over 70% of our members voted for strike action to force issues that to thank again for their support in helping our office do meaningful work.

Stunned at investment for decades, Royal Mail now faces unfair competition from private operators who, for a discounted price, collect and sort profitable bulk business mail before passing it on to Royal Mail to deliver over the final mile. The result: a Royal Mail hit that will force it to increase while the profits of private competitors have soared.

In 2009 Royal Mail and the Communication Workers Union agreed that one could work together to tackle the impact of competition in the state-owned, yet government-owned, investment to introduce automation, improve efficiency, introduce innovative products that as long as customers were not told the value and status of postal workers' jobs. Indeed, Royal Mail handed the agreement, refused to negotiate a pay settlement, authorized an unlimited suspension of its own carrier business plan with no job losses and a 10% increase in pay and pensions. Royal Mail has been deeply involved in the public by saying the CWS media 27% pay rise. The CWS has never asked for a 27% pay rise.

That's why the CMA is asking for your support in our campaign to stop Royal Mail cuts, and unfair competition and preserve a vital public service.

Postal workers from Dersingham took part in the third day of strike action being taken by the Communication Workers Union on Friday 13 July 2007, and, as can be seen from the picture above, decided to form a picket line at the entrance to their workplace at the rear of Dersingham Post Office. As may be noticed, they were settled in for the day when our cameraman attended, having just brewed an early morning 'cuppa' and in the act of preparing breakfast on what was a very smokey barbeque.

The union claim in their handout leaflets (illustrated) that strike action was called by the union for the purpose of persuading Royal Mail to enter "meaningful talks on

resolving pay and major change and to honour the 2005 agreement which committed both parties to agree a joint approach on pay and modernization” to call for “A Government review of the damaging impact of competition on Royal Mail to date, in line with Labour’s manifesto commitment” and to seek “An immediate change to Postcomm’s competition rules and a fairer pricing and access regime that gives Royal Mail the revenues it needs to support the universal postal service and post office network”

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The Chain Gang

It is quite fascinating that, as Editor of this magazine, I receive a great deal of response to many of the published articles, an example of this concerning the sports ground's award winning John Bunn which was included in our last issue, and which included pictures of the opening of the pavilion. Comment on these reports can be seen in 'Benie's Bytes' elsewhere in this edition.

One of the first reactions which I had to these articles was from Mrs Catherine Nunn of Hunstanton Road, who hastened to let me know that much of the credit for the provision of the Sports Pavilion should have gone to five ladies of the village, who are pictured (right). These ladies are, from left to right – *Gladys Twite, Catherine Nunn, Dora Houchan, Daphne Valentine and Mabel Green* (who were, I am told by Mrs Nunn, for some reason which was not explained, known to each other as 'The Chain Gang').



Apparently these ladies spent six years raising the necessary building fund by organising Tombola (bingo for those who are not in the know) Sessions, which resulted in them achieving 50% of the required amount, the remainder being provided by the National Playing Fields Association following an appeal to its patron, The Duke of Edinburgh.

Mrs Nunn informed me that the building was absolutely essential at the time, as its predecessor, an old wooden hut, was falling to pieces, and so it was that the Tombola evenings were set up, with Reg Houchan supplying his coaches to provide transport from the outlying villages in order to maximise the number of people attending. Gladys Twite, who was a great asset to the village in many ways at the time, went out of her way to travel to King's Lynn in order to purchase the prizes for the Tombola, and was later to take over the responsibility for cleaning the pavilion from the time of its opening until she retired in 1981. She is pictured (below) receiving her retirement present from members of the club.

The Chairman of Dersingham Parish Council at the time was John Cable, the village schoolteacher, who had been in post for only one month, and who was the first to greet the Duke of Edinburgh on Opening Day, followed by members of the Sports Ground Committee, and, finally, by the ladies who had put in all the effort! You can only imagine how these ladies felt! Another thing which made the effort put into the provision of the pavilion a little sour was that because they



were not members of the Sports Club, none of the ladies concerned were allowed to go into the pavilion – Mrs Nunn has never set foot over the threshold! Sometimes it seems that credit is not given where it is due but at least I am attempting to put things right from this magazine's point of view! Incidentally, whoever thought that it was a good idea to lay a royal blue carpet in a sports pavilion? Although I am told it didn't stay down long!

etc.....

I found it to be very rewarding to speak to Mrs Nunn, who has lived in the same house in the village for 50 years and has many memories of happenings since her arrival.

I discovered that she had been married to Eric Nunn whom she met when he and she were in the RAF and based at Maham which at the time was a part of Bomber Command (they are pictured together (on the next page) at Maham, the guard house being somewhere to the left of where they are standing, I didn't get the dog's name!). Eric was employed in some form of duties

which he could not discuss with Catherine, and she does not know to this day what those duties were. She herself was employed as a secretary on the base.

Their meeting was at Christmas in 1941 at a time when she was carrying a biscuit tin and Eric enquired as to its content. When she told him that it was a Christmas cake it appears that a little persuasion encouraged her to cut a large piece from it for 'the lads on the gate' at Maham.



They were to marry shortly afterwards, but Eric spent some time in Iraq before they were eventually denobbed, being given a service personnel's 'priority home' - a beach house in Snettisham - which they were fortunate enough to leave for a council house in Snettisham in the November immediately before the great flood, Eric spending a lot of his time helping the victims at the time. Eric was to work for the Electricity Board for 30 years before he became ill and subsequently died.

