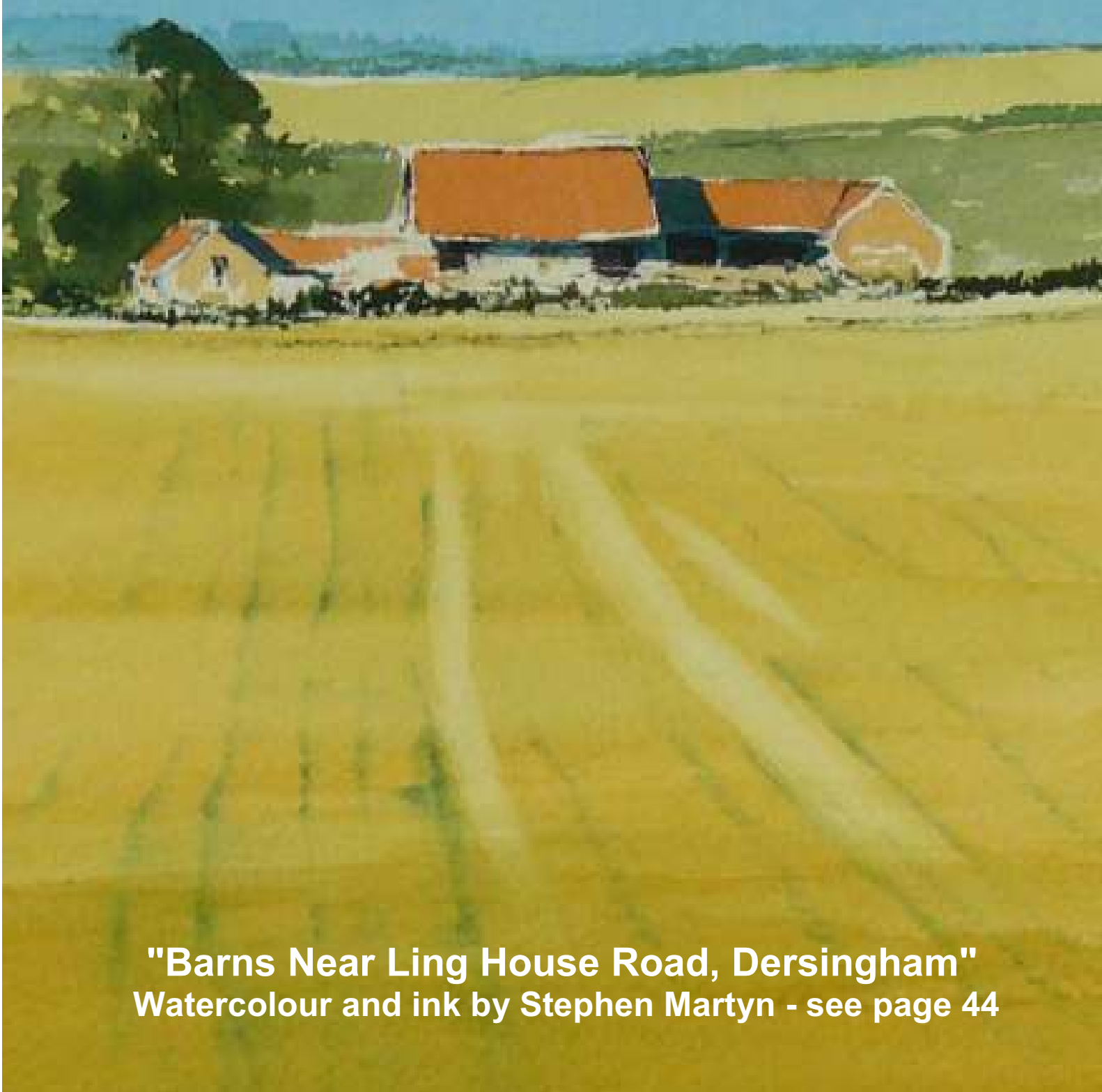


**Issue 58**

**June 2009**

# Dersingham Village Voice



**"Barns Near Ling House Road, Dersingham"**  
**Watercolour and ink by Stephen Martyn - see page 44**





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## Editor's Notes

As of the last issue, Village Voice is being delivered to Dersingham letterboxes by volunteers. Although we had been discussing such a scheme for a little while, this was suddenly brought into play by a big hiccup with the previous distributor. Thankfully, Steve Davis stepped manfully into the breach, after only mild torture, and masterminded the new system. He would, however, be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to help - many hands etc., etc., and he can be contacted on 543138 or by e-mail - [steve@davista.co.uk](mailto:steve@davista.co.uk).

I have received many favourable comments following our foray into colour and you will see new coloured advertisements and articles in this issue. In fact so great has been the interest that the colour section has been enlarged and this is now our biggest ever issue with 88 pages in total. With so many articles and announcements coming in it is quite a juggling act to fit it all together but do keep sending in. We still need contributions from the younger members of the village - stories, pictures, poems, news - so come on, have a go!

Did you work on the Sandringham Estate around 1967? Do you remember the filming of a documentary called "Royal Family"? Particularly do you remember the estate car that was shown briefly, it looked like a one off based on a Princess 4 ltr R. Am I correct and where is it now? If you have any memories of this programme being made to let us have them.

I recently paid a visit to the windmill at Great Bircham, a peaceful and interesting spot, where we looked at the animals, enjoyed some afternoon tea in the teashop and then watched the new attraction of sheeppmilking. Four Friesian milk sheep lined up to be milked and with their heads buried in buckets of food the milkmaid got on with things at the back end. The milk then goes to make cheese. A look inside the mill itself is fascinating and on a good day there are great views to be had from the top.

Right that's enough from me so happy reading.

*Tony Bubb*



## DIARY OF SPECIAL EVENTS\*

| Date                                   | Time              | Event  | Organisation               | Venue                                    |
|--|-------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| Sunday 24<br>Monday 25 May             | 2-6pm             | Dersingham Open Gardens &<br>St Nicholas Gallery | St Nicholas Church         | Around the village &<br>St Nicholas Hall |
| Tuesday 26 May                         | 11am-4pm          | Rectory fete                                     | Sandringham Parishes       | Sandringham Rectory                      |
| Sat June 5th                           | 10am - 12 noon    | Coffee Morning                                   | Women's British Legion     | Budgens                                  |
| Sat June 20th                          | 1.30 pm           | Scout and guide Fete                             | Dersingham scouts & guides | Scout Hq, Manor Rd                       |
| Sunday July 5th                        | 10am-4pm          | RSPCA Open Day                                   | RSPCA                      | East Winch wildlife<br>centre            |
| Thurs July 16th<br>to<br>Sun July 19th | 10am<br>-<br>6 pm | St Nicholas Church<br>Flower Festival            | St Nicholas Church         | St Nicholas Church<br>and<br>Church Hall |
| Sat July 18 th                         | 7.30 pm           | Concert - Norfolk Reeds                          | 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



I became involved with the Voice through Elizabeth Howard while researching my great aunt Jemima Amelia Durrant (nee Smith) who lived at The Shrubbery, Manor Road but about whom I knew little. An article was published in your magazine sometime in mid-late June 2007 including reference to the Zeppelin attack in January 1915.

### ENGLISH "FRANCE-TIREURS."

Count Reventlou's Name for Those Who Shot at Air Raiders.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Tuesday, Jan. 26.—The Deutsche Tageszeitung of Thursday publishes an article from Count Reventlou elaborating the German report that the Zeppelins, which raided the Norfolk coast, were obliged to fly over unfortified towns in order to reach Yarmouth, although as a matter of fact Yarmouth was the first place visited.

"It is an established fact," says Count Reventlou, "that when our airships, in order to fly to the fortified places of Great Yarmouth, were merely flying over other places or cities they were shot at from these places. It may be assumed with certainty that these shots, which were aimed at the airships from below, hit them and probably they wounded or even killed occupants of the airships. This involves an English franc-tireur attack, ruthlessly carried out in defiance of international law and in the darkness of night upon German airships, which without the smallest hostile action wanted to fly away over these places. This treacherous proceeding on the part of the English civil population is on a level with that of the inhabitants of Belgium, when from the windows of houses and out of cellars and churches they opened their murderous fire upon the German troops who were marching through."

"The airship is a recognized weapon of war, and yet people in England seem to demand that it shall regard itself as fair game for murders performed by a fanatical civil population, and shall not have a right to defend itself. This view is purely English, but we can assure the English that it is a view which is not shared in Germany. For six months past we have been accustomed to breaches of international law by Great Britain, and we are not surprised at this new breach."

As a possible follow up to the info. about the Zeppelin attack, I thought you might like to see this article from Deutsche-Tageszeitung published later in January 1915. It certainly gives a different perspective on things. The article was downloaded from 'The New York Times' archives online, at <http://tinyurl.com/cwfvvpv>

My mother and her nephew watched the attack in King's Lynn, and roughly 50 years later my brother unsuspectingly married into the extended family of the commander of the airship L4.

Although not directly connected with Dersingham, the following about the father of Jemima might amuse, as a possible follow up to your recent article about the parrot. Her father was a mariner from Wells who settled ashore in King's Lynn as a businessman, ship owner, ship broker and councillor :

*"In March 1900 William was involved with the stranding of the ketch 'QUEEN MAB' [78 tons]. She was on passage from Dunkirk to Lynn with a cargo of oilseed cake when on Sunday 18th. in gusting nor'easterly winds and shoal waters with the north Norfolk lee shore in sight, a heavy squall hit the ship while the Mate was aloft trying to shorten sail. The main mast broke and the Mate was lost.*

*The Master anchored ½ mile off the Burnham Flats beacon in danger of driving ashore. The Lynn News describes it as a "lively, unpleasant experience", with the mast pounding the ship's side.*

*In the morning the Master and remaining crew rowed ashore for assistance with his crew and their parrot, reaching Holkham beach from whence he walked to Wells and telephoned the ship's agent (William) who*

*organised a tug from King's Lynn. In the mean time locals from Wells boarded the ship and claimed salvage.*

*'Sandy' Smith, described by the press as a local councillor, ship broker, nautical surveyor and man of action, was involved in the subsequent court case for salvage, claiming for the defendants (the owner) that he examined the ship's bottom and "found not a scratch so she had not bumped". The claimants, describing Councillor Smith as an 'upright, honest citizen who would not purger himself', doubted that the absence of scratches was sufficient proof. They subsequently won a much reduced claim on the basis in which the ship had been left by her Master and crew, complete with ship's parrot in it's cage. "*

The moral being that if they had left the parrot on board, it would have indicated their intention to return to the ship.

**Chris Woods, Watton**





I would like firstly to say how much I and my family enjoy reading the Village Voice and in particular the articles by Dick Melton, how the village was totally different in many respects than it is today. I was born in the village in 1941 and lived with my grandfather and grandmother at 8 Glebe Road (now Pansy Drive) the place of my birth until my father Jerry Reddy (a Newfoundlander) returned from the war in 1946.

The village had a smaller population in those days. Grandfather used to tell me that about 697 people lived here but Grandfather (Ambrose William Wells) would not have counted outsiders - "that would be people from as far away as Ingoldisthorpe or West Newton".

As young lads, some of the boys in the village would, when on school holidays, spend a lot of time at the shingle pits and Wolferton marshes. It was when I was on one of my excursions to the marshes that Jimmy Laws and myself met.

At that time Jim spent most of the winter months living on his houseboat. He would shoot the geese and ducks flying on the foreshore and on occasions poach the odd pheasant or two here and there.

I was very lucky to have met this man as he took me under his wing and taught me the ways of the countryside, how to trap, snare and ferret for rabbits, to shoot, load my own cartridges and shells which enabled me to help feed my five brothers and sister.

I enclose an article written by J I Crown (see page 60) about Jim and also a photograph of my old friend firing his swivel gun.

Jimmy died in about 1981.



**Kevin Reddy**



On **Sunday June 7th** I will be opening my garden at **11 Bank Road**, together with the adjacent allotment site from 11am to 4 pm. The National Garden Scheme raises money for charities including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Help the Hospices and Crossroads.

This is a new opening and with the interest in growing vegetables so much at the fore just now, the Allotment Association have agreed to join in.

There will be a good quality plant stall and teas from which donations will be given to St Nicholas Church and Dersingham Day Centre.

**Ruth Mountain**

While admitting to being a rather grumpy old man myself, I feel I must disagree with the views about our local bus service expressed in The Grumpy Bit (issue 57). Firstly, I feel that we are fortunate in this village to have a quarter-hourly service (free to over-60s, of course). Admittedly buses can run up to ten minutes late, but this can probably be attributed to the various road works on the A149 in recent months, coupled with Lynn's perennial traffic problems. In my experience, the belief that services are frequently cut out is a bit of a myth - possibly only about one per cent of journeys.



As far as the "budding racing drivers" are concerned, I find them in most cases to be friendly, exchanging light-hearted banter with passengers, and most considerate to the more elderly ones. The bus never leaves before they are seated and they can use the bell and remain in their seats until the bus has come to a stop. Hardly a "white knuckle jaunt" as the writer describes it.

In addition, I think drivers of buses carrying schoolchildren deserve a medal, having to put up with disruptive behaviour, swearing, horseplay and throwing litter around the bus. I was told by one driver that Dersingham children are considered to be the most badly-behaved of the bunch. The little darlings shame our peaceful village.

