

Issue 51

April 2008

Dersingham Village Voice



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see page 19

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Acting Editor's Notes



As you see, the editor's uniform is as yet unfilled so you have a temporary editor minding the shop. Please feel free to come and claim the position and the kit.

To mark his four and a half years of editing this magazine we held a reception for Bob ahead of the February Village Voice Live event. About forty guests came to wish him well, the gathering being made up largely of contributors, past and present, with the

numbers being swelled by the evening's regular audience. The youngest well wisher was baby Callum, Sarah Bristow's new born, who was a model of good behaviour. Hugh Mullarkey performed his poem "St Bob?" that he wrote for



the last edition of Village Voice and Bob was presented with an electronic Thesaurus from the Parish Council to show their appreciation of a job well done. Bob responded with a few well chosen words. He has been prevailed upon to contribute the occasional piece for the magazine and we look forward

to enjoying these.

At the meeting that followed, Paul Stancliffe from the British Trust for Ornithology gave a very interesting talk on the work of the BTO with



Photo courtesy of Steve Davis

particular reference to garden birds. In his closing moments he showed a picture of an extremely rare White Crowned Sparrow which had arrived recently from America. This is only the fourth time this bird has been recorded in Britain. This inspired 2 members of our audience to visit it in Cley and take it's picture.

The gremlins seem to have infiltrated issue 49. Whilst 25 snowmen were created (25 — 25th Dec Christmas etc., etc.,) and placed about the magazine, an extra man left the clipboard under his own steam to confuse us.

If the person who correctly counted 26 would like to get in touch we will reward them with a prize. We will not however, be removing the already given prize

from the sweet little old lady who has probably drunk it by now.

Whilst I am in the editor's chair I would like to increase the amount of topical articles in the magazine. On page 45 there is the first of a series of articles about local farming. We all go through the countryside when we leave the village and these articles will perhaps inform readers about what they are passing.

Most of us eat out from time to time so please review your praiseworthy eating place for others to enjoy.

This slight shift of emphasis does not mean that history is not welcome, keep those memories coming in.

Let us know about your groups activities, others may want to join you and all will benefit. Happy reading.

Tony Bubb □

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Dear Village Voice



There are currently 10 Councillors serving on the Parish Council, well short of the full compliment of 18.

Are you happy with the way the serving councillors look after the village on your behalf, or would you like things to be done differently? Do you think that the precept set is too high or too low? After all the money will come out of your pocket. Is the money being allocated to village projects that you believe are important, should the bus shelters take priority over the play equipment on the recreation ground, or should the priority be Malcolm's Garden by the war memorial? Does the village want lights at Christmas and if so how many and whereabouts should they be hung? Oh yes are they a waste of money? Perhaps the project should be shelved indefinitely. What about dog mess on the pavements and litterbins, That extension to the property near you, should the Parish Council recommend approval or disapproval, how would you vote? These are some of the matters Parish Councillors have to consider and decide.



Do you think that you could do a better job in running the village than some of the present serving councillors? Maybe in your opinion the present Council is rubbish or may be you think that they are doing a good job, but could improve a little. Would like to have more of a say in matters that you care about? If so, then why not consider joining the Council, it is not that taxing and by joining you will have a voice in the way your village is run. Who knows that voice may change the way an important issue is dealt with.

I became a councillor a year ago and I'm still a councillor, so it can't be that bad. Why don't you come and join me? Irene at the Parish Council Offices will be very pleased to hear from you.

Cllr Ann Chapman

Reference the photos on page 75 of Feb edition of Village Voice, I can pinpoint exactly when the top and middle photos were taken – 9th July 1965. During an interval at that dance, entertainment was provided by members of the King's Lynn Operatic and Dramatic Society. The top photo shows some of the audience during a sing-along number and pictures on the far right the late Ken Hedgley with his wife Angela and Elizabeth Neale (Flegg), an old school friend of Angela's.

Among the artistes entertaining was soprano Suzanne Webborn, and the middle picture shows her parents – Jackie in the pale square necked dress decorated with dark flowers, and Johnnie shown standing at the back, second from the right. I don't know definitely about the bottom picture but think it could have been taken the same evening as one young lady is clearly seen wearing the same outfit in two of the photos.

Angela Mitchell

I would like to thank the previous editor, Bob Tipling, for his kind comments about the illustrations that I have supplied to Village Voice in the past (see issue 50, page 53). However, I must make a correction. Three of the illustrations were not my own, but were copyright-free clip art pictures supplied when time was short! These three were: the house in a fenced garden, the couple at a jumble sale, and (at the bottom right hand of the page) the garden with the bird table. I am often invited to supply some more drawings of local features, so I will try to supply some new pictures this year - if time allows!

Neil Adams

In Village Voice 50, the photo 'where? who? when?' was at the Sandringham Flower Show, the crowd is watching the cricket match. At one time a cricket match was part of the flower show and at that time all school children at schools on the estate got complimentary tickets.

Bernie Twite, Cyprus



Dear Tony, I feel that it is imperative that I write to thank yourself and all those who took the trouble to organise and attend the gathering which was arranged (prior to the 'Village Voice Live' event on Tuesday 5 February) as a 'farewell do' on my giving up the role which you are currently undertaking in an 'acting' capacity. I would also ask that you allow me to thank all those others who could not attend but who have since either wished me well personally or have sent e-mails or letters for this purpose. For the benefit of those who were not aware of the content of the presentation which I received, I would like to say that it was not a box of chocolates as many thought, but a Seiko Concise Oxford Electronic Thesaurus, on which I have enjoyed playing the word games which are incorporated and which I am sure will be most useful as a pocket companion. My regards to all with whom I have had contact because of the Dersingham Village Voice, it is my hope that they will continue to be a part of it and that it will go on from strength to strength in the future.

Bob Tipling

My daughter Hayley has been researching our family history and is still looking. She has found our family have been in Dersinghams since 1770. My wife Beryl and I have done our best to keep it going for the next 100 years. This takes me on to Dick's column. He talked about Garden Cottages. In 1900 they were called Twaits Yard. Living in the Yard at that time were Mr. & Mrs. Bill Daniels with 3 children, Emily Yollop with 4 children, Mr. & Mrs. Horace Balls with 8 children, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bunn with 4 children, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Grief with 5 children, Mr. Henry and Lucy Bunn with 5 children. Henry and Lucy left in 1908 and moved to 3 Beech Drift. In 1936 families living in the Yard were the Minns Family, the Grief-Petch family, the Drew family, the Balderstone family, the Balls family who remember Alice and George Spurgen, the Rolph family, the Axton family and one cottage was a bakehouse. In 1939 the Axton family moved to Station Road and George who was 3 years old was taken on a sledge in the snow. When the Axtons left, 2 women Dean and Osborne moved in. Many families still live in Dersingham. George remembers it as Garden Cottages. Many older members of the village still call it Twaits Yard.

When Henry and Lucy Bunn moved to Beech Drift they had 5 children. Fredrick Bunn became Postmaster at Sandringham. William Bunn was killed in Gaza in 1917, Mabel Bunn was Jack Bunn's mother, my grandmother. My father, Jack, was born in 1916 and because of space was brought up by my Great Grandfather Henry and Lucy. I was born in the same house in Beech Drift in 1937 with Nurse Earle helping. The house was built in 1765. Bill Howsen was next door. In the next 2 cottages that were built in 1779 lived Bob and Liz Gibson. Next door was Mrs. Emmerson. Tom and John were prisoners of war. We had a well in the garden. We then had an outside tap in 1946 and an outside toilet until the house was pulled down in 1990. My mother moved to Orchard Close. Jacky Frusher now lives on the plot of our old house.

Name change: When did Middle Road change to Post Office Road, when did Sandringham Road change to Manor Road? The Albert Victor and the Feathers Hotel were in Sandringham Road in 1901.

John Bunn

I am writing to you regarding one of your correspondents, Bernard Twite. Since Bernie and Rosemary moved to Cyprus I have read on several occasions Bernie praising different people of our village, so I would like on this occasion to pay tribute to him and Rosemary. My sister and her husband Mr. & Mrs. Bill Pemberton were on holiday in Cyprus when Bill, who paraglides (age 67) unfortunately had a life threatening accident, breaking his pelvis, leg, 4 vertebrae, to name a few. When Bernie and Rosemary heard about this they contacted my sister and drove 70 kilometres on several occasions to comfort her and take her to and from hospital and spend time with her when she was at her lowest. She has phoned me and told me several times she doesn't know how she would have coped in a strange country without Bernie and Rosemary's kindness and will never be able to thank them enough.

Dave Hooker

Please note that we now have a new e-mail address for the Parish Council office. It is :- dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk

Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening Times

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

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

The Dersingham Parish Council Office is at

The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham, Norfolk PE316LH
Tel: 01485 541465 E-mail: dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk

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Brown Garden Waste Bins

Along with many other organisations and individuals, the Parish Council argued for the retention of the Green Bag scheme or a smaller bin for those people that found a big brown bin unsuitable. The Borough Council did not see fit to hear these arguments.

You can, however, share a bin with others. If you are unable to find your own "bin buddy" contact the Parish Council Office and we will endeavour to assist you. We can operate a sort of dating agency. □



'A Little Light Music'

A Summer Evening Show at Park House

Sunday 11th May 8.00pm



This is the 60th anniversary year of Leonard Cheshire, to be celebrated nationally in the week 4th to 11th May. During this week Park House Sandringham will be hosting a variety of events and concerts based on the theme '*60 years of Music*' featuring visiting artists performing many styles of music from the 1940s to the present day.

Highlight of the week will be a welcome return visit By West End Production Company **Cleaver Productions**, whose 'Christmas Extravaganza' show last Christmas sent a full house singing all the way home. This new show '*A Little Light Music*' features Music, Song, and Dance from the musicals and shows of the last 60 years. A fitting finale to celebrate an historic anniversary. Come and join us!

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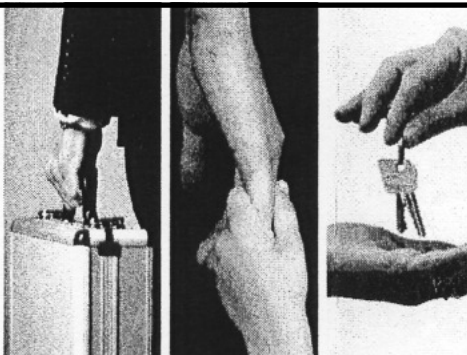
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DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP

As we have heard that more people would like to join us but feel that our usual walks are too far or too fast (or both!) for them we are including two **SHORT LEISURELY STROLLS** in the summer programme to see how well they are supported.

The programme of walks for the period April to June is:

WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL - start 6.00pm from Dersingham old railway station (map ref. L132/580 308). A 4.75 miles circular walk to Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham led by Michael and Valerie Smith (540728).

SUNDAY 20 APRIL - start at 10.30am from Bircham Windmill (map ref. L132/760 327). A 4 miles circular walk around Great Bircham led by Elizabeth Fiddick (540940).

WEDNESDAY 14 MAY - start 6.30pm from the 'Scissors' car park (Wolferton) (map ref. L132/668 280). A 4 miles circular walk around Wolferton led by Pat Reed (540757).

WEDNESDAY 28 MAY - start at 6.30pm from Dersingham Village Sign (map ref. L132/686 295). A 3.5 miles **LEISURELY** circular **STROLL** led by Keith Starks (542268).

SUNDAY 1 JUNE - start at Brancaster Church (map ref. L132/772439). A 5 miles circular walk around Brancaster and Barrow Common led by Christine Taylor and Geoff Toop (542807).

WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE - start at 6.30pm from Syderstone Church (map ref. L132/833 327). A 4.5 miles circular walk around Syderstone led by Christine Taylor and Geoff Toop (542807).

WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE - start at 6.30pm from Ingoldisthorpe lay-by (opposite the recreation ground) (map ref. L132/683 325). A 3.5 miles **LEISURELY** circular **STROLL** led by Keith Starks (542258).

Details of the walks in July, August and September will be given in a future edition of Village Voice. There is **NO CHARGE**. Just turn up on the day (wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear). **WELL-BEHAVED** dogs are welcome provided they are kept at the rear of the group. The leaders are happy to organise and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety.

If you would like any further information please contact me or the walk leader.

Keith Starks □

School Holiday Dates 2008/9

Easter:	March 21-April 7
May Day:	May 5
Spring half term:	May 24-30
Summer:	July 23-September 1
Autumn half term:	October 27-31
Christmas:	December 22-January 2
Winter half term:	February 16-20



Cllr Jean Riches

Jean Riches, who was a member of Dersingham Parish Council for a number of years, has just retired from her position. Jean was born in Bexwell, Downham Market, one of four children. She worked for a time after leaving school in Downham Market. She then took employment at Catlaugh in Kings Lynn where she worked and also carried out their alterations, a job that she enjoyed very much.



She married Eric in 1951, a Dersingham person, and they have 4 children. They have lived in Dersingham ever since, firstly at the Old Hall, then Gelham Manor and they then moved to Dodds Hill, where they still live. As their family grew Jean did a number of jobs, mushroom picking, working in the greenhouses at Sandringham and at St Georges school in the canteen, firstly as kitchen assistant then as Cook. On leaving St Georges on her retirement she went to work at the visitor centre at Sandringham where she worked until she had to take retirement due to her age. Jean was a member of Dersingham Evening WI for a number of years, serving on the committee during this time. Jean also played bowls, and at one time played darts for a short while. Jean is now taking life at a more leisurely pace, enjoying her garden, family and grandchildren.

Keith Manship □

Dersingham Swings

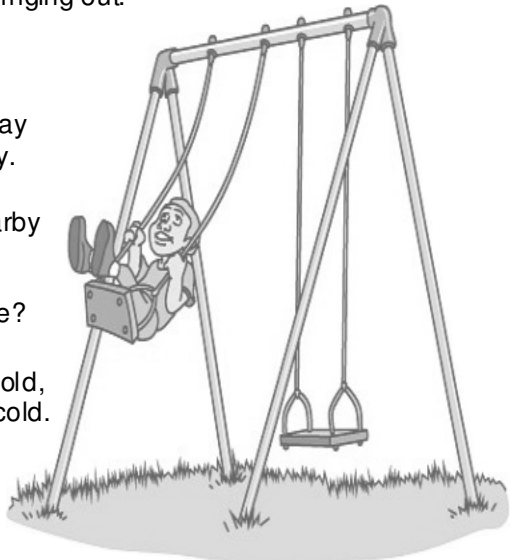
by Helen Johnson ©24.2.2008

Dersingham swings like a pendulum do
Lots of shops, but never a queue
Pastures with sheep but seldom a lout
And St Nicholas' Church with its bells ringing out.

Dersingham swings if you like a place
Where life is peaceful - a steady pace.
We've got the geese who winter this way
And even the Queen on Christmas Day.

