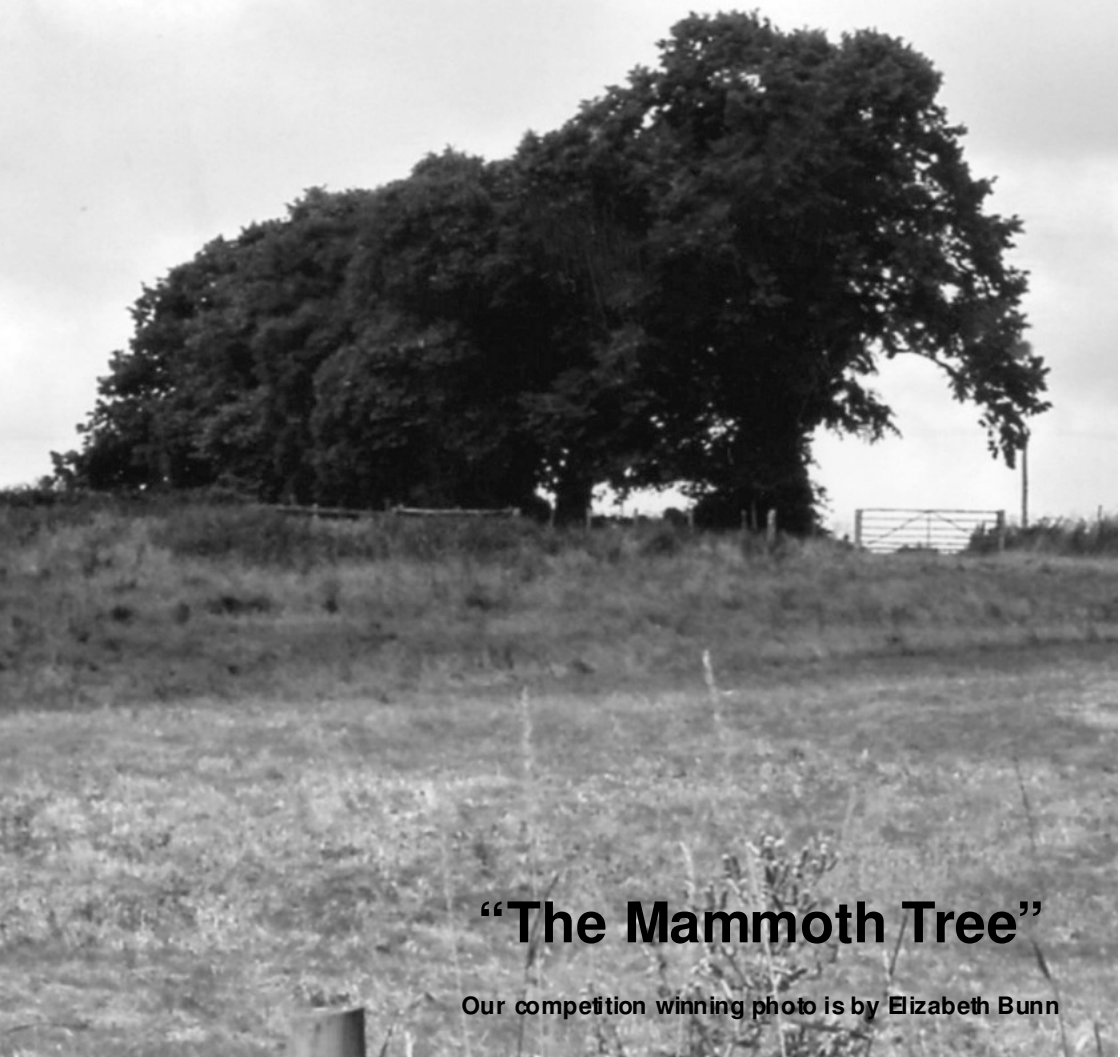


Issue 55

December 2008

Dersingham Village Voice



“The Mammoth Tree”

Our competition winning photo is by Elizabeth Bunn

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Editor's Notes

Welcome to this festive season edition. I hope we have something for everyone herein.

Most of you should get Village Voice with your copy of "The Citizen". However we are all too aware that not everyone does and so in order to find out where those who miss out are I would invite you to let the office know and we will try to arrange for a copy to come through your letterbox. If you would like to help out by delivering a few to your deprived neighbourhood - we know that

new houses are missed out quite often - please get in touch.

The geese have been flying past for a few weeks now. Like the jets, they seem to favour Dersingham as somewhere to go over and you might like to try this out. The geese are way of being shot and will veer of course if you look up and they see your pale face. It is thought that they are used to hunters doing this before firing.

It's almost impossible to enter or leave the village without passing through the Sandringham Estate so I am delighted that we have been allowed to reproduce the "Sandringham Newsletter" which will keep us up to date with what is going on there. Due to the time lag between finalising this magazine and our publication date combined with the monthly frequency of their newsletter it will reflect mainly past happenings on the estate, but none the less interesting for that I hope.

I suppose that church bells are rather like Marmite, you either love them or hate them. Alan Polaine's article should inform you about what you are hearing and may even tempt you into joining in with the ringing.

Two new Parish Councillors introduce themselves on page 30 but please note that a partner named Cla(i)re is not a requirement for Parish Council membership.

I make no apology for allocating several pages to the memory of George Pratt who did so much for the village. If you have memories of George that you would like to share please send them in.

Our cover photo competition was won by Elizabeth Bunn of Hawthorn Drive with her picture of the "Mammoth Tree". The 2 runners up are elsewhere in these pages. We will run this competition again next year so get snapping. Closing date for entries November 3rd 2009. Remember you are reflecting Dersingham at it's best!

The parish gremlin seems to have been at work again infiltrating Bryan Tanns correction of last time. The "East Afghan businessman" should have read "East Anglian businessman". Our little gremlin is cunning and makes plausible errors and we apologise for the mistake.

We wish the season's greetings to all our readers and to our contributors, without whom this magazine would be very thin. Many thanks to them, our advertisers (do support them) and everyone who helps in the making of this publication. □

Tony Bubb

DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS*				
Date	Time	Event	Organisation	Venue
Sat Nov 27th	7.30 pm	"Close to the Heart" concert	St Nicholas Church	St Nicholas Church
Friday 5th Dec		Christmas Fayre	Dersingham Infant & Nursery School	Dersingham Infant & Nursery School
5th, 6th & 7th December	10 - 4 pm 12 - 4 pm Sun	Christmas Tree Festival	St Nicholas Church	St Nicholas Church
Tuesday Dec 9th	5 - 7 pm	Christmas Fayre	Dersingham Entertainment Committee	Thaxters Coffee Shop garden
Sat 13th December	10 am - 12 noon	Christmas coffee morning	Dersingham Methodist Church	Methodist Church Post Office Road

* This information is listed in good faith & we cannot accept responsibility if an event does not take place.

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Dear Village Voice



Singing Workshops for Fun! have started up in Snettisham Village Memorial Hall on Wednesday mornings 10-11.30. If you would love to sing, this is an opportunity to just come and sing for the fun of it. You don't have to be able to read music or have experience! Workshops will run during termtime and break for half term.

For more information, contact me on 0781 0146501 or e-mail at ccoombs@talktalk.net

Cath Coombs

Just a quick e-mail to say many thanks for sending us a copy of the latest issue of 'Dersingham Village Voice' (54) and also to thank you for typesetting our advert on page 58. The advert looks great so hopefully we'll get some more calls over the coming months. We also appreciate the inclusion of the Norfolk Home Call information on page 23!!

Donna Barr

A final report on the tally from my sponsored bike ride from Land's End to John O' Groats (LEJOG) to raise funds for research into pseudomyxoma peritonei gives the total of almost **£7000** and money is still arriving.

Every penny has gone to Basingstoke's research team led by Professor Moran. Once more I would like to express my thanks to all those generous donors who gave so freely. Thank you one and all.

Next year I'm joining a ride with a Cycle Touring Club Tours group starting at Caen on the English Channel coast to Perpignan on the Mediterranean. No plans to make it a sponsored ride (unless someone twists my arm very hard).

Trevor Riches

Since the new Carole Brown Health Centre was opened, many patients have questioned the decision to site the doctors' clinics on the first floor. As with most design aspects of the health centre, it was a decision taken following consultation with the Patients Participation Group and to best meet the needs of patients. The vast majority of appointments for frail, disabled and chronically sick patients are with the specialist nursing staff and it was for their convenience that nurses' clinics were therefore sited on the ground floor. The lift was incorporated into the design for those patients with doctors' appointments and who have difficulty with stairs.

T G Morris, Patients Participation Group

Iwould like to open this letter with a big thank you to our parish council and the support they have given to DECover the past 2 years with grant assistance helping us to pay for essential insurance and services when we put on events such as last summer's funday and Christmas Fayre. Without their help, as perhaps our biggest sponsor, such events would be even more difficult to hold.

That said we have our next event looming large with the 2nd DEC Christmas Fayre to be held in the grounds of Thaxters Coffee Shop. This year the Christmas Fayre will take place on Tuesday 9th December and start at 5 pm. Once again it will have a range of Christmas stalls, games, rides and crafts for you to see. Food will be available, mulled wine and mince pies, sweets and, should it be as cold as last year, the coffee shop will be open again so you can have a warm drink. Just like last year Santa will be taking a brief rest from his Christmas preparations to visit the Fayre and will be taking time to talk to the children there and hopefully find out what they want for Christmas.

I'm hoping for good weather just like last year but know that whatever the weather once again we will have a good night.

Nigel Kelk, Dersingham Entertainments Committee



I have recently caught up with VV after a long interval, and have noted references to, and requests for information about my family. I am a Linford and it is interesting to note that many contributors still refer to Linford's Corner.

My grandparents were Douglas Terrington, Ruth May Terrington (nee Riches), Frederick Linford, and Mary Louisa Linford (nee Blackwell). Some Terrington family comments below. In another letter I will say something about the Riches side of the family.

Douglas inherited the butcher's business at the Heath Road /Manor Road junction from his father Frederick. Douglas married Ruth May Riches on Boxing Day 1900. They had two children, Percy and Florence May (Maisie), my mother. Percy went into the business with his father but tragically his career was cut short on 27th July 1922, at age 21, when he lost control of his motor cycle on Ken Hill, Snettisham and was fatally injured.

As a result Maisie left the High School and joined the business which then became D and M Terrington. Maisie married Rowland Linford, the grocer of Linford's Corner, in 1928, and they had two children Anne and Patrick (Pat). The Linfords lived in "Kingswood" the house attached to the butcher's shop after the marriage and Douglas and Ruth occupied "Fern Villa" next door.

Dick Melton remembers the orchard, so do I. Grandfather Douglas had apples, pears, plums, and currants, and you could buy the fruit in his shop. It also kept us in applejacks for a good part of the year. It was a boast of Grandfather that he could pick apples from July to November. He had one tree which he called the July apple, and true enough you could pick and eat a ripe apple in July, probably not much before the 31st though. The latest one was John Standish, the apples seemed to be red and ripe in October, but they were not edible until well into November, and I believe a touch of frost was necessary. Grandfather retired soon after the war and the business was taken over by Mr Kerry. Douglas and Ruth remained in Fern Villa for the rest of their lives. The Linfords moved to Glebe House, ie Linford's corner, until 1958 when father retired, and the business was bought by The Co-op. Beech House in Manor Road became the retirement home of my parents.

Douglas's young brother Reginald and his wife Eleanor (nee Garner) ran the grocery and general shop in Manor Road. Incidentally, Grandfather Frederick Linford and family lived there for a few years in the early 1900s while Glebe House and shop was being built. Great Uncle Reg and Aunt Nell were well known to me as a child (from late 30s) because I used to trot along to the



shop quite often to buy sweets. Uncle Reg had an aviary in the garden and when he had time he would take me to see the birds. Canaries I think they were. The war however put an end to this hobby to my disappointment.

Uncle Reg had some spells of bad health when running the shop, and Aunt Nell kept things going. My father used to help by preparing the bacon orders because she wasn't able to do that. Uncle Reg died sometime in the mid to late forties I believe, and eventually the business became Hanfords. Not quite sure when that happened, but the E M Terrington of Avalon in Lynn Road referred to by Dick Melton was Aunt Nell Terrington. Reg and Nell had no children.

Douglas's elder brother John trained as a Pharmacist, and eventually owned a Chemist's shop in Herne Bay, Kent. He was married to Rose, not sure when, and they had a daughter Marjorie. I don't know very much about John except that it must have been a disappointment for him that in later life Rose developed serious mental problems, and Marjorie suffered poor health for most of her adult life.

I have attached a Terrington family photograph. It was taken on the lawn of Kingswood which is between Kingswood and Fern Villa. The exact date of the photo is not known, but I would say about 1913 or 1914. Back row are Douglas, Ruth, Reg, Eleanor and John. Seated are "not known", Frederick, Anne (nee Hunter), and Rose. On grass Marjorie and Maisie and pet dogs. Missing is Percy, perhaps he was the photographer.

I was pleasantly surprised to see a letter in the Oct 08 issue of VV from Eve Witney. She is in fact a long lost 2nd cousin. Our great grandfather was George Riches the builder. I can remember my grandmother, Ruth May Terrington (nee Riches) writing to a sister in Australia 60 or so years ago because I used to post the letter for her.

There were eight Riches children who survived infancy, and my grandmother Ruth May was the only one who remained in Dersingham. By the way, one sister's name has suffered a typo; it should be "Georgianna". My sister Anne and I would be pleased to make contact with Eve.

One final point. Frederick Terrington's mother (nee Kemp) had the unusual first name "Mahala".

Pat Linford (Old Dersinghamite)



This view of Linford's Corner has to have been taken between 1900 & 1920



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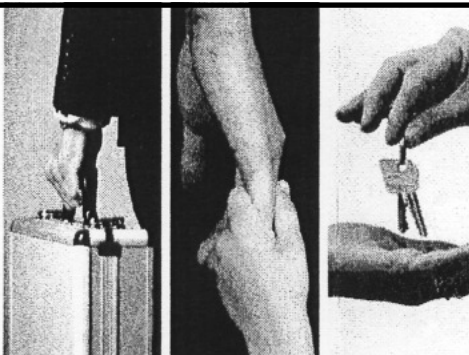
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The Sandringham Newsletter

*by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate
(late October)*



The pink-footed geese are back! One of the winter's most breathtaking sights is always the sky over the Estate filled with skeins of pink-foots heading inland to feed on sugar beet tops in the morning and returning to the coastal mud flats at sunset. There can be thousands of them at a time, the V-shaped skeins extending from horizon to horizon and sounding as if they are talking to each other as they go.

In other indications that autumn is well on the way and winter not far behind, shooting has begun on the Estate and we are now supplying Fortnum & Mason's Food Hall with partridge, rabbit and pigeon for the game counter. On the Fruit Farm, the Pick Your Own apple harvest has now finished (although apples are still available ready-bagged at the Visitor Centre), so the work of pressing hundreds of tons for juice has begun, and will continue at the juice factory (housed in converted barns) until after Christmas.

We are very pleased to welcome the Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House, to the Visitor Centre following the opening of a satellite office adjacent to our Plant Shop. The Sandringham Estate has had a long association with our local Hospice and has supported it in many ways. This latest project will enable the Hospice to use the office without charge as a base for their capital campaign which is raising funds towards the new purpose-built hospice at Hillington.

Earlier this month we welcomed members of the Carriage Foundation to Sandringham; they visited the House and Gardens and during a reception in their honour at the Museum they were able to view a special carriage exhibit set up by the Royal Mews in the Museum courtyard.

The Head Gardener has been carrying out tree surgery in the Gardens following the "dangerous trees survey" in the grounds, which checks all the trees to try to ensure that any which may be hazardous can be taken down before they fall down. We are particularly concerned about our horse chestnuts at present, because of problems caused by leaf miner and canker which are being experienced across the country. Elsewhere on the Estate, mechanical tree thinning of young conifers and broad leaved trees has begun; this process makes more light and air available to the remaining trees as they grow on, and the felled timber will go to the Sawmill to help them cope with the unprecedented demand they are currently experiencing for firewood.

The first year of the trial vegetable plot is now coming to an end; the Gardens department have been growing vegetables for use in the Visitor Centre Restaurant in a small area of the Walled Garden which was originally established to be the kitchen garden for Sandringham House in Edward VII's day. Like all growers, we have made mistakes over the year, growing too much of some things and not enough of others – the Visitor Centre cooks have had to be particularly creative with courgettes and pumpkins this year.