**Bryan Tann**

*The Grumpy bit is intended to provoke discussion. All readers are invited to have a moan. Ed.*

Just a short note to correct Dickie Melton's last issue. Dinky Bunn, who ran a taxi business, operated from his bungalow at the bottom of Station Hill on the right hand side going down. At the top was Horry (Horace) Nurse's coal yard. He operated two coal wagons. I think they were both Bedfords. Next was a small farm yard and field then Dinky Bunn's. Both he and his wife drove the taxis - 2 Austins as I originally remember, to be replaced by a Vauxhall. Charlie "Fyfe" Wilson also operated his coal business from this area. I cannot remember if it was in Dinky Bunn's yard or near Horry Nurse's. We also had taxis operated by R & T Houchen from their garage in Bank Road. Hope this helps keep the records straight.

**Ivan Green**

I came across these photos whilst sorting through some old things and think they could be connected to the Cross family. Does anyone know where they were taken or recognise any of the



subjects. I think the 3 ladies may have been at Sandringham as several family members worked there.

**Jill Cross**

*The second picture appears on page 46. Ed.*

Concerning dog mess in Dersingham. Would the FEW so called dog lovers who allow their dogs to use these pleasant walkways for a toilet please clean up after them. It is not the holidaymakers as suggested, they are local people. I wonder if they would like their gardens covered with dog mess. I would also like to point out that when grasscutting it flies up in the driver's face and as most people know it can cause blindness. So just think and be responsible for your pets. There are plenty of dog bins about. If not, take it home. Do not bag it and leave it around for it to cause danger to other animals.

**Name supplied but withheld**





*This query came as an e-mail from Anthony Maynard who is in contact with the Australian doctor. Ed.*

I am a neurologist based in Queensland, Australia and I care for a group of patients with an unusual hereditary whispering voice (spasmodic dysphonia) and facial and neck dystonia (involuntary muscle contractions causing twisting movements). My patients all derive from two women Rachel Lee and Emily Lee (daughters of Emanuel and Susan Lee (nee Baney) who emigrated to Australia in 1886. I know members of the family live around Heacham, Docking, Hunstanton, Holme next the sea and Snettisham and descendants may include members of family's Lee, Baney, Hebb, Potter & Thompson. But in particular I know Emily and Rachel's brother Arthur Lee was in Dersingham and married Susan Green. They had 8 children, I am wondering if Arthur also had the condition and passed it to his children. If you personally have a similar condition (or know someone who does) please contact me ASAP as I am travelling to the UK in June 2009 to pass on my knowledge of treatment and management for this condition. In Australia the condition always presents initially with an involuntary whispering voice usually between the ages of 20 & 30 years. Please contact me via email care of - [amaynard@homecall.co.uk](mailto:amaynard@homecall.co.uk)

via **Anthony Maynard**

### **Parish Churchyard Alterations**

At a meeting of the Dersingham Parochial Church Council on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March it was agreed to clear the large compost heap which lies to the north side of the Tithe Barn. It is intended that the land will be used to provide desperately needed additional burial space. The nearby dustbins will also be removed at the same time. It is planned that this will be implemented by the 30<sup>th</sup> June. As from 1<sup>st</sup> July we respectfully request that all old wreaths, dead flowers and associated wrapping material will be removed by those tending the graves of family or friends. These materials can be re-cycled, binned or composted at home, as appropriate, in the same way as all other domestic waste materials. We hope that your co-operation in this matter will help us to improve the appearance of the churchyard.

*Rev. Michael Brock, Vicar*

### **Cooks named**

Mrs Ann Nicholson popped into the office the other day with a copy of the cookery school picture that we printed last time. On the back were 3 columns of names and a date of 1923 .



Cissie Lines  
Edie Reynolds  
May Clayton  
Sylvia Shepherd  
Ethel Bird  
Nancy Haslow

Eva  
Irene  
Doris Johnston  
Annie Biggs  
Nellie Wellhams  
Phylis Grief

Mary Lee  
Phylis Green  
Ada Jakeman  
Betty Bird  
Lorna Nurse  
Audrey Meech



## DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP

We have been delighted to see many new faces on our recent walks. So far this year we have averaged 26 participants on each walk with 30 on one Wednesday and the same number (but not all the same people) on a Sunday.

In view of their popularity we have included several extra walks in the summer programme including some that we are leading for the King's Lynn Ramblers. Do come along: you might even get your photo on the front of Village Voice - in colour!



### WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Start at 6.30pm from Great Massingham Green (near the church) (map ref.L 132/ 798 229). A 4.5 miles circular walk around Massingham and Peddars Way led by Pat Reed (540757)

### SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JUNE

Start at 10.30am from Holkham Park (near the cricket pitch) (map ref.L132/ 884 430). A 6 miles circular walk around the park led by Christine Taylor and Geoff Toop (542807)

BRING A PACKED LUNCH

### WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Start at 6.30pm from Cliff Parade, Hunstanton (near the lighthouse) (map ref.L 132/ 675 418). A 4 miles circular walk to Old Hunstanton and Holme led by Chris Chater (541177)

### WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JULY (with King's Lynn Ramblers)

Start at 6.30pm from Sandringham Visitor Centre (map ref.L132/ 689 287). A 5 miles circular walk around Sandringham led by Michael and Valerie Smith (540728)

### WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JULY (with King's Lynn Ramblers)

Start at 6.30pm from Brancaster Church (map ref.L132/ 772 439). A 4.5 miles circular walk around Brancaster and Titchwell led by Elizabeth Fiddick (540940)

### WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JULY (with King's Lynn Ramblers)

Start at 6.30pm from Sandringham Visitor Centre (map ref.L132/ 689 287). A 4 miles circular walk around Sandringham and Dersingham Common led by Keith Starks (542268)

Walks in August and September will be detailed in the next edition of Village Voice.

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 (as I learnt at Thornham!) and take responsibility for their own safety. □







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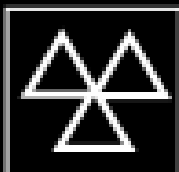
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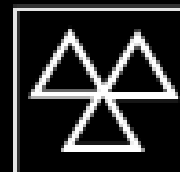
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## Parish Council Report

The Parish Council meeting of 27 April 2009 was the last meeting before the Council's AGM and Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 18 May 2009, by the time you read this they will have taken place and the new council year will be in full swing. Councillor Johnston resigned at the April meeting, as Council chairman and as Parish Councillor, due to personal reasons. He still intends to remain as one of our Borough Councillors and will be available in an advisory capacity to the Parish Council. His presence

at Council meetings will be sorely missed. Councillor Burrell will take the chair until the AGM.

The police have issued a warning,- beware of garden ornament thieves. I suppose all pots and garden gnomes and associated garden embellishments should be closely guarded in view of this. As I write the opening of Life Wood footpath is still causing problems. If it is not opened by the 1st May 2009, the County Council will move in and do the necessary work in order to ensure that, by the end of May, all residents can enjoy Life Wood flora and fauna.

The Environment Committee are still having trouble with the Borough's Policy on emptying litter bins (these now have to be of a certain design, (think Hunstanton style litter bins). What with having to replace some old bins with new and moving some bins to new locations, together with removing the little used bins, the Chairman of this committee has literally been tearing her hair. Unlike Snettisham and Heacham, Dersingham is not designated as a tourist area, not-with-standing all the B & Bs present in the village. We therefore, do not get the extra funding for the cost of this exercise, like tourist areas do.

The Unitary Council for Norfolk battle is continuing, the Boundary Committee – the government body that proposes changes to local government in Britain – has failed to follow a lawful process when proposing change in Norfolk. As a result local councils in Norfolk have had to go to the High Court in order to ensure the proper process is followed. Earlier this month district councils in Norfolk won a court battle to see fair play and the Boundary Committee has been forced to hold a further consultation, to finish on 14 May 2009, on the future of local government in Norfolk. Let us hope that common sense prevails at the end of all this and we retain the present status quo.

Those of us who take their life in their hands, crossing Manor Road to the doctors' surgery, will

be pleased to know that the Council is asking the County Council if a crossing could be installed there and whether a 20MPH speed limit be made, to cover the whole village.

Finally the Parish Council have been told by the County Councillor, that the possibility of the Coasthopper bus passing through Dersingham is not feasible. □

*Ann Chapman*

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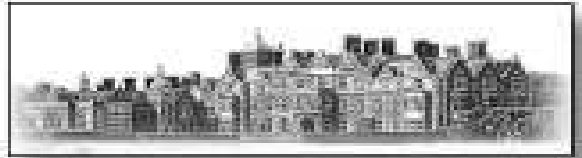
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# The Sandringham Newsletter

*by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate*



The Estate has been granted planning permission to convert an agricultural barn known as Sheepdip into a dwelling, and detailed work is now progressing on the project. It is hoped that many eco-friendly features will be incorporated into the building to make it as sustainable as possible.

Spring barley, beans and peas have been sown on the Farm, followed by parsnips, sugarbeet and potatoes. This year's tree and hedge planting programme has now been completed: 4 miles of new hedges have been laid and 3,500 broadleaf native trees and 60 specimen parkland trees, mainly oaks, have been planted in woodland and open spaces around Dersingham, Babingley and Anmer.

This year's Ballroom exhibition in the House will focus on the many clocks at Sandringham. "Sandringham Time" – 30 minutes ahead – was a well-known feature of Edward VII's and George V's tenure of Sandringham, and both Kings' dislike of unpunctuality is also celebrated. Some of the almost 200 clocks at Sandringham, large and small, will be gathered together in the Ballroom to help tell the story of Edwardian life.

Now that sowings of spring cereals have been completed on the Farm, farm staff are beginning a slightly quieter time; they have been repairing and remaking farm tracks and roadways ahead of harvest time, and also cleaning out the various ponds on the Estate, thinning the trees around them to improve the water quality and allow more light penetration. A new sprayer will be arriving soon; it has a 40m span and uses a combination of satellite technology, onboard computer and a laser "sight". They mean that the spraying boom is always kept at the optimum height, which reduces spray drift, and that it can keep track of which areas have already been sprayed so that they don't get treated twice. All of this means that we can use less chemicals, which is more economical and also more eco-friendly.

The Sawmill has been experiencing an unprecedented and continuing demand for firewood, as more people are switching to wood-burning stoves, so we have invested in a new logging machine; it turns thinnings from Estate woodland into logs suitable for domestic use more efficiently and again with less waste than previously.

Around the gardens of Sandringham House, gardeners have been constructing new gravel pathways and re-gravelling and re-edging paths through the Woodland Walk; this is just in time for the magnolias and camellias coming into full bloom, and azaleas and rhododendrons just beginning to flower. The ducks that live on the two lakes have begun to appear with families of ducklings – the biggest family seen so far had 14 ducklings. In the Park and on the farm, pheasants and other ground nesting birds are pairing up and beginning to construct their nests.

Spring is also well on the way on the Fruit Farm; pears are now coming into blossom, with apples not far behind. The blackcurrants are also starting to flower and must be protected from frost to ensure a good crop this summer; this is done with an automated irrigation system – when the temperature falls to freezing, a fine water mist is sprayed on the plants. As the water begins to freeze, a small amount of heat energy is given off, and this is just enough to keep the flowers from being frozen.

In the Museum, the miniature "James Bond" Aston Martin that was presented to The Queen in 1966 for The Duke of York (then HRH Prince Andrew, aged six) has returned from its year-long stay at the Imperial War Museum, where it formed part of a James Bond exhibition called "For Your Eyes Only". The visitvisitors to Sandringham House have been fascinated by the Ballroom Exhibition of Sandringham's clocks and timepieces, and have also been able to see a new stained glass window, designed and installed last year, featuring the coats of arms of Her Majesty and of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, which continues the tradition of stained glass coats of arms of every monarch who has lived at Sandringham.

In West Newton, the village shop is now under the same management as the Bircham village shop, under the name of Sandringham Foods (01485 542219). After the sad news of the closure of Royal Warrant Holders Scole's in Dersingham, it is good to be able to confirm that Sandringham Foods plan to extend their fresh meat sales at West Newton to include a butchery. They will continue to offer Sandringham beef and lamb, reared on organic Estate grassland, plus a wide range of groceries and other necessities. □



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## Old Picture Corner



This view of the Albert Victor pub is undated. Can you name the policeman or suggest a date?



This mid sixties shot shows Station Road looking a bit patched.  
What were the 3 concrete posts for in the recreation ground?



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## Anyone for tennis?

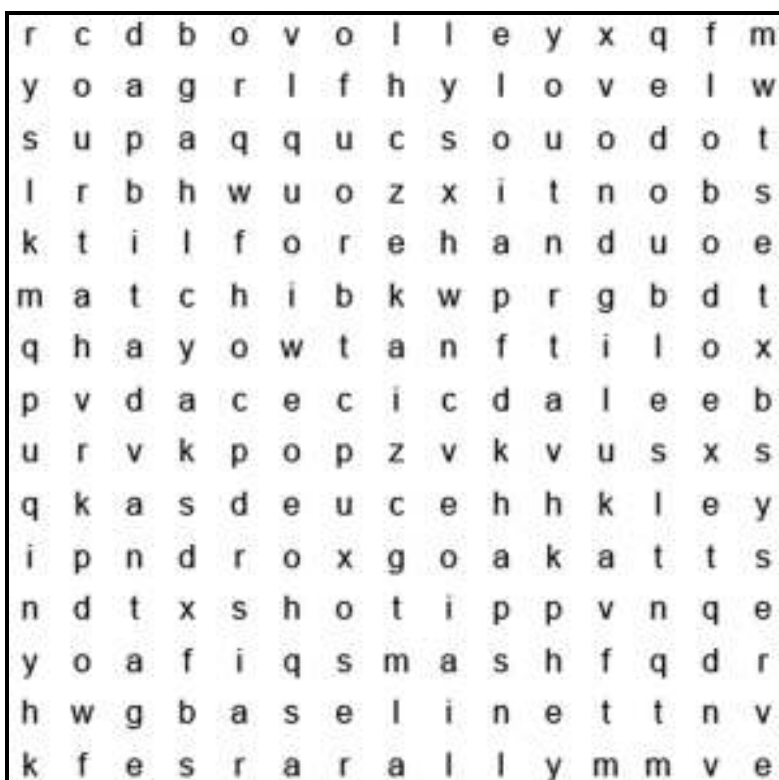
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Tennis anyone?  
Up goes the cry  
The evenings are sunny  
There's light in the sky

A chance to meet others  
Who love the game  
To dust off your racquet  
Does it still feel the same?