During my conversation with Mrs Nunn I was shown the picture (below right) of herself in fancy dress as 'Andy Capp' with Jill

Houchen as his ever suffering wife 'Florrie' at the Dersingham Fete in June 1961, to the right of them are Lady Fernoy and the Earl and Lady Spencer, who were resident at Park House at the time.

Mrs Nunn was also able to provide me with the photograph of the original Dun Cow Public House, (shown on page 17) which is a building previous to any that I have so far seen published, and although it seems to have suffered overtime we have reproduced it as best we can.



I intend to speak to Mrs Nunn again, as I feel that she will have much to offer which will be of interest to our readers.

Deliciously delectable –
A stone's throw from the sea
Yet set in scenic countryside –
So spoilt for choice are we.

Woodland walks to Sandringham,
Marsh meanders to the creek,
Hilly hikes to Ingoldisthorpe –
Panoramic views to meet.

Exotic takeaways so tasty –
Cafes for your favourite dish,
Enticing pubs to quench your thirst,
The 'chippy' for fine fish.

A nursery for greenery,
Churches for salvation too,
Specialist for healthy bodies,
Clubs galore with lots to do.

So don't whizz past on the by-pass –
Stop off and have some fun,
There's something here for one and all

–
The old, middle-aged, or young.

There's no need to trek to Turkey
To savour scrumptious heights –
For so full of eastern promise –

Our Village Heritage (Part One) Or 'The Restoration Superstore'

The monarchy had been restored eleven years before
The people fought to heal the scars of bitter Civil War
At that time in Dersingham a new venture was proposed
To build an noble Barn to overcome the problems posed
By storage of the Harvest yield for winters harsh and cold
To feed the village livestock from the marshes, in the folds
And store the grain for village folk about 400 strong
To provide their daily bread throughout the winters cold and long.
The Barn was duly started and building to a plan
The villages all laboured every month and every man
The women folk took essential care of family and field
And the strength of the Community was surely so revealed.
The clunch and local carstone by the cartload soon was brought
Stone on stone with tireless skill the villages all sought
To build the massive edifice their village to support
Through the long and barren winters when sustenance was fraught.
In July of 1671 the building was complete
The triumph of an enterprise, a resolution sweet
No longer would the weather be an ever-present threat
With the splendid Barn of Dersingham such problems would be met.

Hugh Mullarkey © 20-08-07

(Part 2 follows in the next edition of the Village Voice - subject to the editor's approval!)

Arts and Crafts Festival at St Nicholas Church, Dersingham

Thursday 27th September to Saturday 29th September 2007 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Painting Exhibition and Photographic Display. In Church Hall, Craft Fayre Stalls, Second Hand
Book Shop. Morning Coffee from 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon. Lunch 12 noon - 2.00 p.m. Afternoon
Cream Teas 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Concert in St. Nicholas Church

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News from the Bog

By Will Stewart

Any of you that has visited Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve in recent weeks, would have been treated to the beautiful sight of the purple flowers of Ling and Bell Heather in full bloom. As one gazes across the site northwards, towards the impressive features of Snettisham Church Spire and Ken Hill, the abundance and variation of colours is incredible. Since the restoration of the heath started in the early 1990's, heather has increased significantly, along with the associated, and often threatened wildlife that depends on the open areas. In the coming months, these blues and purples will gradually change to orange and browns, as the days get shorter, and winter starts to take its icy grip on the landscape.

Last week I noticed a man staring across the heather covered steep escarpments. I wandered over and began to talk to the lone visitor. He explained how he couldn't believe he was in Norfolk, and how the landscape reminded him so much of the Peak District or hilly parts of Wales and Scotland. I totally agreed and went on to say that the bog pine areas remind many visitors of the tundra bogs that can be found in Scandinavia. It is no surprise these images spring to mind, as the acid valley mire, fed by purely acidic water percolating through the greensand escarpment, is unique in East Anglia. This geology and hydrology creates a landscape, and supports wildlife you are more likely to view in the wetter parts of Northern Britain. Regionally scarce species, such as Bog Asphodel, White beak-sedge, Cranberry, Round-leaved sundew and Common cotton-grass flourish in the constantly boggy areas, just as they do in the moorland mires further north and west. It's this unique geology and wildlife that makes this small area in West Norfolk

protected by six international and national conservation designations! In recent years the restoration of the valley mire and surrounding heathland by English Nature (now Natural England), with the help of a large team of local volunteers, has resulted in the area looking like part of the West Norfolk Heath, which once covered large areas along the greensand ridge between Headham and Downham Market for thousands of years.

Despite the poor weather, it is looking like another good year for heathland breeding bird species on the site. Nightjar (which Dersingham Bog is a nationally important site for), Woodlark and Tree Pipit territories have all increased on last years figures. Two broods of Stonechat were viewed plucking invertebrates from the air. This distinctive, bold species nested for the first time on the reserve two years ago, with three territories this year. Many species of Dragonfly and Damselfly can now be seen hawking around the reserve. The boardwalk is a good place to see many of Dersingham Bog's 18 species, including the famous Black Darter Dragonfly. This energetic species is living at its extreme southern range here, and can only be found breeding at a few other sites in lowland England. Emerald Damselflies with their iridescent green abdomens, along with Migrant Hawkers can also be seen in good numbers this time of the year. Dragonflies have been around on the earth for a staggering 300 million years, and they are still enriching summer walks with their aerial acrobatics. In more recent times they have been used to measure environmental health, with reductions in certain species and abundance when water quality changes. Also, in addition to Butterflies, they are increasingly being monitored to measure climate change. One such species, the Small Red-eyed Damselfly (which used to breed in Continental Europe), is now expanding its range northwards as temperatures in Britain rise.

