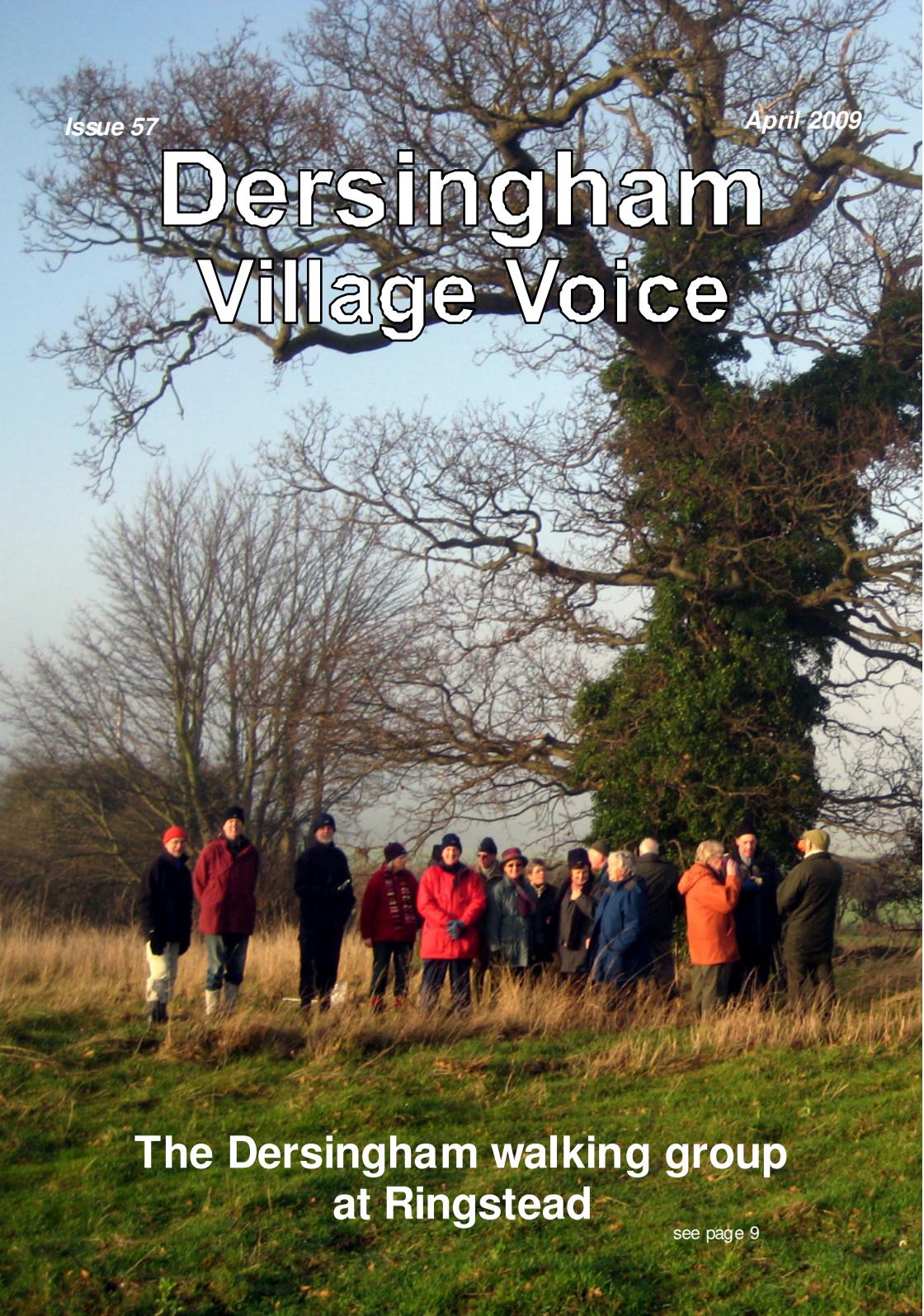


Issue 57

April 2009

Dersingham Village Voice

A group of approximately 15 people, mostly older adults, are standing in a grassy field. They are dressed in winter clothing, including jackets, hats, and scarves. The background features several large, leafless trees and a clear blue sky. The ground is covered in green grass with some dry, yellowish patches.

**The Dersingham walking group
at Ringstead**

see page 9



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Editor's Notes

Ninety two years ago to the day (of writing this), an explosion occurred in Silvertown in West Ham, Essex (now Greater London) on Friday, 19 January 1917 at 18.52. The blast was at a munitions factory which was producing explosives for Britain's World War I military effort. Approximately 50 tons of TNT exploded, killing 73 people and injuring over 400 and also causing substantial damage to buildings and property in the local area. This was possibly the largest single explosion to occur in Britain up to that time

Reportedly, the explosion also blew the glass out of windows in the Savoy Hotel and almost overturned a taxi in Pall Mall, London, the fires could be seen in Maidstone and Guildford, and the blast was heard up to 100 miles away, including being reported at Sandringham in Norfolk and along the Sussex coast.

Now you would have to be at least a hundred to have any memory of this but your parents, grand-parents or even the great gp's may have told of this, so does this ring a bell with anybody?

Last times appeal for buttons was so successful that Linda Beer was almost buried in a positive avalanche of the things. This has inspired me to create a "**Wants**" column, nearer the back of the magazine. Due to the constraints of printers and distributors, this cannot deal with urgent needs but is aimed at the collector or those not in a hurry. Just let us know what you want, from buttons to greenhouses etc., possibly with a photo for some items and we will print them for you. You will however need to renew your "wants" for each edition.

The keen eyed amongst you should have spotted that we now have a bit of colour about the magazine. We are able to do this, as in fact we produce the whole publication, thanks to our advertisers so please use them where possible and tell them where you found them.

We have a new 3 part series on sketching, starting in this edition, by local artist and tutor Stephen Martyn. Many of you will be familiar with his atmospheric work and indeed it was he who started off Village Voice Live a few years ago. Hopefully this will inspire and encourage. Do let us see and, possibly publish, your efforts.

This years cover photo competition will be for a colour picture fitting the brief "Colourful Dersingham" - see page 19. With more notice this year I hope for lots of colourful entries. Happy reading.

Tony Bubb

DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS*

Date	Time	Event	Organisation	Venue
Sat 4th April	10 am	Coffee morning	Methodist Church	Methodist Church
Mon 6th April	10.am	WI open day	Dersingham Evening WI	St Ceciliias Church
Weds 8th April	10 - 12 noon	Easter Family Activity	Dersingham Library	Dersingham library
Sat 25th April	9 - 12 noon	Grand Sale	St Nicholas Church	St Nicholas Hall
Sat May 2nd	10 - 12 noon	Indoor Car bootsale	Dersingham Community Centre	Community Centre
Sat May 2nd	7.30 pm	Lyra concert	St Nicholas Church	St Nicholas Church
Fri May 15th	7.30 pm	Karen Stuart Concert	St Nicholas Church	St Nicholas Church

* This, and all other information, is listed in good faith & we cannot accept responsibility for inaccuracies or if an event does not take place.

y

SJP

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Dear Village Voice

There certainly has been a flurry of photographs for your "Old Picture Corner" over the most recent issues of the Village Voice. Equally, these have been brought to life where your correspondents or contributors have been able to add an enlightening soliloquy to the scene portrayed in a particular picture.

I found Pat Linford's letter, together with her photographs, most interesting since it gives an eminent insight to the Terrington family in the early 1900s, and has been of great assistance to me in expanding information for my family genealogy.

As an addition to Pat's comments in respect of Percy Terrington, when tracing this part of the family, I was fortunate enough, in the King's Lynn Library archives, to come by the Lynn Advertiser article which covered his motor cycle accident in 1922; this could be the subject for a future submission. His grave is in the St. Nicholas Churchyard being buried next to his grandparents, close by to the pedestrian gateway.

I also wonder if Pat would remember my mother, Dorothy Howard, who came to Dersingham in about 1924 to help Aunt Nelly in the shop in Manor Road. No doubt Nellie needed some help in view of Uncle Reggie's health problems at the time, and a request to her sister Annie Howard (nee Garner), for her daughter, Dorothy, to assist in the shop was the ideal solution to the situation. In any event Dorothy stayed with them until she married in 1941.

Now as to the attached photographs. The one entitled "Beech House, Dersingham" is dated May 21st. 1907 and was sent by Nellie to her sister, Bertha, following her safe arrival in Dersingham having travelled from Cambridge by train. The other one with a faded title, "Dersingham . . .", is, I believe, the street scene where Lynn Road starts to cross the common to the right of the picture from where the people are emerging. If I am wrong, no doubt some "eagle eye" will put me right! The message on the card, dated August 15th. 1906, pleads, "Wanted! Lady visitor, single, about 21. Any time between present date and end of September. Photo of house on opposite side, apply, RON". This was sent to Nellie's sister, Bertha Garner when she was in Colchester, Essex undergoing nursing training. **But who was Ron?**



William Turner

A pat on the back. Looking out of the window today (collection day) I thought just how good our dustmen and recycling collectors are. The huge vehicles are so efficient and modern, not to mention fast, like the men themselves. When things go wrong we moan, but take for granted this regular service.

We did resist having a brown bin to start with, thinking we would have too much garden waste for it. Now we realise the brown bins are very roomy and it has saved us no end of wear and forth to the Heacham recycling centre.

The operatives at the dump (as we still, rather rudely, call it) are very helpful, at least to us older visitors, and keep it all so tidy and well organised. It's a credit to them. We hope others find this to be the case.

Cherry Tann

Just a little reminder that "Singing Workshops for Fun!" are going strong at Snettisham Village Hall on Wednesday mornings 10 - 11.30. They are open to all whether experienced or not. Classes are £5 each for the term enrolment or £6.50 pay-as-you-go. ►

All are welcome. For more information call me on 0781 01 465 01.

Cath Coombs

Four bro's - Bill Williams, Alan Bridges, Ken Conley and Derek Hopkins got together on 13th November 1990 and opened the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffalos (Bufs) Sandringham Lodge 10499 at the Dun Cow, Dersingham. In 1997 we started a charity collection. The first one was for our local surgery and Dr. Carole Brown was presented with £500.

Since then we have given to mostly local institutes:-
£500 to Ethel Tipple School, King's Lynn, £4000 to Phobbies, £4000 to the Air Ambulance, £600 to Dersingham Minors, £500 to First Responders, £1000 to Lupus association King's Lynn, £500 to Hunstanton Lifeboat for five helmets and most recently £1000 for the 'Ours' fund (RAOB).

Not too bad in 12 years with being a small lodge, on average 7 or 8 brothers weekly but we could always do with more.

Alan Bridges - secretary.

About 25 years ago I became interested in acappella, 4 part harmony, barbershop harmony and any type of unaccompanied singing. I've always loved music, singing in the bath, around the house, in the car and singing alone with my albums, cassettes and DVDs with such singers as Inkspots, Frank Sinatra, Beatles, ELO, Neil Sedaka, Beach Boys, Carpenters, Take That, West Life and even McFly. The one thing they have all got in common is harmony.

About 20 years ago in London I saw an advert in the local paper about the West London Barbershop Harmony Club who rehearse every Wednesday at the local Community Centre. So I thought I would go down there and have a listen. When I got there they were just getting ready to rehearse and when they started to sing it was like magic. To hear a group of men singing in the four different parts made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up. What happened next I was quite unprepared for. They asked me to get up and sing with them! I then said "No way" as I don't sing and only came to listen to them. Any way I bucked up some courage and had a go and what I found out is that you don't have to have a good voice to sing 4 part harmony. As long as you can sing in tune you're 90% there.

The 4 parts in unaccompanied singing are "Lead" who sings the melody, "Tenor" who sings the high part above the lead, "Bass" who sings below the lead and there is "Baritone" who sings the notes in between these parts. You all sing the same words and in the same key, but you all sing various notes. Each part sung on its own is no great deal but when you put all parts together it comes back to that word "magic". I guarantee that if you have a go you will get hooked and you won't believe how easy it is.

Which brings me to why I'm giving you an insight into 4 part harmony singing. I sing with three other guys but unfortunately our tenor can no longer make it so we are looking for someone who can sing the high notes. Now don't sit there and say "I can't do that". Give it a go. You will be surprised how easy it is. Give me a ring (543996) and we will arrange an informal meet with just the two of us and then we will go from there. Go on. Surprise yourself and have a go.

Bob Fletcher

I hope you will find this story of interest. My daughter, Caitlyn Anthony, (from James Jackson Road, Dersingham) aged 8, was lucky enough to be presented to the Queen on Sunday 11th January 2009 at Sandringham House after winning the Queen's Bible Award through her School - St. Georges CE Junior School in Dersingham.

This award happens every 3 years, and involves answering about 70 questions on the bible and completing a mini project. We discovered on Tuesday 6th January that she had won, and that she (along with her headteacher, Mrs Ann Pope, and her Dad and me) would be invited to meet the Queen personally at Sandringham House on Sunday 11th to collect her award.



So, on Sunday 11th at 12.00 noon, after the Queen had been to the morning service at Sandringham Church (where Caitlyn's older sister Bethany, aged 10, had been waiting outside to give the Queen a posy of flowers- so it was a bit of a royal family affair that day!); Caitlyn met the Queen at Sandringham House. The Queen presented Caitlyn with her award, a signed Bible, and spent about 15 minutes with us, chatting.

We are incredibly proud of Caitlyn, and it was a real honour to meet the Queen, who was absolutely charming.

Sam Anthony

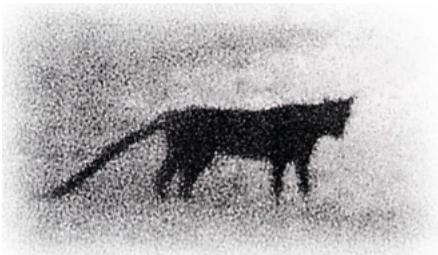
We are always very pleased to receive the Village Voice from our friend in Mountbatten Road and have just received the February issue. In the old picture comes the photo of the funeral procession of King George VI. You asked were you in the crowd. Bom and brought up in Anmer I went to St. George's Secondary Modern School at Dersingham and a group of us were at Sandringham with our Headmaster, Mr.

Willis, who, at the time, also lived at Anmer. I cannot remember how many of us were there from the school, but one man I am sure will tell you and that is Dick Melton. He may also have been in our school group, but I do think he is a bit older than me so may have left school by then. It was my last year there. Anyway I think the Village Voice is a great read and long may it continue. Many thanks.

Graham Michleburgh

At about 8.10 a.m. on Saturday, 14th February 2009 I, with my two dogs, entered the 'field' at the end of Duck Decoy Road. I released my elderly canine and then turned to my younger, a collie, to do likewise. She was instantly on her mettle and ran ahead. I called out to her and she stopped momentarily only to resume at a greater pace. From a tree and shrubby area about 50 metres directly in front of us (we were facing towards the by-pass) ran a very large cat-like animal, lithe in build but bigger than a fox and more the size of my own collie. It had a small face and an extremely long slender tail. Its body was dark in colour with flashings of a lighter shade on its undercarriage. It loped at considerable speed leaping the dyke alongside The Drift and disappeared into the wooded area, with my collie in pursuit. By the time I reached the edge of the dyke there was no sign of either animal. Within a few minutes my dog returned and we all resumed our usual circumnavigation of the field. At about 8.20 a.m. another dog walker entered the field and I told her what I had seen and asked if she had heard of big cat sightings at any time. She said she had heard talk but didn't think there was any truth in it. I assured her to the contrary! I am in no doubt I saw a puma/cougar - it was definitely not a feral cat!