You may not be Andy (that's Murray)  
You may be quite shy  
But you can still have fun  
Giving tennis a try



How many tennis related words  
can you find in this puzzle?



## Newness

\*\*\*\*\*

Newness is always elusive  
Blink and the moment is gone  
'is' becomes 'was' without pausing  
While some things seem always anon

If now seems eternal to those who are young  
Will their ladders ever have more than one rung  
Is the newness of the future the newness of then  
And when will that newness become the newness of when

It's so tricky to plan for the future  
Second guessing the likes of mankind  
Let alone making accurate forecasts  
Of what Planet Earth has in mind

'Safe as the Bank of England' Was once the rallying cry  
There was also'.....the pound in your pocket.....'\*  
Another Prime Ministerial lie

With the future in question  
The past simmers on  
The present's still with us  
Until it is gone

We must make the most of our newness  
For what's said and done's 'bin' and gone  
We must try to bring hope to survival  
Avoiding a new Rubicon

Now least we've still got one another  
Who can you trust? Take your pick  
But try to find someone who's 'worth it'  
Not just some cosmetic trick

What we need now are crusaders  
But not of the sword-wielding type:  
The people who'll fight for plain common sense  
And cut out the sick-making hype

(C) Hugh Mullarkey 26-04-09

\* 'From now the pound is worth 14% or so less in terms of other currencies. It does not mean of course that the pound here in Britain, in your pocket or purse or in your Bank has been devalued.'

Harold Wilson - Labour Prime Minister 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1967



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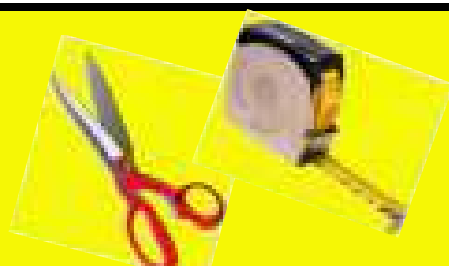
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## Dersingham Community Lunches

The second Community Lunch in Dersingham, held on St. George's Day, was once again very well attended, with a total of 40 people present (some of these can be seen on the photograph).

On this occasion the lunch was provided by Dersingham's Thaxter's Spar Supermarket, Garden Centre and Coffee Shop and was, once again, a major success!

Steve Davis, who is now the co-ordinator for delivery of the Dersingham Village Voice, made an appeal for volunteers to deliver the magazine and received a few favourable responses, although I am certain that he would welcome the interest of any others who may feel that they wish to be involved. He can be contacted on 01485 543138.



During the lunch, Gayle Platt, Headteacher of the local Infant's School, made a presentation which featured the facilities available at the Infant's School and at St. George's Middle School in the village. Gayle also asked for volunteers to participate in a joint project by the schools which would see them being involved in various elements of educating the children in the ways of business – two people who immediately offered their services were local company directors, Jonathan James and James Thaxter, who will both be acting as panel members in a version of 'The

Dragon's Den' (although it is highly unlikely that this will be seen on television!)

The objective of these lunches is coming to fruition, with a great deal of networking taking place between local business people and the leaders of local organisations. The community is coming together in a way that can do nothing but good for the future of the village.

The highlight for me, as co-ordinator of these events, was when, having told the attendees that in future we would not be sponsored and that lunch would therefore be charged for at a nominal cost, the local firm of solicitors, Hawkins, having seen the value of what was happening, offered to sponsor the next luncheon (in June). It gave me a great deal of pleasure to announce this fact to those present! So please note that the next Community Lunch, to be sponsored by Hawkins Solicitors, will, take place at the Dersingham Village Social Club on 25 June 2009.

I now have a list of those who have previously been invited to these lunches, but if your business or organisation is based in, or serves the village of, Dersingham, and has not been asked to attend please accept that as an oversight on my part and contact me, either by e-mail: [communitylunch1@btinternet.com](mailto:communitylunch1@btinternet.com) (existing members please note the new e-mail address) or by telephone: 01485 541347. □

*Bob Tipling*



### *Community Spirit*

As the new head of Dersingham Infant and Nursery School I would like to say a big thank you for the warm welcome I have received from all members of the community. Having moved from London into the village of Dersingham has been a dramatic change, the first thing I noticed is the strong sense of community spirit.

I have now completed my first term at the school and I have thoroughly enjoyed myself. The school is a very welcoming, friendly and happy with high standards in achievement and attainment. My aim is to develop this further and open our doors to welcome all members of the community.

During the week beginning 1st June 2009 the school will be starting a joint enterprise project with the St. Georges Junior school.



Mrs Gayle Platt , Headteacher at  
Dersingham Infant and Nursery School

Over the next three weeks the children will be learning how to set up and run a business and develop products ready to sell at an 'Around the World Fair'.

### How you can be involved

- Would you be willing to share your knowledge of how to run a business?
- Do you have any creative abilities and a spare afternoon free?
- Have you any multicultural links?
- Would you like to sponsor a country and get free advertisement?
- Could you lend the school any resources?

**Or anything else you can think of**

**Please contact**

**Gayle Platt on**

**01485 540022**





# *An Amazing Discovery!*

The children of Dersingham Infant and Nursery School returned to school from the Easter holidays to find an unusual sighting on the school field.

Under a tree were five giant eggs laying in a nest of grass and feathers. All around the nest were glittery feathers, shiny scales, white fur and a few footprints.

Following further investigation the children found out the eggs were 'querk' eggs. A querk is a very magical, shy creature that very few people know about. Thankfully a querk is vegetarian and therefore will not harm any of the children in the school.

The eggs have been bought in to the classroom so the children can care for them until they hatch.



Picture of the eggs found on the school field.

"Getting the egg in the classroom was really exciting. It will hatch out soon, so we have set a camera up to watch if it moves." (Green Class)

"Sometimes it moves or I can hear it talk." (Blue Class)

Querks have now become the topic for our curriculum this half term, providing a wealth of learning opportunities in a fun and stimulating way.

## **Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening Times**

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

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

### **The Dersingham Parish Council Office is at**

The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham, Norfolk PE316LH  
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\*\*\*\*\*

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## **That's my business**

### **R. H. Thaxter Ltd - A Brief History**

Thaxters or Thaxters nursery as it was known when it was started in 1945 by Ronald Thaxter after the war. It was a small holding with greenhouses, growing tomatoes, cucumbers and cut flowers. Most of the produce was sold from a roadside stall. There was a house where the Spar shop now stands belonging to Ronald Thaxter's father-in-law. The living room of the house was converted into a small shop in 1953 and was used as the main outlet for the nursery and also as a grocery shop. Over the next 10 years the shop expanded and the nursery declined eventually becoming derelict.

In 1968 a small garden centre opened at the rear of the grocery shop and over the course of the next 15 years expanded to take over the whole of the old nursery area. In 1967 Jack Thaxter and his wife Lil joined the company to run the grocery shop. Jack's main job was the large fruit and veg department which he ran until 1989 when he retired. He still keeps an interest in the company today at the age of 96.

In 1983 it expanded further and took over the adjoining premises known as Rankin's which stood in the centre of what is now the car park. Rankin's was run as an Off Licence as well as selling a wide range of hardware.

Eventually the Spar shop was redeveloped and the off licence was moved into the Spar shop which led to the demolition of the old Rankin's store. The company continued to expand and improve the grocery shop and the garden centre under the leadership of the present managing director, Richard Thaxter, to its current form where there is very little of the existing house left.

In 1995 Peter Thaxter, Richard's brother came to work for the Company part time after retiring as a head teacher.

In 1996 the company bought the house adjoining the car park and 2 years later opened the Coffee Shop. After a kitchen extension in 2000 and seating area extension in 2002 and further extension last year it has reached its present size.

The business is now run by Ronald Thaxter's son, Richard with the assistance of his son James, wife Edna and their management team. □



This view shows Thaxters and Rankins in the late 60's before re-development started with an inset of today





## Dick Melton

Now where shall I start. In the February issue of Village Voice there was a nice letter from Mrs Doreen Wright and in it she mentioned the house on Hunstanton Road Dersingham that is named 'Kia Ora'. Well I had a very nice letter from Mr Trevor Ilott of Snettisham, who has just returned from a six-week holiday in New Zealand. He explained to me that 'Kia Ora' is a New Zealand word of Maori origin and it means 'be well and be healthy.' I have also found out that there was a beach hut down Heacham North Beach of the same name and another beach hut that is called 'Waikiki,' which I am told is another word of Maori origin. So is there a connection between the house at Dersingham and the beach hut at Heacham? Maybe someone will let us know.

### King George V funeral

Also in the February edition of Village Voice there was a picture of the funeral procession of King George the 6th on its way from Sandringham Church to Wolferton Station on February 11th 1952. Graham Mickelburgh also mentions this picture in the April Village Voice. The question was, "Were you in the crowd?" The answer is yes. I was, and so was Graham. I was twelve years old at the time and I attended St George's School up Dodds Hill. On that day we had to be at school at 9am and the whole school walked to a position just to the Sandringham side of the Folly Hill, on the right hand side of the road looking towards Wolferton. I remember it was a cold day and the soldiers that lined the route with us kept telling us to jump up and down to keep warm, and stamp our feet. When the funeral procession came past us we had to take off our caps and bow our heads until it had passed. After it had gone we were allowed to go home for the rest of the day.

### Heath Road

In William Turner's letter is a picture of Heath Road, not Lynn Road; it is taken from the junction of Manor Road. In the nineteen fifties there were some interesting people living in Heath Road: the first house on the left was called 'Kingswood' attached to it was Mr Kerry's butcher's shop, that had been Mr Terrington's and was later ran by Ken Milton; behind it was the slaughter house and the garage which is now the undertakers. Then you had the two Miss Teversons: they had, I believe, moved round from Chapel Road. Half way along the left hand side of the road lived Mr Boothman: he was an electrician who had a shop on the main road at Snettisham. The next house was 'Cromarty,' the home of Mr Humpreys: he had been chauffeur to Queen Mary but he was now retired and was





looked after by his niece, Miss Frazer. In one of the houses that faced the Shut Up Common was Sonny Skipper: he was one of the last honey cart drivers in the area. There also lived in that row a man who always on a Sunday wore a top hat but I cannot remember his name, maybe some one will.

On the other side of the road, right next to the Common, was the house of Miss Mann. Next to the house was a large barn in which the Dersingham Fire Brigade kept their fire engine: them days there was a separate Brigade at Sandringham. Then you came to two bungalows. Mr Carr, the headmaster at the infant school, lived in one and Miss Robinson, a teacher at the same school, lived in the other. A bit further down was the big house called 'The Retreat,' where the Harrison family lived. Right on the corner, where the car showroom is today, was many old wooden buildings used by a carpenter and builder, but I am afraid his name escapes me.

### The Cookery Class

Now we come to the picture of the cookery class; the lady on the far right of the picture is my late aunt, Nelly Hunter. I had a word with her daughter Jane, my cousin, who still lives in the village and we both think it was taken between 1920 and 1925. Unfortunately we cannot name or recognise any one else in the picture.

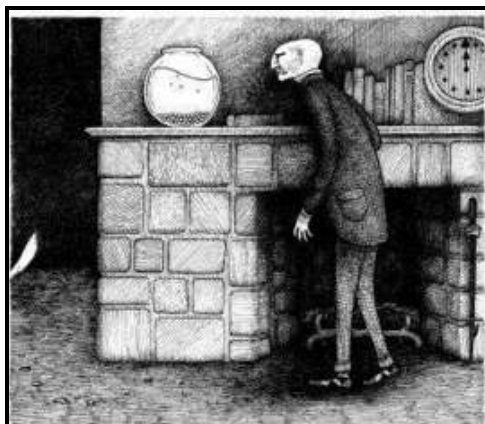
### The Big Cat

What about this big cat down The Drift? There have been sightings of big cats all over Norfolk of late and this is not the first time one has been seen in the Dersingham area. When I was a lad we spent a lot of time down The Drift playing in Balding's Moat, or just sitting on the five bar gate by the railway line waiting for the next steam train to come by. One thing my mother always said to me was, 'Don't go over the railway and play in the Little Wood,' but of course I did. Now the Little Wood is just over the bypass and past Waggs Field. As the name suggests it is a small wood but it was very dark in there with lots of undergrowth: it was the best place in Dersingham for blackberries. This wood was flooded in 1953 at the time of the great flood and, in the September of that year, a man found a body of one of the flood victims in the wood. When we would get the big fires on the Fen, the Little Wood would never get on fire as the undergrowth was much too dense to burn. I remember a tramp living in the wood for a while in a hovel made out of tree branches and sticks. The Fen, Little Wood, and the marshes don't get used like they used to, so who knows what's lurking around in the undergrowth.

I told you all about the sea eagle and now I have read that some one wants to introduce the beaver back into England. What next, the polar bear? Look out Dersingham, the Fen is an ideal place for all of these but they will all have to watch out for that big black cat.

On Sunday June 28th it is Carnival Day in Hunstanton. On that morning on the green we are having a Tug-of-War and a Crazy Football competition amongst the local pubs and clubs with teams of four. If any one in Dersingham is interested in joining in would they please contact me on 535348. There will be a trophy for the winning team.