It has been great to see so many people of all ages using the site this summer. Posters have been put up at the entrance gates, asking visitors to keep their dogs under close control, especially during the bird breeding season (February-October). We would like to thank you for your cooperation in this matter and thus helping to conserve Norfolk's wildlife for future generations to enjoy.



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▲ "Frances Dodds, Mary Macnamara and Hilary Rhodes at the recent Strawberry Fair at St Cecilia's."

"The parish team of servers, recently on a visit to Cambridge, were able to see things from a different perspective - from the roof of Kings College Chapel" ▶



◀ "Mike Koogh Pirate King from last year and his successor, Mick Nevin. These two have bravely faced a barrage of wet sponges at the Church Fete."

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My Patch

By Gardenwatcher

Mon. My attempts to reduce my food miles are as nought. I gathered a locally sourced rodent last night and on bringing it in and announcing my triumph I was promptly ejected through my flap no less than 3 times, accompanied by some stern words. My 4th try revealed that the inner door (man flap) had been closed so I spent an humiliating night in the back lobby.

Thur. The Bottle Brush plant has started flowering. Very pretty. His favourite Dahlia's are now needing daily dead heading sessions, still it keeps him off the streets.

Fri. Wandered past the vegetables just after dawn and was delighted to see that the Broccoli has bolted and the Chinese

Cabbage was looking poor. It might be the weather or just his husbandry at fault. The Carrots were big and bushy aboveground but my lack of x-ray vision prevents your horticultural scrivener reporting on the quality of the roots. It started to get windy around breakfast time so I will need to find somewhere sheltered to rest my weary bones.

Mon. They seem to take quite unreasonable exception to my being sick. Surely they do the same after a heavy night on the mice, and anyway it's a tiled floor and very easy for them to clear up if they must! This rain seems endless. I took advantage of a brief flash of sun to beat the bounds and spotted great cascades of bloom from a couple of Begonias in tubs, Bizzy Lizzies and Hydrangeas thriving in the wet conditions but the Petunias were looking very sad. Obviously they are fair weather plants.

Fri. Roasting hot today so I have been having a fine bake on the rockery. I had a good view of the greenhouse and noted that although there are lots of Tomatoes they are all still very green. They have been getting a lot of very small wasps around the flowers and have posted a number of traps for them about the place. So far the score is Strawberry jam nil, Honey 2 & Shredless Marmalade nil, but that's only just appeared. As this is on going I will keep you posted.

Wed. He has just performed the annual trim of the Beech and Conifer hedges, it's just one long round of noise here. Peaceful sleep is almost an impossibility, if it's not them it's neighbours machines or jets skimming the rooftops. I sometimes envy white cats that are deaf! Bean production has now started with the first pods being consumed with great relish (by them). Just keep them away from my meat please.

Sat Looks like a warm weekend is coming with plenty of sunbathing opportunities. The grass is looking a bit brown with the exception of the newly seeded bits which seem bright green and able to grow twice as fast as the old parts, resulting in extraduties for the ruddy mower. The first Tomatoes are now turning red and lots of little green Chillies are evident. Wasp trap situation disappointing with few captives, no clear favourites yet.

Tue. Windy with rain so a good excuse to stay in and get in their way. He was out last evening staking the Cardoons as they had flopped over. The flowerheads are quite attractive but the leaves look scruffy now and I think they should be trimmed.

Thur. I'm a tolerant sort of chap when it comes to visitors on my patch. Why only the other night a black and white cat risked a traverse of the back lawn and I only yelled at it, well it was bigger than me. Birds may come and go with only the occasional sacrifice to me needing to be made, but enough is enough! A grey squirrel has been seen in the trees behind, it has had the impudence to run along my fence and dance in my drive. The master (humph) has given me the contract for it's liquidation. As the brute is a bit faster and more nimble than your humble scribe, I think that he will have a long wait for a result. Wasp is still a reluctant catch in the trap selection, so no firm conclusions can be drawn yet.

Wed. Rain, rain and more rain, we must be due a bank holiday. Two Enbothiums turned up today and need planting, so that's more bare earth denied to me than. Perhaps squirrels like to eat them?

Dersingham Entertainment Committee Nigel Kelk reports on their Fun Day

There's always a time when you think to yourself 'why did I ever get involved in this?' and I have had just such a time. A week or so after the event I still ache, my feet are still sore, my back a little stiffer and certainly now we that have had some good, dry weather, at least I have dried out. That said I am truly happy that I did get involved in this.