I am not local to the area, living as I do in Surrey, but I stay in Dersingham at least four times a year visiting my aunt.



I can only end by saying that the incident was the most exciting and amazing happening to experience. Writing this several hours later I can hardly believe what I saw. Perhaps I'm not the only one!!!

Maureen Worley

Has anybody else seen anything feline?. Ed.

I was very interested in the article about the late Cliff Riches. I was surprised that no mention was made about Cliff's connection with the local Scout Group. He, along with the late Alex or Alec Fisher were instrumental in restarting this Group after the last war. It was about late 1946 or early 1947.

My late Father, who was born in Manor Road, had gone to London to work as a footman at St James Palace for the then Duke of Windsor. He then moved to Buckingham Palace when the Duke became King. He was still there when war broke out but was called up later on. He survived the War but on his release did not want to go back into Royal Service.

My Brother and I were brought up in St John's Wood, near Lords Cricket ground, where my London Grandparents ran a Pub in Allitsen Road. My Grandfather died towards the end of the war and Grandmother had to sell up. The Family then moved back to Dersingham. It was not a strange place to us boys as we always came down here for our Summer Holidays.

To get back to the Scout Group. I had been a Cub and Scout in London so naturally I rejoined. Cliff was the Scout Leader (called Skip) in those days and I stayed with the Troop until called up for National Service in September 1950. There was no modern Scout Hall in those days and we held our meetings in the so called Sports Field Pavilion, which was just a Wooden Hut in front of the Feathers Garden. We also used another wooden hut in the car park of the Old Hall for some time. We held our first camp at Sedgeford and I think it was in the Vicarage Garden. The Troop had an old fashioned Trek Cart so we actually walked there pulling this cart behind us. Next time we stayed in Jimmy's Field at Snettisham. I cannot remember whether we walked there pulling this cart.

When I left to go into the Army I was presented with a Prayer/Hymn Book. I still have this and most of the Scouts signed it. There are some well known Dersingham names on this page and some of them are still around. They are:-

Cliff Riches (Skip), Alan & Peter Goff, John Melton, Brian Graver, John Lester, Roy Hipkin, Owen & Ivan Green, Trevor & Bob Riches, Brian Pike and Malcolm Nurse. I have unearthed a photo of most of them in the sea at Snettisham while camping. Happy Days!

I do not know how long Cliff stayed as a Leader as I did not go back to the Group until a Group Secretary was needed and I volunteered. After my Son became a Cub, Mrs Mills, the then Cub Scout Leader became ill and I helped out for some time, eventually becoming A Cub Scout Leader with my wife. We were very fortunate the whole time we were Leaders as we always had plenty of Adult help. Not so the case today as you are lucky if you can get anybody to volunteer to help.

Derek Asker



DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP

Despite the weather numbers have held up well over the winter with thirty walkers enjoying a walk around Courtyard Farm on a foggy January afternoon. We hope to see similar numbers on our evening walks, the first two of which will be:

WEDNESDAY 8th APRIL

Start at 6.00 pm from the Dersingham Village sign (on the Common) (map ref.L 132/686 295). A 4.5 miles circular walk around the Dersingham area led by Michael and Valerie Smith (540728)

WEDNESDAY 13th MAY

Start at 6.30 pm from Sandringham Visitor Centre (map ref.L 132/689 287). A 4 miles circular walk around the Country Park led by Chris Chater (541177)

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.

Details of the evening and Sunday walks for the summer will be given in the next edition of Village Voice. If you would like any further information please contact me or the walk leader. □

Keith Starks (542268)



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Parish Council Report



At last we seem to have lost the snow and frost and the weather has turned mild, fingers crossed it stays this way. We have however, been left with a legacy of potholes in the roads. Our County Councillor told the Parish Council that the repair of these would be given priority. Complaints have also been received regarding the gritting of minor roads and pavements, this is something we will have to put up with as the County Council is only obliged to grit the county's major roads and bus routes. We will have to just slither and slide on the others.

There still is no white line on the parking bay outside the Post Office, we do have the assurance from County Cllr Eells that this will be done soon when money comes to hand. A DIY offer to paint the line was politely declined, please resist the temptation.

The sign indicating the library has been moved but we wait for one more in keeping with the village. Thank you to the County Council for this.

Many residents and even the PCSO's have expressed their concern regarding the increase in footway dog fouling. The verge cutters are not too pleased either, as one can imagine the mower blades can do unmentionable things with fouling on the verges. The offending dog owners are committing an offence, for which there is a hefty fine. So if anyone sees a dog owner not clearing up after their dog and knows who it is, please let the Parish Council office know and if possible take a photograph (undercover work may be required here).



Village Voice reader James Coombs spotted this visiting fisherman early on the morning of the 9th of February, no doubt after some breakfast.

Policing of our village is to change as from April, the thinking behind this is to make the police more mobile in order to reach the crime hot spots. The police who deal with the serious crime will be based at King's Lynn, not locally. We may think Dersingham is a crime hot spot, well apparently it is not.

The Unitary council matter is still rumbling on, now we have to wait until July. I suppose that no news is good news, but it must make long term borough/county council planning most difficult..

Matters regarding the Village Hall have made further progress. It has been decided to set up a Strategic Working Group, consisting of 4 Parish Councillors, who may co-opt non councillors as and when required. Parish Councillors are to be the majority number, though. There are many issues to consider, but this initiative is intended to move everything along at a steady pace. The Council will be kept informed by the group as matters develop. Our four newest Councillors volunteered for this working group, it was felt that fresh eyes/ideas, would be useful.

Finally, the Life Wood footpath is still not open, there are problems to resolve, let us hope these will be rectified very soon and there is no news regarding the village Conservation Area, Borough Councillor Burrall is actively pursuing this. □

Ann Chapman

The Sandringham Newsletter

by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate



The sugar beet harvest is continuing, and parsnips are also now being lifted; about 100 acres of these are grown on the estate for sale through supermarkets. Spring barley is being sown whenever there is a gap in the wet weather, but otherwise this is a time for maintenance work on machinery, clearing ditches and drains and generally preparing for the new season.

The Head Gardener and his staff are beginning to prune the pleached lime walks in the North End Garden. This is an intricate process which takes about three weeks, carefully cutting back twigs and spurs and tying in last season's growth to a network of support wires. The end result in summer will be a dense green canopy of interwoven branches framing the formal composition of the North End Garden.

Fruit Farm staff are also pruning, but they have a rather larger task. There are 30 hectares of apple orchards on the Estate, which means there are well over 20,000 apple trees to be pruned by hand.

Forestry staff have been continuing with this winter's hedge-planting programme; they will then be planting more than 4,000 trees in the woods. In the Country Park, a low fence around the children's play area has been completed, to try to keep it dog-free.

Trials of accelerated composting machines at the Visitor Centre Restaurant, which have been running for almost a year, are continuing; the idea is to compost all the food waste from the kitchens, but to accelerate the process so that it only takes 2-3 weeks to produce compost, which can then be used in the gardens. Visitor Centre staff also separate out glass, aluminium, cardboard and plastic from other waste and send them for recycling; it amounts to quite a lot since, for example, visitors buy more than 10,000 cans and 20,000 bottled drinks in a year.

The Visitor Centre was busy over Christmas, with children's activities in the holidays including roller-skating, gingerbread decorating and face-painting, and Visitor Centre staff are already beginning to plan ahead for next Christmas. Just over 1,000 Christmas lunches were served in November and December, as well as the usual very varied meals and snacks. The Visitor Centre was also the venue for one of the Norfolk Hospice's "Light Up A Life" Christmas services, and for a reception in which the Sandringham Flower Show Committee presented cheques to local charities from the proceeds of the 2008 Flower Show.

Finally, Her Majesty The Queen officially opened the new Health Centre in Dersingham on February 3rd, which was developed within the old farmyard of Manor Farm, Dersingham. Pigeon Holdings Ltd have successfully let all but one of the units in the development. □



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GRAND SALE

BOOKS – BRIC-A-BRAC – NEARLY NEW CLOTHES

Saturday 25th April

The annual sale will be held on Saturday 25th April, from 9.00 am. to 12.00 noon in Dersingham Church Hall. There will be a large selection of good secondhand books (plus jig-saw puzzles, videos and C.D.s.). There will also be a varied and interesting collection of bric-a-brac, plus a range of well-presented nearly new clothing.

We are not able to sell large pieces of furniture, or anything that is upholstered. Unfortunately we will not accept any electrical goods. All items for the bric-a-brac stall should be delivered to the Church Hall as early as possible on Friday, 24th April, from 9.00am. onwards, although Books and Clothing can be received at any time in the coming weeks. Books and Clothing can be delivered to the monthly Coffee Mornings, (on the first Friday of every month, from 10.00a.m. to 12.00 noon). Alternatively you can contact one of the people listed below.

If you have any items to donate for this sale, please contact Mary Sharp (Tel: 01485 540350) for clothing. Doreen Asker (Tel: 01485 540601) is the contact for the Bric-a-Brac. Neil Adams (Tel: 01485 540857) is the contact for Books and any general enquiries about the sale.

Please make a note of this date on your calendar and tell your friends.

9.00a.m. - 12.00 noon

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Old Picture Corner



The village cookery class

This has the look of the early 1900's about it and the class seems to have been taking place in the St Nicholas Hall but can we get any names for these budding Delia's and are any of them still cooking? Probably not but someones granny must be here.



Dersingham Bowling Club

Back row : H Johnson, W Lines, E Wheeler, J Hall, L Tuck, T Jarvis, J Cobbald, E Ewer, C Corkran
3rd row : H Mitchell, Westover, H Grief, E Drew, J Emmerson, J Chambers, R Patrick, J Johnson, Webb, Drew
2nd row : Capt Brown, Rev Lewis, H Yaxley, W Tansley, F Tuck, R Wells, R Painter
Front row : J Clynes, W Smith, Dewing, F Linford (who donated the picture to the Bowls Club taken on June 8th 1920)

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Colourful Creations for Christmas

James Graven's Budgens store in Lynn Road, Dersingham invited children from the village to take part in a Christmas colouring competition. Children were asked to colour in a typical Christmas scene, using whatever materials they liked. Over 40 children entered the competition.

First prize was awarded to Harry Leslie in the 4-6 year old category, Adele Fleming in the 7-8 year age group and Ellie Colman in the 9-11 year age group. Winners collected their prizes at a special presentation held at the Budgens store on Friday 6th February by Jonathan James. Jonathan said "The standard of entries was extremely high. The children had clearly given a great deal of thought to their pictures with an amazing attention to detail, even in the younger age categories".



Community raises funds for local schools

Budgens shoppers in Dersingham have raised money for the two schools in the village. The School Voucher Scheme ran in store from 8th September until 31st December 2008. Customers collected tokens during this period and passed them onto Dersingham Infant and Nursery School and St George's Junior School for redemption. Over 1,200 tokens were collected between the two schools. Cheques were presented to the two schools on Friday 6th February during assemblies.

Jonathan James, owner of the Lynn Road store said "It is an excellent scheme, enabling our customers to help raise funds for our two local schools. We feel we have an important role to play in supporting the local schools in our communities. The School Voucher Scheme allows us to do just that, as well as involving the wider community in our fundraising efforts". □

Sarah Stevens





From the parish office....

This will be my last office report before I hand back to Sarah, who takes over again as Clerk, on 30th March. My fifteen months as Acting Clerk seem to have flown by. It was quite difficult at first not having local knowledge but Anita, the Clerical Assistant, was very helpful, and I found the Dersingham Data invaluable. Data is produced annually and delivered to every home in the parish. It is intended to be kept for reference throughout the year.

We have just received Data 2009 from the printers and a copy should have been delivered to your home by the time you read this.

One problem that has cropped up regularly during my fifteen months here has been dog fouling. This is very disappointing. Council makes considerable efforts to encourage dog owners to act responsibly and clear up after their pets. There are dog waste bins throughout the parish; several have been erected this year in response to requests from the public. When Council learned that Borough Council were no longer bulk-purchasing dog waste bags it was decided to buy the bags ourselves in order that there was a supply of reasonably-priced dog waste bags available in the parish.

The noticeboard outside Budgens is available for local clubs, societies or organisations to publicize their events. Weather-permitting, this noticeboard is updated every Monday. If you would like to have a poster displayed, please ensure that it is delivered to us in time for display on a Monday.

If you have a problem, query or suggestion, do come along to Full Council meetings, fill in one of our slips for the Suggestion Box, or call in at the Parish Office during opening times. Please note, the Annual Parish Meeting is your opportunity to raise any issues of concern. A date for your diary - this year's meeting will be held on Monday 18th May in St Cecilia's Church.

Now it's over to Sarah..... □



Doggy Bags shown here by Anita

Irene, the Acting Clerk

Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening Times

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

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

The Dersingham Parish Council Office is at

The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham, Norfolk PE31 6LH
Tel: 01485 541465 E-mail: dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk

Orange Trade Refuse Sacks - £50 inc. VAT per roll of 25,
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Can be obtained at the Council Office during the above times.



Dersingham Village Voice Cover Photo Competition



This is a chance to have one of your pictures on the front cover of our magazine reflecting :-

"COLOURFUL DERSINGHAM"

Entrants should remember that covers are in an upright (portrait) format.

You may submit entries as prints or electronically, on a disc or by e-mail.

Entries will be judged by local photographers Jo Halpin-Jones, Mick Bye and the editor of Village Voice, Tony Bubb.

Pictures must have been taken by the entrant within the parish boundary, not have been previously published and not have been digitally manipulated. However, these do not need to be recently taken photos, as older work is equally valid.

The closing date for entries is September 2nd 2009, for publication on the October issue cover. Two runners up will have their entries published inside.

Make sure you supply your name and contact details with your entry and send them to:-

Village Voice Cover Competition.

Dersingham Parish Council, Police Station,

Manor Rd, Dersingham, PE31 6LH

or e-mail to anita.dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk



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Carole Brown Health Centre

Patients' Participation Group

VIDA Healthcare. For those with internet access, please visit the revised Vida Healthcare website at www.thehealthcentre.org.uk

Royal Opening. Her Majesty the Queen officially opened the new Carole Brown Health Centre in February. Some 30 patients were presented to Her Majesty along with numerous medical, nursing and administration staff of the health centre. Amongst those presented to Her Majesty and whom we were all delighted to see at the opening was the late Carole Brown's mother. The local school children gave Her Majesty a wonderful flag-waving welcome as she entered as she entered the St Nicholas Court complex. Unfortunately, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh was indisposed and unable to attend.