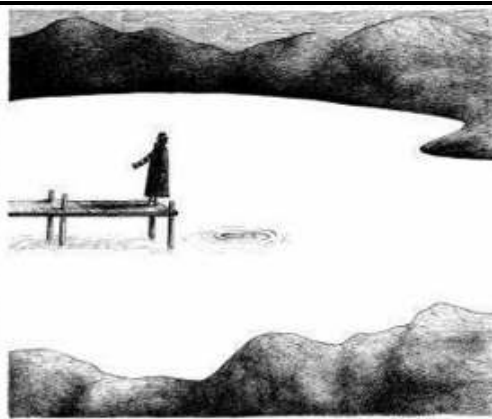
See you all in August. □



Lawrence's dear goldfish was missing that noon



The Duchess was summoned



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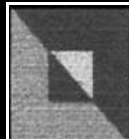
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## News from the RSPCA

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

Post-release monitoring is a very important part of our work, as we need to know how well the animals we release cope once back in the wild. We need to be able to identify an individual animal after release. The most usual methods are a tag of some form, which is attached to the animal.



The RSPCA East Winch Wildlife Centre has a long history of post-release monitoring, starting in 1988 with tagging seals, then in 1991 we started to ring swans using British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) rings. In 1996 we started BTO ringing oiled seabirds, and in 1999 BTO ringing of all birds. So far this year we have had some very exciting news about animals we have treated and released:

Elise, a grey seal was seen this year on the Farne Islands, with her pup. Elise was released from the Centre in October 2000, having been admitted as a

weak and emaciated pup, with multiple cuts and grazes. Elise was released in the Wash. We are all thrilled with this news – this is the first recorded pup being born to a seal pup we have reared at the Centre.

A Tawny Owl released from the Centre 8 years ago was found in Dersingham. Unfortunately the bird was found dead by the roadside, but it proves that it survived for this length of time following release.

Fortunately this was reported to the BTO, who record the date the bird is found, the species if it is known and also details of the circumstances and the exact location. This recovery information is then sent to the person or organisation that ringed the bird. The BTO can be contacted on 01842 750050 □



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# The Grumpy Bit

Moan of the month, this month is television. By television I mean the free channels, not the pay to view providers, Sky etc. We personally ditched these sometime ago, I think we pay enough licence fee as it is.

Now I'm not saying that all the TV shown is rubbish, some of the programmes are quite good, a few even are excellent, but the rest oh dear, oh dear. All these pathetic reality shows, the ones where you are asked to phone in and vote at a cost, so much a minute, whatever, mobiles may cost more etc. Does anyone actually phone in and vote I wonder? Oh yes and before and after the vote, you are given another chance to watch the performers doing their performance .....rewind not once, but umpteen times . The answer to this, of course, is to record the programme, then skip these bits and the advertisements if they are being shown. That is if you watch these programmes at all.

I now go on to 'soaps'. Once I used to enjoy Coronation Street and Eastenders. Coronation Street does occasionally have good bits, a few jumping in to bed flashes, and a few humorous instances, but Eastenders has become boring, boring. Who cares about Bianca's kids, or whether Ricky is the father of one or two of them. Who cares about Patrick's past and who killed who and for what reason. As far as I am concerned the whole cast should be assassinated, then the script writers could start again from scratch.

Football, now not everyone is a fan of this, but blow me down schedules are rearranged due to 'important' matches, I suggest the schedulers should show the matches after 10:00 pm, if one likes football that much one will watch it then, or screen it on a minority channel like BBC3. Grown men kissing each other because they have scored a goal, whatever next. The expert panel dissecting the performances after the match, boring, boring.

Then we have what I call the 'sofa news', the breakfast news programmes and the One Show for instance. A case of gormless interviewers interviewing gormless interviewees most of the time. The people who punctuate the conversation with 'You know' and 'Um!'. Where has the art of conversation gone?

I must also mention the Celebrity Chefs, I exclude some from this collective, Delia Smith comes to mind, I am talking of those foul mouthed so called celebrity chefs whose every other word is one of the bad language variety. I Do not think they can cook all that well either. Do you remember Philip Harben and Fanny Craddock, the aristocrats of cookery?

Bring back television as it was 20-30 years ago I say, decent stuff to be enjoyed. A final moan, wheelie bins. Are the bin men incapable of putting them back where they find them? We place them neatly outside of our properties as good villagers should and where do they leave them, every where but where we originally left them. Talk about a bin obstacle course on the footpath and this can be quite dangerous for all of us. □

| Village Voice Sudoku No 6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6                         | 1 |   |   |   | 5 |   |   |   |
| 4                         |   |   |   |   | 7 |   |   | 2 |
|                           |   |   | 9 | 3 |   |   |   | 8 |
|                           | 8 |   | 1 |   |   | 3 |   |   |
|                           |   | 9 |   | 5 |   |   | 7 |   |
| 2                         |   |   | 7 |   |   |   |   | 6 |
|                           |   | 7 |   |   |   | 5 |   |   |
| 8                         |   |   | 6 | 2 |   |   | 1 |   |
|                           | 3 |   |   |   |   |   | 8 | 9 |



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## Dersingham Village Social Club

*The following article was published in a local newspaper at the time of opening. Although undated it must be before WW1 as Frank Beck is referred to.*

The Dersingham Working Men's Club, which is to be opened on Saturday, is an unpretentious, comfortable looking, one-floor building, constructed of Carr stone quarried at Snettisham, and bricks, the output of yards at Heacham and Peterborough. It has been built by local contractors Messrs. G. Riches and Son, to the designs of Mr. C.E. Prince, the chief engineer at Sandringham. The building includes a large hall, 44ft. long and 23ft. wide, with an open timbered and fairly lofty roof, and the room is well lighted and ventilated, and will be warmed by two open grates. The hall is approached by a porch and lobby and leading out of it are the committee room, bar, store room, and necessary offices. The whole building is lighted on the Simpitrol lighting system, by means of 17 burners, 11 of 40-candle power and 6 of 80-candle power. The system has been installed by Mr. W.R. Senter, the local agent for the British and Colonial Lighting Co. Ltd. at the contract price of £40. The water supply is provided from a large rain water tank, but it is intended to sink a well should the available soft water supply be found insufficient for the purposes of the club. At the north end of the hall is a big bow window, and near that a full-sized billiard table, which has already been purchased, will find its home. As the object of the promoters has been to provide a whole day club for the use of the labouring community of Dersingham, opportunities will also be given members of finding outdoor amusement and with that purpose a bowling green and quoit beds will be laid out on the land lying in front of the building.

The formation of the Dersingham Working Men's Club, Ltd. and the construction of the club buildings have been due to a strongly expressed wish on the part of a considerable number of working men in the parish to put themselves on a similar footing with regard to club accommodation to that occupied by their more favourably placed neighbours in the villages forming the Sandringham estate. It is not intended to be in any sense an opposition or unfriendly concern to that which has been inaugurated in connexion with the Dersingham Institute. Although a large proportion of the working men find employment on the Sandringham estate, the village is by no means part of the Royal domain in the sense that Wolferton, Sandringham and Anmer villages are, and it has never been possible to hope that his Majesty would extend to the parish equal benefits to those he had bestowed as sole owner on his own tenantry in other villages. It became necessary for those residents whose eyes were set in the direction of the Sandringham estate clubs to act entirely on their initiative; a working committee was formed, the Dersingham Working Men's Club was promoted with a capital made up of 5s. shares, some £200 was subscribed by working men and negotiations were opened with the view of acquiring a site for the proposed club house. At this stage his Majesty presented the club with the site upon which the buildings have now been erected, and the King was further pleased to promise a donation of £100 to the building fund on condition that the working men raised their paid-up capital from £200 to £300. This they have now done, and his Majesty's gift of £100 has been supplemented by donations of £5 from Sir Dighton Probyn and of £3 from Mr. F.R. Beck, the agent of the Sandringham estate. The club is honoured by the patronage of his Majesty, and its rules and regulations are very similar to those in use at the clubs on the Sandringham estate. It will be managed by a committee appointed in part by the company and as to the remainder by members,

## Coming up to date

Prior to its establishment as a village social club, the building was used by the British Legion, and was widely known in the village as the British Legion hall. In Kelly's directory 1929 the existence of a bowling green is confirmed, a Mr Elton E.O. Wheeler is named as the HON. Sec. of the bowls club and C.Corkran is the secretary of the institute public hall. ►



The building fell in to disuse in the 1970s and was offered by the royal estate to the parish council, who purchased it, and in 1977 leased the building to the newly formed social club committee. As 1977 was the year of the queens silver jubilee, it was thought appropriate that the hall be renamed to mark the occasion.

The committee were pleased with their acquisition, as Dersingham, by far the largest village in the immediate area, was the only one without a social club facility. Ingoldisthorpe had recently completed the construction of their new club and we were surrounded by all the village clubs on the Royal Estate.

The new committee had a major task on their hands to transform the building, and there followed years of voluntary work and fund raising events. Dances, coffee mornings, and social evenings were held in the church hall. Members even paid an initial subscription in 1977 on the understanding that it would not have to be renewed until one year after the club opened for business. This happened four years later in 1981.

At this time the club consisted only of the main jubilee hall building, bar and toilets etc. Membership demand soon dictated that the club had to expand. With the agreement of the Parish Council, and generously financed with a loan from the brewery Green King, a major new lounge bar was built in 1985. A condition of the planning consent was that part of a grassed area in front of the club, which was originally the aforementioned bowling green, had to be sacrificed to extend the car parking area.

In 2002 a further improvement was made with the building of a first class snooker room opened by Councillor George Pratt.

The club is supported and nurtured by the Parish Council, but by far the majority of finance for all these works and for the continued maintenance of the building is generated by the members themselves.

The future of our club is in jeopardy.

Almost everyday we read about the Credit Crunch, and the way it is affecting business throughout the land. The licensed trade in particular, is having a hard time, with pubs closing at the rate of five or six a day. Village social clubs are not immune from the problem, with many in danger of closing if they cannot succeed in rallying more support. The whole social fabric of society seems to be changing, with people opting to isolate themselves within their homes, with their satellite TV and cheap supermarket beer.

Our social club has wonderful facilities. We are licensed to accommodate 230 members at any one time. Discos and other music events are held on a regular basis, a children's party (with Father Christmas) is held in December and a well attended New Years Eve disco is provided.

The Club provides a venue for fund raising events. The Village football teams have race nights here and in January the Cricket team had a very successful quiz night. Substantial sums are raised, and the Club benefits from increased bar sales.

A snooker team, pool team, cribbage and darts and domino teams represent the Village

throughout west and north Norfolk. We have in the region of 600 members but need many more.

Membership is open to Dersingham residents or anyone who has lived here or has a Dersingham connection. Residents of surrounding villages may also apply to join. We are sure that you would agree that it would be tragic if the Club was lost, and the efforts of many village residents serving on the Committees over the last 30 plus years was all in vain. □

*Steve Sweeney*



The Working Mens Bowls Team 1924



## Dersingham Judo Club - an update

It has been a very exciting year for us. In December we organised our first area "open" competition (i.e. open to clubs outside our area) at Smithdon High School. We came away with a haul of medals of all shades, even though some members of the national squad (under 16s) were there. For many of our members it was their first experience of such an event as well, so we were very proud of them all.

The real upside of the day, though, was the fact that the event raised over £800 for us to buy some new mats. Our existing ones are nearly sixty years old! Furthermore, we were visited by Deputy Mayor of King's Lynn Bill Dawes, and the Deputy Mayoress, who presented medals for us. Also present was Terry Welham, 7th Dan, three times European Openweight Champion (and nearly eighty years old) who praised us for the overall standard of the competition.

We have also had a very successful Christmas party which enabled all of us to have a chance to meet socially. We have over 25 junior (under 16) members and a dozen seniors. In the future we are planning self-defence classes for adults, so anyone interested can contact us (see details below). In the summer we are looking forward to our annual summer school in Hunstanton. Players from all over will be there including more than a dozen black belts, ranging in grades from 1st Dan to 8th Dan. (It is worth remembering the black belt in judo is about the hardest to get and only given to adults). Anyone wishing to go along and watch will be welcome so long as we are informed prior to visiting.

We always welcome new members. We practice at St. George's School in the gymnasium on Monday evening from 5 p.m. Children finish at 6.15 p.m.. Adults may stay until 7 p.m.

Our instructors are:- Brian Poucher

2nd Dan - telephone 01485 542888

Martin Lawrence

2nd Dan

Dougie Daniels

1st Dan

Please feel free to call in and see us. □

*Brian Poucher*

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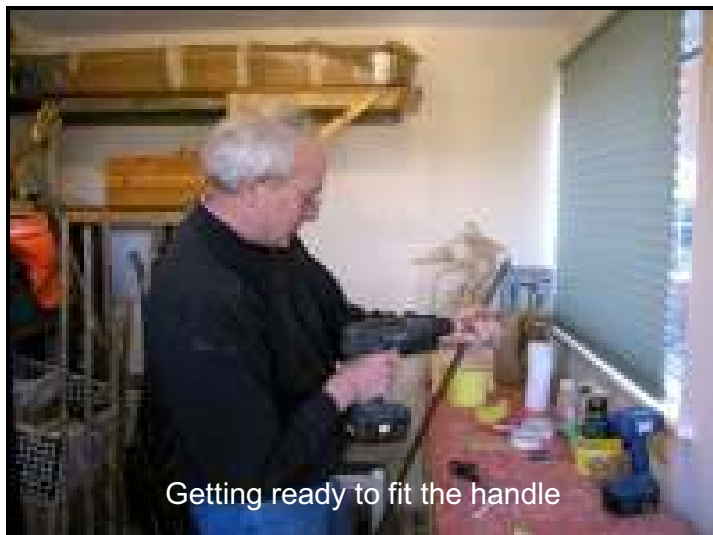
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Getting ready to fit the handle

## The Norfolk Stickmaker

Going for a country walk is a pleasant and relaxing pastime for most of us but for Graham Turner it is just the beginning of his craft. The woods and hedgerows are the source of his raw materials. Good, suitable wood is hard to find but his practised eye soon spots his quarry.