Dersingham swings with the coast nearby
Folks live here until they die:
But holiday-makers are welcome too;
Why not pop down if you're feeling blue?

Dersingham swings for the young and old,
The schools are good and the beer is cold.
Thaxter's will serve you cake and tea -
No wonder we all live to ninety-three!





The Safer Neighbourhood Team

The Safer Neighbourhood Team is now up to full strength with the arrival of our last team member, Daniel. He brings our number up to 6. Many people have commented on the fact that they are seeing P.C.S.O.'s and P.C.'s out and about in the village and we are always pleased to have questions, comments or problems brought to our attention. Even if it's not a police issue we will be able to put you in touch with the relevant service. We even got a pothole filled in on the day it was

reported to us!!!

Fortunately we don't have many problems in the area, but the few we get tend to be criminal damage and anti-social behaviour. Several residents of Dersingham have had their garden fences damaged, especially on the Mountbatten Estate. If you've had problems or have seen anyone committing these acts of vandalism please contact us.

Recently three children were caught having stolen some cleaning substances from a shed and emptying them into the shelter on the sports field. The children, along with their parents, cleaned up the mess and have been advised that this kind of behaviour will not be tolerated.

The police surgeries have been running for a few months now. They are held in St. Cecilia's and the next one is on the 17th April from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. If you have anything you would like to ask us or tell us about then please pop along.

We are updating our Safer Neighbourhood data base and I am seeking some information.

Do you have amongst the members of your communities or resources in place to assist with sudden emergencies like flooding etc?

We are particularly interested in volunteers that are trained/ equipped with 4x4 vehicles etc that are willing to provide assistance.

Could I possibly trouble you to forward contact details of any such people to me please ASAP?

Thank you, Andy.

Andrew J Crown
Sergeant 3123,

SNT Supervisor of D15 & D16 Neighbourhoods, Dersingham Police Station, Norfolk Constabulary
Int 5225 Fax(01553 66)5220, Non-emergency 0845 4564567,
sntdersinghamayton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk □

Village Voice publication dates

We love getting your reports of events and meetings, advertisements and advance details of forthcoming attractions. To make sure you hit your targets please note the publication dates of this magazine:-

No	Copy deadline	Publication date
Issue 52	Wednesday 14th May	Thursday 5th June
Issue 53	Wednesday 9th July	Thursday 31st July
Issue 54	Wednesday 3rd September	Thursday 25th September
Issue 55	Wednesday 5th November	Thursday 27th November
Issue 56	Wednesday 7th January	Thursday 29th January

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Raising funds for abandoned dogs

Walkers raised in excess of £150 for Wood Green Animal Shelters last week when they took part in a Community Walk organised by James Graven & Sons Ltd at their Budgens store in Dersingham. Over twenty walkers together with fourteen four legged friends took to the pavements in the village to help raise funds for abandoned dogs.

The walk was organised by James Graven's in support of the Pedigree Adoption Drive, a national campaign aimed at raising awareness and providing support for the thousands of abandoned dogs in the UK. For every Pedigree product sold during the campaign the brand will make a donation, raising up to £500,000 in the first three months to support the work of dog re-homing centres and to help abandoned dogs find loving homes.

One local resident, Suzanne Eastmure along with her dog Winnie, managed to raise £47 for Wood Green Animal Shelters by collecting sponsorship money for taking part in the Community Walk.

Customers of the James Graven's store in Lynn Road have already donated in excess of £180 worth of dog food to Wood Green Animal Shelters and The Dogs Trust at Snetterton. The food collection bin has been placed in the Budgens store and will remain in-situ until the end of the year.

Dog Lovers can support the Pedigree campaign by visiting www.pedigreeadoptiondrive.com, and buying a campaign T-shirt. They can also follow the journey of the abandoned dogs featured in the advertising that were re-homed by Battersea Dogs & Cats Home. The site also hosts a search facility and provides advice on Responsible Dog Ownership to help people who are looking to give a loving home to an abandoned dog, find local re-homing centres. □



Ivan Green Remembers

A long time resident of Dersingham, now living in Lowestoft, Ivan Green reminisces and identifies the subjects of some pictures in Village Voice 49

May I start by thanking Bob Tipling for the professional job he did as editor – a hard act to follow. In *Village Voice 43* I offered photos of two of Snow White's dwarfs, which were published in *Village Voice 45*. I have now managed to locate the programme for *Happy Childhood*, giving the complete cast for the pantomime presented by Alex Fisher and featuring Miss Monica Rolfe, with photographs. [The owner has kindly offered to loan the programme to *Village Voice* – ed..]

In *Village Voice 45* Dick Melton mentions some of the road men (Length Men). I would like to add a few more who deserve a mention. Malley Nurse used to live on the right side of Hunstanton Road just before Linford's corner. He then moved to the corner of Lynn Road opposite the Dun Cow with his son Ron (the best tractor driver I ever knew). Also, there was Paddy Casey, who lived in Lynn Road next door to Archie Reid. None of these roadmen ever appeared to work hard but they kept the village clean and tidy.

Passing now to *Village Voice 49*, the ToC photo shows the outside of Dersingham Post Office before it was enlarged. In my days it was a long thin office beside the house, running from front to back.

Adding to Dick Melton's column, Jimmy Jackson Jnr moved to High Farm, which he later passed to his adopted son Joe when he moved to Dedham. Jimmy Snr stayed down Centre Vale in the "Farm" House (small holding) that later became the home of Jack Marborough when he left *The Sportsman* at West Winch.



Page 59 shows the Bank Garage (in its early days) of R & T Houchen, run by brothers Reg and Tom. The vehicles shown, left to right, are a Humber Snipe (approx 1931) and another Humber (approx 1934), with Tom standing by the latter with Reg and his dog. I believe the bus was a Star, with about 23 seats and a petrol engine.

I would have ridden in the bus many times. We used to go to the shows in King's Lynn (at the Pilot Theatre) and to Jimmy Jackson's garden party at High Farm. One time the clutch failed on the hill by the pond and the pond had to supplement the brakes.

Coming to Jacky Frusher's article [*Village Voice 49*], the coalman referred to was Charlie "Fyfe" Wilson. Charlie harvested bracken from an area of the "Shut up Common" for bedding for his horse. John Riches's father was Ernie, who kept the cobbler's shop before John. Ernie always had to make his own boots as he had a gammy foot. This was also the main supply point for fireworks on November 5th.

Harry Chester and Mable ran the *White Horse* public house, well supported by the likes of Stanley Secker and Steve Reed. Steve drove steam engines and tractors for Howling Thrashing tackles. Mr and Mrs Stevens ran the fish and chip shop after Alex Fisher Jnr moved to Hunstanton.

I almost forgot the bell ringers [*Village Voice 49*]. They were Ronnie Thaxter, George (Cropley) Batterby, Cecil Ebberson, Fred Rix, Jack Bunn and Alec Nurse. Cecil Ebberson was a watchmaker from Snettisham who taught many people in the area to ring both church bells and hand bells – one of which was yours truly, although I have now forgotten all the changes. I suggest the date of the photo is about 1948. □



NEWS FROM HUNSTANTON LIFEBOAT GUILD

Lifeboats

The Hunstanton Lifeboat Guild got off to a good start of a busy year with the RNLI SOS day on 25 January. The Old Coach House, Thornham, hosted a Sip Our Soup lunch and raised £238.

The guild's AGM will be held at the Lifeboat Inn, Thomham, on 7 May. Coffee is served from 10 am with a 10.30 start for the meeting. Everyone is welcome.

On Friday 23 and Saturday 24 May there will be a collection outside our three local Tesco stores. Volunteers are still needed at King's Lynn Hardwick and Hunstanton so if you can spare an hour or two, please get in touch (tel. nos. below).

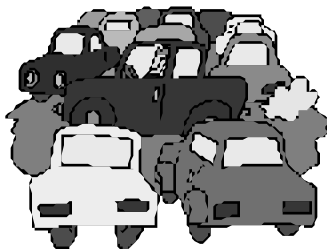
Other events planned later in the year include a midsummer lunch on 18 June, the Summer Fair on 9 July at Hunstanton Town Hall, the sandcastle competition on 21 August and a reception and harpsichord recital by Dr Gerald Gifford of Thornham at Houghton Hall on 4 September.

For further information on all our fundraising events, please contact:

Margaret Bullen 01485 535542, Glynis Allen 07917 757328 or Sandy Hyams 01485 542380. □

Parking

There seems to be an increase in volume of inconsiderate parking of cars in the village, this I know is causing concern to many residents. Walking round the village I have noticed that cars are being parked across pavements, also parked, half on the grass verge, half on the road and finally very, very close to road junctions. The latter obscures the vision of other road users and the parking across pavements means that pedestrians are being forced to walk on the road to by-pass the offending vehicle, which is not the safest of place to walk. Parking on the grass verges ploughs up the verges, resulting in a muddy, unsightly mess, which doesn't enhance the appearance of the village. Please, through the Village Voice, may I appeal to drivers of cars to be more considerate when parking their cars in Dersingham. All villagers, drivers and pedestrians alike, will then be able to live happily together.



Ann Chapman □



The Norfolk Hospice Lottery

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Parish Council report



The Parish Council held two meetings in January, the first primarily to agree its budget and share of the Council Tax for 2008/9.

At this meeting, the Council agreed to continue its policy of covering its regular expenditure that occurs every year from the Council Tax and set its precept (its share of the Council Tax) at .38.39 for a Band D property; this compares with .36.97 for the current year.

The Council also agreed to fund two major new projects from its reserves. The first is a programme of replacing play equipment on the Recreation Ground that is reaching the end of its life at a cost of around £12,000 a year for the next five years. The second was a commitment to spend up to £10,000 on preliminary design work for a new village hall to produce drawings and detailed information, so that a Parish Poll can be held to decide whether the project should go ahead.

A new village hall was the top priority in the village appraisal carried out in 2004. More than half the households in the village replied to the survey and 891 out of 1062 put a new village hall as their top priority. Since then, a working group has been investigating how a new hall could be achieved and has been working with the Parochial Church Council on the possibility of revamping and extending St Nicholas Church Hall. It is expected that the Parish Poll will take place during the summer. If villagers vote for the project the next stage will be to seek grants to meet the vast majority of the cost, which is expected to exceed £500,000.

Other capital projects were considered at the precept meeting - including a £6,000 scheme for Christmas lights and a £20,000 project to improve the area around the War Memorial. The Council decided that these could not be funded at the moment and that, instead, it would seek grants towards the cost. Efforts will also be made to try to find grants towards the replacement of the playground equipment so that the programme of improvement can be speeded up.

The Council's regular monthly meeting began with several members of the public complaining about increasing problems from dog fouling. The Council agreed to forward details of any dog owner not clearing up after their pet to the Borough Council for possible prosecution; the maximum fine is £1000.

The Council also discussed a number of parking problems, notably in Chapel Road opposite the Library and at the junctions of Shernborne Road/Chapel Road; Centre Vale/Post Office Road; and Heath Road/Manor Road. It was agreed to ask the police to be more proactive in tackling these problems and also to ask the County Council to consider new parking restrictions.

The County Council has consulted the Parish Council on a possible one-way scheme in Church Lane to alleviate any possible traffic problems caused by the new medical centre currently being constructed in the adjacent farm complex. After discussion, the Council agreed to oppose any new traffic management scheme in advance of the medical centre being completed, as it felt that it would be better to find out what, if any, traffic problems arise once the centre is open and then come up with the best solution. The Council was also consulted about the postal address of the new development - which will include a few businesses as well as the Carole Brown Medical Centre - and proposed 'St Nicholas Mews'.

The council received a letter of resignation from Cllr Jean Riches (see page 10). Jean was our longest serving councillor, having been a councillor for over 20 years, and we thank her for the time and interest she has given. We hope all goes well for her in the future. This means we now have 8 vacancies on the council that need filling.

At its February meeting, Dersingham Parish Council was asked by the Village Hall Working Party to agree to pay the fees for a local architect to undertake the design and planning of the proposed village hall. This expense was part of the Council's budget agreed in January. However, the Council postponed a decision in order to better establish exactly what the brief was and the process by which tenders had been obtained.

Another project agreed at the Council's January budget meeting was a programme to replace the out-of-date playground equipment on the Recreation Ground. At the February meeting, the Council decided to carry out further consultations with children from local schools prior to deciding on the new equipment in order to make sure that the choice meets, as far as possible, the desires of the children who will use it.

Before the formal meeting began, a group of residents from Prince Charles Close outlined various complaints about developments on the rear garden of a house in Willow Close, including the filling of a ditch and the use of Prince Charles Close by HGVs and other heavy vehicles. Councillors agreed to take up these issues with the relevant authorities. □

	
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GRAND BOOK SALE

at Dersingham Church Hall, Manor Road,
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in aid of St. Nicholas Church

As well as a large quantity of books, there also Jig-saw Puzzles, boxed Games, Videos, C.D.s, and Vinyl Records. Refreshments are available throughout the event.



Please make a note on your calendar, tell your friends and come to the sale. Thank you.

DERSINGHAM OPEN GARDENS

2.00p.m. to 6.00p.m., 25th and 26th May 2008
Admission to all gardens - £3.00 (under 16s free)

Come and be inspired by some fascinating, spectacular and varied private gardens!



Tickets will be available at the Church Hall and at participating gardens. This year there will also be the “**St Nicholas Gallery**” an **Art Exhibition** with work for sale in the Church Hall. Those who have visited our regular “Arts and Crafts” event, held twice a year in the parish church, will be aware of the high standard of the exhibits that are displayed in our locality. Cream teas will be available in the Hall. Some participating gardens will also be providing refreshments. Income from the event is to benefit the Parish Church. Please make a note to support the Flower Festival at the Methodist Church also.

Concerts in St Nicholas Church

Saturday 12th April – 7.30pm
Tickets £5 on the Door

THE WEST NORFOLK SINGERS
“Configuration for Easter”

It is based around a devotion entitled “The Cross of Christ”
Several anthems, by Mozart, Bach, Goss, Elgar, Tavener amongst others, offer a very moving evening of passion music. It follows the Lenten story leading to the Crucifixion and so to Easter.

Tuesday 13th May 7.30pm
Tickets £7.50 on the door or
Tel. Hadyn Martin on 01485 544561

LYRA

A Russian Ensemble returning for the 3rd. year, from St. Petersburg. All singers are professional musicians, singing in different churches of St. Petersburg. Some of them are also soloists at musical theatres of the city. Through their performances, they want to introduce enormous musical heritage of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as traditions of Russian folk music to all people taking great interest in Russia, its history and culture.