What is the 'this' I refer to? – the recent Dersingham fun day held on the rec 18th August by DEC – Dersingham Entertainment Committee. A small band of people brought together by the desire to raise funds for youth activities in Dersingham. I have to say that my real involvement in the run up to the day was minimal and the real thanks for the success need to go to Donna, Rhona, and Andrew who all put so much more into organising the day to ensure that it all went well. My involvement centred more on volunteering my children's time to delivering invitations to the day's events and assisting with the putting up and taking down of equipment on the day – oh and flipping the odd burger or two throughout the day – a new experience for me. The day started at 8 am for me – although it had started a bit earlier for one or two of the team – with a trip down to the rec (along with the volunteers Alice and Matthew) to help with putting up gazebos, setting up the babie (big thank you to Thaxters for that), putting tables out for the various stalls and prize games we had running as well. All of which had been sponsored by local business and organisations such as Burells, our own Post Office, Thaxters, Red Pumps Garage, The Parish Council, Budgens Supermarket and Dersingham News among others. In addition to this it was a good sight to see all the other stall holders Donna had persuaded to come to the event to support us.

The RAF were there with an assault course that proved popular with the younger groups;



trampolines and bouncy castle were there to allow grand children to mug grand parents; T shirt and old sweet stalls – I can even remember some of the sweets I had as a child – not that I'm that old you understand its just that you rarely get the opportunity to buy sweets from the jar these days. Fortunately enough for me the bar arrived early to ensure that my warming up schedule for the main event would not have to be skipped and again fortunately enough for me, it was sited next to my bbq.

Yes the main event, a series of team games, not too competitive but just for fun you understand!! Last year when a similar event was held as part of the Dersingham Festival Week, a very enthusiastic Mr Seaks persuaded,

cajoled and pleaded with people to form teams to go and do battle for a shield (a nice wooden shield with plaques for engraving winners names – but a shield all the same), and at last years event the heavyweights (as we – Simon Kittle, Gary Dawes, Karl Bowman and myself called ourselves) were triumphant. Never had you met a more unlikely winning team – I think I am ok to say that we were not the fittest, nor the most athletic, nor even in the best of shape although 'round' is a shape – but evidently we were the most adept at the egg and spoon, the sack race, the wheelbarrow race, wellie wanging and were unmoveable in the tug of war as most people expected us to be. Warm ups last year consisted of a pint, sit down and for some a quick fag – so much for healthy living. This year was going to be different as the expectations on the team were greater – would we successfully defend our title? Would Team Lindsay come back to put us in our place? Or would a new comer steal the shield? As with last year, The Heavyweights (Simon Kittle, Gary Dawes, Matt Thomlinson and myself) pre training and warm up regime stretched to the odd pint, a cigarette and the occasional baiting and teasing of the opposition – nothing like some good natured banter to demoralise the opposition. It was evident from the start that this year was not going to be a walk over. Team Lindsay had been in training and some of last year's team members had been dropped

in favour of more sportier models. Also, a 'rest of the world' team appeared and during the whole games event really did seem to draw on the rest of the world for support.

The sack race was harder than I remembered it from last year, as was the three-legged race. The wheelbarrow race didn't quite go to plan and it certainly doesn't help when the barrow is not quite up to the job. Wellie wanging proved embarrassing for some as some of the boots were let go of too early and hit hard into the ground rather than gently arcing over the field, while the egg and spoon race took some care as the eggs were not hard boiled this time. The tug of war was a mere formality for The Heavyweights as some of the more uncharitable spectators were quick to point out.

This year Andrew had included two new events – a greasy pole fight where despite the low centre of gravity typified by the Heavyweights, Team Lindsay were triumphant with particular success taken by their captain. The second new game entailed the captain of each team to take to the stocks to have wet sponges thrown at them with a point being earned for each hit – this was a game I particularly enjoyed for two reasons. First, I was not a captain and second scored two direct hits when my turn came. Games over and following a recount the Heavyweights had successfully defended their title. Next year is going to be something to look forward to as we see if we can (being that little bit older, heavier and bulkier) win again.



After all the running about I returned to the bbq to relieve my wonderful stand ins, and took time to watch the ladies events take place. I feel I have to apologise to all those potentially scared by the sight of my dear mother showing all the underpinnings you shouldn't see of a (almost) septuagenarian as she fell into the wheelbarrow – a node of transport she I fear she is well acquainted with after an afternoon and evening out with her friends. It was heartening to see her team members all rushing to her aid – once they had stopped laughing that is – and just like the men's events it was good to see a healthy rivalry developing as the day wore on. Strong performance from the Coffee Shop team (once they had disposed of the older members) saw them take the title this year.

After all the activities had finished there came a period of quiet as we moved from the daytime fun to the evening fun but along with the move came the rain. We had dodged it all day and had been so very lucky not to get wet earlier, but the weather caught us this time and made its mark. At least we had music while it rained – the disco was able to go ahead courtesy of a party tent loaned to us at the last minute by Sandy from Tropics. The rain was relentless and at 7.30 that evening it was decided to call it a day and go home. People left and the slow job of putting everything away began. My volunteered family stayed till 9 when, very wet and very tired they went home leaving Andrew, Curtis and myself taking down the party tent in the rain. I have to say that I have never been so wet and fully clothed for a very long time and I really hope that it will be a long time before it happens again. But it is at times like that – wet, cold, tired, in need of a warm drink and soft bed – I think why am I involved in this?