Other eco-friendly initiatives on the Estate this month include using recycled "grey water" for washing down farm vehicles, sourcing compostable potato-starch carrier bags for the Gift Shop, and installing a biomass boiler, powered by wood chips (produced as a forestry by-product on the Estate) to provide heating and hot water for a group of five properties. □

Our eagle eyed editor spotted this poster whilst on his hols in Great Yarmouth but he then had a second look and read it properly.

See page 35

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Parish Council report

A great deal has happened in Parish Council matters since the last edition of Village Voice was published, one could say that 2 months is a long time in politics, national or local.

We now have 2 more councillors Christopher Berry and Allan Maxwell, so a very warm welcome to them. We also heard of the sad death of George Pratt, who served the village for many, many years as chairman of our council and was also Mayor of the Borough and an Alderman.

The project to improve the area surrounding the War Memorial is progressing nicely and Cllr Murrell who is on the Recreation Ground Committee told the council that the proposed date for the work to begin is the 17th November 2008. The plan had originally been to have everything done and dusted by Remembrance Day this year, sadly this is not to be. The biggest problem is disposing of the excess soil and grass from the site; Cllr Bubb suggested however that some of the turf could be used to renovate the goal mouths on the Sports Ground. Who says the Parish Council doesn't recycle.

Many of you will be pleased to hear that a positive decision has been made regarding public access to Life Wood, following the recent Public Enquiry. One of the 2 routes in question is soon to be opened for public use and no appeal will be accepted against this decision. Many villagers had strong views on the closure of the right of ways and made these views known at the Public Inquiry. This obviously was borne in mind when making the final decision.

The replacement of the 'large' library sign which is in situ at the moment, by a smaller version (more in keeping with our village) has not been forgotten, our County Councillor is progress chasing this for us.

There is no further news re local government reorganisation as I write. We will have to wait a little longer for this, although County Hall have voted for the status quo, or failing that, a single unitary authority, excluding Lowestoft. I suppose it is a case of watch this space.

Now I am sure that we are all aware of the credit crunch, we all have to tighten our belts. So it appears are the County Council. County Cllr Eells said that the increasing cost of fuel would have an effect on Highway services and that there was a backlog of structural maintenance requirements. The County have also £32.5 million invested with the now bankrupt Icelandic bank. She would enlighten the Parish Council further with an update at November's Parish Council meeting. She did not think services would be threatened as a result of the funds being inaccessible (frozen). Fingers crossed therefore that the money is not lost, after all it belongs to us all.

Finally, the long running saga of the planting of low growing roses at the Chapel/Manor Road junction. They have been planted and, if you should look carefully, you will see small rose plants. They have small red flowers blooming; well a few of them have, although by the time this Village Voice is published, these may have disappeared. The phrase 'Out of small acorns, mighty oaks will grow', comes to mind, but as I have said before, we are in the midst of a credit crunch. □

Village Voice Sudoku No 2 Solution

4	7	8	6	5	1	2	3	9
2	6	1	9	7	3	5	8	4
5	3	9	4	8	2	1	6	7
7	9	5	2	6	4	8	1	3
6	4	3	1	9	8	7	5	2
1	8	2	5	3	7	4	9	6
8	5	7	3	4	6	9	2	1
9	2	6	7	1	5	3	4	8
3	1	4	8	2	9	6	7	5

DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP

Twenty two walkers enjoyed the walk through Old Hunstanton Park and Ringstead Downs nature reserve on a blustery afternoon in October: it is hoped that we will see similar numbers on the walks throughout the winter.

The December walk was detailed in the last edition of Village Voice but it will be slightly longer than stated then. Details of the walks in December and January are:

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER

Start at 1.30 pm from the car park behind the Dogotel, off the A148 at Harpley Dams (map ref L132/772 255). A 4½ miles circular walk taking in part of Peddars Way and Great Massingham led by Pat Reed (540757).

WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY 2009

Start at 1.30 pm from the car park off the Ringstead/Burnham road (map ref L132/723 405). A 4½ miles circular walk around Courtyard Farm led by Valerie and Michael Smith (540728).

Details of the walks planned for February and March will be given in the next edition.

There is NO CHARGE for these walks: just turn up on the day (wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear). WELL-BEHAVED dogs are welcome provided that 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. □



RIGHTS OF WAY IN LIFE WOOD

The church hall was full at the start of the Inquiry into Norfolk County Council's Order to add two public footpaths through Life Wood to the Definitive Map and Statement. The two footpaths were

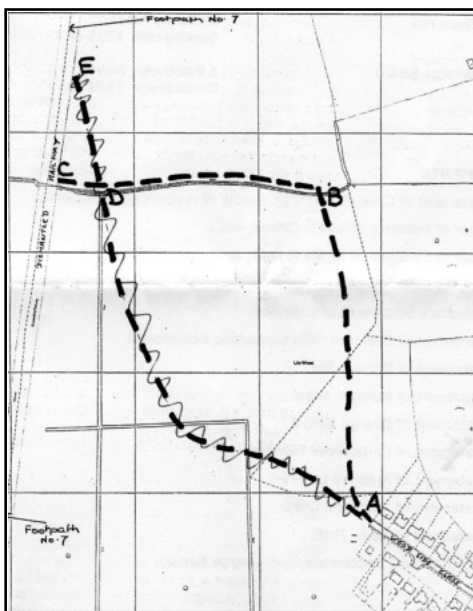
(a) from Woodside Close running north towards Ingoldisthorpe Common and then west to the old railway (A - B - C)

(b) from Woodside Close in a generally north-west direction to the old railway. (A - D - E)

After hearing the evidence and visiting the site, the Inspector considered the matter and his decision was announced on 13th October; full details were sent to those who 'signed in' at the Inquiry.

The Inspector confirmed the path running north from Woodside Avenue then west to the old railway but not the path mentioned in (b) above.

The decision can be challenged in the High Court within 42 days of the Order but, if it is not, it is to be hoped that access to Life Wood will be facilitated by the County Council in the near future □



Keith Starks

Coming Events at Park House

Dates for Your Diary

Friday 28th November – 7.30 pm

A Concert of Poetry, Humour & Music

Featuring Doreen Reed & Steve Layne
Tickets £5.00 incl. Light refreshments

Sunday 7th December – from 2.00 till 5.00 pm

Park House Christmas Fayre

Stalls galore – Local crafts and Christmas Goodies
Entry £1.00 at the door

Sunday 14th December - 2.30 pm

Seasonal songs and carols from our local award-winning choir

‘Cantos’

Another wonderful afternoon concert for the whole family
Tickets £7.50 including seasonal afternoon tea

Wednesday 17th December - 7.30 pm

A Christmas Concert

Celebrating Christmas with seasonal music, readings and carols
Once again featuring Guest Musicians and Singers
Under the direction of Peter Hook, Organist
at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Sandringham
Tickets £7.50 incl. Mulled wine and mince pies after the concert

Sunday 21st December - 8.00 pm

Another **‘Christmas Extravaganza’** presented by

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Old Picture Corner

Two views appropriate to the current season this time. Sandringham House through the Norwich Gates before the shrubs were planted obscuring the house and Joan Schorah supplied this New Year Gala shot but alas she is standing in front of the bit showing the year.





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Goose News


The first count of the pink-footed geese at Snettisham RSPB reserve took place on 13 October when just over 8,500 geese left the roost. These counts will continue throughout the winter and are coordinated with the other major roosts. Numbers will be very much higher now and should be close to the winter maximum.

This year I have been lucky enough to see pink-footed geese away from this region. In March I was at the RSPB Vane Farm reserve on the shores of Loch Leven in Scotland and saw hundreds of geese fly in over the snow capped mountains on their way north to their Icelandic breeding grounds. And in mid October I saw the first returning geese at the RSPB Berney Marshes reserve in The Broads. This flock has grown from a few hundred to around nine thousand in recent years and is the most southerly concentration of pink-footed geese. They feed on the grazing marsh grass and don't set off in search of sugar beet tops like our local sweet beaked birds.


If you wish to join a RSPB 'Geese Galore' early morning event at Snettisham they will be held on November 28, 29, 30, December 5, 6, 19, 20, 21 and January 3, 4, 5. Optional full English breakfast is available with these events at 'The Old Bank' Snettisham. For more details and to book please phone 01485 210779. Alternatively, you can make your own way down to see the geese leave the roost at first light on the RSPB reserve. If you decide to do this it is best to avoid the mornings five days either side of a full moon when their movements can be unpredictable. Another option for those who need their beauty sleep is to try Lady Anne's Drive at Holkham, where you should be able to see pink-footed geese (along with some white-fronted geese) using the Natural England managed grazing marshes at any time of the day. These birds have learnt that this is a safe place to feed and rest and they allow much closer views than in areas where they may be shot. □

David Bingham

Father Christmas



Choir



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A Christmas Fayre

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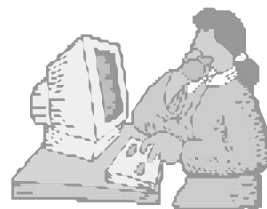
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From the parish office....



Writing this on a cold damp November morning Open Day seems a very long time ago. Saturday 20th September was a beautiful sunny day, one of the sadly few beautiful sunny Saturdays this summer. Thirteen different groups accepted the Parish Council's invitation to take this opportunity to advertise and promote their organisations in the Community Centre. The Lavender Lacemakers, the Bridge Club and the Carpet Bowls Club all gave demonstrations throughout the afternoon. Connecting Communities and the Safer Neighbourhood Team were there to answer questions and listen to problems. Steve Davis played his guitar and sang throughout the afternoon. Tea, coffee and biscuits were free. All the ingredients were there for a successful event. All that was missing were the public. It was a beautiful day so perhaps parishioners had decided to make the most of the weather by going out. But it was very disappointing for those who had spent time setting up their stands and manning them all afternoon. Was it the wrong time of year? Was it the wrong venue? Events of this type take a great deal of planning for everyone involved. Please let the Parish Council know your views on whether another Open Day should be held at all.



Now a word about noticeboards. Dersingham is well equipped with noticeboards; there are four Parish Council noticeboards, and the large one outside Budgens for organisations to publicise forthcoming events. You may have noticed how full the Budgens noticeboard usually is. The Parish Council have recently decided that, to be fair to everyone, only posters advertising events up to six weeks ahead will be displayed. Also, we have been asked recently to display posters in the four Parish Council noticeboards. Unfortunately these are quite small noticeboards and so must be kept exclusively for Parish Council notices.

I must explain to those who have pledged money for the War Memorial Area Enhancement Project why the work was not carried out in time for this year's Remembrance Day service. In order to substantially reduce the cost of the project the trainees of the National Construction College at Bircham Newton are to carry out the ground preparation work. But they were not able to carry out the work until mid-November. This was very disappointing for all concerned, but once the project is completed there will be a peaceful garden area for both residents and visitors. Thank you to everyone who has pledged for the project, once the work is underway we will be contacting you, and I hope when I write the next "from the parish office" I can report that the project is complete.

The parish office will close for the Christmas holiday period on Tuesday 23rd December 2008 at 2 pm and reopen on Monday 5th January 2009 at 10.30 am. Any messages can be left on the parish answerphone 01485 541465.

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. □

Irene Woods, Acting Clerk

Edwina

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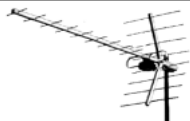
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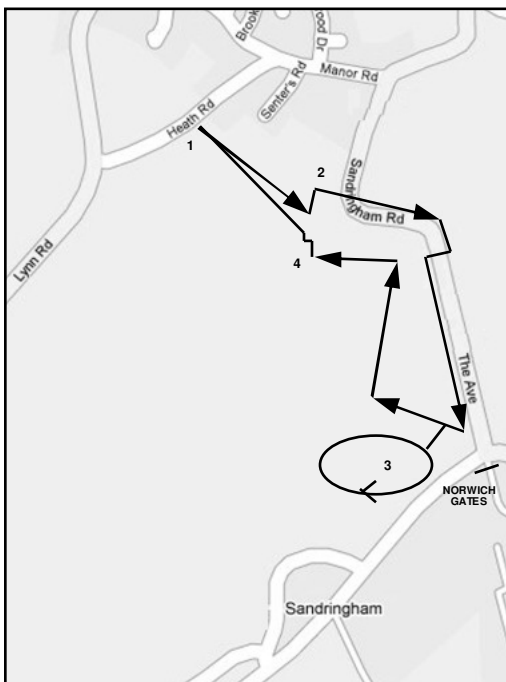
SHORT STROLLS IN AND AROUND DERSINGHAM

2. Dersingham Common and the Sculptures at Sandringham

This circular stroll is about 1¾ miles long and starts from the Dersingham Common Information Board (1 on the sketch) opposite the small car park off Heath Road. Facing the common by the Information Board take the path bearing 45° left and follow this until a path (with a finger post) is reached on the left. Take this path around the field to Sandringham Road (2 on the sketch). Cross (with care) and follow the pavement up the hill until the tarmac ends. Recross the road and walk outside the row of copper beech trees towards the Norwich Gates. Shortly before the end of the row of trees there is a path (by a wooden fence) into the wood on the right. Take this path for about 70 yards until you see a wide opening on the left. Go through this and walk straight ahead till you reach a mown grass path.

Follow this circular path in a clockwise direction to discover the five (at the time of writing) wood sculptures (3 on the sketch). When you have completed the circle return to the path by which you entered the wood and turn left.

Follow this path and take the first well-used path on your right through the trees. This will bring you to a green cross-track. Turn left and follow this until you reach a fingerpost on your right (4 on the sketch). Take the (often muddy) path indicated as it winds through the bushes and crosses two bridges on its way to Dersingham Common. Follow it straight ahead till it meets a wider path and follow this downhill back to the Information Board.



NB. If you would like a longer stroll this walk can be combined with Short Stroll No. 1 as they both include the Avenue to the Norwich Gates. □

Keith Starks

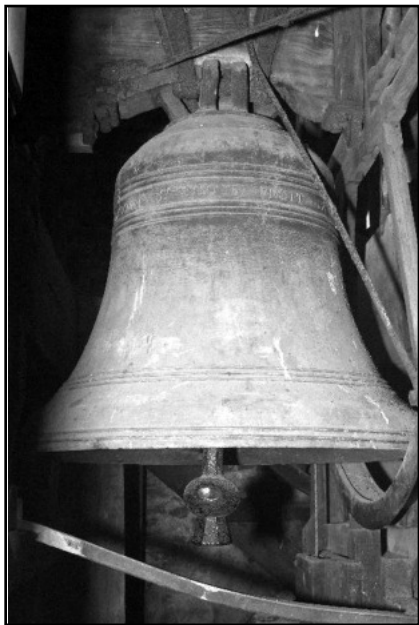




Ancient bells and St. Nicholas Church



As you pass the church of St. Nicholas and hear the clock strike or maybe hear the bells ringing out for Sunday Worship have you ever wondered what lies within the tower and how it came about and how they work?



Bells have been with man since the Bronze Age, mentioned in the Bible, ancient China, Tibet etc. When excavating a grave of a Bronze Age princess recently they found the remains complete with horses, chariot and harness, yes, complete with tiny bells, round shaped with a tiny ball inside and a slit for sound (known as crotals), the permafrost having preserved her for centuries on the Mongolian plain. Needless to say, man has had an association with bells for around four thousand years. The first bells were no more than simple gourds or nutshells struck with a piece of wood. Clay followed and finally the bronzed metal bell.

Throughout Medieval Europe and England bells of the familiar shape chimed haphazardly for worship and as alarms in times of war, sounding the time of the day and night for the monks and nuns in monastery and convent alike.

Court jesters used small bells on their tunics (crotals) and today we see them on the uniforms of our popular Morris Dancers and used as sleigh bells.

Bells also play a part in music. Carillons have been and are still popular in some towns. Door bells, telephone bells and police and fire bells on earlier vehicles are part, in some form, of everyday life.

Handbells are part of our musical pleasure and are widespread throughout the world. England was the first country to change from haphazard chiming of church bells to full circle change ringing. If a bell is chimed in a church belfry the bell hangs down as seen on a typical Christmas card. Around 1868 the Ancient Society of College Youths arranged ringing in methods, bells having now been changed to ring full circle. This meant the bell was raised upside down and supported with a wooden prop resting against a wooden slat sliding between the wooden bell frame, the sound coming off the lip of the bell now sounding out of the tower windows and deflected by wooden baffles out into the surrounding countryside. From this, the idea of method ringing was evolved with bells changing position by timing, leading onto lengths of ringing called quarter and full peals. A quarter peal consisted of 1260 changes and a full peal of 5040 changes taking 40 minutes and three hours respectively.