Friday 23rd May 7.30pm
Tickets £6 on the door

CENTRE STAGE SWING BAND

This is a West Norfolk based group of musicians who recreate the sound of the “swinging forties, fifties and sixties. This swing music sound is, well embedded within the memory of many. □

Lands End to John O'Groats

My sister-in-law Maggie Riches is suffering from a rare form of cancer called pseudomyxoma peritonei, otherwise translated as “false mucinous tumour of the peritoneum”, otherwise known as “jelly belly”. If untreated, life expectancy is less than five years from onset. The condition is rare,



affecting one person per million per year. Maggie has already undergone one major operation called a “de-bulking procedure”, and has recovered well from that. Subsequent scans have revealed the fact that the tumour remains, and continues to grow. To make matters worse, the tumour, which in 95% of cases is benign, is in Maggie’s case, malignant. The surgical team from the Basingstoke Hospital in charge of Maggie’s case has advised carrying

out the “Sugarbaker procedure” (named after the pioneering American surgeon who first carried it out). The operation is also known in The States as “*the mother of all operations*”, since it takes up to fourteen hours to perform. You might say that treatment for the condition is at the moment still in the stone age, and only the successful results of much needed research will bring it into the twenty first century. Since the article relating to my charity ride was published in the Lynn News dated February 26th I have heard of three more Norfolk people with the condition.

Which brings me and my bike ride into the picture. During the last two weeks of May I shall be cycling from Land’s End to John O’ Groats, a distance of getting on for a thousand miles. I shall be with a group of Cycle Touring Club members, and accompanied by one who has done the trip before. I have decided to make my ride a fund-raiser for research into the nature and treatment of pseudomyxoma peritonei, specifically to go to fund the research efforts being made by the team at Basingstoke. It is led by professor B.J.Moran, who is a world authority on the condition. *Every penny collected will be paid in to the fund, whose purpose is research into pseudomyxoma peritonei.* Sponsorship of a penny a mile will raise getting on for ten pounds. A tick in the “Gift Aid” box on the sponsor form will increase it, thanks to the tax man, to over twelve pounds. Sponsor forms are available from Trev Riches, or pledges and donations can be made by phone or e-mail to Trev (see below).

Our bicycle users group has a website at www.klwnbug.co.uk where I hope to record details of progress from south to north. I shall be setting out on 17th May and finishing 1st June. If any Village Voice reader would like to learn more about the BUG Group, or would like to join us on a ride, some short, some long, all rides at the pace of the slowest, and no pressure, contact me, or log on to the website for further details.

Should anyone wish to donate a cheque, it should be made payable to “North Hampshire Hospitals Charity (74643)”, and sent to me: Trev Riches, 2 West Road, Dersingham, King’s Lynn, Norfolk PE31 6JE. To contact me, please email: trevorriches@talktalk.net or phone me on 01485 543 706

Trevor Riches □



From the parish office....

Anita and I are now into our third month keeping the parish office running until Sarah returns from maternity leave. Sarah is still handling all the finances and keeps in contact, popping into the parish office occasionally. Anita has been kept very busy processing the adverts for Village Voice.

This will be Tony's first issue as acting editor, following Bob Tipling's retirement. Anita and I unfortunately had to miss Bob's retirement "do" but to make amends we took him for lunch at the Queen Victoria at Snettisham the following week. Sarah was to have come but young Callum had other plans! We enjoyed our lunch and can recommend the Queen Victoria as an inexpensive and tasty place to eat locally. Tony is hoping to include a restaurant critic section in Village Voice so if you can personally recommend anywhere locally, somewhere you have enjoyed a meal recently, please let him know.

Twentyone suggestions have so far been dropped into the Suggestions Box which is currently to be found near the check-outs in Budgens. If you fill in a slip, please include your name and contact details so we can acknowledge your suggestion and let you know of any action that may be taken. It is frustrating for us if a suggestion cannot be followed up because we are unable to contact the person to obtain more details. We will of course treat your details as confidential.

The parish noticeboard at Budgens is being very well used, so well used that often a bit of shuffling of posters is needed in order that they can all be seen. The noticeboard is updated each Monday, weather permitting, please laminate your poster if possible.

Please note that the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on 12th May in Dersingham Infant and Nursery School starting at 6.30pm.

One more date for your diaries: Dersingham Open Day will be held on Saturday 20th September in the Community Centre.

Irene □

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For more information please contact the Centre on 01 553 764888 or via email at st.james@west-norfolk.gov.uk

News From Your Village Schools

Dersingham Infant and Nursery School

It's only been a short term but nevertheless a very busy one! Our children enjoyed a puppet show performed by Solo Puppets. Blue and Green classes then followed that with a puppet workshop making puppets from traditional tales to fit in with their topic work. The puppet show was so good that it inspired Red class to abandon their planned work for the day and join in the puppet making too!

Children in Blue and Green classes have been out and about in the village; firstly on a walk to look at homes and they also popped into the library for a story. Secondly they visited the Methodist Chapel as part of their RE work looking at places of worship which followed on nicely from Rev. Kim's visit to take assembly early in March. We have been very busy taking up sporting challenges too. Our Year 2 children took part in the High Five netball tournament at Smithdon and also the area Cross Country event. You may have seen the photo in the paper of Year 1 and 2 children enjoying hockey coaching sessions taken by Lee Dowers the Community Hockey Coach and as a consequence we now have budding hockey players keen to take this up as a sport.

Dersingham St George's Church of England Junior School

Did you try one of the St. George's Christmas biscuits from Thaxter's coffee shop? Koala class had a competition to see who could design a biscuit which could be sold commercially. The winning biscuit was a Christmas tree and it raised £61. This money is to be shared between the class and a charity of their choice

We are delighted to have been awarded the Sportsmark for 2007. This shows that we continue to provide excellent sports provision at the school. St. George's were delighted to host a community lunch earlier this term, funded by Budgen's to allow different groups to network in the village. This is a new venture for us which took place in our conference room

Despite an earthquake the school is still standing! Many children slept through the whole experience but others had woken up to it. It provoked quite a discussion in some classes and offered a unique learning opportunity. We look forward to our Easter celebration in church at the end of term

Jackie Austin and Ann Pope

Children's Work From Our two Schools

Children in Orange Class wrote about their mums (transcribed!)

My mummy is a policewoman and in the morning she goes to bed. She takes me everywhere and gives me lots of hugs. She is kind and helpful. When I go swimming she always watches me. She is always there for me. I love her so much. She chases me and we do baking together. She does everything that's why I love her. I always will love her because she loves me too and she watches me everyday.

Rianna Heath Aged 6

My mum is lovely, beautiful, wonderful, gorgeous, brilliant, wicked and good, good good. She is thoughtful. I love my mum lots because she helps me on my computer and helps me to do my homework. I miss my mum everyday because I love her.

Owen Desborough Aged 6

My mum has blue eyes and has different colours in her hair. She is pretty and kind and she buys me some sweets. She looks after children and is lovely. She is kind too. She normally wears trousers and a top. She has long hair. My mum loves me. She gives me lots of cuddles. She wears boots.

Abigail Rice
Aged 6

Brilliant Brancaster Staithe

Twelve of us from St. George's School were lucky enough to go to Brancaster Staithe to experience mussel fishing. We found out how they grow. They are very lazy and lie in beds. Mussels can be seen and gathered at low tide. They grow when they are under water. When the mussel is closed it is living.

Mussels are fished by using large forks or being scraped into nets which the fishermen have made. They are sieved to collect the big ones and allow the small ones to continue growing. They are put into a small boat to take back to the harbour.

We interviewed the fishermen and found out about how they do it. We filmed them and the fishing scenes. We also did some time lapse photography to show the tide coming in. We created some scenes with lentils and things from the seashore to make animations. All this will be turned into a DVD to be shared with future generations. We also got to make some nets and looked at their equipment. □

Fed up with the vagaries of the Look East weather report? You could try one of these.



Photo : Tony Richards

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The White Horse Inn

Our former Editor had very little hope of a response to his request in our last issue for pictures of the White Horse Inn, but was pleasantly surprised to be contacted by Tim Rounce, of Rounce and Evans Estate Agents, who supplied this photograph which is thought to have been taken in 1965.



The picture below is one taken from a similar angle more recently.



Enquiries made of Bernie Twite regarding the white circular area to the top left of the photo discloses that "The council houses in the foreground have a path running from them past the front lawns to gates in the hedge, the houses in the background have paths running to the front and have netting fences. What looks like a circular wall is the pavement, the large circle is a tarmac turning area at the end of the road. The Lynn Road shows up white. I think the age of photo, the height at which it was taken and reproduction has altered the colour. The Hooker family home was on Gelham and David's sister, Valerie, is in Limnasol at the moment, I have shown it to her and she confirms everything I have said. The cottage nearest the council houses, at one time my grandmother lived there (Proudfoot). The first council house was the home of Perrins, adjoining was Edwards, some of their family are still in the area. The Pentneys lived in the house in the background, it is now the home of Mrs Asker." □



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Sunday Mass

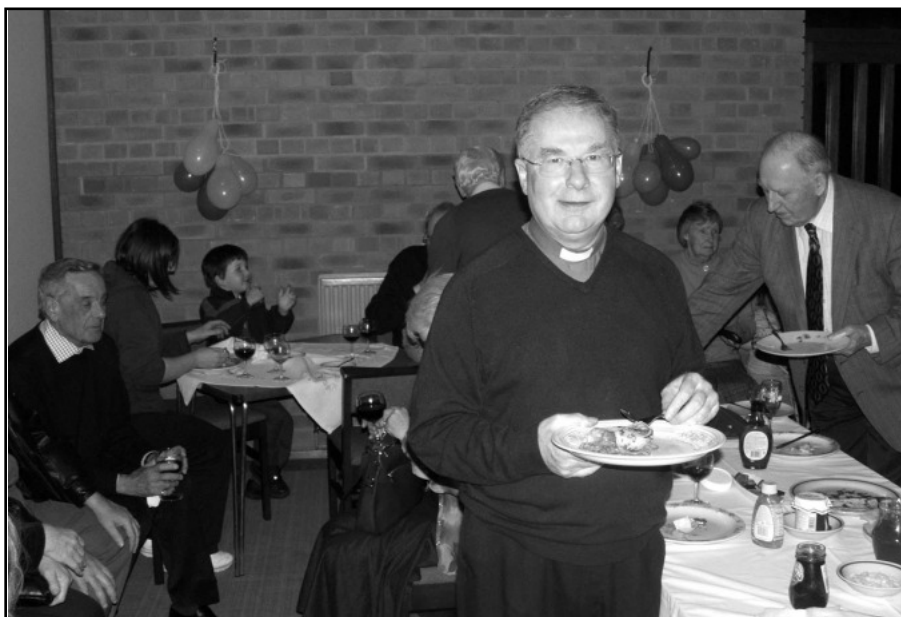
9am St Cecilia's, Dersingham
11am Our Lady & S Edmund's, Hunstanton

Weekday Mass

9.00 am Monday, Thursday and Friday
 The Convent, 27 Sandringham Road, Hunstanton
10.15am Wednesday
 St Cecilia's, Dersingham

NEWS FROM OUR LADY & ST EDMUND CATHOLIC CHURCH HUNSTANTON

Parish life again looks like being a busy year with high hopes that social activities will be as well attended as last year. Attendance by members of both churches reflected this with the attendance at a Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday at St Cecilia's, in Dersingham. This event was combined with a house warming party to welcome Father James Fyfe's move to the Priest's House attached to the church at Dersingham.



On Friday 7th March Our Lady and St Edmunds were hosts to the Women's World Day of Prayer, this was a very well attended event at which many ladies from all the neighbouring parishes were welcomed to the church. Many of these stayed on to enjoy refreshments in the house afterwards. □



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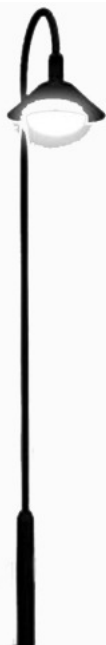
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'PRIVATE HEALTH RECOGNISED'



Adopt a street lamp

The Parish Council are asking members of the community if they would assist in the reporting of faulty street lamps. In the previous issue of the Village Voice it was requested that anyone seeing a faulty lamp should report it to the Council Office.

At the last full council meeting it was suggested that Dersingham adopt a plan used in other villages and that is namely people adopting a street lamp outside their property. All this means is that people living in a street with a lamp post outside or near to their property note the number and report to the office any fault they see with this lamp. You may not realise that we pay the same for electricity whether the lamp works or not, so we might as well get our money's worth.

There are over 230 street lights in Dersingham village and for members of the council to keep a watchful eye on them all would prove to be a very hard task, hence the reason for this new idea.

The office number is 01485 541465 and is manned Monday to Thursday, an answer phone is available at all other times.

A letter with the details required will be sent to you if you are willing to assist.

Keith Manship □

These folk look glum. Can you shed any light?



Photo—Bernie Twite

Dersingham Teenager Meets The Duke

Monday 14th January 2008 was a day that will be forever recorded in the archives of 42F (King's Lynn) Squadron, Air Training Corps. A day that they had begun to think would never happen. After four years of waiting to hear that a promised, larger more 21st century friendly, building had at last been given the green light and a further nine months of parading in a local community centre the Squadron has finally been able to officially open its new HQ building in Loke Road, King's Lynn. Having for many years been actively involved with assisting with charity events which take place on the Royal Estate at nearby Sandringham, the Squadron was honoured when His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and Air Commodore-In-Chief Air Training Corps, agreed to take time out from the Royal Family's Christmas break at Sandringham to officially unveil its commemorative plaque.



Other VIP's attending included Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk Mr. Richard Jewson, The High Sheriff of Norfolk and his wife The Earl and Countess of Romney, The Mayor of the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk Councillor Kathy Mellish, Commandant Central and East Region ATC Group Capt Jon Ford, Officer Commanding Norfolk and Suffolk Wing ATC Wing Commander Tony Hipperson and Wing Staff Officer Sqn Ldr Tim Hill.

Prince Philip was greeted on arrival by the Lord Lieutenant and following initial introductions His Royal Highness was escorted into the building by 42F's Commanding Officer Flt Lt Pauline Petch. Inside he was able to inspect the three classrooms, view displays showing the range of activities that the Squadron enjoys, and to talk informally with several of the cadets.

In the first classroom Cadet Cpl Tom Pearce said later *"I was running the classroom with a display on aircraft recognition. The Duke was genuinely very interested and asked us a lot of questions on aircraft recognition and about our closeness to RAF Marham. I felt that it was a real honour for our Squadron that he came."* The second classroom displayed Duke of Edinburgh Award activities and first aid. About this Cadet Sgt Michael Gill commented *"When he came in he was very enthusiastic about the D of E in particular as you would expect. He asked a lot of questions. I have met him before so I was not as nervous as some of the cadets, but it was still a privilege."* Cadets in the third room were displaying radio communications from where His Royal Highness' genuine interest was again summed up by Cadet Cpl Amy Ng who said *"His Royal Highness spoke with most of us, he was very interested in it all, especially my flying"*.

In the main hall further displays depicted the Squadrons early wartime years and events at which 42F's cadets had been presented to other members of the Royal Family.