Graham has been crafting handmade walking and country sticks for around 15 years and has lived in Ringstead for just over a year previously living near Stamford, Lincs.

He specialises in making "twisty sticks" which are formed when honeysuckle in the

woods twists itself around the shank as it grows. The sticks, when cut, have to be seasoned for 2 years and then straightened. This involves using a "Heath Robinson" contraption cobbled together from an old chip fryer, some stainless steel tube and an old sack. With this he steams the sticks to make them pliable and then bends the bends out of them. Each stick is made individually.

Meanwhile handles have to be made. These can be turned, fashioned from antler, cut from a particularly interesting piece of gnarled wood or carved.

The types of wood for the sticks used are ash, hazel, blackthorn, sycamore and sweet chestnut with similar choices for the wooden handles. The styles of sticks once completed include stagshorn and ivy thumbsticks; hikers; knobsticks and walkers; market and scrumping sticks.

Now for the clever bit. The stick is turned upside down, fat end uppermost, and is matched to its proposed handle. Both stick and handle are drilled and then with the aid of a rod for strength are offered up to each other. Graham likes to have a slight forward tilt to the grip and when this is satisfactorily achieved he marks the two pieces for final assembly. Then it's on with the glue and into a rack to let it set. The next part of the process is to sand for a smooth join. Then the work is given a finish of shellac.

Ferrules are fitted at the bottom but he prefers to do this with the user present so the length of the stick can match the person's height.

You can view a selection of sticks on display at Le Strange Barns Craft shop, Old Hunstanton or



Graham with the finished product

otherwise you can see him exhibiting at local country shows, namely Sandringham Flower Show and The Game and Country Fair in September. Also at the St Nicholas Gallery 24th & 25th May here in Dersingham, Burnham Market Craft Fair and Aylsham Show in August.

If you would like to make your own personal walking stick then Graham supplies everything that you need to get you started creating your own work of art! He will also be pleased to meet or hear from other stick makers in the area. Graham can be contacted on 01485 525648 □

An advertisement for 'Pretty Paws dog grooming'. It features a cartoon illustration of a happy, yellow dog. The text includes the business name 'Pretty Paws dog grooming', a list of services: 'washing, drying, grooming, nail clipping, anal glands', a note 'Collection available on request', and contact information: 'Please call Tracy 01485 543934 or 07753 687150'.



# SHORT STROLLS IN AND AROUND DERSINGHAM

## 5. Dersingham Common(s)



Dersingham United Charities are responsible for the management of Dersingham Common. The whole area is traditionally divided into three sections: the Open Common (between Lynn Road and Heath Road), the Shut-Up Common (on the Sandringham side of Heath Road) and the Bog Common (west of Lynn Road). The last of these is now known as Dersingham Fen and is an important conservation site managed by Norfolk County Council with help from Natural England. To help with conservation, walkers are asked to

keep to the footpaths and to keep dogs on a short lead.

This short stroll of about 1.5 miles takes in all three sections and gives the opportunity of seeing the difference between the tree- and bush-covered area close to the boundary with Sandringham and the boggy land with its rust-coloured water on the Fen. It starts from the car park off Heath Road. (1 on the sketch)

Cross from the car park onto the Shut-Up Common and, by the notice board, take the path which forks to the left to walk behind some houses. At the cross-path, continue straight ahead and follow the path as it bears right to wind through silver birch trees. Go straight ahead across the open space cleared for the overhead line and skirt the edge of a large open area till a cross-path is reached. Turn left (towards the seat) and, after a few paces, turn right to a bridge and another cross-path (which, to the left, leads to Sandringham). Ignore this cross-path and continue straight ahead over a board-walk and another bridge.

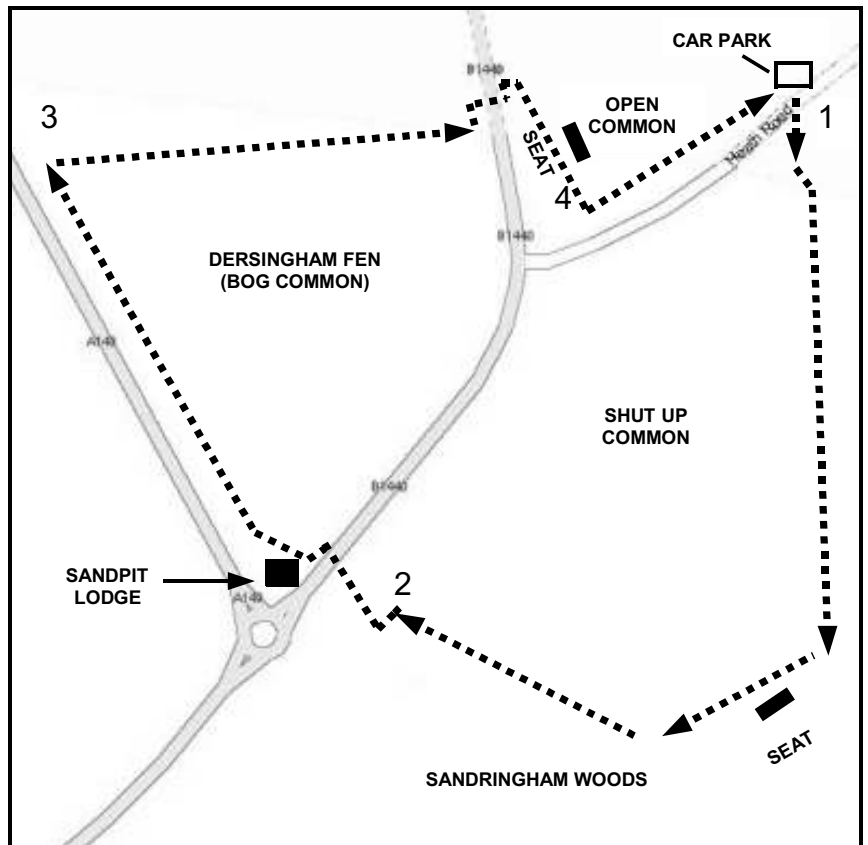
Bear left when you reach the next cross-path and follow the ditch and bank (and line of rhododendrons) which marks the boundary of the Common. Cross another boardwalk and continue down hill, bearing right and still following the ditch and bank until a T-junction is reached. (2 on the sketch) Turn sharp left over the (dry) ditch and bank into Sandringham woods. Immediately, take the branch-strewn path on your right and follow it as it widens to take you down to Lynn Road.







Just near the seat is this old gun mount. Can you tell us more?



Cross (with care) and walk ahead for a few paces through rhododendron bushes to a cross-path. Turn left towards Sandpit Lodge (the carstone house near the George Pratt roundabout). Bear right near the boundary of the garden onto a wide, straight path which runs parallel to a rust-coloured dike across the Bog Common (Dersingham Fen). Where the path bears left (to the bypass), turn right, cross the bridge (3 on the sketch) and walk straight ahead alongside another rust-coloured dike and gorse bushes until you reach a notice board and a slope up to Lynn Road.

Turn left on the grass verge and cross the road when it is clear to do so. Continue on the other verge until you reach the footpath sign. Turn right onto the Open Common and then right again. Follow the path through the gorse bushes up to the seats. After admiring the view, take the wide path behind the main seat through trees back to the car park on Heath Road. □

*Keith Starks*





# SANDRINGHAM FLOWER SHOW

WEDNESDAY 29 JULY 2009

The Sandringham Flower Show is one of the most prestigious horticultural events in the East of England. Set in the magnificent surroundings of Sandringham Park, with Sandringham House and Sandringham Church as a backdrop, this one day show attracts around 22,000 visitors each year.

This year will mark the 128<sup>th</sup>

Sandringham Flower Show which remains a unique event providing a memorable day for families, whether gardeners or not!

Many of the region's leading nurseries and horticultural specialists exhibit at the Show. In addition to these displays the show features show gardens and courtyard gardens, by leading designers, built on the showground.

The Cottage and Amateur marquees contain the judged displays of vegetables and fruit, flowers, and floral art, and include open classes. In the Amateur marquee local gardening and horticultural societies also enter a judged small display garden competition, to the theme this year "Blaze of Glory". Dersingham Horticultural Society will be defending their "Best in Show" Gold Award which they achieved last year. The Horticultural Trades marquee features amazing displays by leading nurseries and sees the return of the spectacular 20 foot high flower tower entered by Thompson & Morgan. This year it will be clad in a new variety of trailing begonia which will be officially launched at the show.



The Gardeners Forum is the venue for gardening talks by top television gardeners Chris Beardshaw and Alan Mason who are joined by Martyn Davey who is head of Horticulture & Design at Easton College. There is also a Gardeners' Questions event where you can put your questions to this panel of experts.

Situated in the Royal marquee this year will be the Help for Heroes Fund Garden. Entitled, "When I was a lad," it has been designed by three brothers who have all served in the Armed Forces and who have formed the garden design business Mulberry Tree Garden Design.

There are in excess of 200 trade stands, both horticultural and general, a craft marquee, main arena events for all ages, children's entertainment, a picnic area and a military band.

The Arena events this year include the spectacular Bolddog Lings Motorcycle display team performing incredible stunts 30 feet above the main arena, the Royal Signals Freefall Parachute Display Team, the Tricky Tykes Terrier Display Team, a display of Heavy Horses, and a marching display by The Minden Band of The Queens Division.

This year sees the return of our Victorian Steam Fairground with original steam galloping horses, and a marquee of traditional rural crafts.

Entry to the Show is just £7 for adults and £2 for children and this includes entry to Sandringham Grounds, Museum and Church.

The profits from each show are donated to local charities and since 1977 the Committee have donated in excess of £421,000 to local charities. Last year £30,100 was donated.

For further information - Paul Murrell RVM on 01485 541501, email [paul@paulmurrell.plus.com](mailto:paul@paulmurrell.plus.com) or Debbie Cleland on 07988 399925 email [Deborah@dcleland.plus.com](mailto:Deborah@dcleland.plus.com) □





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## Photo Competition Images of Rural Norfolk

Rural communities are great places to live but they also have many challenges. Part of Norfolk RCC's work as the rural advocate for Norfolk is to help overcome those challenges at a local and strategic level.

Everyone knows an image captures a thousand words so we're on the hunt for images that capture the strengths and challenges faced by rural communities. To help us do this we are running a photo competition, the images from which will be used by Norfolk RCC to raise awareness of rural issues and the three best images will each receive a prize.

Each photograph entered must represent one of the six quotes below, you can submit entries for as many of the quotes as you like but only one entry per quote is allowed.

- 1) Affordable Housing - desirable, comfortable, affordable?
- 2) Services, Access - Are you being served?
- 3) Rural Isolation - Idyllic or Isolated?
- 4) Many People, One Community
- 5) Healthy Environment, Healthy Community
- 6) Live Local, Shop Local

1st Prize - Wii Games Console

2nd Prize - £50 of Norfolk  
Camera Centre Vouchers

3rd Prize - £25 of Garden  
Vouchers

- Please state which of the six quotes your photo represents
- All ages and abilities are welcome to enter the competition
- All entries must be in a digital format (emailed or on disk) of no less than 300dpi
- Norfolk RCC will have the right to use all images submitted for publicity purposes
- The winners will be selected by a panel of judges who's decision will be final
- Please return a completed entry form with your submission
- Entry forms are available from Norfolk RCC by calling or by downloading from the website

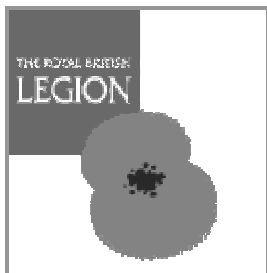
Please send your entries to:

Post - Norfolk RCC, Ambassador Way, Greens Road, Dereham,  
NR20 3TL  
Or Email - [photocomp@norfolkrrcc.org.uk](mailto:photocomp@norfolkrrcc.org.uk)

By closing date Friday 12th June 2009

  
**Norfolk RCC**





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

For our March Meeting we had a very interesting talk by one of our own Members who is a keen Bird Watcher; for many years her and her family have made studies of birds found on the North Norfolk Coast.

Our Standard will be on display at the Royal Norfolk Show on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, at Seacroft Holiday Camp in Hemsby on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> June and 7<sup>th</sup> September, Anzac Day on 26<sup>th</sup> April at Wymondham Abbey and at the War Memorial in Dersingham on 9<sup>th</sup> May for the re-dedication service.

Our Group Meeting in Hunstanton was well attended and we had a very entertaining afternoon with a talk by our County Secretary on the role women played during the war transporting goods by barges along the canals of England. We also saw how hard they had to work, the long hours and conditions they endured.

Our President, Mrs. Betty Edey, kindly provided us with a superb cream cake to have with our tea at our April meeting, this was to celebrate her 93<sup>rd</sup> Birthday.

We are also very grateful to James Graven's Budgens for inviting us to the Community Lunch at the Feathers Hotel on 26<sup>th</sup> February and to Thaxters for inviting us to the lunch at the Methodist Church Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. We managed to make contact with some very interesting members of the community that we would not have met had it not been for these informal occasions, indeed, following up on this, Jonathan James is allowing us to hold a Coffee Morning in Budgens on 5<sup>th</sup> June. Hopefully the weather will be kind and as many people as possible will visit us, have a coffee and take part in our raffle. We will also have an information table showing the role the Women's Section play in the world today. So please drop by and see us, we will be in the car park. □

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## DERSINGHAM OPEN GARDENS – SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

This is an opportunity for you to wander round a number of delightful village gardens on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> and Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May from 2.00p.m. to 6.00p.m. Tickets/Programmes are £3.00, available at the Church Hall, where Teas are served.