The St Nicholas tower consists of six bells ranging in weight from 3 cwt 3 qrs to 9 cwt 8 qrs. Dating from 1630 to 1773, the bells have just been restored with new bearings this year. The tower clock was installed in 1902 by the gift of King Edward VII.



We have an active band of ringers ring for Sunday services, weddings etc. and practice every Monday 7 – 9 p.m.

The art of change ringing, methods rounds, call changes is another story in itself. The interested reader is invited to see for him or herself by contacting the author on 542147 or attending a practice evening.

Having mentioned handbells, new teams are being formed by Dersingham Ringers. Again interested parties should contact the author. My thanks to all those who provided source information for this article. □

Alan Polaine, Tower Captain

The Church of St Nicholas, Dersingham.			
The Bells and their Inscriptions.			
	Diameter	Weight	Pitch
Treble	26 ½"	3cwt:3qr: 0lbs	E
		1773	

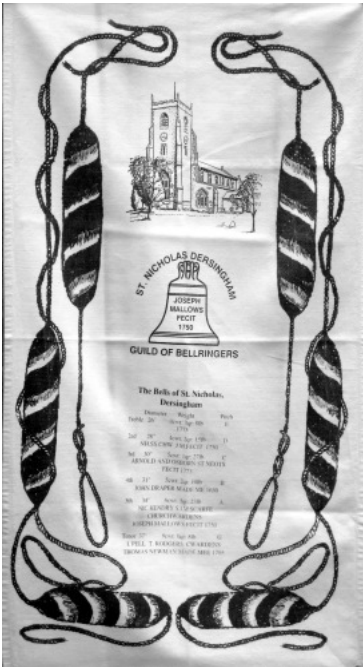
2 nd	28 ½"	4cwt:2qr:15lbs	D
		NH.SS.CHW J.M.FECIT 1750	

3 rd	30"	5cwt:1qr:27lbs	C
		ARNOLD AND OSBORN ST NEOTS	
		FECIT 1773	

4 th	31 ¼"	5cwt:2qr:10lbs	B
		JOHN DRAPER MADE ME 1630	

5 th	34"	6cwt:3qr:23lbs	A
		NIC HENDRY SAM SCARFE CHVRCHWARDONS	
		JOSEPH MALLOWES FECIT 1750	

6 th	37 ¾"	9cwt:0qr: 8lbs	G
		I.PELL T.ROGERS CWARDENS	
		THOMAS NEWMAN MADE MEE 1705	



Some of you may still have the commemorative tea towel that was produced a few years ago. Probably worth a fortune on E-bay now!

New Beauty Salon

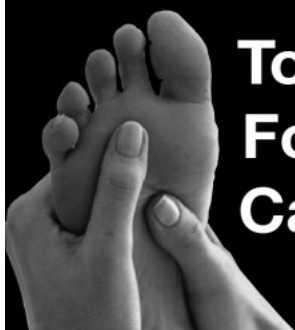
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CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE

PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP NEWS

GP APPOINTMENTS SYSTEM

Patients have for some time expressed a wish to be able to book appointments further ahead than is allowed under the current system, i.e. 2 days ahead. As of 1 January 2009, the practice will respond to this wish by allowing patients to book appointments up to 4 weeks ahead. However, patients should be aware that to cater for this change there will inevitably be fewer appointment slots available for "on the day" booking. The practice guarantees however, that if a doctor decides that a patient **needs** to be seen on the day that they call for an appointment, they will be seen, but possibly at Gayton Road Health Centre.

When a patient makes a phone call or a personal request for an appointment, he or she will be offered one of the following options depending on appointment slot and doctor availability:

- 1 An appointment with his or her nominated doctor.
- 2 An appointment with another doctor if the problem is urgent and cannot wait.
- 3 An opportunity to speak to his or her nominated doctor, if available, on the phone.
- 4 The opportunity to speak to another doctor on the phone if the problem cannot wait.
- 5 An appointment with a triage nurse if the problem is one with which the nurse can deal.
- 6 An appointment in one of the chronic care clinics if that is appropriate.

As patients, we should be aware that the practice provides some 10,000 appointments per month and therefore it may take a little while for the new system to settle down. We should therefore be 'patient patients'! We should realise that the change is made with our best interests in mind and we can help by not demanding an appointment "on the day" unless the need is urgent. As the new system settles in, it should hopefully become unnecessary to be queuing at the health centre door before opening time. To avoid missing appointments booked well ahead, and should you so wish, a mobile phone text message reminder can be sent to you at no cost if you complete a form at reception when you next visit the health centre. □

CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE STAFF

Practice Manager – Hilary Judd.

Doctors – Steve Summers, Elizabeth Vaughan-Williams, Anil Goel and Zubair Alam.

Team Leader – Sharon Leggett.

Receptionists – Donna Chaffey, Debbie Peel and Mandy Pearson.

Secretaries – Nicola Clarke and Lauren Richmond (also deal with all forms including insurance)

Computer/Accounts Assistant – Nicole Jolley. **Audit clerk** – Janeen Henshaw.

Nurse Practitioner/Diabetic Nurse – Carolyn Rix, **Treatment Room** – Clare Hipkin, Debbie Deadman.

Specialist nurses – **Well Woman** – Becky Kent and Mandy Pearson, **CHD/Hypertension** – Gilly McCowen and Sally Penment, **Respiratory** – Mandy Pearson, **Diabetic** – Geoff Sadler. (The specialist nurses work from both surgeries), **Health Care Assistant** – Paulette Judd.

Dispensary Manager – Shirley Simmonds; **Dispensary Assistant/Prescription clerks** – Jean Gould and Julia Barrett.

Tom Morris

Cover photo competition runners up



Leanne Kendrick



Steve Davis

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Ivan Green remembers

What an interesting series of photographs over the last few editions of Village Voice starting with The White Horse (issue 51). I will fill in a few further properties for Bernie Twite from the days I can remember. The very bottom left shows the bottom of our garden and the roof of Alex Fisher's bungalow next Munro's office (previously Mrs. Grief), then the old bam that belonged to "Old Fred" or "Tinker" Balding. Going the other way, next to our garden was Fisher's fish and chip shop premises. The big barn (potato store) has been pulled down leaving the garage where the mobile fish and chip vans were stored and also shows the building where the crisps (West Norfolk Supercrisps) were made and packed. We do not quite get to the fish shop. Crossing the road we have the semi detached cottages – the right hand one was inhabited by Fred and Lizzy Magnus whose father had previously kept the Dun Cow. Next the hut that was the barber's shop operated by Harry "Ridley" Reynolds then his house, often the focal point on 5th November. Next we come to the store and club rooms for the White Horse and set back from the road, the White Horse and block of garages. To the right the next block in a state of dereliction was the White Horse Farm which, by the time of the photo, had been pulled down but previously owned by James Balding (my grandfather). This consisted of the crew yard on the left, last used by Sonny Skipp to park his "honey wagon" (Gulley Snokes). The big barn by the road has gone so have the main crew shed, cowshed and stables. The cart shed was demolished to widen the White Horse Drive and radius the corner when Gelham Manor council houses were being built.



Now if you compare the Ralph postcard (page 7 issue 53) with the above – two blocks of cottages on the left hand side of the road hide Old Fred's house and show the end of his barn which in turn hides Grief's house and where Fisher's bungalow would later be built. The last building would be the fish shop complex. At the end of the road (strictly speaking at the corner and junction with Post Office Road) can be seen West View where Elsie Ewer lived. Her shop was the next one down Post Office Road.

The right hand side of the road shows the cart shed and barn of James Balding's White Horse Farm and the Harry Reynolds house, all the White Horse Public House property being hidden by the old barn.

Coming now to the pictures on page 31 of issue 54, the top picture is of Charlie Reynolds' house with his greenhouse in the distance. This, together with other greenhouses, formed his nursery. The building beyond the greenhouse was "Cherry" Reynold's house, somewhat dilapidated and neglected – as was poor old "Cherry".

The bottom picture shows on the left near the second electricity pole Charlie Reynold's house again, then in the next house lived Eddie Reynolds and family. Eddie was a good sportsman – cricketer and also played for both Dersingham and King's Lynn at football. Then next was Mrs. Croat. (There may have been two). ►



We now come to a row of four terraced houses owned by James Balding. He and his wife lived at the far end where they also had a dairy and sold milk. Next was Mr. and Mrs. Billy Sutton – he was a signal man at Wolferton Station. Then in my early days Jimmy Yallop and Miss Morris – she had previously been in the circus. I remember she always had a stock pot on top of the black leaded kitchen stove. When these two treasures passed on Bill Barrat (the Marley Tile man) and family moved in. We were invited to watch the Coronation on his T.V. The next house was where I was born and bred, the bit tagged on the end previously a shop. We had an old incubator and hatched chickens, ducks and turkeys, most interesting to watch. Where the wall has fallen down was part of the garage. I remember it in its heyday with the showroom and canopy before it caught fire and even being woken up when it caught fire. The white railing on the other side of the road separated Ewers' shop from their house. The first building shown going up Post Office Road is the Post Office, before the extension. This was run by Miss Beckett and taken over in my time by Fred



Lee (previously of Linford's shop) and his wife Ann. Part time I did delivery of telegrams for them. Next was Dot Chambers and then the Wesleyan Chapel followed by Stanley Bird's bungalow (not seen) and Eastwick's cottage in the distance.

As for the phone box, I have no idea of the type suffice to say that it was like the one almost opposite to where I now live before it was replaced with the modern one. It is fairly unusual being cream in its framework with red panels. □

Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening Times

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

Christmas Holiday - Closed Dec 24th - Jan 4th inclusive

The Dersingham Parish Council Office is at

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Joan Schorah-540491- for a leaflet with full details. In 2007 local residents gave over **300 boxes** helping to provide **8 million** children worldwide with a gift last Christmas



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Two new Parish Councillors

Chris Berry

Hello, I have lived in Dersingham now for over three years with my fiancée Claire. I work for myself as a senior sales manager for local companies in King's Lynn and outer Norwich. I was born in Benfleet, Essex and moved to Norfolk in the early seventies, to the market town of Watton. At this present time I am busy organising my wedding with Claire, who is a local school teacher. I have been involved with Watton Football Association committee. This has enabled me to experience working within the community. My hobbies include history, gardening and exploring local areas of interest (of which this area, as we all know, has an abundance). I look forward to becoming involved in our flourishing local community, working as a local councillor.



Allan Maxwell



I'm 43 years of age and I have lived in the West Norfolk area for some 10 years although only in Dersingham for the last 2 years. I'm married to Clare and have 3 children, Sarah, Michael and Jonathan and feel very very settled indeed within our community, although I was originally born in Ayr on the West Coast of Scotland.

Currently employed within the Royal Air Force at RAF Marham, I play a pivotal role within the Engineering Support Flight. However, I have spent the last 4 years working away from home, commuting back to Norfolk from the Bristol area on a weekly basis, so 20 miles a day to work is a whole new experience.

After settling back into Dersingham and a different work role, I feel that the timing is right for me to offer my services to the village, in particular in supporting the way our community functions and of course, the people within it. As a serviceman, it's not always easy to establish where you wish to settle due to the nature of our jobs. Therefore, having found Dersingham, it seemed only right for me to join the Parish Council in support of the values and ethos of our community.

I have several interests involving many sports but preferably team events and we both certainly enjoy gardening, travelling, as well as spending as much time with our children as possible. That said, most of our time appears to be spent renovating our cottage which, although it has been a rewarding challenge, has also been a lengthy and demanding process.

We certainly have a wonderful village and, having moved around the country for the last 25 years, Dersingham clearly stands out above many other villages, so I'm keen to support our residents in voicing their opinions and of course, in maintaining the principles and values of our Parish Council.

Kidz Klub

It is for 5 - 11 year olds. It is full of games, stories, songs and much more. It is for children living in Dersingham. We hope you will come and join us! We are going to meet once a month on a Saturday morning, 10am - 12noon in the St. Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road.

Our first one is on Saturday 13th December, then on the Second Saturday every month. It is being organised by St. Nicholas Church and other local Churches.

Registration Forms available from Alan/June Crawshaw, 47 Old Hall Drive Tel. 543836. Please return to us by 7th December. □

St Nicholas Church Dersingham



Christmas Tree Festival

Friday 5th & Saturday 6th December 2008
10am - 4pm

Sunday 7th December 12noon - 4pm

To Celebrate the Feast
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The Church will be decorated with trees and
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In the Church Hall

Friday 5th December. Refreshments & Stalls 10am - 4pm

St. Nicholas Church Christmas Fayre

Saturday 6th December 2008 10am - 4pm

Christmas Gifts - Decorations - Hand Made Cards - Raffle
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Christmas at Sandringham



This year we're under cover, with lots of activities for under-12s, including a visit to Father Christmas! A purpose-built roller-skating rink will be open daily during the school holidays, plus plenty of things to do including story-telling, face-painting and cake-decorating – and the chance to tell Father Christmas whether you've been naughty or nice this year. Come and join us in the Christmas Marquee at the Sandringham Visitor Centre.

Roller-skating

20th December to 4th January*

10 am to 5 pm (*not Christmas Day) £4.00 per session

Creative activities

20th December to 4th January*

11 am to 4 pm (*not Christmas Day) £2.00 per session

Father Christmas

20th to 24th December, 1 pm to 4 pm £5.00 per visit

Further details and advance bookings:
contact the Christmas Hotline on



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Hunstanton & District Lions Club

The "George Raines Sporting Achievement Award" this year was won by Jake Butterworth. With the cooperation of Smithdon School this trophy is presented annually to, in the view of the school, the student who has given the most to promote, participate, and support sport in the school year. It is not only for personal achievement but for the sporting ethos. If there is no suitable candidate in any year, there will be no award !. George

Raines was an outstanding Lion and expressed a wish to give young people in our area an award for sport and Hunstanton Lions are pleased to arrange this. Well done Jake.

On September 27th we held a very successful "Race Night" at Old Hunstanton Social Club. This raised around £350.00 for our Charity funds. Many thanks to all of you who supported this event.

December is a very busy month for us. This is when we hold our everpopular "Santa's Grotto" This year it will be in the basement of Hunstanton Town Hall, so very central for when you are doing your Christmas shopping in Town. It also coincides with a "Craft Fair" which we are holding in the Town Hall. Both events are on December 13th, 14th, 21st, and 24th (Christmas Eve). Everyone is welcome. Just the job for picking up some rather special extra Christmas gifts.

We will report on other activities in the February Edition of "Dersingham Village Voice". These have not taken place at the time of going to press. Notably our usual support for "Children in Need", on November 14th. Last year we raised over £800.00 for this very worthy cause, and this year we hope to have raised even more. Also the Hunstanton "Christmas Cracker" event on November 23rd when the town festive lights were switched on with the help of Santa in his new sleigh, provided by Hunstanton Lions.

Winners of our "200 Club" draw were Malcombe Rossiter, William May, Jumbo Baker and Sean Turrell. November and December winners will be announced in the February edition. We would be pleased to hear from anyone who is interested in our Club and what we do, or if you know of anyone who may need our help. □



Toddler Group
Fridays 9:15-10:45 Community Centre

- 🦆 Welcome Parents/childminders
Plenty of carparking. Large meeting room
Come along join in our fun, chat, laughter, networking
Meet up with friends & a chance to make new ones too
- 🦆 Great toys and fun for toddlers
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for running about playing too.
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Elizabeth Fiddick

CHRISTMAS PAST

As we draw near once more to the festive season I thought of these memories of Christmas past recorded by some Dersingham villagers during the interviews conducted in 1999 for the Millennium History Project. They are reproduced here in the villager's own words transcribed directly from the tapes.

Doreen Asker

Doreen was born in Dersingham and lived at Doddshill



Christmas puddings and mince pies were made. You made your own mince meat. We had a big house full of relatives. Every Christmas Mum used to have to make a new hearth rug. You cut up old coats and she was always sitting and finishing them on Christmas Eve. All the cottages had them. She made a carpet out of rug wool. Her and Dad did that of an evening. We did not have a radio. We used to sit and play jig-saws and dad had a clock and we would time each other who could get down to the

least time to finish the jig-saw. My friend, who lived down Doddshill, had a radio and when "Dick Barton" was on we were able to go down to listen. We had chicken at Christmas and that was another thing done on Christmas Eve. The chickens were killed in the week and they were dressed and had to hang in the shed until Christmas Eve and Dad was always out in the shed plucking the chicken and Mum was doing the rug. There used to be wine merchants down in the village, Norfolk Stores. That's the old cottage next to Red Pumps. We used to go down there Christmas Eve.