Appointments Reminder. A new text messaging service has been launched for those with mobile phones to remind people of appointments, especially those made some time ahead. Please enquire at Reception for further details. Patients' E-mail addresses – where available - are also being collected to allow the practice to contact patients.



Retirement & New Appointments. Hilary Judd, our Practice Manager since we left the Heacham

Group Practice, retires this month and will be replaced by Gary Grunwald on 16th March as Patients Services Manager. We wish Hilary a relaxing and stress-free retirement and thank her for unstinting help and support over the last 5 years. Dr Uni - a lady doctor - arrives on 9th March as Dr Goel's replacement and we welcome her to the Carole Brown team.



Some of the crowd waiting for the Queen



Training Practice. Our practice teaches medical students from the University of East Anglia and the GPs involved may ask patients of the practice if they would occasionally mind participating in the teaching programme. This usually means coming to either the Gayton Road Health Centre on a Friday or the Carole Brown Health Centre on a Tuesday and spending half an hour or so chatting to a couple of students and sometimes being examined under supervision. This is an extremely valuable part of their education and the feedback from the vast majority of patients

who have been involved in the past 6 years is very positive indeed. We find the involvement with teaching young doctors stimulates the practice staff and can be a very useful opportunity to recount the patient's journey. This can in turn be offered as feedback to the practice management to help improve the service. We hope that if you are invited to participate, you will find it a rewarding experience.

Memorial Seat. Pictured below are Ken Conley and his daughters, amongst the staunchest supporters of the Carole Brown Health Centre and its PPG, sitting on the Memorial Seat in St Nicholas Court presented in memory of the late Mrs Winifred Conley.





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This is a fast, flat single lap course winding its way through historic King's Lynn, starting and finishing in the town centre's Tuesday Market Place. The course is unaltered for 2009, is suitable for wheelchairs, and is an excellent venue for spectators with an atmosphere that only a town centre race can create. A gold rated BARR event not to be missed!

10.30am

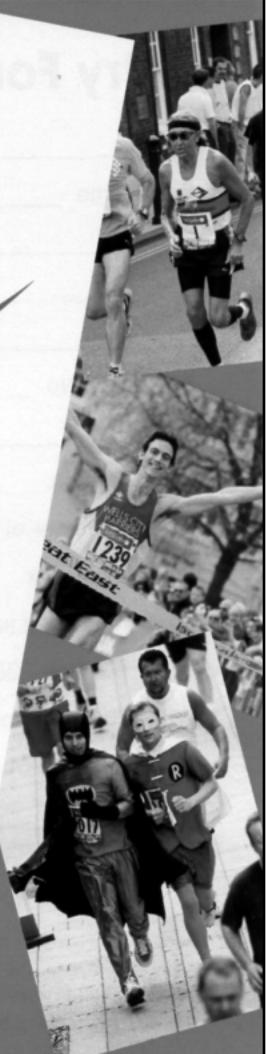
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That's my business

Local Osteopath James Kemp has a long association with Norfolk; although he grew up in the Fens near Ely all the family holidays were spent here. He qualified as an Osteopath in 1990 and ran practices in Chatteris and Downham Market for 10 years. After living in Ireland for a while he moved up to Norfolk on his return and took over the Tuesday Market Osteopathic Practice in King's Lynn. Five years ago, James took over from Dr Malcolm James in Dersingham and continues to operate from the rooms above the dentist in Jubilee Court.

The practices offer treatment for a large variety of ailments, but specialise in musculoskeletal problems, especially bad backs, necks and other joint pains. Headaches also respond well to osteopathic treatment. It is a traditional osteopathic practice, but acupuncture is also used to complement the physical therapy. Patients of all ages may be suitable for treatment and many arthritic conditions can be eased by gentle manipulation. James has nearly 20 years experience of helping people with joint pains and his patients range from babies to people in their 90's. Foot care is also offered at the practice by Christine Heaphy and herbal medicine is practiced by Wendy Jilley.

James is registered with all the major health insurance companies and they will usually cover a course of treatment. If you haven't tried osteopathic treatment before, they will be happy to arrange a free consultation to see if they can help you.

The practice can be contacted on 01485 541210 and Julie, the Practice Manager can answer any questions you may have. □



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Team player or just a CLOG?

Selfish, thoughtless, ignorant. That's you if you are one of these nauseating people who insist on cruising in the middle lane of a motorway when the inside lane is clear. You're officially a member of CLOG (the Centre Lane Owner's Group) according to one highly respected journalist.

If you are a CLOG, I know exactly what's going on in your head. Mostly not a lot, but any glimmers of mental activity are thoughts like: "I'm doing 70 mph, so nobody should be wanting to pass", "There's a lorry half a mile ahead so no point in moving over", "the inside lane is the slow lane, so it's not for me".

You're probably enjoying Radio 2 or your Celine Dion CD, haven't used your mirror for miles, dislike driving, but most of all, don't care about anyone else. "I'm alright Jack" is your philosophy behind the wheel and therefore probably in many other aspects of your life too. You're just not a team player.

A motorway is to be driven proactively, not passively. As a rule of thumb, if there's some traffic behind, even if you can move over a lane for only ten seconds, it's worth doing. When you need to move back out again, most drivers respond well to indicators, (unless it's a CLOG) so an early clear signal will usually mean the required gap presenting itself. Heaven forbid, it might sometimes mean you have to accelerate a little to filter in at an appropriate speed. This is called being proactive, being a team player. Motorway driving can be tedious enough, but playing the team game keeps you more alert.

Here's a classic scenario: CLOG member at 60mph. Two more cars behind, also in the middle lane, catching up at 65 mph. Another two closing in now in the outside lane at 70mph. Inside lane vacant. Think that's all ok? Then do us all a favour and keep off the motorways.

Travel on the Autoroutes and Autobahns in Belgium and Germany and you'll see a completely different mentality. But you just know, when you disembark from the ferry at Dover on your return trip, it'll be back to the world of CLOGS. It makes want to you scream but I actually just laugh now. That's how pathetic it is.

There are calls to widen motorways at the cost of billions of pounds. That's expenditure we need like a hole in the head right now. But I say that most motorways can gain an extra lane tomorrow if only everyone would exercise good lane discipline. Time and time again one sees congestion on the outside lane caused by drivers who have had to move across to get round the middle lane cruisers. And what's usually to the CLOG's left? A vacant, expensive but now redundant left hand lane!

The "default" lane is the left hand lane, end of story. That's where you should be, unless you are overtaking. And that's just what it is...an overtake, so move back into that lane when executed.

There is currently an experiment on the M42 which I experienced a few weeks ago. The hard shoulder is now used as an extra lane at peak times. A lower speed limit is imposed, extra cameras used to look out for broken down cars or accidents and more refuge points made available at least every 500metres. Gantry lights give a clear indication if the hard shoulder is in operation as an extra lane. To me this seems a sensible use of dead space we already have: an extra lane for a fraction of the cost of laying another ribbon of tarmac. Results thus far show journey times reduced by 25%, accidents down by 70% (despite the concerns of the AA and RAC) and emissions reduced by 10% because there is less stop start.

Take a look at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7061188.stm> for a news report.

Other sections of motorway are under consideration for this scheme too.

So there we have it. Two extra motorway lanes for virtually no cost, one of which is simply down to the driver behind the wheel. Don't be a member of CLOG. Be a member of the far superior KLFC (Keep Left Fan Club). □

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Every day.

Through them

We express

Our feelings

Our thoughts

Our moods.

The way we use them

And combine them

Can make them

Unique

And make them ours (Yes yours - Yes mine).

*Concise Oxford Dictionary

'I want to shout with joy. My heart is full of gratitude.'

Christopher Nolan *

The Book.

The Book

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Through which
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Other worlds.
The key
To other minds
With which
We unlock
The challenges
The treasures
Of our inheritance
Which we -
(Yes you - yes me)
We must pass on.

* The inspiring words of Christopher (Christy) Nolan spoken on his behalf by his mother on the occasion of his receiving the Whitbread Literary Award for his autobiographical novel about a severely disabled young man. They appeared in his obituary in The Daily Telegraph.

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News from the RSPCA



Sue Levings, Supervisor, reports on what's been happening at the East Winch Wildlife Centre:

2009 got off to a hectic start, with a much higher than usual number of grey seal pups being admitted. The seals are the most labour-intensive of all the wildlife we care for at the Centre, and we certainly made use of all the towels donated by the public.

It has been a fairly quiet start to the year for wildlife casualties from Dersingham, but we expect that we will see more casualties from the village as the weather improves. The most interesting Dersingham casualty so far is a Common Gull with an injured right wing was admitted, when a concerned member of public contacted the RSPCA. The gull was treated for lice – a sign that it hadn't been able to preen and bathe. An x-ray of the wing showed no sign of injury, so it is a matter of careful nursing and monitoring progress.



As always, please think of us if you have any old towels, tea towels, flannels or blankets – call us on 0300 123 0709 and leave a message if you would like someone to collect them. □

Smart Grass



In December a three-man selection team from the Norfolk F.A. visited grounds all over Norfolk to select the top groundsmen. The team included Gary Kemp, Norwich city F.C. Head groundsmen.

Dersingham Football Club put forward John Bunn in a record number of entries. John was announced the winner of Norfolk and will represent Norfolk in the national competition. Gary Kemp has invited John to the city ground.

John has been with the club 54 years and spends 25 hours a week on the grounds. John and John Barrett have spent the last 30 years looking after 11 acres of playing field. R. Doy works with John on match days but the heroes of the club and village are the football committee, three of whom have 30 years service under the leadership of Colin English. They run four mens sat teams and under the leadership of Carl Bowman the youths of the village have 15 teams each week. They are unsung heroes who have worked hard over the years to keep it as a sports field. □

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Hunstanton & District Lions Club

We are now well into Spring and thinking about events for the summer. We have plenty of things in the pipeline to raise funds for the charities we support and you will see us throughout the year in various places. Again this year we are the main supporters of "Poochcorner Dog Training Clubs Companion Dog Show" being held at Hunstanton Youth & Community Centre on Sunday May 24, starting at 9.30am. All proceeds from this event go to the very worthy cause "Guide Dogs for the Blind".

Information on this is available from Cate Williams on 07971 340919. Last year was disappointing because of the very wet day. Regrettably this also applied to our open "Bowls Tournament" held at Old Hunstanton Social Club in August. We will be holding another this year and have been asked to make it an annual event. More details on this will be available in the June edition of "Village Voice". Even with the poor weather both events proved enjoyable and were successful.

Details on this will be available in the June edition of "Village Voice". Even with the poor weather both events proved enjoyable and were successful.

Many people know of us through our "Car Boot Sales" which were regularly held throughout the summer. Unfortunately last year we were unable to hold these because of a change of ownership of the Community Centre, but plans are well in advance to hold them again this year, but at a different venue.

Hunstanton Lions Club was founded in 1980 and covers the area stretching from Dersingham to Brancaster. Over the years we have held many large and small events to raise money for many local, national and international causes.

Many of you know what a haven for wheelchair and mobility scooters Hunstanton is with dropped kerbs at virtually every junction. What you probably don't know is this came about courtesy of Hunstanton Lions. Back in 1983 there were no dropped kerbs and we were asked by the "Sandcastle", a holiday home for disabled children and adults at the top of York Avenue, if we could do something about it. Their carers found it very hard to get their visitors from York Avenue to the Town and the beach having to push them in the road which really wasn't suitable. The Lions accepted the challenge readily. A survey was done and a route selected to run from the "Sandcastle" right down to the front. This was to be named "The Douglas Bader Way" in honour of Sir Douglas Bader who had done so much for the disabled. Discussions with the council were held and around £3000.00 was raised by the Lions. This was a great amount in 1983. The council subsequently lowered the kerbs along the way paid for by the Lions. The "Way" was opened by Lady Bader in May, 1986 making visitors and residents able to move around with far greater ease. We were the pioneers in procuring the use of dropped kerbs for access for the disabled and the idea was quickly taken up elsewhere.

How would you like to win £100.00? Tickets for our 2009/10 "200 Club Draw" are now on sale at £15.00 each. These are available from our treasurer, Peter Sutton, Suttons Estate Agents, 29 High Street, Heacham, or any member of Hunstanton Lions. Every month prizes of £100.00, £50.00, and two of £25.00 are drawn. The lucky winners in February were Kathryn Hood, Tony Lye, P. Sutton and Stash Rybak. April and May winners will be published in the June edition of "Village Voice".

As our 'district' extends from Dersingham round to Brancaster we would like to hear from you. If you know of anything or anyone that you think the Lions can help, please contact us. We are a lively club meeting at least twice every month and if you are interested in becoming a member, let us know.

We look forward to seeing you all during the summer. □

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Dig for the future

As I write this the winter seems, finally, to be on its last legs. February was a bit of a struggle in the garden with regular snow falls putting a halt to proceedings. But there was just enough of a gap between spells of weather to put up a new polytunnel and sow some early carrots and turnips in it. Garlic, onion and shallot sets have all been planted outside and covered with insulating fleece to get them off to a good start.

By March the weather will be warming up quickly (fingers crossed) and we should be able to start planting out the lettuces and salads that started life in the propagator. This is a good time to start setting out some potatoes too. To make the most of limited space you can plant potatoes on your patio or in your yard in stacks made from bricks or old car tyres. Stack two tyres in a sunny spot and fill them with soil or compost and set a couple of seed potatoes a few inches below the surface, keep the soil moist but not too wet; each time the leaves grow to about eight or ten inches high add another tyre and fill that with more soil or compost leaving some leaf showing, keep doing this until the potato tops start to die back. You should now have a stack of perfect spuds.



As an organic gardener I am keen to encourage the use of green manures and mulches in the veg garden. A green manure is a sowing of plants with the purpose of providing nutrients for the soil; at this early stage of the year I sow relatively fast growing green manures such as phacelia and mustard which will produce a good bulk of organic material to be cut and lightly tined in to the soil in a couple of months, soon before those patches are planted with other crops. A mulch is a layer of material laid on the soil surface between the crop plants. It's good to use a mix of materials; straw, compost, composted manures, leaf mould and grass clippings can all be used, although I find with grass clippings it is best to let them dry out on the lawn for a few days after cutting as fresh, wet grass tends to be very attractive to slugs. Also a cut from a green manure patch makes good mulch material. By using these methods you are continuously adding organic

material to the soil and encouraging the natural process of soil improvement; providing food for the bacteria, worms and other soil dwelling organisms. By judicious soil management you should be able to develop a rich and healthy soil which rarely, if ever, needs to be dug again. A healthy living soil is also better at retaining moisture and by keeping soil covered at all times weeds are suppressed and essential nutrients protected from the effects of the wind and sun. There are only two good reasons I can see for digging; for an initial preparation of uncultivated land, perhaps to reduce compaction and to improve drainage, or for the removal of perennial weeds.