Well I'm involved in this because I was asked to be involved, because it was fun, because there was a real sense of doing something for the village, because the money raised over this and future events will go to helping support activities for the youth of the village. From the feedback I have already had, I believe that the day was great a success and that future events will likewise be successful. I'm quite pleased to be involved with DEC and am now looking forward to seeing what we can offer for the Christmas Fayre and of course next year's summer event and defending the honour of the Heavyweights for the third time. Finally, on behalf of those involved in DEC I would like to say a big thank you to all the businesses and village organisations that supported this year's event, a big thank you to all those who came to the day and a big thank you to all those that made the day possible.



at home not alone

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- * Up to three weekly calls from the Teleclub to its members.
- * Telephone 'coffee mornings' where groups of members can take part in chaired discussions, play games and quizzes and socialise.
- * A contacts service - members provide us with details of their interests, and these are cross-referenced to find possible new friends for them in their area
- * Signposting information - members can be pointed in the direction of a large range of services available to them that they may not usually be aware of.

Members also receive a quarterly newsletter containing MENS A puzzles, quizzes, a book club and much more that we encourage them to contribute to. They also receive birthday cards, Christmas cards and the occasional postcard from the club.

In the future the Teleclub will be developing a website with links to forums and other useful services for older people, and we will also be offering introductory IT training.

For further information and membership enquiries please call the **Teleclub on 01603 785261**
Calling all volunteers! Are you looking for a fun and friendly volunteering opportunity that fits around your lifestyle? Contact us on the number above for more details!

Teleclub gift vouchers are available - a great present for any occasion.

The Teleclub is just one of a series of new initiatives set up by the Partnership For Older Peoples Projects 'At Home, Not Alone' scheme, which is dedicated to improving the quality of older peoples lives through a raft of innovative new services. These services include a home shopping service, a falls advice service, a home security service and a 24-hour unplanned need service.

For more information on At Home, Not Alone services please call 08448008014 or visit www.athomenotalone.co.uk



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Dersingham First Responders

Members of the DFR would like to thank all those in Dersingham and the local area for their kind generosity, we have enjoyed a great year with regular donations from you helping to keep us on the road and responding to a large and varied number of calls. At the last committee meeting it was agreed that we would investigate purchasing a car with the money, hopefully with the support of a local garage, so we can be a visible presence in the village.

Rightly so we can not discuss individual calls but we have had our successes but regrettably during some of the calls we have attended we simply could not prevent the sad loss of the patient. All of us enjoy being able to help when a member of the village is in distress and requires urgent medical attention, it is very rewarding when everything fits in place and we have a successful outcome.

We do however urgently require more help! At present Paula (my wife), Yvonne from the flower shop in Manor Road, Kieran and I work hard to keep the responder kit on the run but there are times when we are off call – if anyone has some time available (it only needs to be a little) then please call me on 079 19 492225 for an informal chat, you don't need any medical training or experience!

Paula (I don't know where she finds the time!) and her friend Lorna Leonad organised a charity ball on the Sandringham Estate back in May and raised over £5,000 (see picture). Some of this money has been donated to the British Heart Foundation the rest to the DFR. Also on the night Stephen Crown had raised over £2,800 running the 10k in King's Lynn forum so it looks like that car is getting closer.

Thank you again for your support and hopefully we will see you socially not medically!

Be Safe, Tim Edwards - Coordinator



The Editor received the following by e-mail and therefore has no way of acknowledging its author. However, the thoughts in this message are so strong and touching that a decision was taken that it should be published. You are asked to note that the game being described in the story is, in fact, American Baseball.

Have a tissue – it's not all about winning

Two Choices

What would you do?...you make the choice. Don't look for a punch line, there isn't one. Read it anyway. My question is: Would you have made the same choice?

At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves learning disabled children, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended. After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question: "When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does is done with perfection. Yet my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?"

The audience was stilled by the query. The father continued. "I believe, that when a child like Shay, physically and mentally handicapped comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes in the way other people treat that child."

Then he told the following story:

Shay and his father had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, "Do you think they'll let me play?" Shay's father knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but the father also understood that if his son were allowed to play, it would give him a much needed sense of belonging

and some confidence to be accepted by others in spite of his handicaps.

Shay's father approached one of the boys on the field and asked (not expecting much) if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and said, "We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning."

Shay struggled over to the team's bench and, with a broad smile, put on a team shirt. His Father watched with a small tear in his eye and warmth in his heart. The boys saw the father's joy at his son being accepted. In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the right field. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as his father waved to him from the stands. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat.

At this juncture, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game? Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball.

However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher, recognizing that the other team was putting winning aside for this moment in Shay's life, moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly



so Shay could at least make contact. The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher.

The game would now be over. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game. Instead, the pitcher threw the ball right over the first baseman's head, out of reach of all team mates. Everyone from the stands and both teams started yelling, "Shay, run to first! Run to first!" Never in his life had Shay ever run that far, but he made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled. Everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second!" Catching his breath, Shay awkwardly ran towards second, gleaming and struggling to make it to the base. By the time Shay rounded towards second base, the right fielder had the ball. the smallest guy on their team who now had his first chance to be the hero for his team. He could have thrown the ball to the second baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions so he, too, intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head. Shay ran toward third base deliriously as the runners ahead of him circled the bases toward home.

All were screaming, "Shay, Shay, Shay, all the Way Shay"

Shay reached third base because the opposing shortstop ran to help him by turning him in the direction of third base, and shouted, "Run to third! Shay, run to third!"