Here The Duke of Edinburgh was introduced to the Squadron's uniformed staff, honorary Padre and members of its civilian committee and was able to talk informally with them before unveiling the commemorative plaque and signing the visitor's book. He was then presented with an engraved Caithness glass paperweight depicting the 42F Squadron's unique crest by Cadet Cpl Elizabeth Stenton (from **Dersingham**). Afterwards Elizabeth said *"It was an honour and a privilege to be picked to present His Royal Highness with*

the gift from the Squadron". Upon returning outside the invited guests were given a short drill display after which His Royal Highness was invited to inspect the cadets by parade commander Cadet Warrant Officer Ashley Ironside. After The Duke of Edinburgh had departed Ashley said "It was a privilege to escort the Duke through the parade. He spoke with a number of the cadets and it was obvious that he was genuinely interested in them"



Civilian committee Chairman Mike Lister summing up said "Naturally the CO had to escort His Royal Highness during his visit and he was introduced to the adult staff and committee members present. However this was a day for the cadets, they were the ones that explained their activities to him and he chatted with all of them at length in the classrooms". Agreeing, Flt Lt Petch said "It was fantastic; he was very impressed with the cadets and the Squadron."

N.B. King's Lynn Air Cadets has many members from the villages and any young person interested in joining the Squadron should contact it's Commanding Officer

Flt Lt Pauline Petch on 01553 842149. □

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British Legion News

DERSINGHAM AND SANDRINGHAM BRANCH



At the Annual General Meeting in November 2007 the following Officers were elected:

President	Tom Morris
Chairman	John Gilmore-Houston
Secretary	Dr. Ron Hadow
Treasurer	Alan Cross
Social Secretary	Valerie Brundle
Standard Bearer	Alan Hayward
Correspondent	Cliff Rose

Meetings are held every second Tuesday each month at The Feathers public house at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome. Any questions concerning joining the British Legion to our Secretary – Ron Hadow Telephone 541035

Rebels Social Members

Out and About

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Come and enjoy days out, evening events and social gatherings.

For more information contact Valerie Brundle (Social Sec.) on 01485 541895

Events Calendar 2008

April 8th Branch Meeting 7.30 p.m. followed by a talk on Middle East. Speaker Dr. Ron Hadow

April 27th Visit to Wing Cmdr. Ken Wallis (the inventor of the gyrocopter) followed by lunch at a nearby Country Club (Lunch £12). Contact Valerie Brundle 01485 541895

May 13th Branch meeting 7.30 p.m.

June 10th Branch meeting 7.30 p.m.

TBA Visit to Muckleborough Collection Museum

July 8th Branch meeting 7.30 p.m.

July 19th Duxford – Flying Proms.—Planes flying to classical music followed by a fireworks display. Gates open 4.30 p.m. Performance starts 7.30 p.m.

For more information contact Valerie Brundle 01485 541895 before April 24th

Branch meetings are held at the Feathers Hotel.

WOMEN'S SECTION

DERSINGHAM AND SANDRINGHAM BRANCH

Our first meeting of the year was at the Orchard Close Community Centre on the 11th February, as we do not meet in January.

After the usual business was conducted we all enjoyed a Bingo afternoon.

Two of our members took part in a sponsored walk at Wells on the 2nd March - proceeds for the Benevolent Fund.

Unfortunately due to the bad weather our March meeting had to be cancelled.

Many thanks to everybody who attended our Coffee Morning on 8th November, 2007, we managed to raise £122.56p for the Poppy Appeal.

Our next meeting will be on 7th April at 2.15 p.m. in the Orchard Close Community room and we will be having a Speaker. □



Dick Melton's Column

On the 5th February I ventured out of Sunny Hunny to see Bob presented with a gift and recognition for all the good work he has done as editor of the *Dersingham Village Voice*, and I wish him well.

Who were they?

In the picture of the policemen (*Village Voice* 50, page 47), the first one on the left with the peak cap was Superintendent Bob Francis, who was in charge of the Sandringham division in the fifties. Then going left to right, I believe, there is: Sergeant Finbow (Terry's dad) who lived in the bungalow on the right as you went down The Drift; Sergeant Nobbs who lived at the top of Station Road, Snettisham; PC Arthur Barrett (John's dad), who drove the police car - a very large smart Wolseley - and lived next to the Police Station in Manor Road and, after retirement, on the Sandringham estate at Double Lodges; and finally Detective Constable Jack Watts who lived in a large house near the Dun Cow. Jack was the late King's personal bodyguard when he was in residence at Sandringham and, when he retired, he worked on Sandringham estate as a security guard, living with his family at the lodge house by the Jubilee Gates.

The occasion for the picture, I believe, was the presentation of awards for what they had done in the 1953 floods. The man doing the presentation is, I think, Captain Vanneck who at the time was chief constable of Norfolk and spent a lot of time at Sandringham shooting with the King.

I may not have got all the names correct but if not someone will put us right. Constable George Lines was stationed at Dersingham at that time but he is not in the picture.

The other picture (*Village Voice* 50, page 47) has really got me going. I know a lot of the faces but the only ones I put a name to are Doug Daniels and Doug Gelder. I think the picture was taken at a Dersingham village fete on the field behind the Manor House (Stantons) around 1968, but I could be well wrong with this one.

The road to the beach

The article by Elizabeth Fiddick was very interesting indeed, but I would just like to add a bit. As she said, The Drift was the main track to the marshes before the concrete road was constructed. My late father, Jim Melton, used to go down there a lot between 1912 and 1920 and he told me that the track ended up near Boat House Creek at the pumping station. The concrete road from the station was laid down in 1942/43 with the use of German and Italian POWs and it was paid for by WARAG (*the War Agricultural Executive Committee - ed.*). The road was laid so that farmers could plough up the land for the war effort; up till then all the land down the marshes was pasture.

None of the shingle from the pits was brought up this road as it ended 200 yards from the old sea wall at the Dersingham parish boundary. All the shingle from the pits was either put into barges at the old jetty or brought up the Snettisham beach road. A lorry driver whom I knew worked during the war for a firm called Hodge and he told me that he would pick up a load at Snettisham, take it to Sculthorpe, then go from there to Lenwade near Norwich, pick up another load, drop that off at Sculthorpe and then make his way back to Snettisham. This would take him about ten hours, all day.

As Elizabeth says in her article the pits were closed after the 1953 floods, but the 'ETNA' company still made concrete products on the site, with the materials being brought in from other pits in Norfolk. The site closed around 1958/59 and moved up to Common Road where it was renamed Snettisham Concrete Products Ltd.

The pubs of Dersingham

I was very interested in the article and the pictures (*Village Voice* 50, page 21), from Bob about the *White Horse* public house and the *Alexandra* inn. The *White Horse* was built around about 1890 and it was then known as the *White Horse public house and farm* as it had attached to it about fifty

acres of land. I think I am right in saying that in the eighty odd years that it stood there it only had three landlords. The first landlord was George Kiddle, who was also a farmer, and he stayed there to around 1918/20 when it was taken over by a Fred Houchen till 1933. Harry Chester took it over and ran it until it closed in 1973. Captain Tooley, the American with the penny farthing bike that he took back to America, lived in Mr Fisher's bungalow right opposite the *White Horse*.

The *Alexandra* hotel, which was built at the same time as the railway in 1863 or thereabouts, also had some land attached to it. Its landlord in 1904 was a Herbert Alderton and, when it closed in 1937, the landlord was Isaac David Bird who, I believe, was the father of the late Billy Bird the farmer and coal merchant.

Unlike the *White Horse*, the *Coach and Horses* has had many landlords over the years. In 1904 it was Dixon Standaloff; in 1925 it was Thomas Owen; and during the second world war it was run by the Poppelwell family, who moved to Hunstanton and opened a fish and chip shop (*Brooklands*). Unlike other pubs in the village (apart from *The Feathers*) the *Coach and Horses* is still here and still going strong.

The old *Dun Cow* was the first public house to be built in Dersingham I do not know when, but it was built at the end of the Turnpike (main road) from King's Lynn. It was a coaching house where the stage coaches changed their horses, and it also was part of a farm. Thomas Augustus Magnass was the landlord for over forty years. The pub was pulled down in 1938 and the new *Dun Cow* was built. When David Buck took over the *Dun Cow* around 1964/66 with his wife, at the age of twenty one I think he was the youngest landlord in Norfolk. The new *Dun Cow* was demolished in the Nineties to make way for Budgens.

Still standing in Manor Road is the building that was the Albert Victor public house. It was built many years ago and, as far as I can make out, from 1904 till it closed down in the seventies it had only five landlords: Frederick William Hartley, Thomas Turner Drew, the Southgate family, Peter Rogers, and the last landlord was Arthur Daw.

I can not find out much about *The Feathers* hotel though for many years it belonged to the Peoples Refreshment House Association before going to Charringtons, but now I believe it is a free house. The landlord of *The Feathers* at the turn of the last Century (1900) was William Henry Mann, who was also a job master and kept many horses in the stables, as did Jack Spencer when he took over *The Feathers* in 1962.

Other drinking establishments that we have had in the village of Dersingham over the years were the Temperance hotel, the Old Hall Club and the Working Mans Club (now the Village Club).

Dad's 25 years in the Army

My father, Alexander Cecil (Jim) Melton, was born on the 26th November 1907 and died on the 23rd May 1997. He was born in Tressoo Cottages in Manor Road, Dersingham in the County of Norfolk. His father William Melton was the chimney sweep at nearby Sandringham House – a full time job in those days as the house had 365 rooms, one for every day of the year.

When my father was 17 he went to Norwich and joined the TA (Territorial Army). On 16th November 1926 he transferred to the colours and the Royal Artillery, being posted to Aden on 28th December 1928. After two years and 334 Days he left Aden on 26th November 1931 to spend one year and 159 days in Malta. He came back to England on 5th May 1933, but was posted overseas again on 3rd October 1934, his time to Malaya, coming back to England on 7th May 1938 after 3 years 217 days.

In September 1939, when the Second World War started between England and Germany, my father was a Warrant Officer Second Class stationed at Hillsea army barracks in Portsmouth. On 1st April 1940 he was posted with the BEF (British Expeditionary Force) to France but on 25th April 1940, while retreating back to Dunkirk, he was captured by the Germans and marched to Poland to a prisoner of war camp (Stalag XX.A. (3 A)). He spent four years and 353 days here before the Americans released him on 12th May 1945. My father then did another 2 Years and 306

days in England until he was demobbed on 14th March 1948 with the rank of Warrant Officer First Class after serving for 25 years and 129 days in the army.

Of those 25 years in the army my father spent over 14 years abroad. He was only home with my mother for four Christmases out of 25. When you went abroad in those days you never got any leave or had phone calls like they do today, you were there for the duration. My father never spoke much about his time as a p.o.w. but I do remember once, when I was helping him in the garden and pulled up a nettle, he looked at me and said: "Do you know boy, nettles saved my life once." I said: "Oh yes, how was that?" "Well," he said, "we were on the march from France to Poland, had no food for days and there was an air raid, so we had to get off the road into a ditch that was full of nettles. So we eat the lot."

My dad did not like the Americans. When one day I asked him why he said: "It's like this, when they released us from the p.o.w. camp in Poland they threw us some tins of fruit and some cigarettes but no can openers or matches".

Royal menu

Rummaging through some old papers that had been given to me by a friend I found an unusual menu. It was for a buffet lunch, given by the Queen at Sandringham for all her workers on the estate, on the 5th June 1953, three days after her coronation.

The menu is as follows: ham, tongue, pressed beef, veal and hampie; sauces, pickles, lettuce, rolls, brown and white bread and butter; Fruit cake, Madeira cake, assorted pastries, cup of tea. There is no indication what time of day this meal was served or if there was any entertainment, but I am sure that there must be some readers of *Village Voice* who were at these festivities and could tell us more about them. What went on and what the day was like? I well remember that on the day of the Coronation, 2nd June, it rained all day.

Bustards and Shelducks

There is no doubt that if you had been walking across Dersingham Common, heath, or the fen (not bog) 200 years ago you would have seen a bird called the Great Bustard as in those days they were plentiful in West Norfolk and East Anglia. Unfortunately, as they were good to eat, they were always shot and became extinct in 1838. The Great Bustard had been about for hundreds of years. In the King's Lynn corporation accounts for 1371 mention is made of bustards among the gifts bestowed upon Admiral John Neville, and the Hunstanton Hall Household book relates that in 1527 a bustard was killed with a crossbow one Wednesday. An example, now in the Castle Museum at Norwich, was caught in a rabbit trap at West Acre in 1831.

A great bustard shot at Cambridge in 1838 was ascertained to have been killed at Dersingham and to have belonged to a drove of seven. A man, by the name of Turner, who lived near Wretham in the south west of Norfolk, attracted a drove of Great Bustards to a pit that he had filled up with food for them. He had also constructed a battery of three large punt guns and in this way he once shot seven Great Bustards all at one go. The last of the Norfolk Great Bustards was killed at Lexham near Swaffham in May 1838.

When I was a boy in Dersingham, just after the Second World War, there were a considerable number of Shelducks that bred on the fen and the shut-up-common. They would make their nest 10 to 12 feet down a rabbit hole and each duck would lay about one dozen eggs. These old ducks were crafty and they would fly straight into their hole so as not to leave any footprints outside. When the young ducks were old enough to walk, but not fly, the mother duck would take them on the perilous journey all the way down to the sea. After the 1953 floods, when the concrete road got broken up along the top of the shingle bank between Wolferton and Snettisham, a lot of the Shelducks made their nests under the concrete as it was much nearer the sea. There are still a few Shelduck about each summer time in the Shingle pits but there are none on the fen any more.

The Wash - statistics

In area The Wash occupies 4,157 hectares. Between 2,500 and 3,000 common seals make their home in The Wash. Around The Wash is a 6,000 year old salt marsh.

The numbers of birds that winter in The Wash are: Knot 75,000; Oyster Catcher 24,000; Brent Goose 17,000; Dunlin 29,000; Pink Foot Geese 150,000.

Large scale reclamation of The Wash got under way in 1632 when a Dutchman named Vermuyden embanked 1,120 acres of The Wash in the area of the Nene Estuary. By 1660 a massive 17,374 acres of The Wash around Gedney, Whaplode, Holbeach and Moulton had been reclaimed. The four main rivers that empty into The Wash are the Witham, Welland, Nene, and the Great Ouse.

Before their alteration, the river estuaries were sandy and a mecca for the cult of sea bathing in the late 18th and 19th centuries, notably at Fosdyke Wash, Skirbeck, and Gedney Drove End, but most particularly at Freiston shore where hotels were developed and an annual summer sand fair was held with horse races. All this came to an abrupt halt with the opening of the Witham Cut in 1885, which stimulated new salt marsh to develop along the shores to the north.