This is the wine merchants Norfolk Stores as it was and also as it is today. The building has seen many changes. From about 1874 Enoch Beckett, draper and grocer, is also recorded as running the Post Office from here before moving in about 1897 to the building we know today. The shop was also run at one time by Alfred Maxey, and later H. Cobbald. Many villagers remember it as Norfolk Stores but when I came to the village in 1968 the wine merchants still traded from here. A little later a Laundrette operated round the back before it became a private house.

H. J. COBBALD

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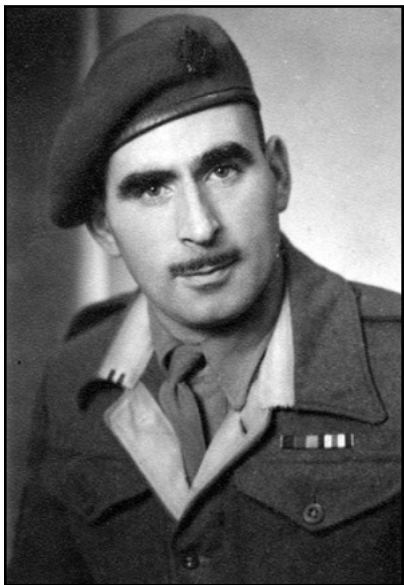
Sidney John Mitchell usually known as John

Mr Mitchell was born in Dersingham in 1916 and at the time of the interview lived at Four Winds Fern Hill. When he left school in 1933 he went into Royal Service and was a footman in the Royal household until the outbreak of war.

I remember Queen Maude who had her residence at Appleton House. She was one of Queen Victoria's daughters. When Queen Victoria bought Sandringham for her son and heir Edward VII I think it was decided that she should be given Appleton so that she could come whenever she wanted from Norway. She used to walk from Appleton House to Sandringham House on most days to the Post Office. It had its own Post Office. In those days letters were not delivered; that was the function of the House Boy to collect the mail from Sandringham Post Office once or twice a day.

It was the visit of the Royal Family that was waited for all year and Sandringham became a very busy place. They would bring the horses with them. The highlight of the Christmas visit was the distribution of beef on Christmas Eve that took place every year and was held in what later became garages. The beef was home produced and butchered and then you would assemble in a queue in alphabetical order. That was the Christmas dinner. Depending on your length of service and position in the pecking order you were allocated beef. You took a nice clean towel or tea cloth and when your name was called you would plough through the clean straw on the floor and put your cloth down and the beef was banged in. You would acknowledge the Royal Family as they sat and you'd be on your way with your dinner.

Clifford Riches



Mr Riches was born in Dersingham in 1913. His father was the shoe repairer and shoe maker and until recently his family still ran the shop. Mr Riches worked at Sandringham as a young man and was a postman in the village for many years.

On Christmas Day 1929 or 30. The Prince of Wales, later the Duke of Windsor, now you hear a lot of things about him but I worshipped him. I thought he was a wonderful chap and his brothers. The Prince of Wales was a great golfer and he'd been on his world tour in the Renown, the battle ship Renown. He covered the whole world. He was the best ambassador we had. Anyway this Christmas Day I'd gone home from Sandringham and was having Christmas dinner with my parents. Now we were all sitting round the table and a knock came on the door. It was the head gardener from Sandringham. I used to caddy for the Princes and their guests when they came.

He said, "The Prince of Wales has rung me up. They had their dinner and he and his three brothers want to have a round of golf." (They had a nine hole course in the Park.) "Can you find four caddies?" I said, "Yes I

expect so." Anyway my brothers, the blacksmith, my brother who lives in Australia now, and the boy who we lost in the war. He was only a tiddler. "I'll go Cliff." "Cos half a crown you got;" I said to poor old Claude. He was only a kid. "You could never carry the bag, boy." "I can carry them." So away we went. Four brothers caddied for four royal brothers that day. The Duke of Gloucester, the Prince of Wales, Duke of York, later King George VI, Prince George who was the youngest of the four princes. He was killed in an air crash during the war on the way to Iceland. Their youngest brother and my youngest brother were both killed in the war. □

George William Pratt (Honorary Alderman)

23 June 1920 - 8 September 2008

George William Pratt died at the age of 88 on the 8th September 2008 at the Leicestershire home of his daughter Pauleen.

George, whose father was a shepherd, was born on the 23 June 1920 in Hingham, Norfolk, the third child of a family of nine. During childhood he moved around Norfolk and was educated at various village schools. After he left school, at 14 years of age, he went to live in Acle where his first employment was on a farm, a part of his life he said he thoroughly enjoyed.

In 1949 George was married to Eileen who was sorely missed by him when she passed away in 1988. They had three children William, Peter (who was disabled following a road crash in 1981) and Pauleen - and there are three Grandchildren - Nigel, Sarah and Laura and now three Great Grandchildren Callum, Kyle and Ewan.

In 1940 he was called up and joined the Royal Army Medical Corps. During the war he was posted to the Far East where he served in a Field Ambulance Unit which was part of an Indian Army Brigade. After the war he thought he would return to agriculture but found that he missed the medical world and went back to nursing at Thorpe St Andrews Hospital, followed by other hospitals in that area but in the early 1950s he moved to the old King's Lynn Hospital in London Road.

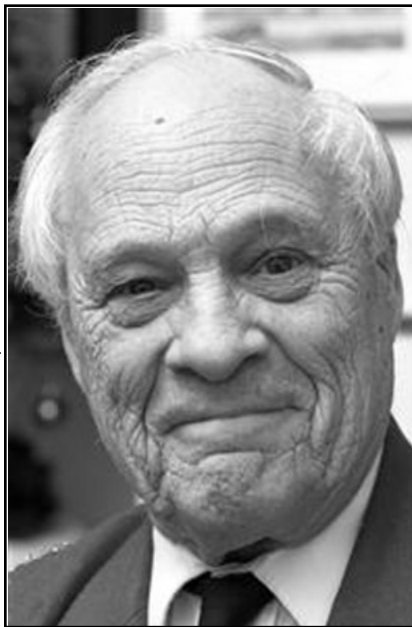
Ever since George left the Regular Army he had been a member of the Territorial Army and about 10 years after he went to the Kings Lynn Hospital he joined the permanent staff of the Territorial Army as a Sergeant working in a Field Dressings Station, later being attached to the Norfolk Yeomanry. Age forced him to retire from the TA when he was 50 and he was appointed Adult Instructor to the Norfolk Army Cadet Force based at Sandringham, eventually being promoted to Regimental Sergeant Major. He was then commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and appointed Area Staff Officer of No 3 Area. After various promotions George left the ACF just after his 65th birthday with the honorary rank of Major.

George Pratt lived a very full and active life, in the service of others. He served in the Regular Army during the Second World War, had a long career in the Territorial Army, then the Norfolk Army Cadet Force and later as a Crown employee. He has cared for people through his nursing work in hospitals, served 16 years on the County Council, 12 years on the Borough Council and 43 years on the Parish Council for Dersingham which he regarded as his home village.

He had been Mayor, later to become an Honorary Alderman in 2004, to King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council and was a Major in the Norfolk Army Cadet Force. George had received a letter of commendation from the Prince of Wales for his tireless public work.

Having lived in the village of Dersingham since 1953, he first entered local government when he became a member of the Dersingham Parish Council around 1960. He continued to serve on that council until recently and had been its Chairman for 30 years.

He also served as a member of the Docking Rural District Council for 15 years until it was disbanded and the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk was created. He had been a member of Norfolk County Council since 1985 where he served on Fire and Consumer Services and the Social Services Committees. He had intended to retire from this in early May 2001 but because of the delayed County Council elections continued until 7 June 2001 as a member.



George was first elected a Borough Councillor in 1991 as a member for the Snettisham Ward, but in 1995 he was elected to represent Dersingham. During that time he has served on the Housing and Planning Committees.

In the year 2000 George became Deputy Mayor to Councillor Paul Richards. George proved himself an energetic and popular Deputy and was absolutely thrilled when asked to be Mayor for the year 2001-2002. His daughter-in-law, Sue Pratt, supported George during his terms as Deputy Mayor and as Mayor, acting as his Mayoress in both instances and was a great help to George during his time in office.

His proudest achievement in life was that of securing the A149 bypass which now reduces the amount of traffic passing through the villages of Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham. Dersingham Parish Council campaigned to name the Dersingham roundabout "The Alderman George Pratt Roundabout" which came to fruition in 2005.

George celebrated his 80th birthday with a surprise party and was thrilled to be given, as gifts, contributions from all who attended to send him on a tour of Burma and the Far East, an area he had long wanted to return to after having seen service there during the Second World War. He spent nearly a month out there during the spring of 2001 with his son, William, and believes it to have been one of the highlights of his long life.

After his son Peter's accident George became Peter's carer and devoted a large amount of his time looking after and helping Peter in his daily life routine. In the last months of his life George moved to Leicestershire to live with his daughter Pauleen, a qualified nurse who cared for him after he was diagnosed with cancer in March of this year.

Pauleen has been reported as saying that "Council work was very much his life. He just had such a commitment to the village and to helping people. He was somebody who would not moan about something if he could be proactive and do something about it. He was a worker and enjoyed working. People found him to be a bit of a character. He always had a tale to tell and always had time for people. He was a great dad and my best friend. As kids, I remember we watched him Chaining meetings and, even though we missed him, we knew it was just something that was a part of him. He was difficult, cantankerous and argumentative but he stood by us all and supported the choices we made. He was just a nice old boy. The gap he will leave is immeasurable. He had always been involved in public life, it was something he just did. He enjoyed understanding the system and was then able to use the contacts he had to help people. Even after retiring, people would call him for advice, whether it be a blocked dyke or broken street light, he would know what to do."

Pauleen said her father's chief regret on learning of his illness was to not reach the age of 100 and receive a telegram from the Queen to accompany his letter from Prince Charles.

West Norfolk Council leader Nick Daubney, who seconded George in his bid to become Mayor in 2001, said, "George was a really conscientious Councillor who loved Dersingham and really enjoyed the job he had of representing the people. He was a jolly, nice man and an excellent mayor - he had that knack of mixing business with humour and Chaired meetings with a lot of skill."

North West Norfolk MP Henry Bellingham said George's passing was a sad loss for the region and praised his outstanding efforts in the community. He added: "He was a true Norfolk man and a great public servant. He worked tirelessly for his constituents and was a quite outstanding mayor. He was very well respected in the community and inspired trust and confidence wherever he went.

The Royal British Legion and representatives from the Sandringham Detachment of the Army Cadet Force provided a Guard-of-Honour at George's funeral service, which was held at St Nicholas Church, Dersingham on Monday 15th September and was attended by more than 200 mourners and was conducted by the Minister, The Revd Michael Brock. As well as relatives and friends, others in attendance included The Mayor and Mayoress of King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council in full regalia; The Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of the Borough; The Member of Parliament for West Norfolk, Henry Bellingham MP; Members of the County, Borough and Parish

Councils; and Colonel David Hedges, Commandant of the Norfolk Army Cadet Force.

The Mayor, Councillor David Johnson, gave the Reading and Colonel David Hedges made the address.

A poem, read by his daughter Pauleen, had been requested by George, and had caused some amusement to the congregation, it reads as follows;

MY PRAYER.

**I dreamt death came the other night,
And heaven's gates swung wide,
With kindly grace an angel came
And ushered me inside.
And there to my astonishment
Stood folks I'd known on earth,
Some I had judged as quite unfit
Or of but little worth.
In dignant words rose to my lips,
But never were set free,
For every face showed stunned surprise...
No one expected ME!**



George was laid to rest in the family grave in St Nicholas churchyard as a bugler sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

Memories of a man with Dersingham at heart

George Pratt was interviewed at the time of the preparation of the Millennium History Project in Dersingham in 2000, and from a transcript of his conversation (conducted on 28 January 1998), supplied by Elizabeth Fiddick, the following extracts have been taken;

On his earliest memories - "My earliest memories when moving here it was a smallish village, but with all the services that one would require. Everybody knew everybody in the village. Even in those days, going back, in the summer the village was clogged up with traffic. In those days there used to be a special constable standing at the four cross roads controlling the traffic, particularly on Sundays. We had all small shops in those days, a lot of them have gone now, I think that's regrettable to be quite honest. I'm one of those people who still support the small shops and I don't visit supermarkets. I think the convenience of supermarkets is nice for people who haven't got transport because obviously there was lots of travelling backwards and forwards on buses. They played their part, but you could get everything they sell before they even built the supermarket."

On the railway - "I used to travel from Dersingham railway station into King's Lynn...or to Hunstanton on the train. I hadn't got a car when I first came here to live...it would be nice to think that one day we will have a railway running back through Dersingham again, but a lot of the line has been sold, closed and ripped up. If we wanted to do it now we'd have to have a completely new route. That would cost a vast amount of money that is perhaps not possible."

On his membership of organisations - "...I'm Chairman of the Parish Council...I'm also Chairman of the County Council and a Member of the Borough Council. I'm a Governor of St George's school, and have been for some time. I pride that perhaps. My most important and enjoyable one I serve on... St George's has always been a good school. All my children were educated at St George's, all three of them. I serve on the Churchyard Management committee.... I serve on the Management Committee of the Sports Ground... I serve on the Halls Foundation at Snettisham... I serve on the Road Safety Committee... I was a member of the Community Health Council but when you are 70 years old you are too old to serve on the Community Health Council.... Then I have the committees I serve on for the Borough Council."

On dealing with things villagers felt strongly about - "When I went onto the County Council we had been trying since 1928 to get a bypass for Dersingham. It had never been successful mainly because people said you couldn't do this and you couldn't do that. And I was determined when I went onto the County Council that was going to be my favourite push, to get a bypass for Dersingham. And as you know we were successful because in 1991 they actually opened the

bypass for Dersingham. That was brought about not only for my own point of view but from the pressures we got from people who lived in the village. It was becoming almost impossible to get out from our road, I don't think people who have moved in now have any idea of how bad it was. That is the main thing that I will remember. Because I got a lot of flak from people like 'The Friends of the Earth', the bird people and all those sorts of things. I felt that on this occasion human beings should take priority rather than anything else. I stuck my neck out, pushed it ahead and eventually we got it."

When questioned about the suggestion of having a village hall, George replied - "I have to truthfully say to you I don't know where it would go. Because the only two places where I suppose it would go would be on where the allotments is now...which would raise a



terrific objection because people want these allotments....(which) belong to the Charity Trustees. So the Parish council would have no say.....The other would be on the Recreation Ground which would take away any amenity we already got. There's no point taking away one amenity to give it to something else. ...I must admit I wouldn't want to say it isn't necessary but I think we have got a good Church Hall which is not fully used. We've got the Youth Centre which certainly isn't fully used. We've got many other places where the facilities are there if people want to use them".

On a suggestion that it may be possible to enlarge the Church Hall - "You would have to buy the land to start with. Another thing you have to think of if you extend it, you will draw more people into it, you would have to extend the car parking. There wouldn't be space for the amount of cars you wanted to park."

On the most important day he had ever spent in the village - "I think the day that the bypass was opened. That was the best day. Because it was lovely to see what happened because it was well planned I felt. They had police either end of the bypass, and they literally stopped all the traffic, and all the people who were there for the official opening drove all the way. Well they came from the picnic area, down to the roundabout, turned round the roundabout at Snettisham and all the other traffic followed them. For that day I suppose Dersingham must have felt completely dead. I remember that day more than any other."

On the worst time he could remember, the floods? - "Yes. 1953...I was involved in it. I was permanent staff of the Territorial Army at the time at Dersingham Drill Hall. In fact all the property that was recovered, the old furniture, was stored in the garage at the Drill Hall...the rear of the Drill Hall was used as a mortuary for the people who regretfully lost their lives. That is another thing I will remember for a long time. The flood came up just the other side of the railway station..... about 30 people at Snettisham lost their lives. The last body to be found was found by a Territorial Army soldier two weeks later and that was just the other side of the railway station in that little wood. I think that is the most terrible day. I remember it well."

Did he think it could happen again? - "Oh yes I think so. I think with the force of the sea if you get the wind and everything else and tides going together then I have to wonder if the bank would be strong enough to hold it. There was a river bank before and I think a piece of that bank 40 feet long literally was lifted and shifted into Dersingham by the force of the water. I think it could happen again. I hope not. There have been floods since then in 1978 but nothing as bad as in 1953."