As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams, and the spectators, were on their feet screaming, "Shay, run home! Run home!" Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the grand slam and won the game for his team.

"That day", said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world".

Shay didn't make it to another summer. He died that winter, having never forgotten being the hero and making his father so happy, and coming home and seeing his Mother tearfully embrace her little hero of the day!

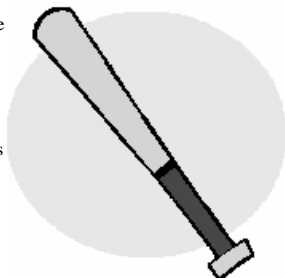
AND NOW A LITTLE FOOTNOTE TO THIS STORY:

We all send thousands of jokes through the e-mail without a second thought, but when it comes to sending messages about life choices, people hesitate. The crude, vulgar, and often obscene pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion about decency is too often suppressed in our schools and workplaces. If you're thinking about forwarding this message, chances are that you're probably sorting out the people in your address book who aren't the "appropriate" ones to receive this type of message. Well, the person who sent you this believes that we all can make a difference. We all have thousands of opportunities every single day to help realize the "natural order of things." So many seemingly trivial interactions between two people present us with a choice. Do we pass along a little spark of love and humanity or do we pass up those opportunities and leave the world a little bit colder in the process?

A wise man once said every society is judged by how it treats it's least fortunate amongst them. You now have two choices:

1. Delete
2. Forward

May your day, be a Shay Day





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Youths responsible for graffiti tagging in Gayton and nearby villages have been made to help clean up the damage.

As a result of work carried out by the neighbourhood policing team and under the supervision of their parents, some have been made to reapply their energy into removing their own handiwork from public areas and signs.

In all, eight local youths were identified and admitted their involvement in graffiti tagging in Gayton, Leziate, Ashwicken and Roydon, having been identified by members of the Dersingham & Gayton Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

Grffiti on Gayton bus shelter, which generated a high number of complaints, has now been entirely removed thanks to work carried out by the Borough Council's clean-up team.

Safer Neighbourhoods Sgt Andy Crown said: "The damage was brought to our attention by local residents and we got to work immediately. By simply walking in uniform in the area we recorded the graffiti and spoke to local youths about it. There has been a lot of hard work and the results speak for themselves.

"The parents of these youths have been most supportive. Some have actually supervised their children in cleaning off marker pen graffiti from road signs. This is really encouraging bearing in mind these parents had no idea what their children were getting up to. Thankfully, with the continued support of the parents, we can begin to make a difference and put a stop to such behaviour and restore some old-fashioned values locally.

This is good news for the community of these villages – no-one likes to see this type of damage.

The Dersingham & Gayton Safer Neighbourhoods Team is dedicated to the group of villages north east of King's Lynn covering Dersingham, Anmer, Congham, Hitcham, Great Massingham, Hillington, Little Massingham, Sandringham, Grimston, Roydon, Pott Row, Bawsey, Gayton, Leziate, Castle Acre, East Winch, Pentney and West Acre.

Led by Sgt Crown and based at Dersingham Police Station, the team is currently made up PC Adrian Fryett, PSCO Karen Hall and PSCO Sally Calaby. Two additional PCSOs will join the team in the coming months.

The team works closely with colleagues in the neighbouring team of Hunstanton & Bumham. Together they hold monthly surgeries in Headham, Bumham Market, Syderstone, Gayton, Dersingham, Great Massingham and Castle Acre – with Docking due to be added soon. Surgeries are advertised locally, through posters and parish magazines. (see page 31)

Sgt Crown said: "We want to build on our success by encouraging the public to attend any one of these surgeries and to tell us what is affecting their community locally that we might be able to help with. We can't begin to make a difference if we don't know about it.

"The surgeries allow people to meet their local officers in person, to raise their concerns and to hear about what work is already being carried out in their neighbourhood."

Team members can be contacted when on duty by calling 0845 456 4567 or leave a message to be contacted on their return. For further information about your team visit the Safer Norfolk website at www.safernorfolk.co.uk

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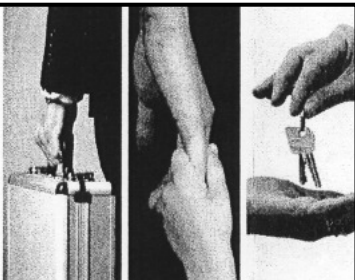
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THE CHURCH CLOCK

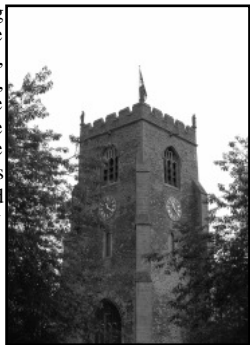
The clock which the inhabitants of Dersingham have placed in the tower of the Parish Church to commemorate the Coronation of Their Majesties the King and Queen was on December 22nd formally set going.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales graciously consented to visit the parish on that day, and to perform the ceremony of starting the clock. The Chairman and several members of the Coronation Committee and the Churchwardens met His Royal Highness and the two young princes, who accompanied His Royal Highness, at the entrance of the churchyard, and proceeded to the porch, where the Chairman, on behalf of the parishioners, welcomed and thanked His Royal Highness for coming. He then asked His Royal Highness to formally make over the clock into the care of the Vicar and Churchwardens of the Parish Church. The formality having been performed, His Royal Highness proceeded to the Vestry, and pulled a cord which set the pendulum in motion, the clock immediately striking the hour, 3 pm.