The early spring is one of the busiest and most exciting times for the vegetable gardener. There are peas and beans to sow, pumpkins and squashes in pots in the greenhouse and lots of salad crops, the propagator is bursting at the seams, the first green shoots are showing, the veg plot is quickly starting to fill up and the long awaited first crops of the new season are starting to look very tempting. □

Bryan Beers - The Garden Farmer



Phacelia

Janet Pitkin

Dip. CFHP MPSPract MVR

FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER

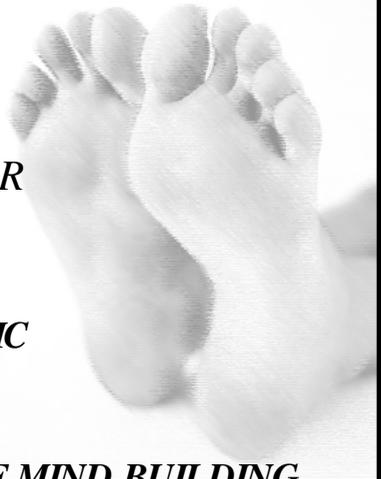
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Police Meeting - 12th February 2009

On a very snowy night in February 25 Dersingham parish councillors, parishioners and representatives of nearby parishes attended a meeting in St Nicholas Church Hall to learn about changes to local policing after April 2009. It was a horrible night weather-wise and the low turnout was understandable. Accordingly I have agreed to write a short piece on the meeting so that all Dersingham parishioners can be aware of the changes.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Roy Johnston, Chair of Dersingham Parish Council and the speakers were Inspector David Buckley, who is based at Hunstanton Police Station, and Mr Stephen Bett, Chair of Norfolk Police Authority. The format for the evening was a short presentation by both speakers followed by questions from the floor. My notes are a compilation of their presentations and further information gleaned from responses to questions from those present.

Mr Bett began the evening by explaining why the Norfolk Police Authority was set up and how it works. Norfolk Police Authority is one of the Association of Police Authorities. Mr Bett has been a member of the Authority since 1996 and chairman for three years. He advised that the Authority are responsible for strategic planning but their decisions can be over-ruled by the Chief Constable. He considered that there is a very good relationship between Norfolk Police Authority and Norfolk Constabulary, and he considers Norfolk Constabulary is one of the best small police forces. The Authority also look after finance, funding and scrutiny. There are three Committees: Scrutiny and Audit, Professional Standards and Property and ICT.

Inspector Buckley advised that he has responsibility for 51 parishes plus Hunstanton town, in an area extending from Hunstanton to Holkham, Pentney to King's Lynn. There are 35 police stations in Norfolk. He advised that there had been considerable public consultation before the introduction of the new policing arrangements. After April there will be six response bases at King's Lynn, Thetford, Fakenham, Aylsham, Norwich and Yarmouth. These are the areas where the majority of 999 calls are made, therefore seen as the areas with most crime. There is a Government directive that when 999 calls are received priority is given to the elderly and children. The Safer Neighbourhood Team will continue to be based at Dersingham Police Station. The team will consist of Sgt Andy Crown, PC Adrian Fryatt, PC Karen Falkner and four PCSOs. Inspector Buckley advised that the aim of the new arrangements is to ensure that police officers will always be available to respond to 999 calls. The PCSOs will have responsibility for solving local and minor crimes. The four Dersingham-based police officers could be called to King's Lynn if required and the three PCSOs based at Wootton could provide backup for the Dersingham Safer Neighbourhood Team if needed. Night time cover would remain as at present. The response-based system is currently operating in Warwickshire.

In response to concerns expressed regarding a reduction in information because the officers were to be based at King's Lynn, Mr Bett believed this would not happen as research had shown that the public are prepared to raise their concerns with PCSOs. Concerns were raised that reducing the number of the police officers who were based locally could result in a loss of service. Inspector Buckley considered that the Safer Neighbourhood Team would be expected to step up to the challenge to provide a comparable service.

When questioned if the new system was reviewable, Inspector Buckley advised that he was prepared to visit any parish to advise of the new arrangements and was prepared to visit the parishes after the introduction of the new system to check on progress.

The meeting concluded with several other general police-related questions being put to Inspector Buckley and Mr Bett.

Cllr Johnston thanked Inspector Buckley and Mr Bett for a very useful presentation. □

Irene Woods

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Lifeboats

NEWS FROM HUNSTANTON LIFEBOAT GUILD

Hunstanton & West Norfolk Lifeboat Guild
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Annual General Meeting
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10.30am on Wednesday, 29th April

Coffee served from 10 am

Existing and prospective members all welcome Annual
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Enquiries: 535542

DERSINGHAM FLOWER CLUB

The club has had another successful year. We have continued to have interesting meetings, outings, holidays and special demonstration evenings with much support from members and friends.

We welcome visitors to our Demonstration Evenings when we raise money for Charity. In 2008 we were able to donate £100 to East Anglian Childrens Hospice Quidenham. £50 for Dersingham Day Centre For the Elderly and £150 to Chemotherapy Room at The Macmillan Centre Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Our next Demonstration evening is Thursday 2nd April at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. Tim Meakin will demonstrate "A Fenland Spring" Admission is £2.50, A Surprise Gift Stall proceeds will be for Tapping House. Visitors Welcome. □

Doreen Asker.

I came across this old picture of King George 5th with presumably some of his children and wondered if this was taken at Sandingham.

Would anyone like to venture an opinion? *Ed*





Dick Melton

The sea eagle saga

I have now found some more information about this sea eagle that might or might not be reintroduced to this area. I read an article that said the area where it could be set free was between Kings Lynn and Hunstanton. Well these eagles like water, small hills, cliffs, and tall pine trees and the only location I can think of that fits that description is Dersingham Fen. The article also said that a random poll of 500 people was taken in Hunstanton as to if they wanted it in the area or not, but I have yet to find anyone from Hunstanton who took part in that poll. I also found out that King George V, 1910-1936, who was a very keen member of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists Trust, had a white tailed eagle on the Sandringham estate protected. But for the time being the whole project has been put on hold for another year so they will not be flying across the Common or the Fen just yet.

Memories of the post

It was nice to read the tribute to the late Cliff Riches in Village Voice. Cliff was very well known as he was a postman in the village for many years. When I was a boy just after the Second World War there were, I believe, three postmen and one post lady in Dersingham. There was only half the population that there is today but they all done their rounds on bikes, no vans, and this included going to places like Ling House, Shembome, and Red Barn. You always got your post early in the mornings and also them days there was a delivery on Christmas Day. All of the mail that was posted was collected at the Post Office then taken to the station and put on a train; then, in the early fifties, vans were sent out from Kings Lynn to fetch the mail. It was not a pleasant job as it had to be done in all weathers and you can just imagine what it must have been like cycling up the Long Drag from Shemborne to Red Bam with a bag full of mail in a snowstorm.

Jim Melton

I was looking through some old papers the other day that were left by my late father, Jim Melton. A lot of people in the village will remember him as for 25 years, from 1948 till 1973, he was the caretaker at St Georges School; but before that he spent 25 years in the British Army, joining up when he was only sixteen. He done his first lot of training at Norwich but he did not join the Royal Norfolks, instead he joined the Royal Artillery Regiment. Then he spent many years abroad including three years in Aden, three years in Malta and three years in Singapore. Also he done a small amount of time in Northern Ireland.

Then in 1940 he was sent to France with the British Expeditionary Force, after which he was captured by the Germans at Dunkirk. Amongst the old papers that I have is a telegraph that my mother received dated the 20th June 1940. It reads as follows, "I regret to inform you that a report has been received from the War Office to the effect that T.S.M. Melton has been posted missing." Then it goes on to say the report that he is missing does not necessarily mean that he has been killed, as he may be a prisoner of war or temporarily separated from his regiment. A month later on the 22nd of July 1940 my mother received another telegraph, this one was the best news she could have wished to hear. It said, "We beg to inform you that we have received a card from Stalag XXA, Germany, advising us that T.S.M. Melton is interned in that camp." My father remained a prisoner until 1945. Hundreds of people must have received telegraphs like this of good or bad news but I wonder how many people still have them today.

Zeppelins in Norfolk

A few days ago a chap from Dersingham rang me up and asked what I knew about the Zeppelins that flew over from Germany and dropped their bombs in West Norfolk during the 1914-18 war. Well I told him about the one that dropped a bomb on The Green up Dodds Hill, doing some damage to

some houses in September 1916. Also the same night a bomb was dropped on Dersingham Fen and the crater that it made was in time turned into a decoy for members of the Royal Family to use for duck flighting. This decoy is still there today.

On the morning of the 19th of January 1915 three Zeppelins left Germany to drop their bombs that night along the east coast of England. One of these Zeppelins first sighted land at Sheringham where it dropped two bombs; it then headed towards Hunstanton dropping one bomb at Brancaster and another on The Green at Thornham. It then dropped one at Hunstanton near the lighthouse but this bomb did not explode, then two bombs were dropped on Heacham, one of them going right through the roof of a house in Lords Lane. At Snettisham it dropped a bomb right near to the church and this bomb blew out twenty-two windows in the church. The Zeppelin then flew over Dersingham and Sandringham but for some unknown reason it dropped no bombs. The Zeppelin then flew on to Kings Lynn where it dropped seven bombs and done much damage. After this it turned seaward and flew back home to Germany.

Lighting restrictions were so strict during these Zeppelin raids that it became an offence to strike a match in the street. By the end of 1915 the stringent lighting orders had led to 1,028 summonses for this offence and £379 had been collected in fines. Many thanks to Mr Neil Story for giving me permission to use quotes and information from his book, 'Norfolk in the Great War.'

Well that's all for this month. Just one last thing - I heard of a local pub that is helping the credit crunch by selling rabbit burgers as an alternative to beef.

We have a bit of snow at the present time but then it is just like the old days, we always had snow when the Mat came to Kings Lynn. □

Connecting Communities is a mobile **INFORMATION, SUPPORT AND SIGNPOSTING** service for Rural Communities and every 4 weeks will be visiting

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Budgens

On

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Wednesday 6th May 1pm to 3pm

Wednesday 3rd June 1pm to 3pm

Connecting Communities vehicle carries a range of Information leaflets. The Project Team are on hand to help

COME AND SEE US, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP

Connecting Communities bringing INFORMATION to YOU



A photograph taken at the sketching location, St Mary's Church, Appleton Farm.

"I'm sure many people reading Village Voice will have had this view?" The same thoughts often come to us on a hillside. All it takes is some inexpensive art materials.

The word sketch often conjures up a vision of a rough scene in front of us. That can be the reality too, but a more accurate drawing, which is a skill that can be learned.

Your materials can be very simple and obtainable. A sketch book, perhaps A4 size with spiral binding, is about right. A nice soft eraser completes the kit. Why an elastic band? You'll find out as soon as you have a slight breeze sets the pages of your sketchbook and one breaks!

To start with, you need a subject. Choose something that is not too complicated. A well executed drawing is more enjoyable than a laboured effort at something large. I've chosen the ruined church of St Mary, near Appleton Farm.

pattern of shapes, but not too daunting, and a good view of the church can be easily had from the verge opposite. To sketch this subject from inside a car, which can be a more comfortable way of working.

Some people are lucky and have a natural ability to be able to draw. For the majority of us, and I certainly included, it develops over time, although often less time than you might think. The one thing that you must constantly keep in mind is to draw first, and only then to make a mark on the paper. The tendency is to draw what your brain thinks the scene looks like. Take a good look at the scene first and decide what is the most important area, the focal point. Position that away from the center, close to the edge. Often about a third of the way in from either the left or the right looks best.

Start drawing from the focal point and work your way out from there. Have a think about how large the subject is. A common error is to start drawing too large, so that you run out of space before you get everything in. It can be helpful to indicate the top, bottom and sides of a building, for example. In fact going lightly with the pencil is a very good idea and perhaps firm up the line with a little more pressure on the pencil.



The line drawing is almost completed

Simple measuring techniques can be hugely helpful. Or, is the end wall of the building the same length as the side? Getting the angle of a line correct. Closely observe the scene to sight the line as this often makes angles much closer to right and if so, by how much. It may seem tedious but these questions can literally force you to draw what you see. After a few sketches, the process becomes more interesting. In question of all, "does it look right?"

Eventually, perhaps with much rubbing out of the scene in front of you. Your work isn't quite finished. A line drawn round it. We see shapes by patterns of light and shadow. To really come to life, we need to put in some shading.

If the sun is shining, the shadows will be there for you to imagine what would be lit and what would be in shadow. Practice. Diagonal strokes with the pencil are most effective. Vertical or horizontal shading to emphasise the structure. A pattern of light and dark tone on the paper, the sun is shining.

dimensional than a simple line drawing, as I hope you can see from my finished sketch.

Do get out and have a go! If you have found this article useful, but you'd like to learn more, I have worked on a book. The next one is at Ringstead Village Hall on the weekend of 18th and 19th April, so why not join me. Full details on www.learnwatercolour.com or you can phone me on 01485 571523.

In my next article I'll be talking about drawing trees, and introducing you to the possibility of working in ink.

Start Sketching - 1

I have wandered round the local area and have thought, "Wouldn't it be nice to do a sketch or a painting of a holiday of course. In this series of three articles, I'm going to show you how those thoughts can turn into plans and a little time.

Being out in the countryside somewhere, quickly rattling off a pencil drawing or watercolour painting of the sort it takes a bit of practice for the process to become as effortless as one might hope. The key to success is to concentrate, and in this first article that's what I'm going to be concentrating on.

Materials from any art shop. A cartridge paper, a pencil, plus a couple of soft pencils, a 2B or a 4B pencil, except for one thing, a large elastic band. When you start to sketch outdoors, when the wind is flapping. Take two elastic bands in case

something that appeals to you but something simple of a simple subject is far more interesting and complex. For this demonstration, I'm sketching a church tower at Plepton Farm, West Newton. An interesting site. If the weather is unkind, you could

include myself here, it is a skill that I hope to keep in your mind is to look and observe what things look like, not what is actually there. Have a pencil in the centre of the paper and not too

close to the subject of the sketch is going to be, because the elastic band helps to make few light marks on the paper. It's a good idea, until you have the main shapes of the scene established. Only then start to put in more detail

of the subject. How many times does the height of that door go into the overall height of the building, for example. How wide is the side wall, or longer, shorter, half the width. I'm sure you get the idea. One of the trickiest things is to think about every line before you mark it on the paper. Hold your pencil out at arms length and use it as a ruler to see. Again, ask yourself questions. Is the line of that roof horizontal or is it going up from left to right at first, and you're raring to get the sketch completed, but simple measuring, taking angles, asking yourself questions to see, not what your mind, playing tricks on you, deceives you into drawing what you *think* it should be like. It's instinctive and you can speed up, but keep looking at your drawing and ask yourself the most important

question: How many incorrect lines, you arrive at a line drawing that is not done yet, however. In nature, nothing has a uniform tone, light and dark. So, for our sketch to be interesting,

we have to use shading. For us to copy. If not, then we have to use shading, something that can take a little time. It's useful for this, but I sometimes use a pencil to sketch the structure of an object. As you start to develop a drawing, the subject will appear to be much more three-

dimensional. Workshops and courses around the local area. Details are on my website :-

ink and watercolour. Happy Sketching! □
Stephen Martyn



Starting to establish the shape of the church tower, about one third of the way in from the right of the paper.