There is also an Art Exhibition in the Church Hall.

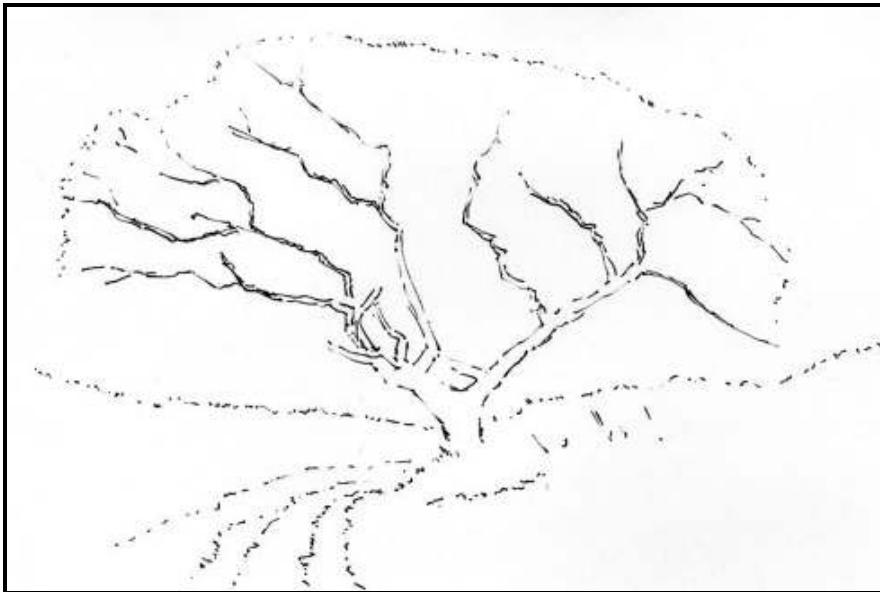
We look forward to seeing you there.

This event is organised by St. Nicholas Parish Church, and proceeds are for church funds. □





This month I'm back with another of my series of How To Sketch articles, which I hope will inspire you t days are getting long, the weather is improving (maybe), and the landscape still has that lovely fresh greenne



Working in ink on A4 cartridge paper, I lightly rough out the shape of the tree. This one is at Courtyard Farm.

If you're new to art, your materials can l book, perhaps A4 size with spiral binding, eraser. When you're working outside, a sto make sure it's lightweight, otherwise you' but not least, a good strong elastic band, to in the breeze.

The above is a basic kit for pencil sketch show you how an ink pen can be a really n you might like to get one of those too. Any it's important to ask for a pen with *waterpr* work over your sketch with watercolour lai the Edding 1800 series, but any equivalent but I use the 0.7 which is good for both fin this article were made with one of these pe

If you're ever stuck for a subject to sketc in the British landscape is trees. Trees on tl distance, close up, the choice is endless. Th show some of the different ways of sketchi

First find your tree, in other words the scene you want to sketch. A walk round the lanes on a sunny day v on its own is a good idea to start with. Choose one that's interesting in shape, that you like the look of.

Drawing it is a skill that develops over time, although often less time than you might think. The one thing the paper. The tendency is to draw what your brain thinks the scene looks like, not what is actually there. Ha



An ink sketch of trees surrounding Ringstead Church.

With trees, I tend to start with the trunk and big to start with, so that you run out of space. might help before you put in any detail.

Speaking of detail, even a small tree will h that we capture the impression of the tree, and article, you'll get some ideas for simplifying impression of groups or clumps of leaves, wi

Ink is an ideal medium for drawing finer b drawing implement that you can't rub out, bu marks and only firm them up as the drawing j too difficult. I think you'll enjoy using the pe with it, and it's amazing how much you can l make the subject look convincing.

Another bonus of using a waterproof ink p afterwards, using watercolour. I'll go into thi but an ink drawing with a few simple waterco enjoyable ways to sketch. I did the cover illus Voice using this method.

Do get out and have a go! If you have foun to learn more, I have workshops and courses one is at Burnham Overy Staithe Village Hall June, so why not join me. Full details are on l learnwatercolour.com or you can phone me o

In my final article I'll talk more about wor some tips about sketching on holiday. Happy



## Sketching - 2

to get outdoors with a sketchpad and have a go yourself! This is the perfect time of year for sketching, as the mess about it which tends to dull as we go through the year.

be very simple. A cartridge paper sketch plus a couple of soft pencils and a soft stool or portable chair is good to perch on, but I soon wish you weren't carrying it. Last stop the pages of your sketchbook flapping

ing. However, in this issue, I'm going to use a new medium for drawing the landscape, so any good art shop will be able to help you, but I use black ink. That gives you the chance to correct, without smudging it. The pens I use are fine nib. They come in various sizes of nib, and can make fine and wider lines. All the ink sketches in this issue.

ch, one thing that there's never a shortage of subjects. In their own, trees beside a building, in the illustrations accompanying this article are sketches of trees in both pencil and ink.

will soon turn up plenty of likely candidates. Try and choose a scene that's not too complicated, so one tree

that you must constantly keep in your mind is to look and observe first, and only then to make a mark on the paper. Have a good study of the scene first, and only then get to work with pencil or pen.

work upwards and outwards. However, care is needed, as a common problem is making the drawing too dark. A few light marks on the paper, showing where the main branches are and how high and wide the tree is,

have hundreds of branches and twigs, not to mention leaves. Somehow, we have to simplify those down, so we don't get bogged down in trying to draw absolutely everything. If you look at my tree sketches in this issue, you'll see I do this in detail, using both pencil and an ink pen. With pencil, shading using the side of the pencil tip can give the impression of foliage without actually drawing any individual leaf at all.

branches, so I tend to use it most for trees that are not in leaf. It may feel daunting at first to be using a pencil, but if you start by making light marks

progresses, you'll find that it's not so difficult once you've had a bit of practice. The main thing to leave out of the drawing and still

en is that you can paint over it with ink. I'll go into more depth in my next article, but the use of colour washes is one of the most effective techniques for this issue of Village

and this article useful, but you'd like to see more around the local area. The next time I'll be on the weekend of 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of November. You can find more on my website [www. stephenmartyn.co.uk](http://www.stephenmartyn.co.uk) or call me on 01485 571523.

Sketching in watercolour, and give you a chance to try it. Sketching! □

*Stephen Martyn*



After another 25 minutes work I decide to leave the sketch before it gets too much detail in it, and before I get too cold!



This sketch of two trees at Fring was done very quickly in 6B pencil.





Are you here? See Jill Cross's letter on page 7.



## 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](mailto:anita.dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk)



## My Patch

By Gardenwatcher



*Tue.* The last few days have been pleasantly warm and sunny with no rain to speak of. The national collection of frogspawn, sorry the wild pond, is getting low on water so there is another job for him.

*Thur.* Some new plants have appeared. A Strawberry Tree which the label says has red fruits, why can't they plant something that has chunks of meat instead, and some *Elaeagnus Ebbingei* which the ticket, untidily left swinging from a branch, says is full of fragrance in the autumn. I'll give them a bit of scent now. Helps mark out the territory.

*Fri.* I must step up the scent marking. I have seen a huge black and white cat skulking under the hedge, also a smaller tabby creature passes through. Time for action - out with the claws!

*Sat.* The main fountain in the pond has dwindled to a most satisfying trickle. He is blaming a blocked filter and yes the water is a bit murkier than usual. A new filter has been purchased and by the look of it, a new Waterlily. They seem to die away here after a couple of years. They probably get eaten by the fish who, if they get treated anything like me, are probably on starvation rations.

*Sun.* Once again I must register the paucity of my rations. Barely enough to keep body and soul together. If the RSPCA columnist sees this perhaps she will act. Prosecution is too good for them.

*Mon.* This warmer weather is most welcome. I find relaxing in the sun take up most of the daytime. However, when evening comes, a saunter around finds me staring at plants wilting from a lack of rain. This does mean that I can make a nice dust bath, now where would he least like me to do this?

*Wed.* The warm weather continues. I am told that there is a mouse in the rockery. It pops out and scoffs the bird bait but if I stake out the area it is, of course, absent. I can smell it though, so I will succeed if it kills me. The staff have made it very clear that a pleasant future for yours truly depends on success. Daffodils now going over as are some of the Tulips, didn't they use to wait to come out after the Daffs? Annoyingly, lots of his veg seeds are coming up. Voodoo is required.

*Thur.* He has planted a double row of Broad Bean plants. I was made aware of this, woken from a deep slumber under the *Bergenias*, as he received a standing ovation from the local blackfly. And then of course, there are the pigeons to contend with. Still it provides me with something to watch.

*Mon.* A nice sunny weekend enabled me to catch up on my beautysleep out in the warm. I noted that the dunnocks are nesting in the hedge - *Pyracantha* - so no tasty titbits for me. The greenhouse, from which I am banned, is bursting with plants. Most of the seeds he planted have grown but notably there is a complete failure of the *Begonias*. I know this as I hear him cussing about this.

*Tue.* Winters back! It's cold and the ground has turned white. OK pale pink. The Cherry blossom is falling rapidly aided by a stiff, chilly breeze. The petals stick to everything, including me, and they get everywhere.

*Wed.* I feel I must touch on a tricky subject - moulting. It is what we do come the warmer weather. You probably cast off the beaver lamb for the summer, well we similarly don't want to be encumbered. Not only do the staff complain vigorously about hairy furniture and carpets I get to suffer the ignominy of a daily brushing before they deign to serve my breakfast. If they were not prepared to fully encompass my needs and attributes then they should not have applied for the job. They then have the cheek to tell me I look thin and motheaten when my summer attire is ready.

*Thur.* He has been putting in a load of the seedlings that he raised against all the odds. *Nicotiana* are sprouting out of one bed and some *Ricinus* are dotted about. Yesterday he moved a Yew. Self seeded it filled in a nice bit of the veg plot but he hoiked it out and stuck it in near the road. I noted how dry the earth was, just like dust nearly 2 feet down. I like fresh planting, it makes digging easier for me with the added frisson of trashing his seedlings. Life can be good sometimes.

*Fri.* Got a good fright today. I found a white van in the drive out of which a very long snake was escaping. I cautiously followed it and found that it had the head of a broom. A brutish looking man was brandishing the beast and threatening the staff through the windows with it. All the time a stream of liquid issued from the serpents mouth. After the attack the man had the cheek to demand money to go away and take the creature with him. Eek! □





## Dersingham Brownies Pack Holiday 2009

Twenty-five members of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Dersingham Brownies with 5 adult leaders enjoyed their Annual Brownie Pack Holiday from 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> April. The group stayed at the Field Studies Centre in Wells-next-the-Sea and had a fun packed, busy and enjoyable time. The theme of the Pack holiday was “Disney Princess”, the brownies were divided into 5 groups or “Sixes” and each had a Disney character name. The

leaders, rooms around the holiday home and activities were all themed with Disney names.

The girls enjoyed a variety of activities including badge-work, crafts, games, outings and visits. They had the opportunity to gain their Pack Holiday, Pack Holiday Advanced, Cooks, Toymaker, Out & About and Swimmer Interest badges. The crafts included decorating Chinese lanterns, making magic wands & decorating mirrors. Additionally they created invitations, bookmarks and ‘Hama’ bead coasters, made mobiles, sock puppets and many more. The brownies took turns to help to prepare and cook the meals, lay the tables, washing and wiping up and keeping the holiday home clean.

They had an afternoon walk to Wells beach, played games there and enjoyed an ice cream before walking back for a Fish & Chip supper at a Quayside cafe. They went swimming at the nearby Alderman Peel High School and went shopping in Wells town centre for souvenirs and family gifts.

Evening activities included sewing badges onto their camp-fire blankets and a pyjama parade. They also produced playlets on a safety theme before enjoying a camp-fire singsong and toasting marshmallows outside under the stars.

The girls learnt many new skills as well as taking responsibility for their own possessions and experiencing, for many, a first holiday away from home & their parents. The Brownies completed their four day Pack Holiday tired but very excited with all they had experienced and the friends they had made. The leaders are already planning next year’s event... □



*Lynn Wheeler*





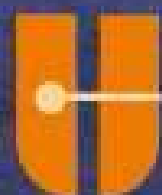
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## Bog News



This week the sun is shining and the birds are singing. Many of our summer migrants have arrived on the reserve and taken up residence. Swallows have begun darting around the sky after insects and our Warblers are beginning to set up territories.

The reserve itself, as you may know, plays host to many different species of birds as well as a large variety of plants and insects. We recently had the first damselfly sighting on the reserve and this means that we will also begin our surveys for butterflies and dragonflies. This time of year we tend not to do too much work on the heath and our main tasks are the maintenance of the reserve infrastructure. You may have noticed that in the car parks we have changed the welcome signs. These signs now reflect our National Nature Reserve identity and if you are visiting other National Nature Reserves across the country you will begin to see similar signs like ours. The symbol at the bottom of the sign is the NNR badge and can be found on the signs but also in many road atlases allowing you to see the locations of many of our NNR's.



We have also created a new car park at Scissors Cross recently. You may be aware that the two large Cedar trees in the old car park were deemed unsafe in a recent tree safety inspection. We took the decision to move the car park to the west and create a new path to the existing access point which gives a teaser view of the reserve before you set off onto the site. The old car park is now out of use and we would appreciate if people could not park on the grassed area opposite if the car park is full.