In the enforced absence of the Vicar through illness, the Chairman and Churchwardens conducted His Royal Highness over the Church.

We feel sure that the kindly interest shown by the Prince of Wales in graciously honouring the parish with a visit on such an auspicious occasion will be long and gratefully remembered by the inhabitants.

The Clock, which strikes the hours and "ding-dongs" the quarters, reflects great credit on the makers, the well-known firm of John Smith and Sons, of the Midland Clock Works, Derby, who it will be remembered, made the big clock of St. Paul's Cathedral. By the gracious permission of His Majesty the King, the Crown and Royal Cipher appear on



the two dials of the clock which are models of neatness and distinctness.

This article was first published in the "Sandringham Estate Magazine" on the 4th of February 1903 and is reproduced by kind permission of the estate. The sketch was originally attached to the article and the photograph was taken by Tony Bubb



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Mayor's Civic Awards for Voluntary Service

Nominations for the Annual Mayor's Civic Awards for Voluntary Service are now invited.

The Award Scheme started in 1995 and acknowledges the enormous contribution of people who put a lot of time and effort into voluntary work and volunteers to the Community. In excess of 250 people have become holders of an Award.

The scheme, which is supported by BBC Radio Norfolk, is a well respected and high profile award scheme within the Borough. The present Mayor, Councillor Kathy Mellish said "My first real contact with this award came when as Deputy Mayor last year I was a judge. I was quite struck by the wide variety of volunteers and the huge amount of support they give to the community. Along with my fellow judges I was quite humbled by all that I read about the nominees and felt proud to be involved in the scheme. I am really looking forward to reading this year's nominations. Over the past few months I have met many volunteers through my role as Deputy Mayor and then as Mayor and I have been astounded at all that goes on about which I really found I knew little. This scheme is a small way in which the Borough can say 'thank you' and I do urge people to make nominations so that those who give so generously of their time may be recognised".

Nomination forms may be obtained from the Civics Officer, The Town Hall, Kings Lynn, PE30 5DQ (01553 7621 24) or by e-mail on civics.officer@west-norfolk.gov.uk They can also be downloaded from the Mayoral section on the Borough Council's web site

For any further information, contact Penny Harrison, the Civics Officer at The Town Hall, King's Lynn on 01553 7621 24 or email her on civics.officer@west-norfolk.gov.uk



Samaritans Purse Shoe box appeal



Operation Christmas Child is looking for your support to help bring hope and a smile to some of the world's poorest children by packing a shoe box with simple but special gifts. Your act of generosity gives hope to children caught in the midst of wars, natural disasters and poverty in Eastern Europe and beyond; your box will be hand delivered to a child, which could be the only Christmas present they will ever receive.

Leaflets with full instructions can be obtained from St. Nicholas Church or Joan Schorah (01485) 540491.

An example of what a small gift can achieve - a 6 year old boy unable to go to school because he had to provide his own stationery found new pens, pencils and notepad in his box which meant he could attend school "the best Christmas present ever" he exclaimed.

A big thank you to friends who have been knitting scarves, hats and mittens and collecting small soft toys ready for this year's appeal.

There will be a special 10.30 a.m. service on Sunday 25th November to receive boxes but they can be brought to Church any Sunday or left in my porch at 48 Station Road.

Joan Schorah

DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Thu 27 to Sat 29 Sep	10.00 am to 5.00 pm	St Nicholas Church	Arts & Crafts Festival	St Nicholas Church
Sat 29 Sep	7.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	The Strolling Players	St Nicholas Church
Fri 5 Oct	10.30 to 11.30 am	Dersingham Library	National Book Start Day	Dersingham Library
Sat 6 to Sun 14 Oct		Dersingham Library	Family Learning Week	Dersingham Library
Sat 27 Oct to Sat 10 Nov		Dersingham Library	West Norfolk Food Fortnight	Dersingham Library
Sun 28 Oct	8.00 pm	Park House Hotel	An Evening of Light Classical Music	Park House Hotel
Wed 14 Nov	7.30 pm	Park House Hotel	Park House Quiz Night	Park House Hotel
Sunday 25 Nov	10.30	St Nicholas Church	Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal Service	St Nicholas Church
Fri 7 December	7.30 to 10.30 pm	Companions of Park House Hotel	Auction of Gifts and Promises	Park House Hotel