Note the elastic band!



The finished sketch. Note the shading and how I've simplified detail, particularly the fence around the church.

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My Patch

By Gardenwatcher

Mon. A dismal, late January day does nothing to lift my gloomy mood but a creep about in the garden reveals some snowdrops in bloom. I would sit and enjoy them but the ground is wet and I hear my bowl being moved "silently" so I must go in and supervise.

Sun. Cruel trick from the weather today. A sunny start lured me into the garden where I got treated to a sudden snowstorm. Watched it for most of the day from the arm of the settee and used up quite a lot of nervous energy not falling off. Very tiring!

Thur. Inspired by some old news footage that I dozed through, I discovered the Hoover parked in the dining room so I lay down in front of it - I shall not be moved - with the intention of frustrating them from using it. A bit of a miscalculation on my part as they merely pulled it backwards before tuming it on, causing me to make a rapid exit. I will get my revenge yet!

Fri. Lots of twtweeing in one of the trees around the patch caught my attention this PM and proved to be a couple of long-tailed tits rapidly inspecting my tree. They were, however, too far up to make it worth the climb.

Mon. Yet more snow. Seldom have I encountered such harsh weather. The fact that it sharpens my appetite has yet to sink in to their dull brains, so I starve. Interesting footprints in the snow, some large beast following the route I took earlier. Glad I missed it. Thaw coming they say!

Thur. No sooner had the last lot melted away than we get a bumper load of the white stuff. Really big flakes this time which settled rapidly. Doubly annoying was the blanking out of satellite TV reception when the dish filled up with snow, so I missed some of my favourite "Felix" adverts.

Sun. Snow completely gone now and it's a bit warmer. Got cursed when my tail got in the way of their great big paws. I cannot understand how they survive without one. It must make balancing on the neighbour's fence very difficult for them. Spotted some Daffodils in bud whilst I was stalking a huge pigeon - just for practice of course.

Thur. The warmer weather continues. Collared doves have returned and are investigating the nearby confers, blue tits have been seen around the nest boxes and there is much birdsong to get my juices flowing. Whilst on food, a new set of rations has been served. Nice pieces of meat in tasty jelly. There is of course a catch - there are bits of veg in there too. Why?

Mon. These warm days have brought out the frogs and toads. The wildlife pool is heaving, so with little better to do, I counted over 30 of the little beggars. Then I lost the will to stay awake and dropped off. Woke with a start when a loud croak penetrated my torpor. I must find a quieter place.

Tue. An uneventful day which improved slightly with the annual evening ritual making of pancakes. As there was no meat involved in their finishing I lost interest and slunk off for a rest. Their strange feasts and festivals are obviously an indicator of a primitive society, we cats have our feet (4) more firmly on the ground and just await LEO who will come and give mice to all.

Sun. A moment's inattention on his part meant that I could have a peep into the greenhouse. Strictly out of bounds to me, therein is found an abundance of interesting stuff. I noted, before his footfalls alerted me to get out quick, that there were several trays of seeds in the nice warm propagators. Tomato was already up as were Ricinus and a haze of green indicated that Nicotiana was coming. The rest - well we shall see in due course what is supposed to germinate.

Wed. Daffodils out so it must be Daffodil coming out time. Little else encourages me to spend long periods outside; however it has been sunny so a windowsill, even if un-upholstered, makes a good daytime parking place to pass the time on. The blackbirds and dunnocks are packing down the food that they, the staff, put out - presumably for my express delight, as if there is no tomorrow. I also heard a pheasant 'barking' next door so I will keep an eye out for him.

Fri. Overheard on the one o'clock gloom someone talking about quantitative eating. I'll have some of that, bring it on.

Sat. Fell off the back of the sofa - ouch! Perhaps there is some wisdom in their requests for me not to go there after all. Odd though that as they don't use it themselves they wish to deny me. □

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Dersingham Library

Coming soon to Dersingham Library



New to the library... **digital playways**. These are books downloaded onto easy to use players that you can fit in the palm of your hand. They need a AAA battery and some

headphones, both of which you can buy from us. The loan charge is the same as other books on CD or cassette. Remember that blind/partially sighted readers can borrow them for nothing. Customers on our mobile library have been trying them out and like the fact that they are simple to use. If you want to know more, just ask library staff.



Feeling Fine Online

There are 3.4 million women aged 45 and over in England who don't use the internet. That's a lot of people who aren't enjoying the wonders of the web, its conveniences, opportunities and benefits. If you would like to find out what you are missing then why not join us for a relaxed and informal taster. We've added extra dates due to popular demand so it's not too late to sign up. Places are limited so please contact the library and book yourself a place.

Easter family activity

Wednesday 8 April 2009

10.00am-12 midday

Join us for stories, songs, and activities at the library. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Numbers are limited so please book a place by calling the library on 01485 540181

Monthly Bookstart Crawl

Thursdays from 10.30-11.30am on:

Thursday 23 April

Thursday 21 May

Thursday 18 June

Aren't birds brilliant!

Thursday 28 May

10.30 - 11.30am

Join our family half-term activities:

* Discover more about birds in your garden and what they like to eat

* Make a recycled bird feeder (please bring along a small plastic drinks bottle or milk carton!)

* Make a string bird

Places are limited so please book in advance

Under 7s must be accompanied by an adult.

p.s

If you have an email address which you check regularly, then you can now register for a 'pre-overdue' reminder so that you never have an overdue book again. Once you've registered, you'll get an email a few days before your books are due reminding you to return or renew them. Just ask staff for details when you next visit. □

Alison

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Dersingham Methodist Church

EASTER SERVICES AND EVENTS

Saturday 4th April

10.00 a.m. to 12 noon Coffee morning

Palm Sunday 5th April

10.30 a.m. Service with Rev Graham Thompson, Chair East Anglia Methodist District

Good Friday 10th April

9.00 a.m. Service at St Nicholas Church

9.30 a.m. (approx) Walk of witness round the Village starting at St Nicholas Church
Refreshments available at St Nicholas Church Hall at the end of the walk.

10.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m. Methodist Church will be open for meditation and prayer.
Come and go as you wish

12.00 noon to 3.00 p.m. St Nicholas Church will be open for meditation and prayer.
Come and go as you wish

Easter Sunday 12th April

10.30 a.m. Morning service, Rev. Adrian Wells

6.30 p.m. Evening Service, Rev Kim Nally.

We look forward to you seeing you at any of these services and events.

Dersingham Methodist Church Annual Flower Festival will take place from Thursday 21st to Monday 25th May. The theme is 'All creatures great and small' and the thirteen floral displays will depict Bible stories on animals and birds.

The festival starts at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday with singing by the children of St George's School; children from Dersingham Infants School will sing on Friday at 10.00 a.m. The festival will run 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Thursday to Saturday and Monday; 2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. on Sunday.

Coffee, tea, cakes, lunches available all day, with cards, gifts, books, plant stalls. Make a note in your diary and come along. Further information from Elizabeth Batstone 01485 541068.

INDOOR CAR BOOT SALE

Saturday

2nd May

10am - 2pm

for a table call Suzy on

Possible outside pitches



Dersingham Community Centre

Community

Centre

£5 per table

544789

depending on the weather

SHORT STROLLS IN AND AROUND DERSINGHAM

The Old Railway and The Drift.

This 1.5 miles circular stroll takes in the south-west corner of the village. It is partly on (probably muddy) footpaths and partly on pavements. It starts from the old railway station at the By-Pass end of Station Road.

Go through the gate next to the speed limit sign by the station house (1 on the sketch). Follow the path behind bungalows and houses until you reach open ground. Continue straight ahead but bearing slightly right to walk by the fence of the plantation. At its end, turn right between the end of the embankment and the dyke and continue to the

By-Pass verge. Turn sharp left, keeping to the railings, across the dyke (2 on the sketch) and turn left again down the brideway that runs parallel to the dike. (Do NOT try to cross the dyke by using the metal grill.) Follow the brideway (which becomes The Drift) to Lynn Road (3 on sketch).

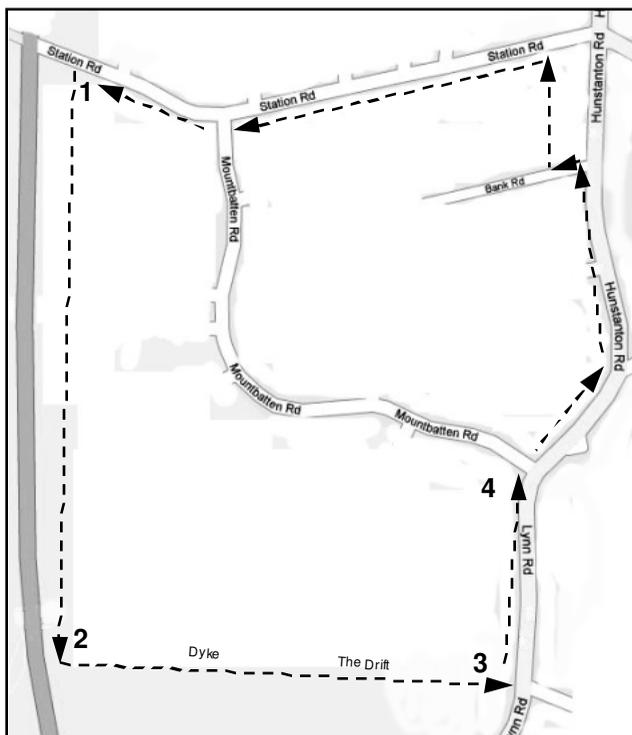


Turn left and follow Lynn Road to its junction with Mountbatten Road (4 on sketch).* Continue northwards following the Lynn/Hunstanton Road till Bank Road is reached. On its north side, turn left along the public footpath which borders the recreation ground, turning right to follow the fence until you reach Station Road. Turn left and follow Station Road until the old railway is reached.

* To shorten the walk, turn left into Mountbatten Road and follow this to its end at Station Road. Turn left and continue to the old station. □

Keith Starks

If you have a favourite walk and would like to share it, please send in details. Ed.



Launch of the Community Lunch in Dersingham

Over 40 people attended the inaugural Community Lunch held on Thursday 26th February at the Feathers in Dersingham.

An idea initiated by local retailer Jonathan James, owner of James Graven's Budgens, the Community Lunch aims to provide an opportunity for local businesses and organisations to discuss issues affecting the community, share ideas and create a regular networking forum over lunch.

Representatives from local schools, churches, businesses and other groups attended the lunch including Sandringham Windows, St George's Junior School, Dersingham Library, Suttons Estate Agents, Sandringham Fire Brigade, WI, Dersingham Flower Club, Dersingham Infant and Nursery School, Ladies Branch of the Royal British Legion, Dersingham Horticultural Society, Sandringham Estate, Parish Council, Thaxters Spa and Garden Centre, St Nicholas Church, Dersingham United Charities, RSPB, and Dersingham Special Constabulary.

During the lunch, Vicki Hopps from the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk gave a short presentation on a Norfolk wide project called LEAPP (Lead, Engage, Aspire, Perform in Partnership). Vicki is looking to work with local organisations and groups to ascertain their perceptions of intergeneration issues. If you can help, or would like Vicki to attend a group meeting, she can be contacted on 07806 944996 or by email Vicki.hopps@west-norfolk.gov.uk.

If your business or organisation would like to be represented at the next Community Lunch, at which numbers may have to be limited, or if have any comments on how you would like to see the lunch run, please contact :-

Bob Tipling on 01485 541347 or alternatively email bob@jamesgraven-retail.co.uk.



Bob Tipling makes the introductions.



The assembled gathering chewing things over.

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Village Masterchef

Allow me to introduce myself- I'm Darren, I am the new Head Chef at The Feathers Hotel in Dersingham and I love food! I have been 'chefing' for 16 years and first got into the trade not only because of my love of food itself but also the enjoyment I get from preparing those ingredients into something mouth-wateringly delicious. One of my very close friends all those years ago, Cantour Johnson, was a Head Chef in central London, catering for directors and management of a big business head office. He told me I had more skills and a better knowledge of food than most of the chefs working under him... well, when you put it like that! Having had my ego flattered, I gladly took him up on a job and started my career and apprenticeship. Under Cantour's guidance, it wasn't long before I had the skills, confidence and the drive to go it alone and I found myself working in some of London's finest restaurants and hotels, as well as taking on agency work and catering at exhibitions and special occasions. I loved it, but family is important to me and I moved away from London to Norfolk in 1998.



Having worked at various establishments in the area, including The Lifeboat in Thomham and even having a crack at opening my own restaurant in Hunstanton, I found myself in the summer of 2008 searching for my next challenge.

That's when I met Justin and Steven. Friends had told me about a village pub whose previously good reputation for food had taken a tumble in recent years and the two local brothers who had just taken over and were trying to revive it. Happily for me, I walked in off the street at just the right time. I promised them a menu that is full of fresh ideas as well as fresh local produce and traditional English fare and they promised me the run of the kitchen!

Well, five months later I'm still here. My brother, David Mead, also a Chef, has joined the team and we are still striving hard to achieve all of this daily. Our menu is seasonal and will continue to change depending on the best local ingredients available to us.

Everything on the menu is prepared and cooked on the premises, including our home baked seasoned ham with lemon and cloves, or is sourced locally, like our fresh bread delivered by Crusty Loaf and vegetables delivered farm-fresh from Coldham Fruits. I know you've heard it all from the likes of 'them TV chefs' - Gordon (who I have a lot of respect for) and Jamie, so I don't need to repeat it. But, what they say is true. Local is better. Shop locally. Let's support one another. Forget the C**** C***** - I've got a new C word for you - Community! I know we're all feeling it a bit but if we use local butchers, farms, local shops and other local businesses, where possible, instead of superstores and chain stores, we can all be better off. I know supermarkets can be a little cheaper but I can promise you their products are not as nutritious. Veg is old and has often travelled thousands of miles to get to your dinner plate; meat is full of water, not to mention E numbers and additives which are not good for you. My advice is Buy Local. Eat Local. Eat Fresh and Feel Better. I will be here in each edition of the village voice offering recipe ideas for you to try using seasonal produce and all delicious ingredients that can be sourced locally and affordably... so no excuses!

Anyway, stepping down from me pedestal (I'm a Londoner; we need a rant every now and again...!) We, at The Feathers, have fought to get our meat and fish locally sourced at an

affordable cost and of a very high standard. Fish comes from Coles of Kings Lynn. Our fantastic pork and apple burgers are made by our local Hunstanton butcher, Richards, and we have recently met a local farmer who rears rare breed pigs like Gloucester Old Spot. His sausages and pork belly are the best I've ever eaten (seriously!) and we look forward to a prosperous relationship with him, especially as we enter the summer.