What were the biggest changes in the village? - "The development. Dersingham has trebled in size in the 40 years I have been living here. ...all the estates that have been built....the Mountbatten Estate, Valley Rise estate, Centre Vale, the three estates down Chapel Road.... The one behind the Police Stationall built in the last 40 years....I think it's development too quick. It's a small town. We're big enough to have a Mayor, but I'm not suggesting we do."

What of the future? - "One thing I would like to see is more people taking an interest in local government. I think local government is even more important than National Government because it affects everyone on the spot. I think the more people take an interest in it the better service you get.....If you are going to join Local government you must do things for the whole community and not just for yourself. □

This tribute was prepared by Bob Tipling who acknowledges material received from the family of George Pratt, Colonel David Hedges, Elizabeth Fiddick, The Eastern Daily Press and The Lynn News. Photos - Val Brundle



To satisfy a Christmas resolution.

© Hugh Mullarkey 18-10-08

I wish I could tell you
That I'm certain I'm sure
But I'm certainly sure
That I'm not

I wish I could boast
Of unlimited wisdom
But I've only got
What I've got

For Christmas please give me
An achievable goal
A purpose in life
For my body and soul

Help me spend my time usefully
Before it runs out
Help me find some assurance
Instead of more doubt

Please give me direction
Through the pitfalls of youth
And help me discover
The true strength of truth

So that when I am older
I can really be wise
And not living beleaguered
By thoughts I despise

Show me the value
Of trust and respect
Which are only too easy
To lose or reject

Help me to know
The true value of pleasure
Whether shallow - addictive
Or something to treasure

Above all this Christmas
Help me give more than take
Help me know satisfaction
For other folks' sake.

Local Government Reorganisation

Last issue we published a letter sent to the secretary of state by Parish Council chairman Roy Johnston. He has now had a reply which he has answered and these letters are reproduced below.

4 September 2008

Dear Mr Johnston

Local Government Restructuring in Norfolk

Thank you for your letter of 26 August relating to local government restructuring in Norfolk. The ability of local authorities to shape their communities, improve economic prosperity and provide high quality services to local people can be complicated by the two-tier structure in shire areas which, in some cases, causes confusion, reduces accountability and hampers the delivery of cost-effective services. The Government and, indeed, many in local government recognise that unitary councils can effectively overcome some of these challenges. Following the interest shown by some local authorities in the area regarding unitary status, we have asked the Boundary Committee to review structures in Norfolk.

On 7 July the Boundary Committee published their draft proposal, for consultation, for unitary local government for Norfolk. The Boundary Committee is an independent body and there is, at this stage in the process, no role for Government. The consultation period ends on 26 September and you should therefore make your views known directly to the Committee so that they can be taken into account by the Committee before it submits its final advice to the Secretary of State at the end of the year. There will be opportunities to make representations to the Secretary of State once the Committee's advice has been received.

Yours sincerely

Nishma Malde, Local Structures and Governance

Dear Ms Malde

Thank you for your letter of 4 September. I note your view that the ability to undertake an effective place shaping role can be hampered in some way by the two tier structure. I enclose a recent newsletter on the growth point/regeneration programme which is underway in King's Lynn. I believe that the scale and success of this programme which has involved a close and effective partnership between the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk and County Council demonstrates that far from hampering this work the different roles and contributions of the two tiers can actually strengthen the place shaping role. The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk acts in a strong, visible leadership/champion role for the town and the County providing essential strategic support and additional capacity when required. Staff from the two organisations work together every bit as closely as the staff from different departments in Unitary Authorities. If you have any doubts about this could I suggest that you speak to your colleagues in the Government Office for the East of England, or, better still visit the town and see for yourself.

As far as your second point is concerned there is no evidence whatsoever that the current system causes any confusion, the two Councils run joint customer information centres in King's Lynn and our largest market town of Downham Market. In fact our customer information centre has been shortlisted on the IRRV national awards scheme for 2008 alongside acknowledged leaders in the field, Liverpool Direct and Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council in the Excellence in Customer Care category.

Finally, with respect to the delivery of the cost effective services I should point out that the cost of service delivery in two-tier Norfolk is actually lower for most services on a per household basis than it is for those Unitary Authorities with a similar population density. Furthermore the record on Council Tax and efficiency for the Borough Council, over the past 5 years is unsurpassed by any authority, Unitary or otherwise in England. Over this period, thanks to a rigorous efficiency, procurement and commercialisation drive our Council Tax has risen by a total of just 1.9%. In my view your drive for unitary Government is seeking to address problems that simply don't

exist in Norfolk. Government should perhaps seek to focus on its own very real problems other than waste public resources on unwanted structural change for its own sake in the local government sector.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Roy Johnston

Community Chest Awards

Six local community groups in Dersingham have been awarded funds from the James Graven Community Chest Awards. Applications were received from a wide variety of organisations for this year's award. The stores community panel, who judged the entries, awarded funding to Dersingham Seniors Club, Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly, Flying Geese Patchwork and Quilting Group, Dersingham Cricket Club, 1st and 2nd Dersingham Brownie Guides and 1st Dersingham Scouts.

Local retailer Jonathan James, who owns the Lynn Road Budgens supermarket, says; "Every year we receive applications from a wide range of organisations, many of whom provide an invaluable service to the local community. As a local family business, we believe it is important to support such organisations and our Community Chest Awards allows us to do just that, helping improve both facilities and the lives of residents in the community."

The Community Chest Awards enables James Graven & Sons Ltd to provide funding to some small but incredibly important local community activities. Each year the company offers £1,000 to organisations, groups and charities based in each of the four communities in which it operates. All applicants are required to outline how funds would be used to directly benefit local people. The awards enable local groups to access funding which might otherwise be difficult to obtain.

- **Dersingham Senior's Club** provides a social get together for the over 60's providing entertainment and outings. Money awarded from the Community Chest will be used to purchase an electronic bingo machine for the club.
- **Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly** provides meals, activities, handicrafts, outings and entertainment for anyone over 70. The award will be used to help purchase new chairs for its members.
- **Flying Geese Patchwork and Quilting Group** teaches and inspires patchwork and quilting skills as well as other related crafts. Funds from the Community Chest awards will be used to help fund external speakers and guests.
- **Dersingham Cricket Club** aims to increase sports and cricket participation amongst young people. The award will enable the club to run a junior cricket development and coaching programme.
- **1st and 2nd Dersingham Brownie Guides** provides a structured programme of indoor/outdoor/residential activities including crafts, badges, games and skills to girls aged 7-10 years. The Community Chest award will enable the brownies to purchase some new airbeds for use at their residential pack holiday.
- **1st Dersingham Scouts** offers guiding to children from 6-18 years. The award will go towards the fundraising efforts of the scouts to build an extension to the existing hall to house more equipment.

The Community Chest Awards for 2009 will run from 1st September 2008 until 31st August 2009. Application forms can be obtained from the customer services desk at Budgens, Lynn Road, Dersingham or alternatively downloaded from the website at www.jamesgraven.com □



Dick Melton

First of all I would like to thank Bryan Tann for putting me right about the number of properties in Sugar Lane. The last time I went down there I was riding a bike so I was going so fast I missed one.

Now a little bit about 'Four Winds.' It was built around about 1960. When Mrs Smith moved out it was occupied by a Mr Briggs. That was in 1965, then in 1974 a Mr Alfred Lawrence was the owner. Mr Mitchell, who had been born in Dersingham and went to school with my father, Jim Melton, took it over in or around 1980. He moved away for many years, and then when he and his wife retired they came back to Dersingham and bought 'Four Winds.' Mr Mitchell's late father, who had the nickname of

'Fiddler,' was a carrier in the village and kept his horses on a field down The Drift. When one of his horses died it was buried in a wood at the bottom of the field, and from that day on that wood has always been called 'Fiddlers Wood.' When Mr and Mrs Mitchell died a few years ago a property developer bought 'Four Winds' and changed the name to Mitchell House in memory of the Mitchell family. It was then purchased by a very well known television personality, who never did live in it. About six or seven years ago it changed hands again and it is now the property of an Ely (Cambridgeshire) business man, who spends most of his weekends there with his family and his dogs.

As a young lad

The other day I got to thinking what I used to get up to when I was a young lad in the village. Well, one thing that we used to do each wintertime was to join Mr Senter's woodwork classes. Mr Senter lived in the house on the corner of Manor Road and Lynn Road (Senter's Comer); he had been a carpenter and joiner up at Sandringham. In his garden was a large shed where about a dozen of us would meet two nights a week for him to teach us woodwork. It cost us about one shilling a week towards the cost of the wood.

Then, of course, there was the travelling cinema; we had two come into the village each week; they both came from Hunstanton. Mr Wells was at the church hall on a Tuesday and Mr Swain came to the Foresters Hall on a Friday. For the price of a tanner (sixpence) you could watch a full-length feature film, some cartoons, and the Pathe newsreel. A lot of us also belonged to the cubs and the scouts; the scout hut was in the grounds of the Old Hall. Some weekends we would go camping either on the plain at Wolferton or up Dersingham sandpits. In later years, when the scout hut became unfit for use, I remember a man who lived in the Hall used it to breed rabbits in.

In the wintertime we would spend a lot of time, if the weather was right, skating on the Emblands pond and sledging down the slopes by Primrose Wood. Then when I was twelve years old I did what a lot of the other lads did; I got myself an errand boy's job with one of the shops in the village. I

worked for Mr Parker in the big shop at the bottom of Sandringham Hill; working for two hours after school each day and from eight in the morning until four in the afternoon on a Saturday. Most of the shops like Linfords, Norfolk Stores, Terringtons, Kerrys, Wiskers and Towers employed errand boys. If you were lucky you had a good trade bike; but at Parkers I never did, my bike was always breaking down and I would end up having to



Four Winds

push it. Saturday afternoons were always worst as I would have to bike down to Cats-Bottom (Babingley) and back with a bike laden up with groceries. After two years I left Parkers and went to help Ken Martin on the land. When I was fifteen I left school and went to work for Lamberts at Snettisham, but I still helped Ken out at nights and weekends for several years.

House names

A few years ago there used to be a book published once a year called the Kings Lynn Blue Book. It was an alphabetical list of residents and trades in Kings Lynn and some of the surrounding villages. In the 1965 book it gives the names of the houses in the roads and streets of Dersingham; after that year it gave you the numbers only. Looking at some of the names I was quite intrigued, so here is a list of some of them and what they mean or stand for.

One of the first names is 'Woodroyal' in Manor Road, named so because it looked out over Sandringham Woods. What about Kia-Ora in Hunstanton Road? Was it named after the well-known drink? In Chapel Road there is a house named 'The Shieling,' which is Scottish for a shepherd's hut, but this house is much too big to be one of them. 'Mecklenburg House,' also in Chapel Road, is named after an area of Germany. As you would expect at the top of Park Hill, you have 'Fairview,' 'Sea View' and 'West View. In Bank Road is 'Shangri-la,' which is defined in the dictionary as an imaginary paradise and no doubt it was to the people who named it such and lived there. There must have been a football fanatic live at 'Wembley Cottage' up the Shembome Road. 'Boston View' and 'Seaview' were in Pansy Drive but could they see that far? When you went to the shop near The Drift in Lynn Road you were met with a Hawaiian greeting, as it was called the 'Aloha Stores.' 'Pleasant Place' was in Lynn Road too and it lived up to its name. The last big house on the right in Lynn was, of course, called Babingley House, as that was the next village you came to. In Manor Road lived someone who liked their fizzy drinks as the house was named 'Corona.' The last house that I must mention is again in Lynn Road with the best name of them all, 'Why Worry,' and the person who lived there never did.

Harvesting the sugar beet

I never travel far these days. I went to London once, I never saw anyone I knew so I came home again, but a lot of Thursdays I come to Dersingham. Last Thursday when I was coming along from Hunstanton I saw a sugar beet harvester in a field taking up about six rows of beet at a time. I thought 'blimey,' we did not do it like that fifty years ago. First of all the beet would be ploughed out one row at a time, then you would have to knock them and top them. You would knock the beet together to get the surplus soil off, lay them in a row, then cut the tops off with a sugar beet hook and put them in small heaps. Then they were loaded into a trailer with a fork and taken to the railway station, where you would use your fork again to unload them into a railway wagon. The beet would then be taken by rail to the beet factory at Kings Lynn where they would be unloaded and processed, coming out the other end of the factory disguised as a bag of sugar.

Just one bit of squit to leave you with. If you ever get lost in Norfolk look for a herd of cows, as when they are grazing they always face north and that will put you back on the right track.

Have a good Christmas and all the best for 2009. □

My thanks to Rounce & Evans for the Four winds picture. Ed.



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A journey through Japan

Last month, my husband and I embarked on an 11 day coach tour of Japan, it was a country which we have hankered to visit for many years.

We travelled by coach well over a thousand miles, starting and ending the tour at Tokyo. But what an experience. Japan is a country of contrasts: on the one hand is the old, the traditions, the ancient shrines of the Shinto religion, the mystical tea houses and tea ceremonies, the geishas, the extreme politeness of the people; and on the other hand the new, the crowded cities with soaring skyscrapers and milling crowds, the coloured neon lights the likes of which would put London lights to shame, the modern technology, computers, mobile phones etc, toilets which played music and heated up as you sat on them, I quite expected one to talk to me. The fashions of the Japanese youth, again London would be put to shame. And of course the 24 hour shopping in stores brimming with an amazing choice of goods, food, clothing and accessories.

We visited Hiroshima and could not help but be impressed by the Peace Memorial Park, where an Etemal Flame burned. This will not be extinguished until the world is completely free from nuclear bombs. Situated in the park is the Atomic Bomb Museum. I don't think one can imagine the actual devastation the atomic bomb caused, both on the buildings and the people. It certainly gave us food for thought and we were reminded by the displays that the world is still under threat from these weapons.

Another great experience was travelling on the famous bullet train from Hiroshima to Kyoto. It reached incredible speeds, but due to an inbuilt engine at the front of each carriage, the ride was as smooth as can be, not a judder, not a sway. It arrives at its final destination of Tokyo within a 6 second margin. The carriages were both clean and roomy, not for the Japanese a dirty, packed carriage. If only our trains were like this.

The holiday was very tiring as each morning we travelled to a different destination departing at 8:00 am. Many days we did not reach our destination until late in the evening. I am not sure whether I would embark on such a hectic schedule again. The country was definitely worth seeing, however it was nice to return home to the peace and quiet of Norfolk. □

Ann Chapman



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My Patch

By Gardenwatcher

Thur. Had a spot of unexpected good fortune last night when I discovered that the lid of the butter dish was askew and able to be slid sideways. Unsalted butter - lovely - yum!, well worth this mornings scolding. Today's breakfast service was distinctly slow and frosty.
Sun. How aptly named today has been. One of those glorious

September days that I have come to expect. Sunned myself for most of the day which worked up a good appetite. No doubt tonight's offering will be as slight as usual.

Mon. Holidays are looming, not for me just for them. Not for me the five star cattery with every luxury, no I stay here and get some dizzy bint who shoves food at me just twice a day - I miss out on supper under this regime. All the warning signs are there. Maps are strewn around, suitcases are pulled from the loft, lists are made and a general air of impermanence pervades. Humph!

Wed. October, and frankly it's too cold to tempt me out for pleasure but a quick business trip revealed that there were still loads of Tomatoes to pick. Both outside and greenhouse crops have been enormous, albeit they are cherry tomatoes - they will be sick if they eat them all. I always find the lawns look better in the autumn, green and densely packed with blades, after the summers dry spells. Like a lot of other peoples, this years Bizzy Lizzies have been poor with some wasting away just after planting. He has cast accusing looks at me if I have been near them but I bet it's a fungal problem. The Rowan tree is the only one to be losing leaves at the moment but the others must soon.

Sun. Jolly windy yesterday, pots blown over, tall plants thrashed, leaves strewn. Still I take satisfaction from successfully stopping their bed from blowing away by weighting it down with my slumbering form. I do have my uses, they of course don't see it my way and try to keep me as light as possible by skipping on the comestibles.

Wed. I was right! They have gone! Trouble is I don't know for how long so the liberties that I can take in their absence must not be wasted. I will sit on the back of the settee, which is forbidden, and contemplate my next crime.

Sat. I'm bored. There is no real fun in breaking the rules if there is nobody to wind up. I spent 6 hours today giving the wildlife pond a good staring at but I think I nodded off a few times. After an illicit strop of the claws on a chair I had run out of excitement. Ah well, such is life!