We recently erected some barn owl boxes on the reserve and we were pleased to hear that towards the end of April two barn owls were seen perching and using the box closest to the boardwalk. This has seemed a relatively quick uptake for the box and we are hopeful that they will breed and continue to use the box for years to come. This box was made and put up by one of our volunteers. We have many volunteers on the reserve here at Dersingham and they are an integral part to the management of the reserve. Our volunteers come from all walks of life and consist of a range of ages and abilities. The volunteers are involved in a wide range of tasks from inputting



species data on the computer and working in the office, to volunteers that are involved with survey works and other volunteers have worked on much of the scrub management and practical works on the reserve. Recently a team of volunteers from The College of West Anglia on The Duke of Edinburgh award scheme have been working with



us removing scrub from around the boardwalk and hand pulling Birch and Rhododendron from the slopes and they have made massive inroads into returning areas of mire and heath to their former glory. We are always looking for new volunteers and there always jobs to do on the reserve.

This time of year is a critical time for many of our ground nesting birds including Woodlark and Nightjar. They are very vulnerable to disturbance and this may cause them to not breed or leave the sight. The numbers of Woodlark on the site so far this

year are very low and this is mirrored in the Brecks. The cause of this has been linked to disturbance from dogs off the lead and people walking straight through birds nest sites. This time of year we put up signs just advising people about keeping dogs on leads or close to heel and also as a bit of a reminder to non dog walkers to be mindful of the breeding birds on the site. The reserve wardens patrol the reserve to make sure that nest sites and birds are not disturbed.

We are always interested in people's wildlife sightings on the reserve as they can play a vital role in showing what wildlife is on the reserve. As wardens at Dersingham Bog we also work at three other sites throughout the year so sometimes we miss birds that may be passing through so any records that you think may be of interest would be gratefully received. As I finish writing this article I have seen my first views of Brimstone and Orange Tip butterflies flying past the workshop window it seems to me that spring is finally here. □

*Tom Bolderstone, Reserve Warden, Dersingham Bog NNR*



# MAUREENS

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SELLING A VARIETY OF GOODS -

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## Dersingham Library

Events coming soon:-

Join our family half-term activities from 10.30- 11.30am on Thursday 28th May - Aren't birds brilliant!

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.

Dersingham Reading Group meets on 3rd Monday of the month at 6pm. New members always welcome.

Monthly Bookstart Crawl Thursdays from 10.30-11.30am on 21 May, 18 June and 16 July  
Meet other parents, share stories and rhymes and a simple craft activity.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS - join the Reading Quest and read 6 books over the school holidays. We'll have activities for 7s and unders, and for older children during July and August, including:

The storming Normans - Saturday 15 August 11.00 - 12.00 noon

Be a Norman knight for the day! Find out how they lived, what they wore. With staff from Norfolk Museum Service

Suitable for children ages 4+ and children must be accompanied by an adult. Please book your place in advance by calling the library on (01485) 540181

And finally... a big thank you to all of you who've visited us in the last year. We've had 36,000 visitors borrowing 85,000 books and 477 new joiners.

We are determined to increase these figures over the next 12 months, and want to encourage local groups to visit and find out more about what the library has to offer. Whether you run a local youth group, or are a member of a local club or society, we would be very pleased to arrange a time for you to come along for a tour (outside of our usual opening hours if necessary). We are always looking to improve the service that we offer so if you have any ideas or concerns please feel free to contact Karen or Alison at the library on (01485) 540181 □

*Happy Reading, Alison*

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## GREAT ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE 2009 SEASON

|          |                |   |
|----------|----------------|---|
| SATURDAY | 2nd May        | <b>STEVE LAYNE</b>                      |
| SUNDAY   | 3rd May        | <b>TRAVIS GRAHAM</b>                    |
| SATURDAY | 23rd May       | <b>KATY</b>                             |
| SUNDAY   | 24th May       | <b>TRAVIS GRAHAM</b>                    |
| SATURDAY | 20th June      | <b>LASHES - YOUNG FEMALE DUO</b>        |
| SATURDAY | 27th June      | <b>STEVE LAYNE</b>                      |
| SATURDAY | 4th July       | <b>KENNY BARNARD</b>                    |
| SATURDAY | 11th July      | <b>LLOYD MOON</b>                       |
| SATURDAY | 18th July      | <b>DAVE LOGAN</b>                       |
| SATURDAY | 25th July      | <b>STEVE LAYNE</b>                      |
| SATURDAY | 1st August     | <b>LLOYD MOON</b>                       |
| SATURDAY | 8th August     | <b>DAVE LOGAN</b>                       |
| SATURDAY | 15th August    | <b>ROB STEVENSON</b>                    |
| SATURDAY | 22nd August    | <b>KATY</b>                             |
| SATURDAY | 29th August    | <b>CHARITY AUCTION 7.30 ONWARDS</b>     |
| SUNDAY   | 30th August    | <b>12 MID-DAY - 3PM SOLID GOLD BAND</b> |
| SUNDAY   | 30th August    | <b>54321 MALE DUO</b>                   |
| SATURDAY | 12th September | <b>LLOYD MOON</b>                       |
| SATURDAY | 3rd October    | <b>KATY - PARTY NIGHT</b>               |
| SATURDAY | 24th October   | <b>54321 - (END OF SEASON)</b>          |

### DIRECTIONS

From King's Lynn take the A149 - signposted Hunstanton

Follow this road for approx 8 miles

Turn left "signposted Snettisham Beach"

You cannot go any further than this as the site backs onto the beach

Entertainers normally commence at around 9pm

Club open to non-member - no entrance charge

Childrens room

### BAR OPENING HOURS

Fridays 7.30pm - 11.30 pm

Saturdays 12 mid-day - 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm - 11.30 pm

Sunday 12 mid-day - 2.30pm

Bank Holidays open on Sunday evening and Monday lunchtime



## NEWS FROM HUNSTANTON LIFEBOAT GUILD

### What the Lifeboat has been doing.

8/3 Yarmouth. CG requested launch to kite surfer in trouble off Old Hunstanton. L.Boat launched at 1203 hrs wind direction S.W. 3-4. On arrival at scene Cas was being towed ashore by another surfer. One of our crew members entered the water to assist the Cas to the beach, the Cas was suffering



from hypothermia and was given oxygen by the crew member. He was transferred to the CG mobile unit and brought to the B/house to await the paramedic to attend. He was taken into the crew room and assessed. The Air Ambulance attended and the Cas checked over by them. It was decided that the Cas could wait until an ambulance arrived to take him to the QE 2 at Kings Lynn for further checks. In the mean time the Air Ambulance was diverted to an RTA.

11/3 Just before midnight on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March, Yarmouth CG requested a launch to investigate a report of persons taking a boat from moorings and drifting down river from Kings Lynn. H-007 was launched on service and searched the area and found a boat high and dry and footprints on mud indicating that persons had left the craft. H-007 searched the area. Hunstanton CG mobile and the police were also searching in case persons were cut off on the marsh. The boat was believed to have been taken unlawfully. No persons were located and Yarmouth CG stood H-007 down at 01:20hrs.

30/3 Yarmouth Coastguard requested the launch of our Hovercraft to assist a Kite Surfer reported to be in difficulty off Hunstanton opposite the pier area. On arrival at the scene the Hunstanton Coastguard response team informed Yarmouth Coastguard that the casualty had managed to get ashore and did not require further assistance. Our Hovercraft was stood down and returned to station at 1520 hrs. It is understood that the casualty was a 61year old male from the Peterborough area.

Our Hovercraft was launched yesterday evening – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April – to assist two persons (and a car) reported to be in difficulty at Thornham having been caught out by the high tide. Soon after launch it was reported that the persons in difficulty had been led to safety so our Hovercraft returned to base.

### Hunstanton and West Norfolk Lifeboat Guild

invites you to its

### *Midsummer Lunch*

at Mulberry Cottage, Thornham  
(by kind permission of Mr and Mrs T Morris)

on Wednesday, 24 June  
from 12 noon onwards

Admission by ticket only (£10)

For further details and/or tickets  
please phone 01485 512005

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April. At 19.05 hours Yarmouth Coastguard requested the launch of our lifeboat as an upturned dinghy had been seen drifting down the river out to sea. On arrival at the scene the boat had been recovered by others, and it was confirmed that no persons were involved. The Police, Fire Brigade and Police Helicopter were also in attendance. □



## **Brian Richard Livermore**

**April 1947 – March 2009**

Brian Livermore, a popular and respected character in local hostelrys in the Dersingham area, died on March 27th 2009, following a progressive illness which was diagnosed in February 2008.

He had been advised that he was terminally ill in November of that year but did not allow that fact to prevent him from spending his final months as though things were not the way they were.

During this period he even made arrangements, with the co-operation of his wife, Jacky, for his funeral, including the music that was to be played as the ceremony began, which, to the amazement and amusement of those present was “Always look on the bright side of life) from “The Life of Brian” – a typical expression of his sense of humour.

He was born the eldest son of Norman and Margery Livermore on 2nd April 1947 in Eastwood, Essex, where he attended the local schools. He was always a hard worker and would think nothing of rising early to work in various factories in the area. He also worked in the building trade for many years.

Brian was a happy go lucky bachelor who was a man's man. He loved sport, both as a spectator and a participant. In his bachelor days, he was a member of the local football team and the fishing club. He was a semi-professional ten pin bowling player, playing in two leagues per week for many years. He was in the darts team, played cards regularly and raced greyhounds. He also had an encyclopaedic knowledge of most sports particularly football and horseracing. He was a gambler, who liked to bet on the horses, but would often go to a meeting with friends and/or with his wife Jacky and not even have a bet as he loved the atmosphere and finding out information and studying the form. He loved to drink real ale and his other favourite tipple was light and bitter.

Brian and three of his friends, as members of the fishing club, would often go night fishing after an evening at the local pub. On one such night they sat in a line and were surprised that they did not get a bite for several hours. When the sun came up they discovered that they had been fishing in a sand bunker on a golf course!

He supported Manchester United football club all his life. He could recall matches and players and cups won and lost going back for many years. In honour of his devotion to Manchester United, Jacky requested that for those who wished to send flowers to his funeral, that they be in the team colours of red and/or white.

Brian was the first to take the mickey out of people and would not be sleighted if someone took the mickey out of him. However it would not take too long before anyone talking to Brian discovered that he was talking to an intelligent, thoughtful and considerate man who was determined to live life to the full.

Brian continued his bachelor lifestyle enjoying his sporting and leisure activities until the day when he was 34 he met Jacky who was then 20. Within a few weeks he abandoned his previous lifestyle and assured everyone that he was happy that he had.

Jacky and Brian were very happy together and described each other as their best friend. They





went on many holidays and then in 1992 they sold their house and took a trip around the world, visiting Greece, Turkey, Canada, United States, Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia and Singapore. On their return they settled in Norfolk to be near Brian's Mum, and were married in August 1993. They both loved living in Norfolk and eventually purchased a house in Dersingham and for the next sixteen years enjoyed meeting many new friends who have been a source of great comfort to Jacky and Brian during Brian's illness.

Brian worked at ACR Heat Transfer from November 1994 and was well respected by his colleagues for his intelligence and guidance. Some of his colleagues are here today to celebrate his life.

Brian was very proud when Jacky passed all her exams to become a Legal Executive, but sadly he was too ill to attend her graduation ceremony in January 2008. He and Jacky enjoyed socialising with the people of West Norfolk and found that by joining in with activities, they were far less likely to be considered outsiders. They would often go on walks in Norfolk. They were regulars at the Feathers Hotel in Dersingham, where they were members of the quiz team where Brian's knowledge of sport would show itself and his competitive spirit meant that he could not understand why someone on his team would come up with an incorrect answer!

Brian and Jacky were members of four bowls clubs: The New Inn, Sherbourn, Ingoldisthorpe and Sandringham. Brian was also a team Captain at Sandringham. Again Brian's competitive spirit would reveal itself and he would often throw his bowls towel on the ground, mutter and grumble and stomp about if he or someone else in his block bowled the wrong bowl!

Brian and Jacky continued to enjoy their travels and for Brian's 60th birthday decided to celebrate with a luxury cruise to the Canary Islands. Brian was looking forward to a full and active retirement.

Brian started to feel unwell in February 2008, and although he was persistent in seeking a diagnosis, he was not diagnosed with Throat Cancer until November 2008. From then on until his death on 27th March 2009 he had to endure several operations including a Tracheotomy and a Laryngectomy which involved the total removal of his voicebox. That would be devastating for anyone, but for someone like Brian who loved to talk, it left him very frustrated. However, he was very positive, brave and courageous about it all and said that "you have to play the hand that is dealt to you in life".

Although Brian had chemotherapy and radiotherapy in April/May 2008, his health started to deteriorate in July 2008 when he was diagnosed with further complications to his health, nevertheless he tried hard to remain positive although he was often in excruciating pain. Finally in October 2008, two further tumours appeared, but he was determined to go on the Caribbean Cruise with Jacky that he had already booked, although they both knew the outlook for Brian's health was bleak.

Brian was told his Cancer was terminal in November 2008 and was given between 6 months and 2 years to live. From then on he tried to live each day to the full and his last two trips were to Fakenham races on New Years Day and to Great Yarmouth dog races some three weeks later. Shortly afterwards Brian's health deteriorated further and he suffered a severe bout of Pneumonia in January from which he recovered only to have another severe infection some two weeks later. Even then he was making jokes with the staff. After Jacky had made a hair appointment for him in hospital, he was told he probably had between three to six months to live, his response was "Do I still need a hair cut?"