Yes, the summer! Here I go. I know it seems a long way off yet but I, as Justin and Eni will readily confirm, am very *very* excited about it! My run of the kitchen is extending out 'al fresco', to take in the garden and a new barbeque area. We have our fingers crossed, as I'm sure you do, for some decent weather. We're hoping we can fire up the Barbie everyday, bringing you the aforementioned big juicy rare-breed sausages, burgers, and some delicious barbequed fish, along with a fresh salad bar and our famously fat, home-cut steak chips. And all without the previous inevitable queues indoors at the bar! In fact, we're even hoping to bring the bar outside, so you can catch as many rays as the English skies allow us in 2009!

In the last few months I have watched Justin and Eni work tirelessly to make The Feathers an enjoyable place to visit and I believe they are succeeding. As I hope I have shown here, I am behind them 100% and I hope that you are as excited as we are for the future of the Feathers. We've already heard loads of constructive feedback and the support of local residents has been fantastic. I will be here in each edition of the village voice and you can always catch me at The Feathers. I look forward to seeing all of you soon and any ideas, suggestions or comments that you have are always welcome! □

Darren Bartlett.

Property News

A personal view by one of our local estate agents

SPRING IS HERE!!

There has been so much doom and gloom in the newspapers and the television that it's easy to get the impression that the property market is at a standstill. It has been extremely difficult over the winter months but with Spring here and Easter around the corner there are some grounds for optimism. Enquiries and viewings have increased during the last few weeks and you will have noticed more sale agreed and sold boards in the area. There has been an adjustment in prices with an average reduction of 15% - 20% from the height of the market in 2007. It's too early to call this increase "green shoots" but there are reasons to be optimistic that the market is beginning to bottom out.

A good time to buy? Yes, property prices have certainly come down and with bank rate and mortgage rates at an all time low it's a good time to be looking for a home.

The enquiries are mainly at the cheaper end of the market from first time buyers and also from investors looking for buy-to-let properties. The reduction in Bank rate has certainly helped home owners with tracker mortgages but it has had a devastating effect on savers. This has encouraged more enquiries from investors looking for a better return than they are able to obtain from traditional savings with Banks or Building Societies. Also with volatility in the stock Market and poor pension predictions people are looking for a more 'solid' investment for more long term security. The first time buyers and investors have been a positive factor during the last few weeks and with the encouraging news that Northern Rock are to release more mortgage funds perhaps this improvement will continue. We don't expect this to be a quick fix but there is a feeling we might be over the worst. So far, so good but fingers are firmly crossed!

The rental market is extremely busy with the greatest demand being for 2 and 3 bedroom properties in the West Norfolk area. If you are considering renting out your property it is important that you use a Letting Agent who is using the latest referencing procedures and more importantly a member of a professional body such as ARLA or NAEA. This will ensure that rent monies and deposits are bonded and that all the old and new legislation is being adhered to. □



WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING A VILLAGE POSTMASTER?

(Well, judge for yourself)

I was eleven years old and my sisters Denise, two years younger and Suzanne, two years older when Mum and Dad decided to escape the busy London suburbs to buy a village post office. We arrived in Dersingham to a completely new experience. Overnight from being the ethnic minority we became country bumpkins and settled early into a life where it was safe for children to make their own way to and from school and play on the recreation ground until they were ready to return home tired and hungry at dusk.

There have been many changes in Dersingham in the intervening years and the Post Office has had to move with them but I could not have had a better grounding for the work than that I received from my Dad. He was a stickler for dotting i's and crossing t's and firmly believed that 'rules were made for the guidance of wise men and the application of fools'. We still try to be guided by this. Dersingham residents have increased in number from around 4,000 to nearer 6,000.



Back in the days when the Post Office owned BT Communications there was a telephone box out front which we had to keep clean and empty of cash. That has long gone and the shop frontage has changed greatly with improvements to the windows and shop door and two extensions added.

The original front door now sits behind the drinks cabinet with access through, what was, the sorting office. It has always

been a family home as well as a business and I remember throughout my childhood having to squeeze through the sorting office at the side to get in and out of the residential part of the house. Now, of course, we have the new sorting office at the rear of the garden.

In those early days my Mum and Dad would laboriously complete the weekly handwritten accounts, often taking one or two hours after work on a Friday evening. This is how I came into the business too.

When in 2000 the Post Office introduced computerisation there were many who thought this would cause all sorts of problems. It was behind many postmasters' decisions to retire. Computerisation has in fact, apart from annoying blips caused by power cuts, become second nature to counter staff and minimised paperwork. But that was not the only change the post office made.

It is not many years ago that it was possible to pay all household utility bills at the Post Office and, to make this less demanding, we sold savings stamps to ease the ultimate pain. With the demise of these Post Office instigated their own brand of Savings Stamps. When the Post Office lost the contracts for handling TV licences and Pension books we were trained to sell financial services such as applications for credit cards, household and car insurance and travel insurance, savings accounts and bonds.

At Dersingham Post Office we have always been a motor vehicle licence office and with the introduction of travel insurance to the financial service range we became passport investigators and bureau d'change clerks too.

With the scrapping of pension books we were instrumental in assisting in the changeover to the Post Office Card Account which, at the time, was expected to be fraught with problems but has now become second nature to Dersingham pensioners. Some High Street Banks have seen the feasibility of allowing their account holders to withdraw cash at the Post Office using their debit card and pin number.



The Post Office has always figured largely at the centre of the village. Back in the days when the Lindsay family took over the business in March 1979 it was like the proverbial corner shop stocking everything from knitting wool to elastic, teabags to washing powder and fly spray, birthday cards and newspapers. As the post office needed more space some of these items had to go. When a new, security locked, safe was required its arrival caused unseen problems. Having managed to manoeuvre it through the doorway it proceeded to disappear through the wooden floor in the hallway and had to be dragged out again. It could only be returned when the floorboards had been replaced with a concrete floor.

Despite the appearance of being in a rural backwater international problems have necessitated even tighter security over mail. Our initial pooch-pooching of this as being unlikely in North West Norfolk was found to be misplaced when an incident closed the Post Office all one morning whilst the bomb squad investigated a suspicious packet. Counter staff spent the whole day locked up with postmen who, whilst not being allowed out on their rounds, consistently ate their way through every pizza in the freezer. Even more crushing was an instruction that we might have to pick a partner with whom to walk nude through the decontamination chamber. This was too much to bear!



Luckily, before this could be put into operation the packet turned out to contain nothing more sinister than a container of sand.

A further hoax letter resulted in post office staff being quarantined for the day and, as the

story goes that you wait all day for one bus and three tum up, on this occasion Dersingham residents were amazed to see not one squad car but five or six outside the Post Office at 8:30am.

At a time when having been asked to be extra vigilant and call the police if anything suspicious is noted near the Post Office I noticed, on one occasion, four balaclava hooded men in a car parked outside the shop. They obviously didn't realise that we shut for lunch but, in any event, the car took off before the police arrived. It didn't return but we were alerted the next day that a post office round the coast had been raided.

On a lighter note, for those able to see the joke, I remember once being despatched on my way to King's Lynn Sorting Office in the back of the mail van when, having taken the micky out of postman Ian Tunnicliffe he bundled me into a parcel sack and I was mistaken for a bag of mail.

As you see, 2008 was not completely incident free and was also the year that post offices nationwide were threatened with closure. This was a particularly worrying time for everyone and the news that we had been saved was indescribable. We continue to thank the support we received through this trying time from our customers.

You may hear me moan about my day, particularly the wet and windy ones when getting up at 5.00am to drag in the papers and set the boys away on their rounds is not something I would put at the top of my list of favourite things, but I still enjoy a challenge and running a Post Office in today's climate is all of that.

This article was written to remember the changes to the Post Office, the impact they have had on Dersingham residents and, also, to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Lindsay name above the door. Perhaps the most redeeming factor will always be the manner in which, through the far-sightedness of my parents, the Lindsay family have found themselves to be a part of the village. We have attended weddings and parties of friends we made in the '80s and our children are now continuing that tradition. □

Fraser Lindsay



This picture dated C1920 shows Alice Maud Beckett & Eva Beckett outside a very "Candleford" like Post Office.

The Grumpy Bit

I am utterly sick of buses or to be more precise the buses that serve Dersingham. They are dirty, they are noisy, they are shabby and uncomfortable, they tum up if one is lucky and are driven by budding racing drivers, who seem to take great delight in tearing up to a stop (traffic lights, bus stops, whatever), then slamming on the brakes. Should you not be holding on to something when this happens, well heaven help you. Life flashes before your eyes. I am not young, to be precise I'm old and my days of fair ground rides are well and truly over, so why can't I have a comfortable, quiet bus ride, rather than a white knuckle jaunt? And what has happened to the bus Mrs Mop? Run out of bubbles!

I am utterly sick of supermarkets. Right, grab the trolley, no don't grab the trolley, first make sure it's not one of those requiring a pound coin before it will move, then off we go. To find the items one requires, is a challenge, why are they constantly being moved. Up and down the aisles we go, miles and miles of unnecessary steps. Avoid the little angels let loose to roam by mother, place ear plugs in one's ears to soften the effect of their wails and screams, dodge the gossiping groups (please pass the time of day outside the shop, not inside) and gather the goods required. As an aside what a lot of baloney this buy one get one free lark is, it's just another way of saying the item is half price. Now be honest supermarkets, why don't you price properly, who are you trying to impress? Certainly not me.

So onwards and upwards to the check out where it is a case of beat the check out operator, all goods out of basket onto belt, whizzed through the 'beep' machine at a rate of knots and packed. "That will be X pounds and X pence, any cash back?" No I don't want cash back, all I want is to finish packing my shopping before I pay, I don't want to be rushed. I hate supermarkets and have you noticed all the items on display passed the checkout, newspapers etc, no wonder there is a shoplifting problem, never mind Mr Cardboard Cut-out Policeman will sort it out. I hate supermarkets.

I am utterly sick of the news, doesn't anything cheerful happen? Doom and gloom all the time. Mr Banker has got a fat bonus or pension, he rubs his hands with glee as he dips his hands into the government money pot, unemployment up, houses reposessed, another murder, teen age pregnancies on the increase, sex education for toddlers, the 3R's are old hat, give out the pill, whatever next. I hate the news, it should be banned.

Oh yes Council tax bills are coming soon as well, I am sick of Council tax bills, they are always asking for more money from my pocket. □

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

CRAFTY STITCHING

A piece of fiction based on fact

My only claim to fame so far in this life is that I am married to a lady who has been hung in the National Arts Museum of Outer Bongo Bongo Land. Not by the neck, I hasten to add and I wouldn't describe her as an ancient artifact. (I daren't; she might be listening.) Norma's dedicated interest is Crafty Stitching. It's a sort of modern embroidery using most materials known to man and converting them into something artistic(?) She enters many competitions and once produced a piece of work that was chosen to be hung in the Under Manager's Secretary's loo at that museum. Whilst I accept that this was very praiseworthy it had an unfortunate effect on our household. We lost the use of yet another room to her hobby. Norma used to be content with having one room – a bedroom – in which she could give vent to her creative talents, but this flush of success meant that we lost another one in which she now stores all the pieces, going back several years, that 'might be exhibited one day'. No-one comes to stay any more – there's nowhere to sleep.

The amount I know about Crafty Stitching would not cover the head of a drawing pin, but I *do* know it is very time consuming. If she is working to a deadline to complete a competition piece for example, Norma would work from 7.00 a.m. until midnight with two ten-minute breaks for meals. Not *my* meals you understand – hers. I have to make do with a pie and a pint at the Coach and Horses. Oh, deary me... what a shame!

The whole house is dripping with 'hangings'. You would be amazed at some of the places you can 'hang' something. For example in the bathroom a life-sized modern interpretation of Boadicea's chariot is suspended from the centre light fitting. And my study has been invaded by walls full of 17th century Tibetan warriors; or so she says. It goes without saying that all the walls, ceilings, and even the floors in some cases have got 'stuff' all over them. Even our Rottweiler guard dog has a highly colourful embroidered jacket. Other dogs don't 'woof' at him; they laugh and bark 'poof!' No wonder he's neurotic.

Crafty Stitching is not an inexpensive pastime either. I calculated the other day that Norma spends significant four-figure sums each year on new sewing machines (or having old ones repaired) and likewise on materials. Threads, cloth, fibreglass roof insulation, water-soluble plastic (would you believe), drain piping – yes, honestly – and three-quarter inch wire netting, to name but some. Although how pea-guards can be converted into something worthy of being exhibited in the V&A as yet escapes me. It has been done though.

Now you may think that Crafty Stitching is a quiet, harmless activity. 'Harmless' – that's debatable. It does, after all inflict misery on husbands and their eating habits. 'Quiet' – definitely not. Imagine a 2-litre diesel engine, starting from cold, with main bearing problems thrown in, screaming away upstairs for hours on end and you're beginning to understand. Add to that the fact that the protagonist *must* listen to Radio Norfolk at maximum volume at the same time. You're getting the picture now. Someone knocks at the front door. Norma can't hear it for obvious reasons, and neither can I because I'm in my study wearing ear defenders. So nobody answers the door and with a bit of luck the caller will go away. But some of her friends have cracked the system. Daphne, for example. (With apologies to any 'Daphnes' who may read this, surely it must be admitted that the name does conjure up a rather 'arty' image, don't you agree?) Before she even knocks at the door she will hear that characteristic mechanical scream coming from within. Oh yes, we don't keep our noises to ourselves; we share them round the



neighbourhood. So what does Daffers do? She walks round the outside of the house hammering on every window she can find – until she comes to mine. Even ear defenders can't save me from Daphne's din. I invite her into the hall. Then the following dialogue takes place from bottom left of the house to top right.

“Norrrr-maaa” Silence (except for the 2 litre diesel plus radio referred to earlier). “I say; Norma!”

“Did you speak, Darling?”

“No, I shouted actually. Dilly Daffers is here. Oh, sorry Daphne, I didn't realize you had come through.”

“Can't hear you, Dear.”

“I suggest you turn the radio off.”

“Do what?”

“Tum that bloody radio off!”

“How many?”

“I said 'tum that ...' never mind”.

I give Daphne a rather pained smile, submit gracefully, and she proceeds upstairs to the ‘No go zone for husbands’

Craft shows are something I could happily do without. Over the years I have let myself become the unpaid haulage contractor for tons and tons of exhibits, materials, samples, books, stands, shelves etc.

“I say, Darling. Can we pop into the city on Saturday. I've got a space in the Itsy Bitsy Show.”

Now if you live in Trowse, or Plumstead or similar I have no doubt that popping into the city is a regular and pleasant occasion. But for us in Dersingham it is more like a 100 mile round trip. Also I have no idea - and I suspect that I never will have - what an ‘Itsy Bitsy’ is. But there we go. Don't get me wrong, I spent several happy years in Norwich as a student and I love the place. Nowadays, however, a day in the city means three and a half hours of traveling and four hours sitting in The Forum library studying a thesis on the mating habits of cockroaches or something; interspersed with expeditions to find an edible pie with a decent pint. I mustn't be disparaging though. Thanks to Norma and her craft shows and The Forum library I have become an expert in several mind-blowing subjects. But we won't go into that now. No, I *don't* like craft shows. Norma does though; I've seen her in action. They're much like Old Girls reunions I imagine.