Tue. They're still away, they are usually back by now, Hmmm. On a brighter note the Dahlias are still flowering well, the Tomato plants are still groaning with fruit and a few Runner Beans are still dangling on the vines. Something is ripping at the sacred turf which I will get blamed for so I will attempt to catch the culprit. There is a sunny bench adjacent, to assist my quest.

Fri. I am losing the will to live. Life without someone to annoy is, frankly, not worth the candle. There isn't even any point in throwing up on the carpet as I will go un-chided. HHHAAAAHHH!

Sun. They are back. I was immediately taken to task about my perch - "the chairs are for us, the floor is for you!" - oh bliss. Now what is in this suitcase?

Wed. I had almost forgotten the pleasure of getting in their way and being cursed. Also almost forgotten is how big a pheasant is. One took up temporary residence, after several years without my seeing one. His beak looked like it could do me some damage so I kept back and watched it hard.

Fri. No further sign of the pheasant but a bit of frost has cut down a lot of plants so he has been cutting off the blackened remains and soggy Hostas. A rival "rodent service" has started up. I found a mousetrap near the shed where there is a scrape allowing access to the vault beneath, made by some hapless beast. No score as yet but I must not let some machine topple me from power.

Sun. I have noticed an improvement in the menu. Suddenly we have coal & blue tits back. Not only are they stuffing themselves on sunflower hearts but I saw the peanuts getting their first attention for over a year! I can only assume that another local provider has gone to the wall. Credit crunch?

Tue. Machine 2, me nil. Weather dreadful - time to sleep. He has dug up his Onion crop, peas are bigger, why does he bother.

Thur. Trap 3, me 1. There seems to be one in the house, I will make much noise tonight searching! □

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TUESDAY	10.45-11.45 6.30-7.30 7.35-8.35	50,+ Aerobics Latino Aerobics	Ingoldisthorpe village hall Ingoldisthorpe village hall Ingoldisthorpe village hall (starts 1st April)
THURSDAY	8.00-9.00	Bodyconditioning	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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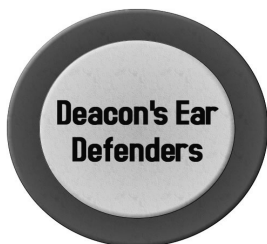
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Dersingham Library

Coming soon to Dersingham Library

We hope to see more of you over the winter months, when there's really nothing better to do than curl up with a good book! And we have plenty of them. If you want a few suggestions, just pop in and we'll be happy to recommend something to you. Just in case you miss our Christmas notices, we'll be open on Monday 22nd December from 10-1 and 2-7.30pm as usual and then closed for the holiday period, reopening

on Monday 29th at 10am.

We have advance warning for you that February 2009 will be 'Love your library' month, and at Dersingham from Feb 8th until Feb 14th we'll be celebrating health and wellbeing. We're looking for any local practitioners - from keep fit to kung-fu, healthy eating to homeopathy - who would come along free of charge during that week to demonstrate what they do. We hope to encourage local people to try something new, take up a new hobby, and find out what's going on in their community. If you'd like to come along, please give Alison or Karen (our new manager!) a call on 01485 540181.

Did you know that you can check what you have borrowed, renew your books, make requests and much much more using the library website www.library.norfolk.gov.uk? Simply click on the 'Renew your books' link on the right hand side of the page. You'll need your card and your PIN number (ask us if you don't know what it is) and you can find out what you have on loan (there'll even be an image of the cover just in case you can't remember the book!), and you can also see what you have borrowed in the last year! Happy reading,. □

Alison.

That's my business - Supreme Carpets

The Playford family has a long history of serving the local community in and around Dersingham dating as far back as the late 19th Century where the family owned and ran the windmill at the top of Fern Hill. Later on Playford's Bakery was situated along Manor Road and at Jubilee Court and was jointly owned and run by John and Bill Playford until its sale in 1983. Rhoda Playford also ran a hairdressing salon along Lynn Road from 1956 until 1977.

Over the past twenty-one years Guy Playford's Supreme Carpets, based in the old Foresters Hall in Manor Road, Dersingham, has established itself as a successful carpet retailing business. Guy now has six fitting staff and his brother Tim who helps manage the showroom.

Supreme Carpets offer a wide range of stock, which includes natural floor coverings such as sisal, jute and seagrass. Axminster, Wiltons, Shadow piles and 80/20 wool twist are still very popular too along with a wide range of vinyls, laminate and solid oak floorings.

In addition you will find a variety of hand knotted rugs sourced from India and rugs based on more modern themes.

Supreme Carpets offer a comprehensive and still personal service to all customers including a Home Selection Service six days a week. Guy and his expert team are able to prepare all floors prior to the fitting of vinyl, carpet, vinyl or real wood flooring. After fitting, remnants of carpet can be bound to create rugs ensuring that there is no wastage for the customer. They can also uplift and remove old carpets, move existing furniture and trim doors to ensure that all of their customer's requirements are catered for. □



National Hedge Laying Championship



Turn this



with a bit of this



into this !

There was a well kept secret at the end of October, namely the National Hedge Laying Championship. A bright, dry but breezy Saturday the 25th dawned for about a hundred would be champions of this ancient craft. Hosted this year by the Sandringham Estate competitors each got a 10 metre length of unruly plants to convert into a well laid hedge in 5 hours. There are several different kinds of hedge relating to different parts of the country and each type gets marked as a separate section. If you wish to view the finished article take the road at West Newton to Anmer and after about 3/4 of a mile you will find the much improved hedge on your left.

Full results can be seen on the website - www.hedgelaying.org.uk - together with a wealth of information about this worthy pastime.

Sharing the day and the location was a ploughing match. Neat furrows were being produced by a range of vintage machinery and a few horse drawn teams. They all seemed pretty straight to me but then I am no expert.

Both activities shared an area with catering, rural crafts and country goods for sale so it's a pity that it was not better publicised and signposted, the latter getting progressively worse the closer you eventually got to the site. Everyone who got there, however, had an interesting day out. □

Tony Bubb





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Village Christmas and New Year Opening Times

A roundup of who is open when over the holidays. Some premises had yet to decide as we went to press.

Spar

Closed Christmas Day, probably open on Boxing Day.

Dersingham News

Closed Christmas Day

Boxing Day and New Year's Day – open from 6.00 am to 10.00 am.

Other times as normal

Dentist

Normally just closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Shoe Service

Closed Christmas Eve until 27th December, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Library

Closed 23rd to 28th December, inclusive.

Closed 1st and 2nd January.

Open 29th December, 31st December and 3rd January.

Flowers by Yvonne

Closed from Christmas Day to 28th December

Open Monday 29th to 31st December

Closed New Year's Day to 4th January 2009

Parish Council Office

Closed December 24th to Jan 4th inclusive

Post Office

Open until 12.30 pm Christmas Eve

Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day

Open 27th December from 9.00 am to 12.30 pm

Closed New Year's Day

Open 29th to 31st December and 2nd January 2009

Post Office shop

Closed Christmas Day

Open Boxing Day and New Year's Day from 6.00 am to 10.00 am

Otherwise as normal

Butchers [RF & J Scoles]

Open Monday 22nd December for collection only

Open Tuesday 23rd December 8.00 am to 5.00 pm

Open Wednesday 24th December 7.00 am to 1.00 pm

Open Saturday 27th December 8.00 am to 1.00 pm

Open Tuesday 30th December 8.00 am to 5.00 pm

Closed New Year's Day 1st January 2009

Opticians [Wigram & Ware]

Open Monday/Tuesday 22nd /23rd December 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Open Wednesday 24th December 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

Open Monday 29th December 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Open Friday 2nd January 2009 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Old Picture Corner 2

In VV No. 53, you published my letter together with two photographs which I had also submitted of "old" Dersingham. In the subsequent issue of VV, Dick Melton was true to my expectations and came up with additional information which helps me to put some "meat on the bones" of my family tree as applicable to the Terrington family. Many thanks Dick!

Here are two more photographs to jog the memories of the older citizens of Dersingham, and hope that they will be moved to write to you with their memories of the places/people shown.

The first is of Parker's Drapery and Grocery Store. It was here that Reggie Terrington was employed prior to starting up on his own in Manor Rd (see VV 53 and 54). It is also believed that his future wife Ellen "Nellie" Garner also worked here. The post date of the postcard is October 26th. 1906.

The second photograph is a view of Lynn Road at Dersingham looking north, taken by the local photographer Frederick William Ralph (see previous issues of VV); this postcard is dated July 1st. 1906 and in Reggie's hand, has been sent to Bertha Gamer, his wife's sister who at that time



was residing in Willingham, Cambridgeshire. Bertha, did for a time, reside in Dersingham at 27a



Lynn Road with her sister Nelly; this would have been subsequent to Reggie's death at the beginning of 1951. Does anybody have any idea what the man with the handcart is vending? □

*William
Turner*



Richard Barr

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

Parent Winterfest

(Some local authorities are discouraging the use of the word "Christmas" and suggesting an alternative, such as "winterfest". Richard imagines what life might be like if the PC police run amok in Santa's premises.)

Twas the night before Christmas but Father Christmas was feeling grey and miserable. It was supposed to have been his happiest time of the year, with the delicious task of making, trying out and choosing presents for every child in the world.

Plans had been well advanced. He had practised on Santnav, his new satellite navigation system, which contained the location and dimensions of every known chimney. He had been able to iron out the glitches after inadvertently entering two ocean liners, one power station and a crematorium. But Father Christmas had been out of sorts ever since he had received a visit from officers from Off-Polly which represents the Government's latest initiative to stamp out political incorrectness once and for all. Off-Polly (with its logo of a parrot with its beak sealed) has been given powers of entry, the right to arm its officers and the power to detain indefinitely without trial anyone who is even suspected of political incorrectness.

On the day of the visit the reindeer were corralled and examined to ensure that the antlers were of regulation size, and that each beast resembled the photograph on its passport. The inspectors lingered over one of the deer. They concluded that its red glowing nose was in breach of the *Snout (Construction and Use) Regulations* which provide that a red light should show to the rear and not at the front of any sledge-drawing deer. As it was to prove anatomically uncomfortable to move the light from the front to the back of the creature, the inspectors ordered that it would have to travel backwards behind the sledge and carry a suitable warning sign.

Inside Santa's factory, the inspectors first commented on the size of the workers. All appeared to be vertically challenged. Father Christmas was accused of discriminating against large people in breach of *The Factory Workers (Size) (Not Too Big or Small) Regulations*. He was instructed immediately to recruit several giants to increase the average height of his employees. Father Christmas protested in vain that this would be impossible due to the height of the ceilings in his factory being less than 4 feet.



And then they set about the toys. Father Christmas watched indulgently as they squirted each other with spaceman water pistols, raced electric cars round the test track, patted the dolls and played the computer games. But he was wrong if he believed that their play spelled endorsement. Several hours later the inspectors grew bored. The cars were wrecked. The pink rabbit's batteries had run out. Several dolls had lost limbs. The computers were smashed and a water fight between half a dozen inspectors ended with several in tears and one (called Sandy) having to borrow a change of clothes from Father Christmas.

Suddenly the atmosphere changed. The inspectors crowded sullenly into Father Christmas's grotto. They were behaving like children on the afternoon of Christmas Day. Sandy was their spokesman. Solemnly (or as solemnly as he could, bearing in mind that he was now wearing a red and white outfit) he read out to Father Christmas the offences found by his fellow inspectors:

- 1 Not one of the toy cars represented a low emission model, thus encouraging profligacy among the children receiving them.
- 2 Most of the dolls were of the female gender and would therefore be a bad influence on little boys who wished to play with them.
- 3 Several teddy bears appeared to be made of fur, thus giving endorsement to the hunting of helpless grizzly bears and the antics of Sarah Palin.
- 4 Effigies of Gordon Brown and George Bush were offensive to our great leaders and might give small children with susceptible minds the impression that said leaders were incompetent, stupid or, worse, ugly.

Concern was also expressed at the carbon footprint created by the reindeer as they sped across the night sky. There was a risk that their consumption of oxygen and attendant methane emissions would significantly add to global warming. He was therefore required to undertake to plant 100 hectares of new forest to compensate for the ecological damage he would be causing on 24 December.

"And now" continued Sandy, poking his finger at Father Christmas, "we have the little issue of what you look like and what you call yourself. It is our considered view that it is not PC for you to go around calling yourself Father Christmas. We insist that from now onwards you are renamed Parent Winterfest.

"And you look entirely wrong in that garb. The colour is likely to offend those who do not like red. And that beard – we aim to be a clean shaven nation. If you show your beard to the tiny tots they may be encouraged to become hirsute in later life."

Exasperated, Father Christmas (as he still thought of himself), asked what he should wear instead.

"That's easy" replied Sandy. "Don something dull and grey, that blends nicely with the landscape and reflects the mood we require."

"But that will make me look nondescript – just like a solicitor" he protested.

"Precisely" replied Sandy, who had become so fond of his own Santa uniform that he resolved, when he got back to HQ, to recommend that all Off-Polly inspectors should from then onwards wear distinctive red and white uniforms to ensure high public visibility.

And that, boys and girls, is why we now sing of dreaming of a grey Christmas, and why politically correct bureaucrats look so ridiculous 365 days in the year.

Postscript: no reindeer were injured or offended in the writing of this article but Sarah Palin in retaliation has closed Alaska's airspace to flying reindeer. □



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News from Dersingham Infant and Nursery School

All of us at Dersingham Infant and Nursery School are getting back into the second half of the Autumn Term after our Half Term holiday.

Since the retirement of Mrs. Jackie Austin as Headteacher, we have been without a permanent Head but have been ably led by Mrs. Jane Belfield, the Headteacher from Heacham Infants School. Mrs. Gayle Platt will take up her new post as our permanent Headteacher in January. Despite this time of transition, the children have continued to enjoy a lively and challenging curriculum being facilitated by our dedicated and capable staff.

Throughout the first half of the Autumn Term, the children covered topics such as 'Out and About' in Norfolk which included a trip to Gressenhall. Other children have learnt about 'People who help Us' and 'All about Me'.

During the second half of the term, the children will continue to cover all areas of the curriculum along with working towards a Christmas Production within School. A highlight for our children this year will be a trip to the Pantomime, 'Aladdin' in Hunstanton, kindly provided for by the 'Friends' of the School. What a fun packed term!

The children will also be involved in Christmas parties and the School Christmas Fayre on December 5th.

News from St. George's Junior School

We are very pleased that Ofsted praised our school in the recent inspection for the significant progress that we have made in raising standards. Pupil's personal development was good and our oldest pupils were achieving at a higher level than in the past. We have some areas still to improve but we are committed to providing the best possible education for each and every one of our pupils. The staff have worked extremely hard with the county to improve the education that is offered to the children of Dersingham.

This has been borne out by the best ever Statutory Assessment Test (SAT) results in English, maths and science by our year 6 pupils this last year. This was the first group to be with us for the full years of Key Stage 2 (7 – 11 age range). We are very proud of their achievements. The government expect all children to achieve level 4 by the age of 11 for these subjects



Starlings class investigated local sculptures as part of our Discovering Dersingham topic. We started by looking at photos of sculptures, then designed and began making animal sculptures from recyclable materials, which would improve our own school grounds. We were then lucky enough to have a sunny day when we walked through lots of muddy puddles to go and visit the wooden animal sculptures in Sandringham with Owls class. After a snack time spent munching away and playing next to the woods, we then sketched the three wooden sculptures nearby...the squirrel, the bear and the raven. On our way back to school, we collected some natural materials with which to decorate our finished sculptures. Once finished, we compared our work with the original designs, and took some photos of the sculptures around the school grounds to remember them by!

Both schools will be involved in the local Village Christmas Event at Thaxters on December 9th at 5 pm and the Christingle service at St. Mary's Church on December 18th at 6.00 pm.