A plan was put forward in 1839 to turn The Wash into a new county and call it "Victoria" after the Queen. In 1928 it was proposed to harness the tidal power of The Wash and turn it into electricity. A Wash speedway was proposed in 1930 between the mouth of the Witham and Gibraltar Point with a 12 mile TT track, a 6 mile motorboat speedway, aerodrome, hotels, amusement park and a grandstand 4 miles long. In 1960 some businessmen came up with the idea to build a barrage with locks and sluices to cut off about half the area of The Wash, to build a city for 750,000 people with an airport and road and rail links to the rest of the United Kingdom.

In the mid 1970s two large fresh water reservoirs were built at the southern end of The Wash just off Terrington as an experiment to turn the whole of The Wash into a fresh water lake. Over the years a lot of people have come up with all sorts of ideas to change the format of The Wash, such as a ferry or hovercraft service from Hunstanton to Skegness, a new pier and inner harbour for Hunstanton, a bridge from Gore Point near Holme to Gibraltar Point near Wainfleet, a sea life park with performing dolphins and whales; but up to this day none of these projects have come about. So for the present time The Wash will just stay as it is, a haven for wild life and people alike. □





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Coming soon to Dersingham Library

We need your help! - Friday April 11th 10-12 - We'll be launching the DersinghamARCH project. We will be displaying photos from Dersingham's past and would like to ask you to come along for a tea or coffee and to help us identify the people and events in the photos. We'll be explaining how the ARCH (Archiving Rural Community History) works and how you could add your own photos to the collection. If you'd like to find out more about the project you can check out our website at www.remembernorfolk.org or contact Alison at the library on 01485 540181



Dersingham Reading group

Monday 19 May 6-7pm

The group is always looking for new members. Come along, enjoy a coffee and find out what we've been reading.

Money saving tips on the internet

Friday 23 May 10am– 12noon

Discover the best websites to help you save money - including energy bills, food shopping, raising children, and selling off unwanted items.

AncestryLibrary.com taster

Friday 23 May 1-3pm

Discover how you can use this site to search for births, marriages and deaths, and to view the England and Wales census from 1841-1901. This course is not suitable for complete internet beginners.

All courses are limited to 6 places, so please book in advance by calling the library on 01485 540181.

Alison Thorne □

Dersingham Evening Women's Institute



One new member and several visitors were welcomed at our January meeting and two long serving members of the committee, Lily Roythome and Betty Gallant were presented with flowering plants. Prizes, the silver cup and shields for most competition points gained last year were awarded to 1st, Pauline Campbell, 2nd, Phyl Jones, joint 3rd Irene Speed and Jenny Oliver.

The speaker Mr. Blaney, took us on a magical tour with a descriptive talk and slides on 'Morocco: 'Sand, Souks and Surprises' one of the surprises being state of the art 'loos!

After being reminded that subscriptions were due, members then enjoyed wine and nibbles to welcome in another W.I. year.

In February we were once again disappointed when the designated speaker dropped out but we appreciated and were well entertained by Doreen Reed who stepped in at the last minute, reading many of her self-penned poems.

A resolution on 'Opting out of the NHS Organ Donor scheme' was read out and Sue McDonald, our delegate will vote on our behalf at the Norfolk Annual Federation meeting.

The winner of a Seaside themed limerick was Pauline Campbell and will be our entry for the Sandringham Group competition. A quiz based on naming flowers was organised by Sharon Fettes and with just one person getting all correct answers perhaps we should have had our September speaker on flower arranging a little earlier in the year!

Phyl Jones □

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Don't feel you are alone - give us a call!

A MISS IS AS GOOD AS A MILE

By Kathy Jordan ©15.2.2008.

The Queen's recent annual visits to Sandringham Church prompted me to write this poem— of a disastrous attempt I made to see her there several years ago. On December the 29th 2002 I did manage to catch a distant glimpse of her through the crowds, as that time I made sure I arrived earlier—in a car!!!

Eagerly starting out for Sandringham,
Would I at last achieve my dream?
All those years of watching 'her' on T.V.,
Would I really now see the Queen?

The New Year weather was atrocious,
Climbing windswept Dersingham heath,
It was raining numerous cats and dogs,
As I waded through woods beneath.

Just a mile or so it's supposed to be,
But I arrived extremely late,
Her Majesty, having left the church, was
Being chauffeured through nearby gates.

The royal limousine loomed large ahead
I dashed forward with mindful glee,
My soaking camera was at the ready
But 'she' sat the other side from me!!!

The car disappeared into the distance,
My disappointment was profound,
Slipping and sliding back the way I'd come
O'er the boggy, waterlogged ground.

On the heath I went a 'proper cropper',
My 'brolly' flew into the air,
Landing on a thick and thorny gorse bush,
It's probably still hanging there!!!

A 'drowned rat', less than regal, limping home,
My thoughts on what might have been too,
A mog with nine lives may have had more luck,
He'd have sneaked in under 'her' pew!!!

Soggy photographs were a wash-out as
Dark 'limo' windows could only be seen,
I have, ouch, painful-rainful-memories of
The day I nearly saw the Queen!!!



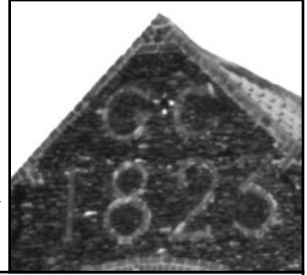
George Chadwick and The Oaks

I have recently been asked about the inscription G.C. 1823 that can be seen picked out in red brick on the carstone front of the Pottery in Chapel Road. The Pottery was once associated with a much larger House next door that was called The Oaks. This house and its lovely gardens covered the Area that the surgery and houses of Saxon Way and Tudor Way now occupy.

It was a large impressive dwelling that looked across Chapel Road to pasture land and ponds where once Mr. Jarvis the baker tethered his horses. This area is now Clayton Close. The Pottery was, I have been told, once the home of the gardener. At the beginning of the 20th century a Mr. W. Langley lived at The Oaks but by 1922 it was the home of Wilfred Lloyd Pratt. Mr. Pratt was very active in all village matters until his death in the early 1960's.

Shortly after his death the house caught fire and was burnt out. The Lynn News reported that a dozen firemen from the Royal Brigade at Sandiingham with two water tenders had fought the blaze which left The Oaks, *"virtually a roofless charred ruin."* They had only managed to save four rooms and some servants' quarters at the side of the building. When I came to the village in 1968 I often

wondered about the charred ruin behind its high walls and it was several years before it was demolished and the present surgery and housing built. However on the Tithe map and Schedule of 1839 it can be seen that much of this area was the property of one George Chadwick. He is listed in the 1836 Directory as a farmer and Maltster and the Tithe Map records that he owned a farmhouse, yard and garden just where the Oaks stood. The Ordnance Survey map of 1884 clearly labels the buildings as Oak Farm but in 1905 and 1925 it is simply referred to as The Oaks. The 1841 census lists George Chadwick, farmer, aged 74, living with his wife Elizabeth 57, his



The Oaks, the pottery from the pastures opposite.

daughter Jane, 18 and son George Abel also 18. This puts the birth of Jane and George Abel as 1823, the significant date.

George Senior ran the Malting Office that used to stand opposite the library in Chapel Road. Malting and Brewing were at one time carried out on a largely domestic scale and Maltings were generally farm based and produced only for the local market. There is a document dated 1653 which is a list of the Maltsters within this district taken at Setthey

on the 25th May before Sir Thomas Dereham, Sir John Hare Knt. and Francis Parlett Esq. There are 5 Maltsters listed at Dersingham or Dassingham as it appears on this list. Thomas Waters and William Elgar are both recorded as malting 20 Combs of corn yearly. [I have met a Mr. Elgar before as he was the landlord of the old Dun Cow Public House. There is a record in 1606 of one Pynyon of Wootton who was charged that he did, "*excessively drinke and gussell beare at one William Elgar's house beinge a tippler in such sorte as he was drunke there.*"] Two members of the Pell family, William and Valentine, are shown as malting no combs that year. The document states that, "*For those with blanks in the constables returns their malt houses are not used and divers that are here returned malt only their own corn for their household expense. Notwithstanding which and that their Malting Offices are very small.*"

When the railway arrived Maltings then tended to be sited in those places with good rail links but the Chadwick Malt house did not survive in Dersingham and nothing now remains of the original buildings. The name survives only in Malthouse Yard opposite the library. George rented land from the Sandringham Estate of John Motteux but was also a considerable landowner in his own right. He owned pasture land and arable land behind his farm on Chapel Road as well as a Summer House and Garden. He had further land on Fern Hill and in the Doddshill area owned a barn, stables and Yards plus land called Waterlands, The 11 acres and The Croft as well as some woods. He is recorded as the owner of Rose Cottage with buildings and garden. This is shown in 1884 as the large house at the bottom of Fern Hill. Robert Frost, whose family were the village blacksmiths, rented a cottage and garden from George. The Frost's Smithy stood close to our

present Library.

Other villagers who rented from George were Thomas Pickerell the carpenter with his wife and 4 children, Sarah Benstead and Benjamin Yarham. So George was a man of some substance. By 1851 George Senior had died and the farm of 145 acres was run by his son George Abel with four men and two boys. George and his sister Jane lived with their mother and her mother, Alice Stanton aged 94. Alice was born in Fakenham in 1757. ►



The Oaks garden



The Oaks, seen from the ponds & pastures now covered by Clayton Close

Sarah Melton from West Newton was the cook and dairy maid helped by Harriet Coble a house servant. Also one Elizabeth Kemp a widowed nurse shared the house. So with seven occupants the farmhouse was quite substantial even then with its own dairy.

The census of 1861 gives us some additional information. Alice had died but George, Jane and their mother still occupied the house. From this census we learn that the road we now know as Chapel Road was then called Snettisham Road. On the census Jane is still recorded under the name Chadwick but a short while later she must have married a man called Stort. A gravestone in the church sadly records her death in September of that same year (1861) aged only 38. George Abel Chadwick lived for a further nine years before he died on the 27th July 1870, *"in the 48th year of his life."* The family gravestones can be found in our churchyard. The name Chadwick then disappears from the village records. A small connection to the family can be found in 1874 when a Henry Rix is recorded as a farmer of Malthouse Farm.

Oak Farm was obviously sold or passed on to others and the house known as The Oaks makes its appearance in the records. So just as the initials WHM on a house on Sandringham Hill stand for William Henry Mann I always think of George Chadwick when I see the initials on the Pottery. He was a prominent Dersingham farmer and landowner and both his children were born in that same year. However some time ago it was suggested to me that the initials were those of the builder from Snettisham who built the premises. I shall continue my investigation.

The Road to the Beach

I am sorry that the final paragraph of this article was not very clear as some sentences were missing. I caused the editor quite a headache as I had changed my computer and saved the item in a different format. Here is a repeat of the troublesome piece.

It was the coming of World War 11 and the need for the shingle that finally saw to the construction of the road. Dave Tomlinson wrote to me as he had childhood memories of cycling down the road to the river with a home made fishing rod and a cheap reel bought from Riches' Shoe Shop. He and his friends used to catch eels. *"We just used to throw them back, but it was good fun."* He also recalled when Hunstanton Town Council had a sale of rowing boats and canoes from the Boating Lake. The Canoes were £3.

"We went up in my old Ford Prefect and stowed one on the roof. We took it down the beach road to the Shingle pits. Trouble was that being timber clinker built boats and having been out of the water a while the boarding had shrunk. The remedy for this was to sink the boat in shallow water and put some weight in it. The planks will swell and cracks would seal. Fast forward a few weeks in The Dun Cow and one of the Drew boys said, "Hey Tommo we just found a sunken canoe in the pits. We salvaged it and got it home. We dragged it behind my brother's motor bike."

Tommo ascertained that it was their canoe and was now behind the shed in the Drew Boys garden. He and his friends went round to see it.

"There was Colin and Saville's boat but it had grown somewhat. It was probably about 12 feet long but now it was at least 17 feet long. The middle was concealed behind the shed; all you could see was canoe, shed, canoe. "What's happened?" "Well" came the reply, "the boat had a cracked board in the middle so we sawed it in half and we are going to make two smaller ones out of it" I curled up with laughter and we all went back to The Dun Cow."

I am sure there are many more villagers with memories of the road and the shingle pits.

Elizabeth Fiddick □

Steve Davis

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Notes from the farm

From Edward Cross who works at Abbey Farm, Flitcham, home of Abbey Farm Organics and the Abbey Farm bird hide

Sweet and Sour.

As we come out of winter, farmers are taking steps to get the crops moving that will make the harvests of the second half of the year. The ones sown last autumn, mainly barley, oilseed rape and wheat, receive fertiliser to get them growing as temperatures rise and days get longer. Meanwhile spring crops are just being sown. These include more of the same three crops, plus the ones only established in the spring such as sugar beet, potatoes and smaller areas of crops like peas and linseed.

This makes March a busy month, but for many the tractors chugging up and down the fields go unnoticed. Of course, farmers like to grab everyone's attention just so people don't think we're only sitting around waiting for the subsidy cheque to roll in. We have some striking ways of doing this, such as spreading manure. Depending on the direction of the wind, this is something that few fail to notice. Basically, it can stink.

Understandably, this is not appreciated, so I felt the practice deserved a bit of explanation, especially as it seems to have become more widespread this spring. The commonest manure used in West Norfolk is poultry litter – that is, the mixture of droppings and bedding (mostly straw) that comes from intensive turkey and chicken units. As a nation we eat a lot of poultry and we happen to be in an area where many of these birds are reared. So, there is plenty of 'litter' to be used in one way or another.

The choices of what to do with this manure are limited. There are two power stations in East Anglia that burn it to make electricity and some is used as compost in mushroom production. The only other main outlet is putting it onto the land. Here it is very beneficial being rich in nutrients and organic matter. Spreading it on the land is a form of recycling. Nutrients taken from the soil go to produce grain. This feeds the poultry, which produce the manure that goes back into the soil ready for the next crop.

So, there are positives, but still one major drawback. Fortunately the odours are not long lived. Most farmers will try to get the manure ploughed in soon after it has been spread. If that doesn't happen then just a bit of time or a change in wind direction can relieve the problem. Looking further ahead there is research being carried out into reducing odours from manure.

On a sweeter note, the sounds on farms are changing as birds get into song. There are hedgerow birds, many of which occur in gardens, but also genuine birds of open fields like Skylark and Lapwing. At dusk you may hear an almost mechanical noise that has the rhythm of train carriages passing over a join in the tracks – chi-kit, chi-curr.....chi-kit, chi-curr..... This is the sound of red-legged Partridges staking out their territories.



Over the next few weeks the range of songs and calls will change as summer visitors like the Cuckoo arrive. And, once we get to April, you can get out and hear these safe in the knowledge that the manure-spreading season is over. □

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About the most successful lonely hearts advert ever was printed in the American Atlanta Journal, it read:
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some 15,000 Surprised chaps found themselves talking to the Atlanta's Dog Rescue Service when they dialled.