“Darling, how *wonderful* to see you again. And what a gorgeous hat. You made it yourself obviously. What a clever old thing you are.”

From this statement it is easy to deduce that Norma and her pals are nearly all ex Laura Ashley ladies who consider that they have graduated.

So, beware you innocent husbands, whose wives are looking for a quiet, inexpensive hobby to pursue. Crafty Stitching is bad news. You may *think* that you can spend a quiet Saturday afternoon watching football on the box, while she who thinks she ought to be obeyed is safely and silently shut away upstairs, but it will never work out like that.

Steve Nowell

Sudoku No 4 solution								
7	5	3	1	9	6	4	8	2
9	2	4	8	7	5	3	6	1
6	8	1	2	3	4	9	5	7
8	9	7	6	2	1	5	4	3
2	4	6	3	5	8	1	7	9
3	1	5	7	4	9	8	2	6
1	6	9	5	8	2	7	3	4
5	3	2	4	1	7	6	9	8
4	7	8	9	6	3	2	1	5

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The Safer Neighbourhood Team Dersingham and Gayton Neighbourhood

YOUNG VANDALS MAKE AMENDS AND SAY 'SORRY'- DERSINGHAM

A group of teenagers who vandalised garden fences in their home village have had to meet and apologise to their victims.

The face-to-face meeting brought to a close an investigation by the local police team in Dersingham after a spate of vandalism to chain link fences.

In early December, a number of properties in James Jackson Road suffered repeated damage and the matter was reported to the Dersingham and Gayton Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Over the course of the next two months, Police Community Support Officers Daniel Edwards and Jackie Smith conducted enquiries in the local area in order to identify the culprits. Information led them to a group of six teenage boys from the village aged between 12 and 14.

The boys and their parents were each visited by a Safer Neighbourhood Team police officer, admitted the offence and agreed to have the matter resolved using a Restorative Justice (RJ) approach.

Recently, the youngsters, accompanied by their parents and SNT members, met with three of their victims, who told them how the vandalism had affected them, causing them upset and inconvenience. The boys all apologised for their actions.

Dersingham and Gayton Safer Neighbourhood Sgt Andy Crown said: "Those responsible were tracked down by effective house to house enquiries by the PCSOs and through subsequent interviews. All admitted their involvement which was very refreshing and the Restorative Justice approach was the perfect way to deal with them".

"We had the full support of their parents and from the victims that had suffered damage to their garden fencing. I am confident that these youths will think twice about causing further damage having seen the effect that this had on the victims."

Norfolk Constabulary is one of eight pilot areas across the country to trial Youth Restorative Disposal (YRD), which holds 10 to 17 year olds to account for low level offences.

RJ is a process where everyone directly affected by a particular crime can meet to decide what needs to be done to tackle the issue, resolve or repair the harm and prevent reoccurrences. It prevents first-time offenders from being criminalised and allows victims and communities to have a voice in how those responsible should make amends.

To contact the Dersingham and Gayton Safer Neighbourhood Team call 0845 456 4567, e-mail sntdersinghamgayton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk or visit their page at www.safenorfolk.co.uk

Concerts at St Nicholas Church, Dersingham

CONCERT

2nd. May 7.30pm

Lyra - Russian Ensemble

CONCERT

15th May 7.30pm

Karen Stuart - Sings from the Shows

Tickets on the Door £5

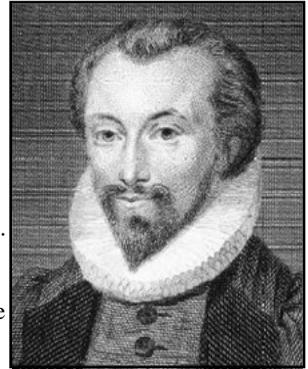
Greetings from the Manse



Only one effigy in St Paul's Cathedral in London survived the Great Fire of 1666. It is of John Donne, one time Dean of St Paul's, who died on the 31st March 1631. Donne had converted to Anglicanism from Catholicism, was ordained a priest, became a Member of Parliament, the royal chaplain, an academic, writer and perhaps most notably a poet and preacher, perhaps the greatest of his age.

In an age of mass entertainment we find it strange to think of people packing the churches to listen to famous preachers whose sermons lasted several hours. Crowds, which included the monarch James the 1st himself, flocked to hear John Donne. Reading his sermons now, it's still possible to feel a tingle of excitement as he declaims: "Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee".

Death was a favourite theme of contemporary poems and sermons. War, plague and disease made it a common happening for young as well as old. Like others of the time, Donne thought much about death, sleeping with his coffin in his room, to remind him of its close approach. That's going a bit far we might well say, yet it didn't weigh so heavily upon him because for Donne, death was not a final disaster. Jesus Christ had conquered death.



Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;
For those whom thou thinkest thou dost overthrow,
Die not, poor death, nor yet canst thou kill me...
For thou art slave to fate, chance, kings and
desperate men,
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,
And poppies or charms can make us sleep as well
And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And death shall be no more; death, thou shalt die.
(From *Holy Sonnets* by John Donne)

In worship and study, prayer and fellowship during Lent and Easter we shall follow the story of Jesus and we shall thank God, that through him, sin and death have been conquered for us. Why not come and join us at Church or Chapel, and if you do, we will promise not to have sermons that last several hours! Honest! With every blessing. □

Kim Nally.

Mr. James E. Kemp

B.Sc., D.C., M.R.C. (& Associates)

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

February was our first meeting of the year, as we do not meet in January. It was a very lively meeting as we discussed events for the coming year, followed by a game of charades.

Our Standard Bearer will be taking our Standard to the National Conference in Eastbourne on 21st-23rd of April.

Four of our members were chosen to represent our Branch in Blakeney on 8th May for the County Darts Match.

We were also very proud that our Standard Bearer - Mrs. Audrey Barlow - became the County Bowls Champion last year; let us hope she can do it again this year.

Due to the refurbishment of the Orchard Close Community Centre we cannot fix a definite date for our next meeting, however members will be informed of the venue for the next meeting directly we have some information for them. □

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - MEN'S SECTION

Xmas saw a good attendance when we had our Xmas lunch, and it was good to see members from the women's section attend. On the 13th February we held our Valentines dinner and both were held at the Le Strange Hotel, Hunstanton. On both occasions we had lovely rooms and good food and service.

February saw a least 30 members with friends attend the branch meeting when we had a talk by two lovely ladies from RAF Marham. It was most enlightening to hear about events at Marham & elsewhere in the world. These boys do us proud.

This month (March) will see another talk, this time by John Woodford. John will be talking on his exploits to Uganda.

This year we have a packed itinerary with a trip to Duxford Airshow, a BBQ, various talks and an inter branch quiz. All this before July!!

On April 18th (Saturday) we are holding a Garage Sale at The White House (Guest House) between 11am-3pm. Anyone wishing to sell those "ARTICLES IN THE ACTIC" please bring them along before 10am and don't forget to price them! All proceeds are going towards the POPPY APPEAL.

May 9th (Saturday) we will be attending the rededication of the War Memorial & V.E. Day Celebration under the auspices of the Dersingham Parish Council. For those wishing to attend, the service will be held at 12noon and taken by Rev Micheal Brock. There will also be refreshments laid on etc. so please come along and see the new Memorial Garden.

Please remember you do not have to be a member of the armed forces (past or present) to belong to the British Legion. Anyone can join providing you are over 15 yrs! For more information contact Valerie Brundle on 01485 541895. Come and join us and have some fun and support your local branch. □

VACANCY - ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (DERSINGHAM/SANDRINGHAM BRANCH)

We have a vacancy for a volunteer secretary who would be prepared to work one evening per month. The applicant would be required to attend our Branch Meeting for approx 2 hrs every second Tuesday in the month. He/She would be asked to take minutes and read out any correspondence. If you have any free time and would like to join us please ring Valerie Brundle on: 01485 541895.

David Bingham

Harriers

Harriers are graceful birds of prey and there was a time, not too long ago, when all three British species could be seen within the Dersingham parish boundary. I've seen marsh, hen and Montagu's harriers hunting over the field that now makes up the Sandringham View development. This hunting ground may be lost to them but they haven't disappeared from the local area entirely.



The easiest harrier to see is the largest of the tribe - the marsh harrier. At this time of year, it is usually possible to see marsh harriers from the track that heads off towards the sea from the bottom of Station Road. You don't even need binoculars to spot them because of their size and the way they hold their wings in a characteristic shallow V shape. All harriers do this and I will try to explain why. Imagine that this letter V is floating on a cushion of air blown from below. If the V starts to topple, more air will support the falling side. The V will therefore right itself. This is negative feedback. Harriers slowly quarter the ground searching for small mammals or birds and the upward angle of their wings is ideal for the purpose, particularly in gusty conditions. Their long thin wings accentuate the effect. Aircraft designers utilise the same principle. Airlines and training aircraft usually have upward angled wings to improve stability. Female marsh harriers are slightly larger than the males and are dark brown with small yellow markings on their heads and forewings. Males have more complex patterning and when you see them, the general impression is of a large grey brown and black bird. I can't say that I pick up any particular distinguishing feature but I always know what I'm looking at.

Marsh harriers are a real conservation success story. Twenty-five years ago, they were confined to a few protected reedbeds in Norfolk and Suffolk. Now they can be seen throughout eastern England and their range is spreading. They even breed in Scotland now. This success is not always welcomed because they aren't particularly fussy about what they eat and they do take a few young gamebirds and rare breeding wader chicks. This impact is reduced in more diverse ecosystems



where territorial birds such as the lapwing aggressively protect their chicks and in so doing protect other species by chasing the harriers away. I believe that we still have more golden eagles in Britain than marsh harriers so there is no room for complacency and they are brilliant birds to have around. Keep a look out for their spectacular sky dance when the male passes food to his mate in mid air as part of their courtship ritual. A romantic spectacle - even if the present is a dead rat!

Hen harriers are winter visitors to this part of the world and are most easily seen at their communal roosts. Norfolk has several of these and there was a time when half a dozen hen harriers could be seen heading in to roost on Dersingham Bog at dusk. I would recommend the

News from St Cecilia's Catholic Church

Fr James Fyfe writes:

We are nearing the end of the period of preparation for Easter known as "Lent". For many people this has been associated with the idea of "giving up" – usually the things we like such as sugar, sweets and sometimes meat. Nowadays we are asked to think positively and perhaps take on some extra responsibility, or give ourselves more to deepening our prayer-life, or even furthering our faith by reading or study.

Lent then can be seen as a real time for development, just like the training a runner does in preparation for a marathon or big race. Whatever our condition may be, for most of us there is always room for improvement. May this year's Lent be a time for renewal for all of us so that Easter, when it comes, will be a time of real joy.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Night

A very hectic Pancake night was held at St Cecilia's on Tuesday 24 February.



The little ones came too: Conor and



Sue Gostling prepares pancakes with Peter Warren looking on



Helpers Tricia Steel, Pat Nevin, Pauline Kelly and Brenda Baird kept things going smoothly in the kitchen



Frances Dodd, Mary Macnamara and Hanne McMahon enjoyed their partakes

The Hunstanton Parish Web Site

We have recently launched the parish web site, which can be found at :-

www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org

The web site contains details of all the services and social events at St Cecilia's in Dersingham and Our Lady and St Edmund in Hunstanton. There are also contact details for key people at both churches. Photograph albums show views of the churches and some of our earliest history. We are hoping to add to this very soon with pictures of current events and also from the early days of St Cecilia's, where we will be celebrating our 18th anniversary in March. We would be glad to set up reciprocal links with other local web sites. Please contact the web master whose details are on the web site.

Parish Ladies Shared Lunch

The spring Parish Ladies Shared Lunch will be celebrated on Saturday 25 April at noon. We always enjoy meeting ladies from other churches in the parish. Everyone brings a plate of food to share. If anyone would like to be invited to this lunch, please contact May Davey at 01485-540737. □

Holy Week and Easter Services 2009

Palm Sunday	5 April	9.00 11.00	Blessing of Palms & Mass (D) Procession of Palms & Mass (H)
Tuesday	7 April	7.00pm	Parish Reconciliation Service (H)



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Dersingham Evening W.I.

In January many of our members enjoyed a New Year dinner at the Riverside Restaurant in King's Lynn and were able to welcome in the New Year again at their meeting by sampling various ciders and apple juices provided by the proprietors of Whin Hill Cider, Jim Ferguson and Pete Lynn. They showed a video which showed how they had planted and cared for their orchard and all the hard work involved in producing the cider. Many members vowed to visit their shop at Stearman's Yard at Wells-next-the-Sea!

Following the success of the Evening Dining Club members welcomed the plan to form a Luncheon Club, which could be followed by a trip to the cinema or similar outings. It was suggested and agreed we hold an Open Day at St. Cecilia's Church Hall on the 6th of April to encourage new member by showing the various aspects of the W.I.

February's speaker was one of our own members, Geraldine Hodges, who gave us a fascinating insight into her life when at the age of eleven months she was placed in a Dr. Barnardo's Home. We heard how although she had missed out on the individual love and cuddles she might have experienced, she had still had a wonderful life and was still in touch with two of the nurses who had cared for. This was followed by an auction of items donated by members which, with the help of 'Auctioneer' Lisa Jones, raised just over £50 for funds.

It will be the Sandringham Group of W.I.s 50th anniversary in May and on 9th June we will be holding a celebratory evening at the Town Hall in King's Lynn. The Group has also put together a 50 page booklet which is on sale at the price of £1.50. □

Phyl Jones

COME ALONG AND SEE WHAT YOU ARE MISSING OUT ON

**Dersingham Evening WI invite all you ladies
(including you young mums) to come and see us at our**

**OPEN DAY on MONDAY 6TH APRIL
at ST CECILIA'S CHURCH HALL, MOUNTBATTEN ROAD.
DOORS OPEN AT 10:0' CLOCK.**

Here we will tell you all about our exciting monthly programmes, give you an insight into the latest entertainment with our Theatre Group, invite you to join our Dining ladies or have fun with our Craft Group, not to forget coming along on one of our Mystery Outings. And that's not all !.

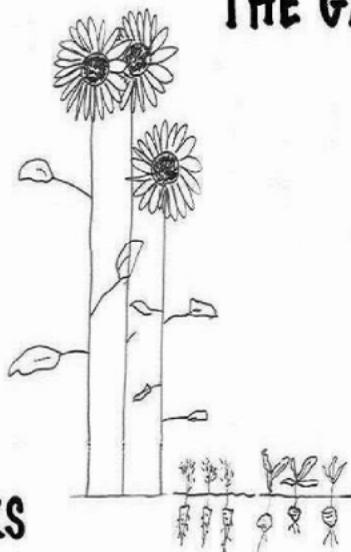
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too
small

establish
your own
fruit &
veg
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Dersingham Cricket Club Fixtures 2009



All matches to start at 1.00pm at The Pastures
(Behind The Feathers)

Sat 2nd May	Mundford	Away
SAT 9th MAY	SAXLINGHAM	HOME
Sat 16 th May	Beccles	Away
Sat 23 rd May	Hales	Away
SAT 30th MAY	NORTH RUNCTON A	Home
Sat 6 th June	Dereham	Away
SAT 13th JUNE	MUNDFORD	HOME
Sat 20 th June	Saxlingham	Away
SAT 27th JUNE	GARBOLDISHAM	HOME
SAT 4th JULY	BECCELES	HOME
Sat 11 th July	Swardeston A	Away
SAT 18th JULY	SWARDESTON A	HOME
Sat 25 th July	North Runcton A	Away
SAT 1st AUG FOLLOWED BY	HILLINGTON HOGG ROAST AND GRAND DRAW	HOME
SAT 8th AUG	HALES	HOME
Sat 15 th Aug	Garboldisham	Away
SAT 22nd AUG	DEREHAM	HOME
Sat 29 th Aug	Hillington	Away

For all the latest information check our web site @ dersingham.play-cricket.com



Dersingham Cricket Club

Chairman's Report.