The two schools are delighted that James Graven's Budgens store has set up a voucher scheme to benefit both schools. Until the 31st of December Budgens in Dersingham will give you a voucher worth 10p for every £10 you spend there. Simply give your vouchers to Dersingham Infant and Nursery or St. George's C of E Junior School and at the end of the promotion the store will donate 10p for every voucher collected to the schools. Please hand them in by Friday January 9th 2009. We hope that the entire village will support this promotion to help both schools. □

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The Safer Neighbourhood Team Dersingham and Gayton Neighbourhood

It was all hands on deck this year for Hallowe'en. Leaflets and posters were available in the shops and letters of advice were sent home with all the school children about having fun but staying safe and not being a nuisance. We met lots of groups out Trick or Treating, most of whom were with adults, who were dressed in wonderfully imaginative costumes. We had two incidents on the night, one of which the perpetrators were found. All in all a fairly successful night. October also saw the first of our Street Briefings. Budgens very kindly allowed us to set up a table in the store where we had a variety of safety leaflets and were available for answering questions. □ If you have any questions or comments please contact us on:-
0845 456 4567 or dersinghamgaytonst@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

Jackie Smith

Dersingham Methodist Church

Dersingham Methodist Church invites you to join them for their Christmas celebrations.

Saturday 13th December 10.00 am to 12 noon Christmas coffee morning with the Church decorated for Christmas.

Sunday 21st December 10.30 am Family Carol Service, 6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight.

Christmas Day Service at 10.30 am

Sunday 28th December 10.30 am Morning Service, no evening service.

We wish everyone a blessed and peaceful Christmas. □

Elizabeth Batstone

BUG GROUP

(King's Lynn & West Norfolk Bicycle Users Group) www.klwnbug.co.uk

This group was set up to campaign for better cycling facilities. We still do that, but we prefer going on rides to sitting in council offices. With such easy access to the countryside, can you blame us? It only takes ten minutes to cycle from King's Lynn town centre to the countryside. A rides list is published on the web-site www.klwnbug.co.uk, most rides starting from Lynnsport at 10 am, and varying in distance from a few miles (eg Castle Rising tea rooms) to rides as far afield as the north coast or Castle Acre. Posh bikes are not necessary, we range from upright shopping bikes to high tech tourers. The pace of each ride allows the most sedate to enjoy the trips out. Tea room or pub stops are not compulsory, but they certainly help to give us sociable breaks.

Cycle Forum: BUG representatives do sit on the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Cycling Forum. As a result, Norfolk County Council have published a cycle map of King's Lynn and we have produced a hazard form for reporting dangers to cyclists. We have also produced a list of areas where we would like to see improvements. Finally we do get chances to see plans and make comments. See the "BUG News" page for meeting times and dates. Members come from all parts of West Norfolk, and are all ages.

To join us is very simple. Just make contact through one of the numbers under "Contact Info" on the web site, or get in touch with Trev Riches at 2 West Road, Dersingham, or phone 543706, email: trevoriches@talktalk.net

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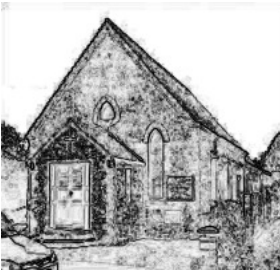


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Greetings from the Manse

Advent and Christmas Greetings from the Manse.

Do you know who invented the first Christmas card? Perhaps you don't want to know because you might prefer that they hadn't been invented at all! I can see you now getting the boxes down from the attic and looking through the lists of sent and received and I can hear words gasping out; "did we really send that many last year!" Yes you did and to prove it you are about to do it all again!

Anyway, I'm pleased to tell you that we have Sir Henry Cole to thank for our Christmas cards and we must go way back to 1843 to see their appearance. As you reach for biro, Christmas card lists, address book etc. to start your seasonal campaign, you will feel better now that you know who to thank!

When Sir Henry was a boy at school one of the main subjects was "writing," and every Christmas at his school the boys had to write home a short letter to their parents sending good wishes and showing how their writing and spelling had improved over the year. In later life Sir Henry remembered this idea and developed it into a written greeting to his family and friends, especially to people he had not kept in touch with over the year. He had a further idea, instead of a letter he thought of a card with a picture and a few words of greeting. He had a word with his friend, the artist John Callcott Horsley, and he drew a picture of a family sitting around the festive table, and underneath the words, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you." This was the very first Christmas card.



This delightful story also captures something of the religious meaning of Christmas in the birth of the Christ child at Bethlehem. In Christ we declare that God has sent His personal greeting into the world in the simplest of fashion in a life of flesh and blood, and yet with the most powerful message of divine love, joy, fellowship and peace. This greeting is truly and doubly personal because God sends it to you and directs the gift of life in His Son to your heart.

Have a marvellous festive season and a joyful New Year.

Every blessing to you and your families. □

Kim Nally

David Bingham

Two ticks



Corsican citril finch

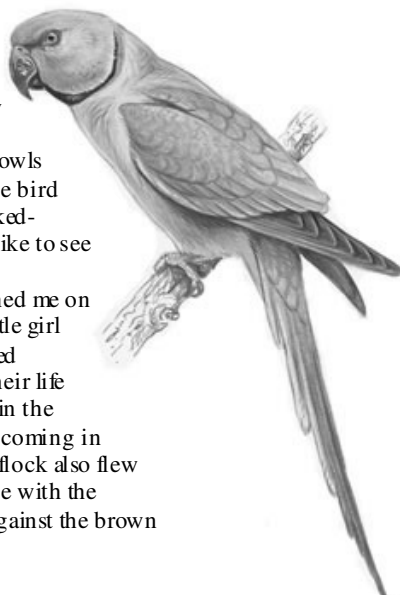
For twitchers, a tick is a bird seen for the first time - either in a particular place or at a particular time or, perhaps most importantly, for the first time ever. These ticks go on lists and 'life list' ticks are called 'lifers'. I don't actually keep any lists but generally know when I see something for the first time, particularly in Britain and Europe. This year I got two lifers, which is quite good for me because I don't do any twitching (mainly because of laziness rather than lack of inclination). The first of these was a Corsican citril finch that I discovered on top of a mountain in Sardinia. Discovered isn't quite the right word because I was told where to look and it only took a couple of hours of scrambling around the boulder strewn summit before one of these pretty little birds turned up and perched in full view. Corsican citril finches have a very restricted range and having one on your 'list' bestows some kudos amongst the birding fraternity. My second lifer came with no such honour and I would never have admitted to not having seen one. Birds that you would be ashamed to admit not having seen sometimes get the politically incorrect title of a 'tart's tick'. I got my 'tart's tick' during an evening stroll around the leafy London borough of Putney. This was my first visit but the riverside scene was familiar from memories of a time when the whole country had nothing better to do than

gather around black and white television sets to watch a couple of boat loads of toffs setting off from Putney Bridge for a row down the river. The Thames was more or less a bird free zone except for a lone cormorant and a few black-headed gulls so I set off along a path that followed a small stream away from the river. This was much more productive and the trees and bushes were full of familiar songbirds. I stopped on a wooden bridge that crossed the stream and was startled by a loud screeching and squawking coming from a nearby bush. I guessed what this was but had to wait for several minutes for the perpetrator of the commotion to show itself. I'd guessed correctly and got my first look at a brilliantly coloured ring-necked-parakeet as it flew down and perched on a branch over the stream. Ring-necked-parakeets are unmistakable with lime green plumage, rosy pink bills and impossibly long tails. They were first introduced to the west by Alexander the Great who brought some back to Babylon from his little trip to India. Our population originated from escaped cage birds. The most interesting theory I've heard is that the founding population escaped from the set of 'The African Queen' when it was being filmed at Shepperton studios in 1951. I don't know if this is true or an urban myth but what is a fact is that these exotic birds are doing very well indeed. They are now on the official list of British birds because they have a viable self-sustaining population and this makes them 'tickable'. There are around four and a half thousand pairs of ring-necked-parakeets breeding in southeast England and individuals have been seen in most English counties.

I remember seeing my pet budgie flying out of the window and being told that he wouldn't last long because the other birds would attack him in a fit of jealousy at the first sight of his beautiful plumage. I don't know the ultimate fate of little Billy but I'm sure that he wasn't pecked to pieces by a pesky pack of peeved pigeons. Birds don't get jealous. But they do get hungry and Billy's habit of sitting out in the open constantly repeating, "who's a pretty boy then", may have attracted the attention of a passing sparrow hawk. Ring-necked parakeets are large enough to look after themselves and their range spreads into the Himalayan foothills, so cold isn't a problem for them as

it would have been for Billy. They feed on the fruit trees that grow in the parks and gardens of the Home Counties where food seems to be plentiful. It has been said that introduced alien species like these ring-necked-parakeets are the second greatest threat to biodiversity after global warming. There are plenty of examples where this is true such as grey squirrels, ruddy ducks and Japanese knotweed. But there are also plenty of examples where this is false. Locally we have golden pheasants skulking in the rhododendrons around Wolferton - eagerly sought by many a frustrated twitcher in pursuit of a tick. Egyptian geese breed around the pond in Ingoldisthorpe and little owls (introduced in the 19th century) can often be seen from the bird hide at Abbey Farm in Flitcham. The spread of ring-necked-parakeets will be closely monitored but I for one would like to see them flying around Dersingham.

A young mother with her daughter of about five joined me on the footbridge while I was enjoying my new tick. The little girl pointed to the bird and said, "Look Mummy a ring-necked parakeet". Even infants have ring-necked parakeets on their life list! The parakeets seem to be popular with most people in the capital and as evening approached, I saw hundreds more coming in to roost in some trees on a school playing field. A small flock also flew over The Thames towards Chelsea. They looked very fine with the evening sun reflecting off their backs, contrasting well against the brown water of the river. □



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News from St Cecilia's Catholic Church

Fr James Fyfe and the members of the Catholic Church would like to send you our greetings as we prepare for the great celebration of our Lord's Nativity. Now when we remember that Almighty God came to share in our world as a helpless baby, we can surely find time to show concern for those in our society who have no voice or power of their own – the poor, the weak, the elderly and the unborn – and pray for all who have dedicated themselves to the promotion of healing and saving lives.

The Parish Ladies Shared Lunch takes place at noon on Saturday 29 November and once again women from nearby churches have been invited to join us. The CaFE course on the Eucharist has been well attended over the last six weeks at St Cecilia's.

A sizeable group from St Cecilia's joined the Parish Sponsored Walk at Hunstanton for the annual jaunt at which we raised £975 for the funds. As usual, the sun managed to shine down upon the 40 or so walkers as we stepped along the now familiar route.

The social life of the parish continues to be enriched by the increased cooperation between Dersingham and Hunstanton and we are all the gainers from that. The Harvest Supper at St Cecilia's is a particular pleasure. The singing this year was to a karaoke machine – we hope to do better next time! The evening raised 450 pounds. **We are still looking for a new organist.**

It is also very good to note the increase in bookings for the hall facilities at Dersingham from local organisations and we are always glad to host more.



The Walkers and Helpers at the Sponsored Walk on 21 September.

As this goes to press we shall be celebrating the Feast Days of our two parish patrons, Saint Edmund, King and Martyr at Hunstanton and Saint Cecilia at Dersingham and then on the Sunday following we welcome Bishop Michael of East Anglia who is coming to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King with us, to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to six of our young people and to dedicate a memorial window in Hunstanton.

The strength of any parish lies in its people – may God bless you, each and every one.



Singing songs at the Harvest Supper are Ian Steel, Mary & Fred Grimley & Hilary Rhodes



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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - WOMEN'S SECTION DERSINGHAM AND SANDRINGHAM BRANCH

Four of our members attended the Group meeting on 15th September, this time Gaywood Branch were hosts, we all had a very enjoyable afternoon, especially as we had won the cup for the best attendance throughout the year.

Our A.G.M. was on 6th October, the committee remained the same, so we must be doing something right.

It is with great regret that I have to inform you of the death of Dot. Fisher on 13th October 2008. Dot was a very valued member of our Group and will be sadly missed.

Our Standard Bearer, with our Standard was on display at the re-dedication service in Cromer on 12th October, for the Poppy Launch at Halsey House on 23rd October and again on 25th October at The Princess Theatre in Hunstanton for the "Lest We Forget" evening. Eight of our members including our Standard Bearer attended.

Our meeting on 3rd November was a very lively one with jobs being allocated for our busy Coffee Morning held on the 6th November and transport arrangements made for Remembrance Sunday. The next time we meet will be on 1st December for our Christmas Party. This will be at 2.15 p.m. in The Orchard Close Community Room.

On behalf of everyone in The Women's Section of The Royal British Legion we would like to wish you all A Very Happy Healthy Christmas and all Good Wishes for 2009. □



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CHRISTMAS TIDE SERVICES 2008

SUNDAY 21st December **9.00 am Mass at St Cecilia's**
 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's, Hunstanton

WEDNESDAY

24 December **8.30 pm Vigil of Carols & Readings at St Cecilia's**
CHRISTMAS EVE **9.00 pm "Midnight Mass" at St Cecilia's**
 (No Midnight Mass at Hunstanton.)

THURSDAY

25th December **9.00 am MASS OF THE DAWN – St Cecilia's**
CHRISTMAS DAY **11.00 am MASS OF THE DAY – Our Lady's, Hunstanton**

SUNDAY 28th December **9.00 am Mass at St Cecilia's**
 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's, Hunstanton

2009

FRIDAY 2nd January **10.15 am Mass at St Cecilia's**

SUNDAY 4TH January **9.00 am Mass at St Cecilia's**
 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's, Hunstanton

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Dersingham Evening W.I.

In September we were highly entertained by Nicholas Cole, telling us about his floristry business in Hunstanton, aptly named 'Scent with Love.' He regaled us with a number of interesting and amusing anecdotes about his life whilst making several types of beautiful arrangements which several members were delighted to receive as raffle prizes.

The Sandringham Group of W.I.s will be 50 in 2009, and to help raise funds towards the proposed celebrations a fete was held in the garden of Dianne Neeve on what must have been the warmest sunniest day we had in August, raising the grand total of £471.00. A meeting of the Group will be held on November 28th at South Wootton Village Hall.

Mrs. Ann Jones was our speaker in October and we heard about her very interesting life as the wife of a Diplomat, which often meant helping British people who had got into difficulties in various ways while abroad.

Members had agreed they would like to mark the opening of the new surgery in the village and founder member Dorothy Goff presented two pictures to Mr. Graham Dickerson who was delighted to accept them on behalf of the Carole Brown Health Centre.

Phyl Jones was congratulated on winning a short story competition in the magazine 'Let's Talk' and read her entry to an appreciative audience. □

Phyl Jones



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Lest We Forget

Sunday 26th October saw the 5th production of the Lest We Forget concert at the Princess Theatre Hunstanton. The Concert was promoted by the West Norfolk Group of the Royal British Legion.

The performers, included: actor Michael Burrell, reciting World War One poems and telling a true story of a soldier fighting in the trenches; the detachment from the Kings Lynn, Wisbech and Huntingdon Sea Cadets, who played a stirring drum rendition, which more than kept the audience's attention; Norfolk comedian, Keith Loads, with his infectious sense of humour, and then followed by "PLUCK" The trio played their classical music, in what can only be described as the funniest classical concert that anyone could ever imagine. Their artistry and talent shone through and left the whole theatre, reverberating with laughter.

After the interval, the city of Norwich Pipe Band treated the audience to a great performance of Highland Cathedral and other equally stirring melodies and laments. The choir and brass ensemble from Springwood High School, King's Lynn sang and played beautifully together, and continued on into the Remembrance Service taken by Bishop Peter Fox from Norwich.

Standard Bearers from the Royal British Legion Branches from Sandringham & Dersingham, Hunstanton, Snettisham, Castle Acre, King's Lynn and The Maldon Branch from Bedfordshire. Also the Ladies Sections from Dersingham, Hunstanton and Docking, Royal British Legion. H.M. Coast Guard, Sandringham Detachment of the Army Cadets, The Royal Naval Association and the Sea Cadets, were also represented.

The show was compared by Mr. Glenn Ludlow, a Canadian film producer who served in the United States Air Force and was stationed at Sculthorpe Air Base during the 1950's and 60's.

The Committee of the West Norfolk Group had a new Producer, Valerie Brundle, on board and were pleased that she could still attend the event, even though she had just broken her ankle in a major car accident a few days earlier. Valerie thanked all the performers for their professional performances and for all the support from advertisers, back stage crew, our very patient printer and all those that pulled together to make a really memorable event a true success.