Having a go

By Richard Barr, partner in Fraser Dawbarns solicitors King's Lynn and a "legal eagle" on BBC Radio Norfolk.



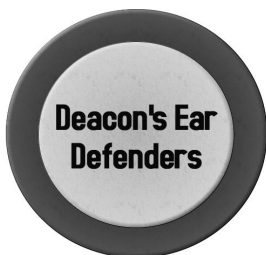
A few weeks ago my car was broken into. I had been working late. I was tired. I wanted to go home. My car seemed unusually cold when I got into it and there was a draught even after I had shut the door.

Then I noticed the broken glass and the shattered remains of the passenger door window. My SatNav, two pounds in coins that I kept for supermarket trolleys and a cheap ball point pen had gone. I had to wait for an hour for the police to arrive and I would have had to wait for another hour for "scenes of crime" to arrive, but by then I was too cold, and I knew I would be even colder by the time I got home

as my heater would not be a match for the howling gale caused by the shattered window.

So – I became a victim of crime. I know that because a few days later the police sent me a booklet telling me so. It is not pleasant to know that someone has invaded your territory (even if it is a car) and taken something that it took many hours of hard earning to pay for. Nonetheless the crime against me was minor compared to what others have to put up with when they are subject to physical attacks or their homes are ransacked.

But wind the clock back. Just supposing I had arrived at the car park at the moment that the youth, no doubt in a peaked cap or hood, had just smashed my window and had his arm inside the car.



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What could I have done?

Instinctively you might think that the thing to do is to tackle the job and hold him till the police arrive. Everyone can have the right to make a “citizen’s arrest”, so could I have done that?

There are three circumstances where a member of the public can make an arrest:

- 1 Where an “indictable offence” (essentially a serious crime that can be tried at the Crown Court) has been committed. Stealing and causing criminal damage would come under the heading of indictable offences.
- 2 Where a “Breach of the Peace” is being caused
- 3 To prevent a crime being committed.

The problem is that, unlike the police, members of the public do not have any legal protection if they get it wrong. For the police, it is sufficient if they *suspect* a crime has been committed. For the rest of us we can only be safe in carrying out an arrest for a crime if the person we arrest is actually found guilty – something you can never know at the time.

If the person you arrest is not prosecuted or is found not guilty, you could land yourself in a whole heap of trouble, as a fish and chip shop owner found to his cost last year. He saw a youth smash the window of his shop then spit at a customer. He thought he saw the youth the following day in the street, so he picked him up and drove him back to the shop and kept him there till the police arrived. Instead of receiving thanks for helping the police, the shopkeeper found himself in the Crown Court on a charge of kidnapping. Fortunately the judge had more common sense than the Crown Prosecution Service and dismissed the charge, but nonetheless the shop owner went through several months of hell for doing what he thought was his duty.

WHAT ARE THE LESSONS?

- 1 However tempting it might be to take the law into your hands, the best advice is: don’t. Apart from putting yourself at risk of personal injury, you could end up going through a stressful court case and, even though you are the victim, being charged with a crime yourself.
- 2 Always call the police before you do anything
- 3 Just because nobody has broken into your car before, don’t assume they never will, like I did. Never leave valuables in your car.
- 4 Don’t buy a SatNav. I have found that I can still find my way home without it!
- 5 If you have been a victim of crime you are entitled to help from Victim Support (telephone 0845 389 9521). □

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THURSDAY 8.00-9.00

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Dersingham Methodist Church

As from January all my classes will cost £4.00 except my 50’s+ which will stay the same (£3.50).

If you attend twice in one week you get £1 off the second class or if you do two classes back to back (mon morn, Tues eve) the price will be £6 for the two.

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My Patch

By Gardenwatcher



Sun. I am detecting an attempt to shift the seat of power in this establishment.

Instead of calling me when my meals are served she is now waiting until I have placed an order—i.e.: whined enough to make a good case. Uppity servants are something I will not tolerate! Perhaps I need a second home.

Wed. Lots of tiny flowers are showing themselves but with snow forecast I must question their survival. Talking of survival, I am finding lots of little holes under the fences which smell of mice. If it wasn't so cold I would stake them out. Live and let live and let me catch them when it's warmer.

Thur. Last day of the month and it's blowing a gale. The Deodara Cedar has snapped off about 6 feet from the ground causing much wailing and gnashing of their teeth. Top of the list of woes is that it was used to support the washing line that she disfigures my patch with, hanging wet clothes and bedding on it without regard to the visual impact. My laundry system is much better and only involves my tongue. He has been reducing the tree to bite size chunks ready for disposal via the brown bin.

Sat. Over a week since my last entry—you can't beat a good sleep. The weather has dramatically improved and has tempted me outside. Others have also been tempted. He has yet another devil's machine. This is noisy at one end and chops branches at the other. Very scary!!! He has attacked the Philadelphus with it, giving it a long overdue short back and sides. I will keep my tail out of his way until this infernal device is put away. The wood pigeons are performing mating rituals in the conifers and will soon be nesting if the weather holds. Goody goody, I like squab!

Wed. After a good few days the weather has turned grim. Even with my fur coat on I found this morning's patrol very cold. Ground is being prepared for a load of Dahlias. Freshly turned soil, just the ticket!

Thur. St Valentine's day. A complete waste of my time thanks to the vet!

Sat. Weather v cold. No sign of any frogs and toads yet. Nothing much else to write about, what a bore. Perhaps I will stare out of the window for a couple of hours.

Sun. Very loud cries of what sounded like children from the garden proved to be 2 strangers having a stand off on my ground. Eventually the black and white one slunk off leaving a big black victor strutting triumphantly down the drive. If only I had been outside I would have sorted them both out!

Thur. Weather warmer, having said that it's still chilly. Dahlias planted this a.m., I felt obliged to see how deep this p.m. had bucket thrown at me this p.m.!

Sat. The orange mower was deployed at length today thoroughly disturbing my rest period. Searched the store cupboard shelves for a cure for "sleep deprivation" to no avail. Lawn edging then took place and I must admit it looks neater, but at what cost to my sanity?

Sun. Amphibians galore! Most are in the ponds but a few very flat and still specimens are out on the road. He was removing a load of moss from the gutters and is saving it for hanging baskets. I don't like these as they are difficult for me to dig in.

Wed. A most singular night. Got the feeling that all was not well and I was right. There was much rumbling and shaking and then the staff got up, peering out of windows and switching on lights and tripping over me. They then retired to their quarters without offering me any food by way of consolation. I had a severe case of "night starvation" for my trouble. Strangely all the frogs etc., vanished for the day.

Thur. Frogs back. Sneaked into the greenhouse to find lots of growth in the pots. The propagator is going strong with baby courgettes already sprouting. It's a good place for a kip if I'm not found.

Tue. Rudely awakened by thunder and hail this afternoon, I must strew some Mediterranean property brochures around as a hint for a move to warmer climes.

Wed. Budget day. If there is no tax increase on cat food then I will be happy. Still windy with the Daffodils waving about madly. A few Tulips are struggling to flower and there is even an early Rhododendron starting to bloom but the real bad weather usually waits to trash the Magnolia's. □



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 Jan 1903 edition and we will publish further extracts in future issues of the village voice.

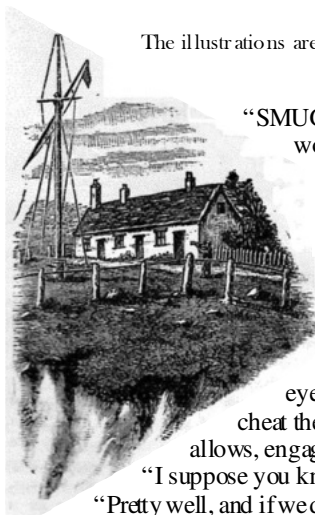


THE WORK OF THE COASTGUARD: A GLANCE AT SOME SAILORS ASHORE.

BY F. M. HOLMES,

Author of "The Cold Skip," etc.

The illustrations are from photographs specially taken for THE CHURCH MONTHLY by Messrs. R. Taylor & Co.



"SMUGGLING ? Ah! there is not much of that now, sir," a coastguard would tell you. "In the first place, it would not pay; and in the second place, we should catch 'em at it."

And he would flourish his sword-stick grimly, as if he had actually caught a man in the act.

But smuggling, you might suggest, was really stopped when the Government, abolished the duties on a number of imported goods.

"Very likely," Coastguard X. would admit; but he is also sure that if he and his fellows were not watching everywhere, with eyes like hawks', there would be some folks mean enough to try and cheat their country. But those who wish to smuggle now, do not, as a rule, he allows, engage to run illicit cargoes ashore.

"I suppose you know every vessel you see?"

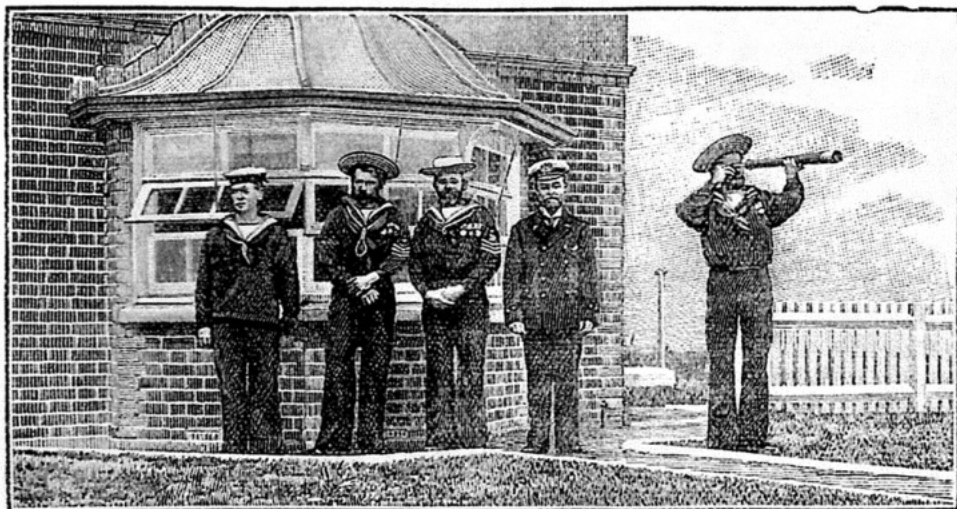
"Pretty well, and if we do not know, we find out—that is, if she comes near enough to make it worth while. But bless us, we've a many other things to do besides watchin' ships and boats and lookin' out for smugglers."

"Why ! what are they?"

The coastguard, you will discover, have charge of wreckage that may be washed ashore—until decision is given as to what is to be done with it; and they are also entrusted with the necessary task of burying any dead animals that may be cast up by the waves. They are now so constituted as to serve also as a defensive force and form a Naval Reserve, and have to practise gunboat drill and gunnery so as to be in readiness for service if required.

With the rocket apparatus they sometimes render excellent service. For instance, on a foggy July evening in the year 1892, the large Atlantic liner, *City of Chicago* suddenly crashed on a shelf of rock on the south coast of Ireland. Some of the passengers were thrown from their feet by the shock; and in the gloom a huge cliff could be seen rising high above them.

"There is no immediate danger," declared the officials, as they moved among the startled passengers, endeavouring to reassure them; and, the sea being calm, orders were given to lower the



1 2 3 4 5

THE COASTGUARD ON DUTY.

1. Boatman (ordinary); 2. Boatman (commissioned); 3. Boatman (chief); 4. Chief Officer; 5. Commissioned Boatman and Telegraphist.

boats, while signal rockets of distress were fired into the foggy air.

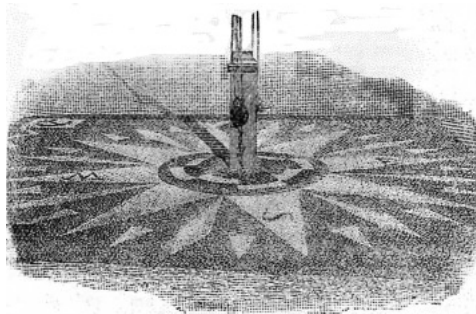
Accounts differ as to the extent of the panic that at first prevailed, one eye-witness saying that "the shock was slight, and though some excitement ensued, there was no panic"; another declaring "the shock to have been something terrible" and saying a panic ensued, and women and children shrieked. But in answer to the signals, the coastguard soon arrived on the scene, and getting into action with the rocket apparatus, they fixed a rope over the wreck, and attached a rope-ladder to the rocket-line.

Happily the weather was too thick for the passengers to see the height of the cliffs, or they might have shrunk from the climb. But planks were placed from the bow of the ship to the rocks, and nearly two hundred persons actually climbed up the cliff in this apparently hazardous manner, guided by the coastguard and several of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood.

One startling incident thrilled those who saw it. An infant fell as it was being taken up the ladder, but a smart coastguardsman, standing near, leaped forward, and, catching the child just in time, restored it unhurt to its thankful friends.

The shipwrecked passengers were taken to the coastguard station, where they were very kindly treated, and some of the people who had escaped in the boats also made their way to the coastguard station. The scene of the accident was about half a mile west of the Old Head of Kinsale, and a number of passengers eventually reached the town on foot.

This incident illustrates very clearly some of the work of the coastguard. They have control of the rocket and life-saving apparatus round the coast, and numbers of the force also assist with the lifeboats. But they are primarily a Naval force, and are under the Admiralty. There are about four thousand two hundred of them—including officers and men—distributed at stations round ►

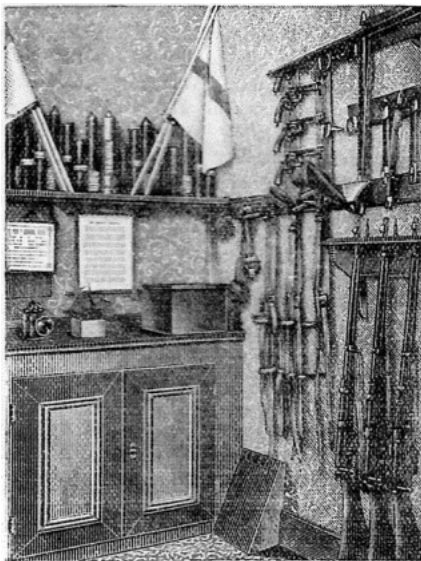


THE COMPASS.

the coast. They are chosen out of the Navy, and must bear at least one good conduct badge. Shoremen have their appointed beats, the walk of one ending where that of another begins ; so that the whole coast is watched ; while there are also watch-rooms where their flags for signalling purposes, their sword-sticks, lanterns, and maybe revolvers, are kept. The coastguard receive pay as though they were at sea, and also sixteen-pence a day instead of food, while they occupy their cottages, which belong to the Admiralty, rent free. Though sailors, they seem to make admirable use of their gardens, which are often a pleasure to see.