As you will see from the following "early years" history of Dersingham Cricket we have a long history of playing both Cricket & Football at what is now called "The Pastures". The cricket club, and I feel sure the football club as well, are looking forward to the next 100 year of playing at the ground that has given so much pleasure in the past and hopefully in the future. Both clubs need a "long term home" and we trust this will be guaranteed over the coming years; success can only be achieved with long term planning.

I would like to thank Heather Barrett for all her effort researching the article below and if you can add any more detail to names and places we would like to hear from you. The season starts on Saturday 2nd May with our first home match on Saturday 9th May against Saxlingham (please see attached Fixture List).

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who supported our Quiz Night, we had 36 teams supporting the Club, thank you all.

Roger Poll Chairman. (01485 542346)

DERSINGHAM CRICKET CLUB - The Early Years

Overdue centenary.

In the absence of any official club records or meetings, former Club Treasurer, Heather Barrett, has undertaken hours of painstaking research into reports in the Lynn News and its predecessor newspapers, particularly, the "Lynn Advertiser, Wisbech Constitutional Gazette and Norfolk & Cambridgeshire Herald" (yes it was only one newspaper, but with a long title). It was particularly painstaking because sports news did not have its own section and was spread throughout the paper. The result was to prove that the Club had missed its Centenary, as the earliest match found so far was in 1880.

Snettisham v Dersingham – July 1880

This match, played at Snettisham, was won by the home side by an innings and 14 runs, although the report points out that "the underhand bowling of the veteran Daniels (Dersingham) proved invaluable to his side". Daniels (we don't know his initials) took 7 of the 10 Snettisham wickets, highlighting how "underhand" (or underarm) bowling was the norm for many years before being replaced by over arm bowling.

Other early marches

Opposition for Dersingham from 1880 to 1887 was provided by such teams as West Newton, Ingoldisthorpe Rising Star and Castle Rising, with Dersingham winning all four of the games found in the research. The scores in those games reflect how poor the pitches and outfielders were by today's standard. It was not unusual for both teams to bat twice in an afternoon. Low scores were normal and in a match against Ingoldisthorpe Rising Star in late April 1886, Ingoldisthorpe scored 10 and 23 in their two innings, with Dersingham scoring 27 and 9 for 2 to win by 8 wickets.

Home for the Club

From 1880 - 1887, all Dersingham matches were played away, but a match report dated 19th May 1888 records: "Through the kindness of Mr. E. Tingay of this place, in providing this Club with a ground this season, they played their first match in the village on Saturday, with the Ingoldisthorpe Club, which resulted in a win for Dersingham on the first innings (36 -42). Mr. E. Tingay was the tenant of the Manor Farm and it would seem that the Cricket Club, with subsequently the Football Club, have played on the same ground ever since.

Dersingham Standard

Although some of the press reports refer just to Dersingham, some refer to the Club as Dersingham Standard. The origin of this name is unknown, as there was no pub in Dersingham of that name, which would have been the obvious reason. By good fortune, building work on an old

house in the village recently revealed a Club fixture card for 1897, with the name of Dersingham Standard prominently displayed.

Club Meetings and Suppers

In April 1889, a press report reveals that a Club meeting took place in the School Room, with Mr. Tingay again being thanked for the loan of the ground. Meetings in March 1893 and April 1895 were held in the Temperance Hotel, now the Ashdene Guest House on what used to be Linford's Corner.

A more relaxing evening took place in May 1891, when it was reported that "through the liberality of Mr. G. Rex Wells, 16 members of the Standard Cricket Club, together with some friends, numbering in all about 30, were kindly entertained at supper on Wednesday at the Feathers Hotel, where a substantial repast was served by host Taylor". A bat and a ball were presented to leading players (T.J.Cole and R.Nurse respectively) and "comic songs were afterwards sung".

Matches 1888 – 1897

Opposition for the Club in these years was provided by some different Clubs, such as Brancaster in June 1891, Lynn YMCA in August 1891 and Gaywood in August 1895. Dersingham continued to be a successful Club as the small selection of matches researched shows 4 wins, 1 tie and 2 defeats. 74 runs were scored by each side in the tied match against Castle Rising, so the pitch may have been improving.

Fixtures were not played at every weekend – 10 to 15 in the season seems to have been the average – while the 1897 fixture card shows a break of 4 weeks from the end of July to the end of August, presumably because harvest took priority over the cricket.

Sandringham & District League

Dersingham, together with Snettisham, West Newton, Wolferton and Ingoldisthorpe, were the founders members of this League, which was formed as the result of a meeting at the Feathers Hotel on 17th April 1894. So the normal friendly fixtures were enhanced by the addition of league matches. Although there is no clue as to the location of the league final, Mr. Hopkins kindly promised to lend his own ground for the final match.

Club Personalities

As well as the "underhand" veteran Daniels and ground benefactor, Mr. E. Tingay, a small selection of other names which regularly occurred in match reports were J. & G. Chambers, W Asker, W Dye, H & T Riches, several Boothbys, T Tingay (son of the ground benefactor presumably), F Bird and P Houchen.

The 1897 Fixture Card shows a Committee of Messrs. Jabez Chambers, R Daw, H Jarvis, T Riches and J Wells, A Harrison (Captain) F J Bird (Vice-Captain) and James Chambers (Treasurer)



Back Row L-R H. Richardson. H. Daniels. H. Leggett. E.Mitchell. A.Lines

Front Row L-R D.Bunn. C.Bird. W.Jakeman. P.Houchen. J.Asker. H.Read. A. Waters

The earliest Club photograph, of the 1911 team appeared in a recent Lynn News "Down Memory Lane" feature. Help in providing more details on these players, particularly if they are related to present-day Dersingham families, would be much appreciated. □



Steve Davis

At the time when many start to think about spring cleaning, some even apply this primeval urge to their computer. But for me perhaps the operative word is *thinking!* It was whilst in the midst of a cold session peering and taking pictures through my spotting scope down at the RSPB Snettisham Reserve, that I got as far as *thinking about Spring*. I mused on how good it would be to cheat on winter a little and spend some time with my camera and scope where my brother lives on the Mexican Caribbean Island of Cozumel. From there as I idly surfed and dreamt my way through some good deals on the *Expedia* airline booking website (www.expedia.co.uk) and with a little encouragement from my wife the dream became a reality, and whilst the rest of the UK endured its first bout of snow at the end of January, I endured two weeks of 26-30°C in shorts and tee-shirt cycling around, swimming, snorkelling and nature watching in Cozumel with some good home Mexican cuisine. As you would imagine, it was tough!

The technology of booking tickets, checking in, choosing your seat and even printing boarding passes all online has moved on quite a pace since my last visit to Cozumel four years ago, not to mention the transatlantic in-flight entertainment with its choice of 300 films and similar number of CD tracks all on-demand. The other main technological induction for me was my brother's *Nintendo Wii Fit* system that lived alongside his 36" flat widescreen TV out in the thatched *Palapa* canopy attached to the back of his house. Despite being into computing for the passed 40 years I have never been much of a computer games enthusiast, and had never shown much interest in the *Wii* (which in case you are not from the same planet is pronounced *Wee*). But on the balmy evenings out there, I did get quite hooked on the *Wii Fit* system with its aerobic controls and *Balance Board*, as it monitored my apparent fitness during my stay, all played out on screen by my self-constructed caricature likeness or *Mii* (*Mee*). For those of you in the know, I am happy to declare that I got my *Wii Fit* age from 67 down to 39, (you may speculate where I should be), and we spent a few engaging evenings trying to outdo each other's attempt at the *Ski-jumping*, until our record was completely smashed by my 4'11" Mexican sister-in-law! If you would like to see photos or video clips from this or earlier trips to Cozumel, you are welcome to visit my *Picasa* and *YouTube* websites given at the end.

Anyway, after that happy digression, back to the subject of spring cleaning, and more specifically, spring cleaning your computer. Computers become increasingly cluttered with unwanted files, facilities and software as time goes on, much of it unsolicited and as a result can become increasingly sluggish and harder to handle, let alone being able to locate that important file you wanted. The analogy with lofts, garages and the desk where I am sitting now is very striking.

So, really it is just a case of clearing out the clutter and organising what is left. If you are a prolific letter writer or document producer, did you just stuff them all in your *My Documents* folder (if you use *Windows XP*) or plain *Documents* folder (if you use *Windows Vista*)? Did you give them all meaningful names when you created them? Or will you have to open up each one in turn to remind yourself what it contained? Creating named *subfolders* (folders within folders) is really quite easy and enables you group together documents relating to similar categories, projects or topics whilst at the same time separating them from unrelated ones. The same as you would want to do with a filing cabinet (or not as the case may be!) The good news is that you can *rename* files, create new folders and move files around from one folder to another. Also, rather than simply deleting unwanted files, whilst you still have plenty of free *Gigabytes* left on your computer disk why not play safe and move them to a folder named *Archive* say. The same might apply to all those photo files and even video clip files you may have accumulated, the latter of which can be quite large. If you do delete any files however, remember they will still exist in the *Recycle Bin* and may be recovered until such time as you choose to empty it.

If your disk space becomes very congested, the time taken to find files, especially large ones that have been fragmented into chunks all over the place, can be severely hampered. The state of

your disk can be assessed and, if necessary, unravelled back into a more workable condition with the *Disk Defragmenter* that can be found amongst the *System Tools* section of the *Accessories* that will be on your system, though this process can take many hours and you simply need to leave it to get on with the job whilst you do something more useful (some real Spring Cleaning perhaps?)

Making backup copies of your files and photos is important too. The day may come when your computer decides to give up on you, when it could be too late to retrieve those accumulated treasures. So every so often make sure that you copy all of your important files onto some form of media that can live apart from your computer. A blank CD or DVD is ideal, or perhaps a USB memory stick (though this is likely to be less permanent). There are several online services to which you can back up files, many of which, such as www.humyo.com, will give you a few *Gigabytes* of easily accessible online *storage* space for free.

The quantity of email that people hang onto can become very unwieldy too. It's worth checking through to see what can be ditched or, as in the case of *GoogleMail*, spirited away out of sight into the *Archives*. Remember here too that deleted emails are invariably only transferred to a *Bin* that again must be emptied, though *GoogleMail* and others will automatically remove emails from the *Bin* after 30 days.

You may be unaware, as you innocently surf the Internet, of all sorts of files and webpage information that are being set up and stuffed into your computer, some helpful, some not so, and some that will severely hamper the performance of your system! *Virus Checkers* and *Firewalls*, *Adware* and *SpyWare* eliminators are really a must now and in the absence of anything like *Norton* or *McAfee* installed on your system (on a subscription basis), *AVG* offer a free version of their *Basic Protection* system from mfree.avg.com. Many other tools exist that offer to clean up your system, some free, especially if you take a magazine such as *Computer Active*. I got one called *Registry Mechanic* a few months ago free for the first year through *Computer Active*, and was quite alarmed when it reported in excess of 4000 problems with my system, all of which it then proceeded to rectify. Many similar products will tell you how many problems you have, but only fix them if you pay!! But as the old adage goes: "if it ain't broke, don't fix it!" One must keep a sense of perspective on these problems. Simply deleting all the accumulated *Temporary Internet* files through your browsers *Options* can work wonders!

If all of these things sound a little daunting, then a simple demonstration from a helpful friend can be a big help!

As far as the outside of your computer goes, cleaning the screen can be a good thing, but avoid household products. You can buy special screen-wipes at ridiculous prices, but I find a tissue and a bit of *spit* works wonders, particular if administered as a fine spray by blowing a few raspberries at the screen – doubly effective and very satisfying! Turning your keyboard upside down shaking it gently to get rid of the biscuit crumbs, hairs and other detritus that have become lodged in it can be useful. A bit more spit and a wipe with a tissue can help degrease the keys too. Although I would not personally recommend nor want to take any responsibility for it, there are a surprising number of *YouTube* videos of people successfully cleaning their computer keyboards in a dishwasher! A particular favourite of mine is by someone calling themselves *TallStewo* (no connection) and can be found with a *YouTube* search on "keyboard dishwasher tallstewo".

The last word on Spring Cleaning though will have to go to *the Mole* from Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows* who with dust in his throat and eyes, and splashes of whitewash all over his black fur, an aching back and weary arms announced "Bother!" and "O Blow!" (well it was written in 1908), and "Hang spring-cleaning!" And with that he dashed out and scabbled his way up though his tunnel until he was out rolling about in the sunlight on the warm grass of a great meadow. And frankly that is what I would rather be doing. In fact, I would rather spend Spring here in Norfolk than be anywhere else in the world, however exotic!

I hope you have a good one too. ☐

Email: steve@davista.co.uk or visit: www.davista.co.uk, www.picasaweb.google.com/ukuleleboy and 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 58	Wednesday 29th April 2009	Thursday 21st May
Issue 59	Wednesday 8th July 2009	Thursday 30th July
Issue 60	Wednesday 2nd Sept 2009	Thursday 24th Sept
Issue 61	Wednesday 4th Nov 2009	Thursday 26th Nov

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
Every Monday	6.30 - 8.00	Dersingham Cubs	Meeting for boys age 8 - 10 1/2	Scout & Guide HQ Manor road
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, Sax on 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 8.30 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 Cecilia's Church
1st Friday of month	10.00 am to 12 noon	St Nicholas Church	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas Church Hall

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 29th April 2009** Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465. E-mail — anita.dersinghampc@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 29th April 2009 for publication on Thursday 21st May**. (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
Editor: - Tony Bubb. Editorial assistant - Rob Smyth
In the office - Anita Moore

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

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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday April 7th



Light Hearted
Merriment
for all the family

WINSTON
The Singing Farmer

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

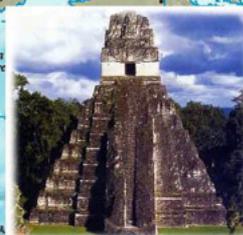
Admission by ticket only

Tickets from The Parish Council office 01485 541465 or V V Live meetings

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday May 5th

**WALTER
BLANEY**



**CENTRAL
AMERICA**

**A
TROUBLED
PARADISE**



**AN ILLUSTRATED
EXPLORATION**

Lambert Conformal Conic Projection.

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