DIARY OF REGULAR EVENTS

Day	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Occasional Sundays		Dersingham Walking Group	Circular Walk	See programme for details or Contact Keith Starks 542268
Every Monday	2.00 pm	St. Cecilia's Church	Rosary Group	St. Cecilia's Church
Every Mon, Tues, Thur & Fri	9.00 to 11.30 am	Dersingham Playgroup	Playgroup Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Mon & Fri Term Time	9.30 to 11.00 am	Puddleducks Toddler Group	Toddler Group Meeting	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Last Monday in the Month	7.15 pm	Dersingham Parish Council	Full Council Meeting	Infant and Nursery School, Saxon Way
Every Tuesday	8.30 to 7 pm	2nd Dersingham Browne Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 7 – 10 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every Tuesday in Term Time	8.30 to 11.15 am	Parent & Toddler Group Meeting	St Nicholas Church hall	St Nicholas Parent & Toddler Group
Every Tuesday	8 pm	Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes	Sandringham Lodge Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
1st or 2nd Tuesday in the Month	2.15 pm	Royal British Legion Women's Section	Dersingham & Sandringham Branch Meeting	Orchard Close Community Room
1st Tuesday of the Month	7.30 pm	Village Voice 'Live'	Presentations by Guest Speakers/Groups	St Nicholas Church Hall
1st Tuesday of the Month	7.30 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Art Club	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
2nd Tuesday in the Month	7.30 pm	Royal British Legion	Branch Meeting	Feathers Hotel
Every Wednesday	10.00 am to 4.00 pm	Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly	Recreation & Leisure Activities and Mid-day Meal	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Wednesday	10.00 to 11.00 am	Music+ Movement	Pre-school Music, Dance & Drama	Dersingham Scout & Guide HQ
Every Wednesday	2.00 to 4.00 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Carpet Bowls	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Wednesday	6.00 to 7.15 pm	Beavers	Meeting for children aged 6 - 8	Scout & Guide HQ Dersingham Sports Ground
Every 2nd Weds of the Month	10.30 am	St Nicholas Men's Group	Men's Group Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall

Every 2nd Weds of the Month Sept to April	7.30 pm	Albert Victor Bowls Club	Prize Bingo	Albert Victor Bowls Club, Manor Road
Every 2nd Weds of the Month		Dersingham Walking Group	Circular Walk	See programme for details or Contact Keith Starks 542268
3rd Wednesday of the Month	7.15 to 10.00 pm	Dersingham Evening Women's Institute	Meeting	St Cecilia's Church Hall
Every Thursday	10.30 am to 3.00 pm	North West Norfolk Phobbes Club	Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every Thursday	4.00 to 5.15 pm	1st Dersingham Rainbow Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 5-7 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every Thursday	5.30 to 7.00 pm	1st Dersingham Brownie Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 7-10 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.00 pm	1st Sandringham Guide Unit	Unit Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.00 pm	1st Dersingham Scout Group	Group Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ Dersingham Sports Ground
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.30 pm	Norfolk Army Cadet Force	Sandringham Detachment Meeting	The Drill Hall, Dodds Hill
Every Thursday	7.15 pm	Hanover Housing Association	Bingo	Hanover Housing Association Common Room
Every Thursday	7.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Badminton Club	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every Thursday Sept to June	2 pm	Park House Hotel	Rubber Bridge	Park House Hotel
1st Thursday of the Month		Dersingham Flower Club	Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
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
1st Friday of the month	10.00 am to 12 noon	St Nicholas Church	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas Church Hall

News in brief

Parish Councilor Paul Burall has been re-appointed as a member of the Board of East of England Development Agency, taking up the three year appointment in December of this year.

Former Parish Councilor Jacky Livermore who is a legal executive, has joined the conveyancing department of Dawbans Pearson law firm in King's Lynn. Jacky was formerly specialising in commercial and residential property work in Cambridge and Norwich.

Congratulations go to Stephen Franklin of Dersingham on receiving his City and Guilds Certificate in carpentry and woodworking, gained at the Norfolk Training Services training centre, and for being one of the first persons to achieve this at what is a new centre. The course was taken over a 13 week period at the unit on Lynn's Hardwick Industrial Estate.

Torc Motors in Hunstanton Road could be demolished and converted to make way for five homes if a Planning Application which has been made to the Borough Council is granted. The owners have stated that the reasons are that they wish to expand the business, which they say is not possible on the current site. The change of use would, they say, benefit the village because the former petrol station would be replaced by homes which they believe would enhance the appearance of the area.

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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 24 October, 21 November and 19 December 2007 - when Public Enquiry Officers Linda Forder and Pate Shaw will be in attendance along with P.C. 240 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 £12.50 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 **7 November 2007**. Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465.

Articles for publication in the December edition of Village Voice must reach the editor at 45 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Dersingham, e-mail: dersinghamvillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk before the **deadline date of mid-day on Wednesday 7 November 2007 for publication on Thursday 29 November 2007**. (Contributors who are promoting events should take note of this earliest date of publication). Should you be providing graphics to accompany advertisements or articles, it would be appreciated if these could be in JPEG format.

It must be pointed out that the editor encourages contributions but reserves the right to amend and edit as necessary. Any contributions received will be accepted on the understanding that, unless a specific request is made that names, addresses, etc are not used, these may be included in the publication and may be maintained on the Parish Council's database.

Due to limitations on space it is possible that some items received may not be published, or may be held for publication at a later date. Contributors should also be aware that published material might appear on the Parish Council's Internet web site. The editor does not necessarily agree with opinions that are expressed, or the accuracy of statements made, by contributors to the Village Voice.

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

The Production Team consists of

Editor: - Bob Tipping

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

Layout Artists - Tony Bubb & Rob Smyth

Printed by Clanpress Ltd, Dundee Ct., Hamburg Way, King's Lynn, Norfolk

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday October 2nd




Three Parts Light



Keith
Skipper

Pat Nearney



Danny Platten

St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £5.00 including refreshments. Raffle

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Tuesday November 6th

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Part 1—1700 to 1930

selected from his vast collection of photographs and postcards



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