The whole coast of the United Kingdom is divided into eleven districts, and each district is under the command of a Navy captain, who has a guard-ship at a large port in the district. Thus H.M.S. *Galatea* is stationed at Hull, and H.M.S. *Severn* at Harwich. Attached to these guard-ships are gunboat cruisers and other cruisers—quite a small fleet in fact, about which probably the public know little or nothing. But if a man were so misguided as to try and run an illicit, cargo of brandy ashore, he would most likely soon

know more of these cruisers than he would desire; for the coastguard may be found everywhere watching the coasts, and none the less worthy of our Navy because they are sailors ashore. □



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Old picture corner

Mr A. M. Whitey from Westcliff-on-Sea, who has family connections with Dersingham, would like some names for these footballers.

The second picture showing the Old Hall could do with a date.



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Parish Church Security



Just as I was going to write an article about church security I found that stones had been thrown through the windows of our fine parish church (11th/12th March). Stones and fragments of glass on the pews and floor were swept up easily enough, but now comes the trouble and expense of having the damage repaired. The call by politicians for “respect” in our society seems particularly relevant at the moment. I ask myself the usual question: “Why such senseless vandalism?” What satisfaction does anyone achieve from doing such a thing? The church is not just for a few – it is for all. It is their own heritage that they are damaging. Did anyone see any suspicious behaviour in the churchyard around that period? Any information would be welcome.

In this day and age, not all damage done to churches is willful vandalism. We have all heard about larger thefts of goods and materials from churches over recent years, and it is not necessarily carried out furtively after dark. Quite often such criminals pose as official workmen during daylight hours and are ignored because everything looks so innocent.

If you see any work being carried out on the building and are unsure if it is officially authorised, you are requested to phone one of the following numbers:

01485-540857; 01485-543674; 01485-540214) and we will investigate, if necessary.

Neil Adams Church Warden □



They are cracking on with the new surgery complex. This is how it looked on the 14th of March.

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Ingoldisthorpe First School

The Spring Term has been a busy one for us with lots of new things going on in school. The term started with all the staff going to Houghton Hall for training in developing our Outside Learning and this theme has continued throughout the term. We have planted a willow tunnel and a willow arch for the children to play in as well as a native hedge. The nature club is now in full swing with various vegetables and flowers being planted as well as new bird tables being made and put in place by the children. Our next development will be to plant trees to create a copse. We also have trees being donated to us by a charity run by Alan Titchmarsh as well as receiving fruit trees from county.

As well as the outdoors, a range of other events have taken place in school. Our International evening was a great success and everybody enjoyed the pancake races. We have a host of new clubs, which are all well attended including an Early Morning club for the children.

There are two new additions to our school that are proving to be very popular. Little Owls is our new preschool provision every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning for children in their year before starting school. It starts at 9 am and ends at 11. There are still spaces if you know of children that might like to attend. Bumps and Babies is our new mother and toddler group that meets in school every Friday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 again we have spaces if you know of mums that might like to come along.

We are now beginning to think of our Summer Term with a range of activities and visits. I would like to take this opportunity to invite everybody in the community to our school you are always welcome. One date you might like to put in your diary is June 12th. We will be celebrating our 150th anniversary. Everybody from the community is very welcome (10:30). The Bishop of Lynn will be our guest that day.

Keith Twaites □

Flower Festival



Dersingham Methodist Church annual flower festival starts on Thursday 22nd May to Monday 26th May, 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. and Sunday 2.00 - 5.00 p.m.

The theme this year is 'The best book to read is the Bible' with the floral displays depicting favourite stories and events. There will be stalls,

coffee, lunches and teas.

We look forward to seeing you, perhaps you can combine a visit to the open gardens on the same weekend.

Further details on the flower festival from Elizabeth Batstone 541068. □



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Wednesday	Dersingham Scout Hall 10.30-11.30am
Friday	Lynnsport 10-11am

Babies aged 3mths – 11mths (approx)

Wednesday	Dersingham Scout Hall 9.30-10.15am
------------------	---------------------------------------

Rotary Club of Hunstanton & District Ties with Sri Lanka

In 2005 Hunstanton Rotarian Phillip Mayer along with his wife Crista and sister Kate visited an orphanage in central Sri Lanka. The orphanage (established by the Ceylon Relief and Support Foundation) is also a Buddhist Seminary and run by the Venerable Kirama Dhamm Ananda Thero (Kirama for short). It is largely self-sufficient, growing most of its own foodstuffs and generating some income by raising bees and selling the honey. Phillip's party found that there was an urgent need to extend accommodation at the orphanage following the tragic consequences and huge loss of life caused by the 2004 tsunami. Hunstanton Rotarians agreed to provide funds for the required enlargement.



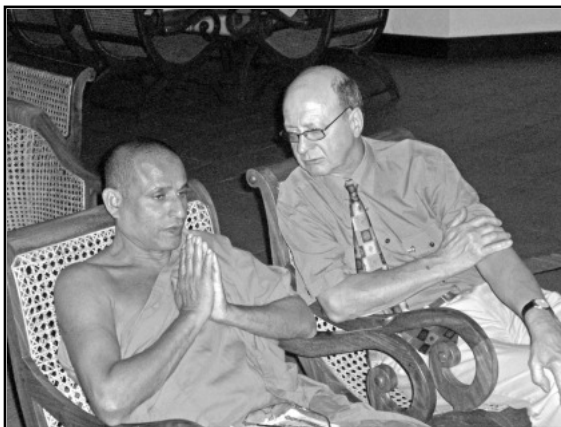
The extension is now complete and houses dormitories and a computer room, equipped with six computers and a photocopier. It rejoices in the name of The Hunstanton Computer Training Centre and serves the local community as well as the orphanage. All of the funding was channelled through the nearby Rotary Club of Rangiri Dambulla, which oversaw the project.

The end results are that more orphans can receive the care that they need and those living in a remote village in Sri Lanka, are now able to join the rest of the world in becoming computer literate.

This year Phillip Mayer (pictured below) and his family together with seven other Rotary Club of Hunstanton & District members (3 of whom live in Desingham) and five friends and relations spent 3 weeks in Sri Lanka and were given a rapturous welcome by children and Buddhist novices. The visitors were greeted at the gates by the children with traditional songs and dances and then ceremoniously ushered into the orphanage itself. Following speeches of welcome by the Venerable Kirama, local Rotary dignitaries, one of the orphans and a novice monk, Phillip presented the orphanage with many gifts, including two complete cricket sets, which the party had brought with them. The visitors learned that the orphanage is now home not only to tsunami orphans but also to those made homeless as a result of Tamil terrorist activities.

Two days later the Venerable Kirama honoured the party by visiting them at their hotel situated on the beautiful Amaya Lake. He kindly presented each member with a box of Sri Lankan tea as a memento of their visit.

All of those visiting were impressed by the sheer splendour of Sri Lanka. Despite being plagued by the twin evils of poverty and terrorism they all agreed that it is a beautiful country and truly a land of smiles. During the Rotarians' stay in Sri Lanka there were at least four



bomb attacks; aimed at celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the island's independence. Sadly such attacks have become a way of life in Sri Lanka and further emphasise the need for support for children caught up in the situation.

The extension provided by Hunstanton Rotary Club consists of a second floor to what was a single storey building. Since the visit, the club has decided to meet the cost of converting the large roof area into a meeting room to be used by the orphans, the Buddhist monks and local residents, so strengthening the links forged between our two vastly different communities. □



Words and pictures by Roger Hoverd

Greetings from the Manse

“The first of April, some do say, Is set apart for All Fools' Day.
But why people call it so, Nor I nor they themselves do know.”



This little verse appeared in *Poor Robin's Almanack* of 1760. If the origin of April Fools' Day had been forgotten then, there doesn't seem much chance of our discovering it now. But the first mention of this day for tricks and practical jokes goes back to 1698, so the custom is at least 300 years old. Perhaps if you haven't got the energy, or the opportunity to do something foolish on the first day of April you can remember and enjoy some “foolish” and glorious past occasion.

The apostle Paul tells the community in Corinth that “we are fools for Christ”, whereas “you are so wise in Christ”. (1 Cor. 4:10) Similarly God, says Paul, chooses the foolish and weak things of the world to shame the wise and strong.” (1 Cor. 1:27) Some of the Christians in Corinth had got a bit above themselves and needed reminding that the power to live the new life of freedom and love came from God's gracious act in Jesus and not in and because of their own goodness and righteousness. The apostle was more than willing to appear foolish in the eyes of the sophisticated Corinthians in order to point this out firmly and graciously.

Some people are prepared to be fools all the year round. An organisation called *Holy Fools* has about one hundred and fifty members in the UK. They visit churches in clown's dress and make-up using their own clown names. They perform sketches or meet and greet the congregation as they arrive. They believe that: 'A clown reflects human nature with all its strengths and weaknesses; the "holy fool" takes this further and performs with faith, hope and love.'

Fools risk being rejected - they are open and vulnerable to their public. It requires faith to take that risk. They demonstrate hope too—clowns are always willing to try to do the impossible, even though they risk failure—and the laughter of the onlookers. Fools show love by giving themselves entirely to their audience. We, the onlookers, can choose to take them to our heart, to laugh and cry with them - or else to reject them. Above all, fools bring us laughter and joy. *Holy Fools* demonstrate the joy and laughter that the Christian faith can bring to a sad world.

With every blessing,

Kim Nally □

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Dissolution of Community Nurses Equipment Fund

After many months of negotiation with the District Health Authority and Government Officials, the Community Nurses Equipment Fund was officially registered with the Charity Commission on 24th June 1987. Founder Trustees, Mrs. Beryl Arter, (who sadly passed away in 2007), was actively involved with the Fund acting as Chairperson until her death. Mrs. Jean Lee and Mrs. Myra Trundle are still heavily involved with the Fund and Myra took on the role of President some 10 years ago. The designated area of coverage was originally Heacham and Hunstanton with Snettisham and Dersingham joining forces later on. The Heacham and District Community Nurses Equipment Fund was the first Charity of its type in the country.

The reason for the setting up of the Fund was because at that time, supplies from the DHA were non-existent and patients' basic nursing needs e.g. draw sheets, heel/elbow pads, sheepskins etc., were an essential part of their nursing care and so the 'objects' as set out in the Constitution were 'to relieve patients in the Heacham & Hunstanton area who are sick, disabled or convalescent and are being nursed at home by the provision of equipment and nursing aids not normally provided by the District Health Authority'.

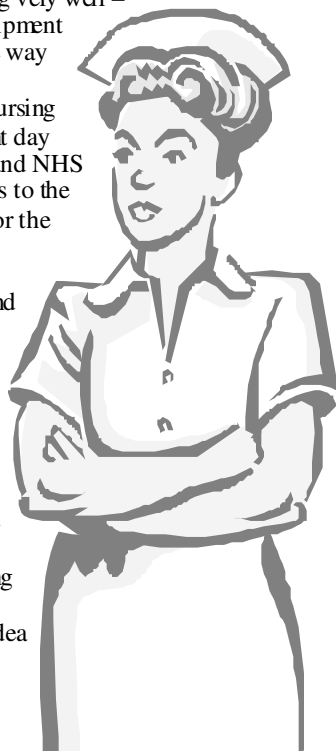
Over many years, members of the public ran coffee mornings, raffles, bingo etc and donated their profits to the CNEF. Begging letters were written to voluntary organizations within our area of coverage and all, without exception donated money generously. Money started to roll in to the Fund by way of donations instead of flowers in memory of dearly departed, and before long, all the patients in our area were very well catered for.

A few years ago, a large sum of money was bequeathed to the CNEF and because nursing needs/equipment available has improved, we were able to purchase larger items such as ripple beds, airflow mattresses, commodes, syringe drivers etc. All was working very well – nurses/patients needed equipment, request was made to CNEF, equipment ordered and delivered – great, we were able to use the money in the way in which it was intended.

Today the Trustees of the CNEF are made up from ex-District Nursing staff, those with experience within Community nursing care, present day nurses and those employed by the NHS. The present nursing staff and NHS employees were/are able to keep the rest of the Trustees informed as to the current state of equipment accessibility and what moves are afoot for the future, thus enabling the Trustees to make informed judgments.

Recent re-structuring within the NHS including Care in the Community and the Primary Care Trust (PCT) put so many rules and regulations in place that for one reason or another – handling, de-contamination, providers liability, items not approved by the PCT, etc. etc., that the CNEF were no longer able to provide many of the items of equipment they had previously. Several meetings took place with the PCT during this period to try and reach a satisfactory conclusion and the Trustees met on a monthly basis to consider amendments to their Constitution to accommodate the many changes needed, but every time decisions had been made, the PCT again changed the goal posts, thereby making the changes inappropriate. The PCT ideal was for all monies to go into the melting pot for use throughout their area of cover, which covered all of Norfolk. The Trustees of the CNEF were vehemently against that idea and wished for the money to remain in our area only for use by our nurses/patients. (A very wise decision, we believe, as it has turned out).

Today the CNEF still operates within the original Constitution. ►



We are all aware of the terrible financial state of the NHS and the increasing cutbacks in services across the board. In fairness to the PCT, at this time we are led to believe that the equipment provided by them for nurses/patients is satisfactory. Fine today, but what of the future? The Trustees desperately want to discharge their responsibilities in a constructive and dutiful fashion and be seen to do the right thing for our 'local' communities and the money raised by them.

There are so many Charities up and down the country who are sitting on millions of pounds because their particular Charity is 'old hat' today, and beneficiaries for whatever reason cannot meet the criteria of the Constitution as it has never been updated to meet today's ever changing needs. The Trustees of the CNEF consider that they are forward-thinking enough to change with the times and have considered at length how best to tackle the situation.

The CNEF presently administers around £235,000.00 and had 2 decisions to make. Should they sit on that sum of money for an indefinite period of time, or should they do their best to ensure it goes to the right place for the right use? The Trustees considered that the best way forward was to dissolve the Fund and make the money accessible when and where it is needed.

All money held by the CNEF has been raised locally and it is only right and proper that the money is spent locally, and the Trustees have decided to help the District Nurses carry out their jobs in the community for the betterment not only of their working lives, but ultimately, for patient care.

The Trustees resolved that all money held in Trust by them be shared equally between the 4 surgeries for sole use by the District Nurses/Health Care Practitioners and held in the account of the corresponding PPG's, to be administered by their Treasurers. This way the money will be safeguarded and easily accessible by the nursing staff whenever the need arises. The Charity Commission fully support this idea as long as 'the original objects of the Constitution are adhered to or furthered'.

'To relieve patients in the Heacham & Hunstanton (Snettisham & Dersingham) area who are sick, disabled or convalescent and are being nursed at home by the provision of equipment and nursing aids not normally provided by the District Health Authority (today the PCT)'. (Extract from the CNEF Constitution)

In short, this means that the money MUST be used for its original purposes and we appreciate that individual interpretation can allow for a certain amount of flexibility. The money must not, however, be used for such things as re-furbishment in the surgery 'comfort' facilities for the patients and the like.