Our audience were without doubt, one of the most supportive groups that we could have ever wished for. The dignitaries included the Mayors of Kings Lynn and Hunstanton, Mr Marcus O' Lone, representing the Royal Sandringham Estate and senior County Officers from The Royal British Legion. □

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CHRISTMAS TEASER

A CHRISTMAS WORD CHAIN (answers next edition) by Rob Smyth

The following list of clues prompts an answer, the last letter of each answer being the same as the first letter of the next answer, and the last letter of the last answer is the same as the first letter of the first answer.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1 Queen usually spends Christmas here | [1] |
| 2 Parasitic plant popular at Christmas | [2] |
| 3 Puzzle, mystery | [3] |
| 4 Country invaded by Soviet Union over Christmas 1979 | [4] |
| 5 Small quantity of spirits | [5] |
| 6 Idle chatter or gossip | [6] |
| 7 First name of female star in 'White Christmas' | [7] |
| 8 Small freeholder farmer of history | [8] |
| 9 Tamper with racehorse | [9] |
| 10 High regard or respect | [10] |
| 11 Type of water | [11] |
| 12 Author of 'The Seven Pillars of Wisdom' | [12] |
| 13 Native of Northern Canada | [13] |
| 14 The best that can be done | [14] |
| 15 Unfortunate accident | [15] |
| 16 City destroyed by volcano in AD 79 | [16] |
| 17 Small African antelope | [17] |
| 18 Orange stone-fruit, allied to plum | [18] |
| 19 Extreme fear | [19] |
| 20 Waste | [20] |
| 21 New Year's Eve in Scotland | [21] |
| 22 Abominable Snowman | [22] |
| 23 Person with access to exclusive information | [23] |
| 24 White wine from Rhine Valley | [24] |
| 25 Fast run for quadruped | [25] |
| 26 Mountain border of France | [26] |
| 27 Dessert made of cream, sugar, wine and lemon juice | [27] |
| 28 Green vegetable with edible flowerhead | [28] |
| 29 South American, Caribbean lizard | [29] |
| 30 Inflammation of a joint | [30] |
| 31 Another name for Shropshire | [31] |
| 32 Ballet dancer's spin | [32] |
| 33 Retreating from unpleasant reality | [33] |
| 34 Neither to port nor to starboard | [34] |
| 35 City where Wenceslas Square can be found | [35] |
| 36 National Park in Florida | [36] |
| 37 Exterior face of an object | [37] |
| 38 Eternal | [38] |
| 39 A person with exceptional ability | [39] |
| 40 Velvety leather | [40] |
| 41 Duck with black and white plumage | [41] |
| 42 British Colonial Statesman in Southern Africa | [42] |
| 43 Jargon | [43] |
| 44 Free in giving | [44] |



Bog News

As autumn fades into winter and the temperatures begin to fall, Dersingham Bog takes on a distinctly Scottish feel. The open, flat conditions of the bog offer little shelter against the prevailing northerly winds and only the hardiest of creatures remain throughout the winter. Looking out over the bog from the higher dry heath, the richly contrasting hues of mauves, browns and yellows hint at the wide variety of plants that live there, the majority of which have now 'closed down' for the winter to conserve energy. At first glance, the bog may appear deserted. However, on the right day and with a little patience, it is surprising how many species of bird can be seen. Meadow pipits are perhaps the most frequent species, flitting across the bog looking for food and seeking shelter from birds of prey such as the hen harrier, barn owl, short-eared owl and sparrowhawk. In the evenings, large numbers of wildfowl travel to the reserve from the Wash, preening and washing the salt from their feathers in the fresh water pools, before travelling inland to feed and/or roost. Crossbills are also reliant on the freshwater pools and can sometimes be seen as they fly to and from the bog to drink or, as they feed in the tops of the surrounding pinetrees. Brambling, siskin and redpoll can also be abundant throughout the winter months and Wolferton cliff provides an excellent vantage point to see these species feeding in the pines below.

Many species of bird gather in flocks throughout the winter months, increasing their chances of finding productive feeding sites and gaining safety in numbers. Large areas of the woodland can seem devoid of life at this time of year. However, finding one of these roving flocks of birds quickly dispels any such notion. These bustling flocks can include many hundreds of individuals of a wide-range of species, including: coal tit, great tit, marsh tit, willow tit, long-tailed tit, goldcrest, siskin, redpoll and if you are very lucky, lesser spotted woodpecker.



In order to avoid disturbance to breeding birds, the bulk of the practical management works programme is condensed into the winter months. The preliminary work associated with these projects is generally completed by the autumn, including: obtaining felling licences, completion of species surveys, preparation of contract paperwork and awarding of contracts.

Those of you who have visited the reserve in recent months may have seen the areas of heather that have been mown. Heather requires active management to maintain it and to provide the wide range of conditions necessary for the survival of

the creatures which depend upon it for shelter and food. Mowing the heather and collecting the cuttings using a forage harvester also helps to remove the nutrients from the soil, thus avoiding the soil from becoming enriched to the detriment of the nutrient poor loving heathers. Nutrient enrichment has become an ever increasing problem on Norfolk's heaths as a result of atmospheric nitrogen deposition, resulting from industry. The Brecks has the highest atmospheric nitrogen levels out of anywhere in the UK.

Even relatively small increases in nitrogen in the soil can have a major impact on heathland plant communities and it has become apparent in recent years that the heathland on the reserve is going through profound changes, with nitrogen tolerant species spreading rapidly at the expense of the less competitive species such as ling and bell heather. The resulting dense carpets of grasses smother out other species and reduce the amount of suitable nesting habitat for ground nesting



The perks of doing joint volunteer days

birds such as the nightjar.

Cyclical removal of heather across the reserve effectively turns back the clock, reducing decades of nitrogen enrichment and giving ephemeral pioneer species such as wood sage and sheep's sorrel an opportunity to flourish.

By the time you get to read this article, the winter works programme will be in full swing. A tree safety survey has been conducted of all trees adjacent to roadways and main paths through the reserve and remedial felling and tree surgery work has been carried out to make these areas safe. The aim when carrying out this work is to carry out the minimum works necessary to make the

tree safe to the public.

Tree clearance works on the bog will also be underway by the time you read this. Contractors and staff are working to clear back scrub from the boggy low lying ground at the northern end of the reserve to maintain the open conditions required by the plants that live on the bog and to prevent the mire from drying out.

At the southern end of the bog, volunteers have been working to thin out the pines from around the wooden boardwalk. Despite being only 6-8' tall, some of the trees are almost twenty years old and are as hard as iron – they are, in effect, Bonsais, their roots stunted through a lack of nutrient and excess water. The stunted trees will be retained to provide shelter for insects such as the black darter dragonfly and bog hoverfly, whilst their more healthy and ambitious siblings will be removed.

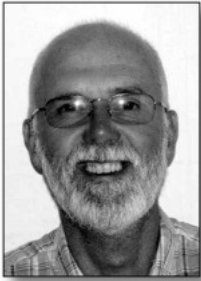
On the 29th October, we hosted a joint volunteer day with Community Support Volunteers (CSV) to provide young volunteers and those with learning difficulties the opportunity to learn new skills. The day was a great success with approximately 65 people joining in to carry out a series of practical events including: the construction of a wicker fence to guide visitors along the footpaths, birch and rhododendron clearance and restoration of the steps leading down to the Scissors car park. □

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1	5			3		9		
	2					5	8	
9		4	2		6			1
				9		8		7
			5		7			
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			8	4		2		6

Village Voice Sudoku No 3



The fence creation works in progress



Steve Davis

Dreaming of an e-Christmas

*A time for giving, a time for getting,
A time for forgiving and for forgetting.
Christmas is love, Christmas is peace,
A time for hating and fighting to cease.*

...so says the verse from the song “Mistletoe and Wine” sung by Cliff Richard. We communicate all these things with cards and visits and phone calls and presents and maybe even donations to charities. For many, computers and the Internet have greatly enhanced this process, but if you have not yet ventured beyond sending emails, then here are some other ideas you might like to consider. Phone calls generally are probably cheaper now than they have been in the past, though calls to certain countries can still be stubbornly expensive. Making video calls through some mobile phones is also a possibility, but these certainly tend to be expensive if not an out-of-range impossibility from Dersingham! However with the Internet service *Skype* we can make computer-to-computer video calls anywhere in the world through the Internet entirely free of charge. Your computer will need a *webcam* (a little camera that sits on top of your screen) together with a *microphone* both of which can be purchased for as little as £10, though many of the newer laptops, will already have them built in. Then all you need to do is visit www.skype.com, select the *Free Internet Calls* link that will direct you towards downloading and installing the free *Skype* software and take it from there.

Imagine the scene as I sit in my office working away, when suddenly the sound of an old fashioned telephone ring comes from my laptop. A little window pops up in the bottom corner of the screen with details of the person trying to call me. I click on the green handset button within the window and my speakers start to crackle. Soon a familiar little voice shouts “Grandad!”, and bit by bit a window forms on the screen containing a live, if a little shaky, video image of our two-year-old granddaughter sitting on our daughter’s knee. So everything else goes on hold for a while as we talk and I muse that this has to be modern technology at it best! Having gone through the usual “how are you?” and “what have you been doing today?” she’ll say “Where’s Hobby?” Now “Hobby” is actually a Hobby Horse, bought at a local boot sale, and he lives right by my desk. If I squeeze his ear, he makes very satisfying galloping and whinnying sounds, and with that he enters stage-right into video view and to my granddaughter’s delight. It works for us, though I dare say a glove puppet would be good too!

For several years now I have been making *Skype* video calls to my brother who lives on the Mexican Island of Cozumel, but still I find it scarcely believable, especially when I am shivering in my converted pantry office and he is sitting there in his studio with his shirt off, pulling the blinds to shut out the sun so that he can see his screen more clearly! The video might be a little jumpy at times, and occasionally the voice quality will deteriorate to *Darlekese* for a period, but that it works at all is I think truly amazing!

Skype also offers easy to use line by line text conversations and file transfers for instantly sharing photos and, for a relatively small charge, the ability to make calls to and from ordinary phones and mobiles too. Do try it; get someone to help you set it up if needs be, (as well as of course getting your friends and family to set it up on their computers). The *Skype* directory can be searched for subscribers by actual name or *Skype* name; (mine is *ukuleleboy*), but rest assured that no calls are connected until the person on the receiving end has agreed to take calls from the person making the call. Calling up family over Christmas will never be the same! “Look what I had for Christmas!” you will be able to say. Mind you, before calling them up, perhaps you had best make

sure that you are wearing the jumper they knitted specially for you!

The ability to send an email with the odd photo or two attached is a great blessing, but no-one will really thank you for attaching too many photos to one email, especially with photo files being the size they are now. There are many free online services that allow you to set up online *photo albums* to which you can then upload your digital photos – *Google's Picasa* service being one of them (as mentioned in my last article). You then simply invite friends and family with a simple email to view your album online. Why not go a stage further and make a Christmas video slideshow from your photos or any other digital images you have acquired? Several software packages will enable you to do this including Microsoft's own *Photo Story3* which is free to download, (*Google* will find it for you). With a bit of perseverance you can create a very professional looking video purely from still photos, but with the added effect of movement by zooming in and out and panning along your photos, various transition effects from one photo to the next together with tiling, background music and maybe even a spoken commentary. The result can be uploaded to a *YouTube* account (free to set up) at www.youtube.com for private or public viewing. By the time you read this I hope to have a Christmas video slideshow on my own *YouTube* channel site at www.youtube.com/bovrilman.

Another, evidently popular, way of sending Christmas greetings is with an *e-Card*. Just enter "*Christmas e-Card*" into *Google* and you will see what I mean; there are hundreds of sites to choose from, mostly free of charge. They basically require you to choose a picture "card" – penguins and snow are popular choices, often animated in some way. Next add a little customisation, a message of greeting, email address and that of your recipient before hitting the *Send* button. An automatically generated email will then be sent to the recipient (or recipients) inviting them to click on a *link* from which they will receive their e-Card together with its animation and message of greeting. *E-Cards* range from scenic, thought provoking, or amusing through to those that will have you reaching for a bucket! I think that the golden rule here might be to *use them sparingly!*

Choosing gifts for people can be difficult and whereas you might have chosen to send a book, record or garden token, companies such as *Amazon.co.uk* allow you to send an online *gift certificate*. This basically involves choosing how much you want to give (using your credit card), whereupon an email or normal postal service mailing containing your personalised greeting will be sent to the recipient together with a *gift certificate code* that will enable them to claim the amount sent against an *Amazon* order of their choice. But if like me you have become a little sickened by the prospect of giving yet more to those who already have so much, you may wish to consider alternative ways of giving. Charities such as *World Vision* (www.worldvision.org.uk), *TearFund* (www.tearfund.org), and others have adopted the idea of allowing online purchase of useful presents such as *chickens, sheep, clean water taps, fields of crops, etc* to be sent to those areas of the world where the need is greatest, then to send an *e-Card* or even customise a card to be sent out through the normal post, informing the nominated recipient of your alternative choice. Such gifts start from £5 up to whatever. *Tearfund* in particular have introduced the novel idea of a *Living Gift* whereby you choose how much you want to give and then your nominated e-card "recipient" gets to choose what the money will go towards. Pioneering stuff, very easy to do, and well worth considering this Christmas.

Well I guess that *wraps* it up! If you have any comments or questions then please email me at steve@davista.co.uk or, better still, *Skype: ukuleleboy* where "Hobby" and I will be very pleased to hear from you. Wishing you a very happy Christmas, be it *e-* or otherwise! □

Email: steve@davista.co.uk or visit: www.davista.co.uk
www.picasaweb.google.com/ukuleleboy www.youtube.com/bovrilman



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 56	Wednesday 7th January 2009	Thursday 29th January
Issue 57	Wednesday 4th March 2009	Thursday 29th March
Issue 58	Wednesday 29th April 2009	Thursday 21st May
Issue 59	Wednesday 8th July 2009	Thursday 30th July

The earlier you get your copy to us the more we like it and the better position it gets.

DIARY OF REGULAR EVENTS

Date	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Every Monday	2.00 pm	St. Cecilia's Church	Rosary Group	St. Cecilia's Church
3rd Monday of month	6 pm	Dersingham Library	Dersingham Reading Group	Library
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	7 pm	Dersingham Bridge Club	Bridge Evening	The Feathers Hotel
Every Tuesday in Term Time	8.30 to 11.15 am	St Nicholas Parent & Toddler Group	Parent & Toddler Group Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every Tuesday	8 pm	Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes	Sandringham Lodge Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
1st or 2nd Monday 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 11.00 am	Music+Movement	Pre-school Music, Dance & Drama	Dersingham Scout & Guide HQ

Every Wednesday	2.00 to 4.00 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Carpet Bowls	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Wednesday	6.00 to 7.15 pm	Beavers	Meeting for children aged 6 - 8	Scout & Guide HQ 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
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
Every Thursday	7.30 pm	Hunstanton and District Camera Club	Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
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; 19th Nov, 17th Dec, 14th Jan, 11th Feb, 11th March - 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 any 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 7th January 2009** Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465. E-mail — anitadersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk

Articles for publication in the December 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 7th January 2009 for publication on Thursday 29th January**. (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
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In the office - Anita Moore

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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday December 2nd

The Wash

National Nature Reserve

Described and illustrated by
Simon Couter

Wash reserve manager

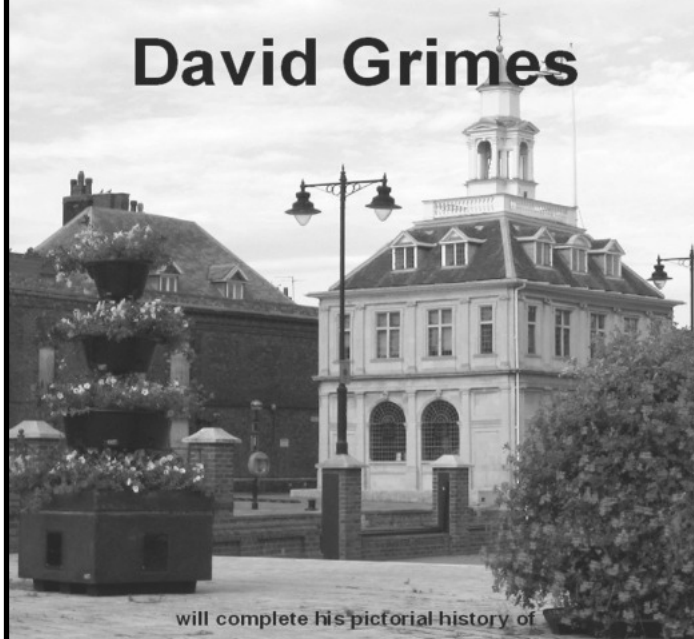


St Nicholas Church Hall, Manor Road, Dersingham.
7.30 pm Admission £2.00 including refreshments. Raffle

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday January 6th

David Grimes



will complete his pictorial history of

King's Lynn

Part 3 - 1950 onwards

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