We are aware that Dersingham surgery (now named the Carole Brown Health Centre) has now joined administratively and resources-wise, with Gayton Road Health Centre in King's Lynn. It has already been arranged that it will be Dersingham nurses alone that will benefit from the CNEF share of money.

CNEF bank accounts will be closed by the end of March and the money distributed shortly thereafter.

The Trustees would like to thank all the people of Heacham, Snettisham, Dersingham, Hunstanton, Old Hunstanton, Fring, Chosesley, West Newton, Babingley, Sandringham, Ingoldisthorpe, Ringstead, Thomham, Sedgely, Holme, Wolferton and Flittham, who have supported and donated to the Community Nurses Equipment Fund since its' beginning because without YOU, it would never have existed. We all hope that this public statement meets with your approval and in future, any bequests you would have made to the CNEF, would you kindly make direct to the applicable surgery District Nurses Fund.

The Trustees invite members of the public to voice their opinions, or if they have any questions they would like answered, please contact:

Janice Campbell - Secretary / Treasurer / Advisor to CNEF, 45 Neville Road, Heacham,
King's Lynn PE31 7HB 01485 572120 □

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Goose News

Pink-footed geese are being colour ringed in a joint initiative by the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust and the Icelandic Institute of Natural History. The following sightings are for an individual female pink-footed goose – I'm sure she will have flown over your house at some point. The work is beginning to yield some interesting results. It seems that some of our geese prefer to fly to Iceland by crossing the country and stopping off in Lancashire while others go directly to Scotland up the east coast.



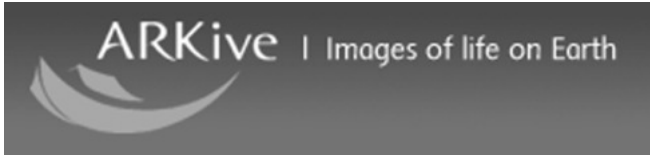
Bird ID: CGCVB Age at ringing: Adult Sex: Female

28/07/1999 Round-up Hill, Thjorsavær, Arness. C ICELAND (First Ringed)
 28/12/1999 southwest of Field House, Brancaster NORFOLK
 02/01/2000 Northbank Farm FIFE
 03/01/2000 Northbank Farm FIFE
 04/01/2000 Highfield Farm, Roxby LINCOLNSHIRE
 01/03/2000 Over Carnbee FIFE
 15/10/2000 west of Burscough LANCASHIRE
 06/12/2000 Field House, Brancaster Staithe NORFOLK
 07/12/2000 Field House, Brancaster Staithe NORFOLK
 08/12/2000 Brancaster Hall NORFOLK
 13/01/2001 north-east of Docking NORFOLK
 18/09/2001 Starnafin Pools, Loch of Strathbeg ABERDEENSHIRE
 22/09/2001 Fiddlers Green, Strathbeg ABERDEENSHIRE
 27/09/2001 Starnafin Pools, Loch of Strathbeg ABERDEENSHIRE
 30/10/2001 Sussex Farm, Burnham Market NORFOLK
 04/01/2002 Pilling Lane LANCASHIRE
 06/01/2002 Head Dyke Lane, Pilling LANCASHIRE
 10/01/2002 Birk's Farm, Pilling LANCASHIRE
 14/01/2002 Fluke Hall, Pilling LANCASHIRE
 20/01/2002 Northbank Farm FIFE
 20/09/2002 Classloch area, Loch Leven PERTH & KINROSS
 26/10/2002 Burnham Market NORFOLK
 30/12/2002 Catfield NORFOLK
 01/01/2003 Catfield NORFOLK
 09/02/2003 Carr House Farm, Pilling LANCASHIRE
 09/02/2003 Green Dicks Lane, Pilling LANCASHIRE
 13/02/2003 Cockers Dyke, Pilling LANCASHIRE
 15/02/2003 Heaton Marsh, Lancaster LANCASHIRE
 18/04/2004 Pooltown Farm, Ardersier INVERNESS
 20/10/2004 Muirside of Crago, Montrose ANGUS
 05/12/2004 Brewsterwells Farm, near Cameron Reservoir FIFE
 06/03/2005 Findatie area, Loch Leven PERTH & KINROSS
 11/03/2006 Northbank Farm FIFE
 18/03/2006 North Cassingray Farm, Largoward FIFE
 12/10/2006 Baleave, Kinross, Loch Leven PERTH & KINROSS
 26/12/2007 Leverton LINCOLNSHIRE

David Bingham □

ARKive

Those of you who are interested in wildlife and have computer access may be interested in this website that we were made aware of by Ash Murray, site manager of Dersingham Bog.



ARKive is the 21st Century Noah's Ark, it's harnessing the latest in digital technology to create a centralised record of the world's most important nature films, photographs, sound recordings, and memories - using these to build fact-backed portraits of Earth's endangered species. Discover if your favourite species has been ARKived by visiting the project's free-to-view website - www.arkive.org. Create your own ARKive scrapbook and download the free ARKive screensaver at MyARKive www.arkive.org/MyARKive.

ARKive is an initiative of Wildscreen, a UK-based educational charity, working globally to increase the public's awareness and appreciation of the natural world. www.wildscreen.org.uk □

See if you can work out what these words have in common.

BANANA, DRESSER, GRAMMAR, POTATO, REVIVE, ASSESS, UNEVEN

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Sunday 25th and Monday 26th May
2.00 - 6.00p.m.
(Spring Bank Holiday)

A number of delightful village gardens are open to the public these two days. Join the tour at any of the gardens showing the yellow sign, or at the Church Hall in Manor Road where local artists will also be displaying their work.

Entry: £3.00 each (children under 16 free)

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Proceeds to St. Nicholas Church

Bog News

During an early morning visit to the bog last Sunday, I was lucky enough to see the first groups of shelduck returning to the bog for the start of their spring gatherings. After watching these jostling groups calling to each other, it becomes obvious why they have come to be termed as 'parliaments'. These parliaments help the ducks to find a mate and to strengthen existing bonds. Some of the pairs of shelduck in the 'parliament' will stay and breed on the reserve, whilst others travel further inland to find nesting sites on farmland.



The gatherings of these large white ducks have long been a feature of the reserve and I have spoken to several residents who remember when the 'hills were white with them', before reminiscing about how they remembered the woman of the village heading down to the bog armed with a crook stick and a basket to harvest the duck eggs. Despite being protected by the law now, unfortunately, shelduck are far less common on the reserve than they once were and only a handful of pairs now stay to breed on the bog each year. It is likely that this

is because of a combination of factors: the reduced amount of rabbit burrows which they use for nesting following myxomatosis, the change from their preferred open landscape to a more wooded landscape in recent decades, increased disturbance and predation. The heathland restoration works that Natural England has been carrying out with the help of volunteers will no doubt help to make the local landscape more attractive to this enigmatic duck and, to help to provide new nest sites on the quieter parts of the reserve, we are planning to install several underground nest boxes. Hopefully, the sight of the mother leading her fluffy ducklings down to the Wash will once again become a common sight on the reserve in years to come.

Those of you who regularly visit Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve will no doubt know that our two Estate Workers, Chris Betts and Will Stewart have both recently moved on. Chris is planning to emigrate to New Zealand, whilst Will has taken up a new role as a Warden for Mousehold Heath on the outskirts of Norwich City. Both Chris and Will have made a significant contribution to the management of the bog and will be missed by the many visitors and volunteers that they got to know during their time here.

Recruitment for Chris and Will's replacement is underway and the jobs have been advertised on the Natural England website and on the Countryside Jobs Service website with a closing date of



the 28th March.

Chris and Will's departure has made it necessary to make some changes to the work plan for the winter and contractors have focussed their efforts on clearing 2.5 hectares of mature birch and pine scrub from the northern end of the bog. This has opened up views across the bog and has helped to restore this important area of bog before it became too overgrown, with the resultant loss of sensitive bog plants.



Contractors will soon be starting on track improvement works to restore the rutted trackway at the northern end of the reserve. Whilst this will allow visitors easier access to this end of the reserve, there is also a risk that it will increase levels of disturbance to some of the more sensitive species of birds that nest there and we would like to use this opportunity to remind anyone visiting the site to ensure that dogs are kept under strict control at all times.

Ash Murray, Reserve Manager, Natural England. □



Nightjars will be arriving soon.
Photo ; Paul Gilbert

DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Date	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Thur 3 April		Dersingham Village Voice	Publication Date	
Wed 9 April	10.00 to 12.00 noon	West Norfolk Constabulary	Mobile Police Office	Budgen's Car Park
Friday 11 April	10.00 to 12.00 noon	Dersingham Library	ARCH project	Dersingham Library
Sat 12 April	7.30 pm	St Nicholas church	West Norfolk Singers	St Nicholas Church
Mon 21 April		St Nicholas Church	St Georges Day Lunch	St Nicholas Church Hall
Sat 26 Apr	9.00 am to 12.00 noon	St Nicholas Church	Grand Book Sale	St Nicholas Church Hall
Wed 7 May		West Norfolk Constabulary	Mobile Police Office	Budgen's Car Park
Tue 13 May	7.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Lyra concert	St Nicholas Church
Wed 14 May	Mid-day	Dersingham Village Voice	Deadline for Contributions and Articles	Parish Council Office Manor Road
Mon 19 May	6.00 to 7.00 pm	Dersingham Library	Reading Group	Dersingham Library
Thu 22 to Mon 26 May	10.00 am to 5.00 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Annual Flower Festival	Dersingham Methodist Church
Fri 23 May	10.00 to 12.00 noon	Dersingham Library	Money saving tips on the internet	Dersingham Library
Fri 23 May	1.00 to 3.00 pm	Dersingham Library	Ancestry.com taster	Dersingham Library
Fri 23 May	7.30 pm	St Nicholas church	Centre Stage Swing Band	St Nicholas church
25 & 26 May	2.00 to 6.00pm	St Nicholas Church	Dersingham Open Gardens & St Nicholas Gallery	Dersingham Village
Sat 29 Sept	7.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Strolling Players Concert	St Nicholas Church

DIARY OF REGULAR EVENTS

Date	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
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 in 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	5.30 to 7 pm	2nd Dersingham Brownie 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	St Nicholas Church Hall

1st Tuesday of the Month	7.30 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Art Club	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
2nd Tuesday in 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 and Mid-day Meal	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Wednesday	10.00 to 11.00am	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	Meetinfor children aged 6 - 8	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
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		Dersingham Walking Group	Circular walk	See programme for details or contact Keith Starks 542268
Every 2nd Weds of the Month Sept to April	7.30 pm	Albert Victor Bowls Club	Prize Bingo	Albert Victor Bowls Club, Manor Road
2nd & 4th Weds of every month	7.30 to 9.00 pm	Dersingham Fellowship	Prayer and Praise and Bible Study	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
3rd Wednesday of the Month	7.15 to 10.00 pm	Dersingham Evening Women's Institute	Meeting	St Cecilia's Church Hall
Every Thursday	10.3 am to 3.00 pm	North West Norfolk Phobbies 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 7.00 pm	1st Sandringham Guides	Unit Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre,, Manor Road
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.00 pm	1st Dersingham Scouts	Group Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.30 pm	Norfolk Army Cadet Force	Sandringham Detachment Meeting	The Drill Hall, Dodds Hill
Every Thursday	7.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Badminton Club	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every Thurs Sept -June	2 pm	Park House Hotel	Rubber Bridge	Park House Hotel
1st Thursday of Month		Dersingham Flower Club	Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
2nd Thursday of 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
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 month	10.00 am to 12 noon	St Nicholas Church	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas Church Hall

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; 9th April, 7th May & 4th June - when Public Enquiry Officers Linda Forder and Pete 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 Anita Moore, Dersingham Parish Council, The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LH **by Wednesday 14th May 2008** Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465. E-mail — anita.dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk

Articles for publication in the June edition of Village Voice must reach The Editor c/o Dersingham Parish Council, The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LH or e-mail; anita.dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk before the **deadline date of mid-day on Wednesday 14th May 2008 for publication on Wednesday 4th June**. (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 for this edition consists of

Acting Editor: - Tony Bubb. Editorial assistant Rob Smyth

'In-house' Photographer, Illustrations Editor and Layout Artist – Tony Bubb

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A vertical strip of five black and white photographs showing different stages of a kitchen renovation project. From top to bottom: a paintbrush with a brush head and a handle; a lumber yard with stacks of wood; a person using a Ryobi drill to work on a metal frame; a kitchen sink with a faucet; and a gas stove with four burners.

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Sat 8am – 1pm



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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday May 6th

Back by popular demand

David Grimes

Will present a pictorial history of

King's Lynn

Part 2—1930 to 1950

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

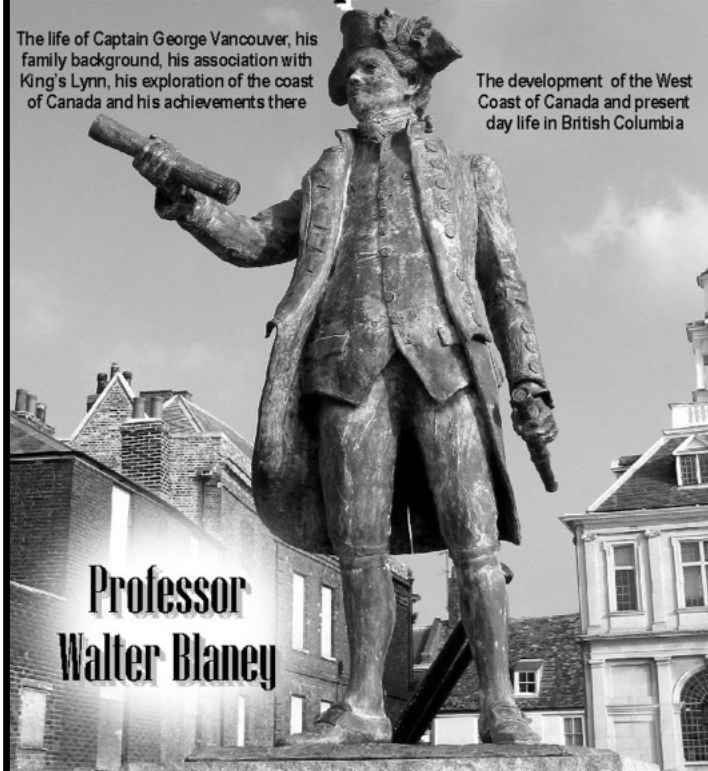
VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday June 3rd

In the Footsteps of Vancouver

The life of Captain George Vancouver, his family background, his association with King's Lynn, his exploration of the coast of Canada and his achievements there

The development of the West Coast of Canada and present day life in British Columbia



Professor
Walter Blaney

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