Brian got his wish by dying peacefully in his sleep on 27th March. Brian leaves his loving wife Jacky and his mother, his brother Norman and sister Janet and he will be sadly missed by all those who knew him. People who have not met Brian have been impressed by the stories of those who did do and have said that they would have loved to have known him. □

*Bob Tipling prepared this piece for publication using information supplied by Jacky Livermore*



## AERIAL ADVENTURE

“OK? Push the throttle forwards to about three-quarters; let the speed build up to sixty knots then gently ease back on the stick. The nose will lift off and you will be airborne.”

Alan and I were sitting in front of the controls of a Cessna 150 light aircraft and he was giving me a flying lesson. We had previously done ‘straight and levels’ and gentle turns but this was my first attempt at taking-off. We were sitting at the south-west end of the SW-NE runway at Norwich International Airport. The take-off went well. I was pleased and so was Alan. The test would come, however, when I had to land the plane. That was a different ball-game altogether. But perhaps he would save that pleasure for another day.



The ground dropped gently out of sight below the nose. It seemed we were hanging in space. No horizon to look at; just the instruments that told me we were climbing steadily at seventy-five knots on a north-westerly heading.

“So far, so good. Now climb to three thousand feet turning north, then cruise at one hundred knots straight and level. Keep checking around you and use the instruments just to confirm what you are doing.”

This was my idea of heaven. I had always been interested in things aeronautical since I was at school, but for medical reasons I could never become an aircrew member in the RAF and I could not even gain my Private Pilot’s Licence. There was nothing to stop me flying light aircraft however, provided that I was accompanied by a qualified pilot. And here I was, learning to fly a Cessna 150, all legal and above board. Bliss!

At three thousand feet I levelled off. The horizon was on the nose where it should be and I was able to see the beautiful North-Norfolk countryside slip away below us. I was enjoying myself and began to hum the Dam Busters’ Theme, much to Alan’s amusement. Soon the coast appeared in the distance.

“That’s Cromer ahead; you’re right on course. When we get there, skirt round to the west of the town and simply follow the coast round to Yarmouth.”

This part of the journey was uneventful and I had the feeling of being in complete control. We circled Yarmouth, then went lower to have a look along the seafront, then up again to three thousand turning west to head towards Norwich again.

Half way to Norwich, in the tranquility, it suddenly dawned on me that Alan had, most unusually for him, gone very quiet.

“Everything OK?” I enquired.

“Not really. *Aaagh!* Chest pains. Getting worse. Reckon I’m having a heart attack. You’re on your own. Can’t help you. You’ll have to fly her in yourself.”

“Hells bells, Alan! You’re joking. No. you’re not, are you? For Pete’s sake *say* something!”

“Fly her in. Don’t float her in. Much safer. Just give...it your best... shot.” Silence.

The first task obviously was to find the Airport. But as Alan had given an almost exact heading



to follow this was not too difficult. It appeared a few degrees north of where I had anticipated. 'Not bad' I thought. 'Phase one complete. Next step fly her in' as Alan had said with such understatement. To hell with all this 'downwind leg' and 'base leg' and 'finals' stuff; we have an emergency. I would aim at the south-west end of the runway at a sensible height, as far as I could judge, and go for it.

No-one could say that I didn't try hard. Alan was in the left hand seat alongside me, with his eyes closed, and groaning now and then. But I was too high over the end of the tarmac and flying much too fast. Also I had not allowed for the strength and direction of the wind which was making us drift quickly to the north-west side of the runway.

Control Tower ahead! Panic! Try to swerve right, but can't – losing control. Pull back hard to go over the top...no good!...Too late!...*CRASH!!!!*...Stillness... Silence.

Alan spoke. "These PC operated flight simulators are fantastic, aren't they. Terribly realistic. You lived every second of that lot didn't you?!" □

*Steve Nowell*



## 1st Dersingham Rainbow Guides Pre-Centenary "Changing the World" Challenge

In the run up to the Girl Guiding UK Centenary celebrations in 2010, Guiding Units are participating in unique "Changing the World" Challenges. Nineteen charities have created activities to raise awareness and funds for their causes, these include WWF, the Woodland Trust and Barnardo's.

The 1st Dersingham Rainbows have chosen the "WaterAid: Sing for Change" as their challenge. At a weekly meeting they held an Indoor Campfire, inviting family, friends and village members to join them. The programme of songs included old favourites and special songs written for the challenge by WaterAid. The Rainbows made their own shakers to accompany the songs. They toasted marshmallows over tea-lights, held a raffle and sold refreshments.

In all the event raised £67 for WaterAid and each Rainbow will receive a commemorative "Changing The World" badge as recognition for her part in "Changing the World". □





# THE WILDFOWLING MAN

By J. I. Crown

HE STANDS six feet tall and his back is straight as the barrels of the guns he has been so used to loading and firing. He is 82 years old but looks more like 62. His eyes are blue and sometimes they're rheumy; but more often they are sharply crystalline. They look out of a face which lady fiction writers are very fond of calling craggy. Wearing his windcheaters, his red and black neckerchief and his khaki drill trousers, much like US Army fatigues, he looks as if he is ready this very minute to go down to the sea again . . .

He is Jim Laws, who must be the oldest surviving professional wildfowler in Norfolk, maybe the last in England; the last of the all-weather men, the tough men, to get a living by shooting widgeon, teal, duck, goose on the marshlands and foreshores. Jim was wildfowling for nigh on 60 years. He was born at Raynham Park, Norfolk, on 24th April, 1898. He was called up for service in the First World War, was blown up and gassed but came home in one victorious piece. He was demobbed in 1919 but returning to civvy street he could not find a civvy job, so he re-enlisted for a further six years of army discipline.

But during this time the wiry (and wily) Jim saved and saved, until he had enough money to buy a house of his own and the equipment — the guns, boats, nets — he would need for fowling. He got married and moved into carr-stoned, semi-detached No. 4 Glebe Road, Dersingham, and there he still lives, now with one of his two sons, since his wife died in 1967.

Jim's a bit hard of hearing now and he gets a bit of rheumatism in his leg but otherwise he appears sound as a ship's bell — and equally as stoic as the birchwood replicas of birds he now makes and sells to an antique dealer for £7 apiece.

Jim's tongue evokes a lost world, a world of freedom in a very real sense, and a colourful one but a tough one too. He remembers spending weeks on the estuaries when he would not see a human soul other than his wife or sons when they came down to bring him food or take his bag back. He would spend night upon night in a tin hut he built for himself, or in a houseboat he constructed in his backyard, each located under a regular bird flightpath — because fowlers like to save their steps as much as anyone. Sometimes very dark, miserable nights, sometimes under moonlight when the sea creamed with a curious luminescence on to the shore. But since the best fowling is to be had in November and December, mostly very cold nights, bitterly cold when the water in his kettle would turn to a block of ice. And nights of gusting winds, when the sand would be torn up and ripped into his face. Or when the wind would streak across the flats at such force it moved the hut — despite its foundation of a two-ton block of concrete. Or he would simply get soaked through by rain or flying spume.

Then in excoriation of a November morn, perhaps with snow blowing this time, he would get up and stand sentinel-like outside hut or boat for the birds to come, or trek out over the marshes loaded down with shotgun, gamebag and cartridge belt — and the belt alone weighed, full, two stones. 'You really needed thighboots for the job as well,' Jim told me. 'But I was in the game before they were invented. So at first I used to trudge around in old army boots and puttees' — the same wear he'd been standing in sodden French trenches a few years previously.

In the dawning, geese would be flying seaward after feeding inland — Canada goose, the Brent (now a protected species), greylags, pinkfoot. Or maybe he would spot a flight of teal or widgeon — fast flyers — and he would set his sights 20 or 30 yards ahead so they would fly into the shot. Then with his lurcher — a breed of dog he always preferred to any other since its grey, yellow and white coat makes for good camouflage on the marshes — he would retrieve his catch. In the evening mallard duck would be winging on to the marshes after day-feeding inland, and he would set his eight-bore sights at them.

Or maybe he would be lying in the bottom of a punt all night, propelling himself when near his quarry with creeping sticks, which have prongs to grab the seabed. Jim had two punts, a single-man model and a double. Wooden craft were punts and Jim's were camouflaged in grey. The single punt



was 18ft long and 3ft 6in wide, the double around 26ft long and 5ft wide. When two men went out, one would be the oarsman and one marksman. The puntgun had a barrel 14ft long with a 1 ¼in bore — a veritable cannon — and its ammunition was coarse black gunpowder and eight ounces of



The second time I visited Jim Laws he was relaxing with the family lurcher General Dickman amongst peaches and grapes. 'Lord, it's hot in here, Jim', I remarked. 'Not surprising, is it, you're in a greenhouse', he replied with devastating logic.

*photograph by J. I. Crown*



shot. The gun was mounted on the foredeck of the punt on running trunnions and steadied by breech ropes of 1 inch thickness.

So: close to the coveys using the creeping sticks ... a boot kicked suddenly on to the flat bottom of the punt ... the birds would raise their heads in alarm. Then the roar. The report, says Jim, 'was like a field gun going off (and he should know), and the recoil catapulted the vessel backwards through the water 20 or 30 yards. After the almighty firing there might be a hundred birds lay dead on the shore and sea. A good night — but there might be far less. And if there was a swell and the gunner let go a microsecond too early or late there might be none at all. The shot went high or low and the birds got clean away; and you didn't get another chance at them till the next tide, for that resounding roar aroused everything for miles around that was not dead already. The shot of the puntgun spread four yards and then there was a 'tailback' of some 30 yards from the lateral spread. Jim had a swivel gun too. This was another huge weapon, for use ashore. It was mounted on a kind of turntable and with this also Jim would let go into the 'brown' of a flock, particularly in early morning and late evening when duck and teal love to fly fast and low up and down the shoreline. Jim made a punt once that he was going to operate by screw, by turning handles inside the craft to work the prop — but when he got into the sea he found he just could not force the screw round. Since he was living off the fowling, for cheapness he also made up his own ammunition. He bought the raw materials — powder, shot, wadding — in bulk and then set about filling the brass cartridge cases he had bought at the outset. He capped the shells with detonation hoods and crimped the ends, both with apparatus he had made.

Late evening was also the time for the flight net. These are illegal now but Jim used them in his younger days. They were made up to the fowler's specification and Jim's was eight feet high and 200 yards wide, made of fine cotton. The net was staked in the sand or mud and birds flying very low got entangled in the mesh by claws or wingfeathers. Then the fowler cut them loose and killed them.

Jim used a Grig net too. This is for fish and is still used by some. You stake this one down in deepish water. It has wings which spread from a central point to make a kind of funnel. There is a hole at the funnel-end and beyond a wire-netting basket, in which the fish are caught after being channelled along the mesh. Jim recalls catching many mullet and seatrout this way.

Jim reckons his longest successful shot was when he brought down widgeon from a height he estimates at 900 feet. He speaks of 'hundreds of duck' in his bag after a few days shooting. He speaks of the curlew, very prevalent on the Wash in his heyday. He speaks of pintail, green plover (the peewit), the shoveller, the oystercatcher. He speaks of unusual and rare birds on the Wash, like osprey and the peregrine falcon. He speaks of 'black clouds' of birds on the wing, which he maintains you don't see today.

He talks with pride of his favourite fowling piece, the eight-bore chamberless goose and duck gun made by Birmingham manufacturer William Ford. Jim had a cupboard full of guns in his heyday but this was always his special. The makers guaranteed it would kill at a hundred yards. 'The prince of wildfowling weapons,' Jim calls it. 'A rare gun today. Mind you, you had to be a hefty chap to manage it, swing it, carry it, for it weighed 161b. They use a lot of 12-bores today. No good, y' know' (with a contemptuous wrinkling of the nose). 'Not powerful enough.' His favourite eight-bore cost him just £75 to buy decades ago. Now a good gun can cost thousands.

Now he says there are so many guns on the marshes you may shoot your birds successfully, but before you or your dog retrieves them someone else may well have grabbed them and made off.

Throughout his marsh days Jim acted as guide and mentor to groups of amateur wildfowlers, often parties down from the universities. This was partly why he set himself up with a houseboat as well as a fowling hut, for he could not accommodate all his students at one place on weekends. He has played host to many wealthy businessmen and to equerries of both the Queen Mother and her daughter. And speaking of royalty, Jim adds a rider that if all these amateur gunmen don't get the birds available on the Wash's foreshore, the Duke of Edinburgh will. John Seymour quotes him in *The Companion Guide to East Anglia*. When Jim took amateurs out and they reached the seawall



he would wave his hand inland, towards the Queen's estates. 'That side the birds are all *hers*,' he would declare. 'This side' (waving his hand towards the saltings of the Wash), 'they're all mine!'

Jim also tells of setting decoys, rubber and wooden models of birds to attract their live brothers and sisters. 'You've got to set a mixture,' he says in didactic tones. 'It's no good setting all duck, is it? How often do you see a clutch of birds everyone the same breed? No, you've got to set kittiwake, other kinds amongst them. That's another thing these untrained amateurs do wrong, y'see. And you've got to be quiet too. It's no good tramping around magging to each other It's a lone sport.'

He goes on, warming to his subject: 'Then these people will shoot when the birds are battling against a strong head wind. They don't get anythin' — o' course they don't! The rip of the wind so tightens the feathers to each other and to the flesh the birds are hard as bullets themselves — even if a shot hit them it would bounce off. And as soon as they hear the gun go off they turn round and they're a mile downwind before you've got time to get in another shot. Then of course they come in by different routes, away from you. Let 'em get past and then have a go — they won't turn round then, will they?'

He reminisces on: 'I spotted a flock of foreign pinkfoot and greylegs coming in from the north one night. There must have been 20,000 birds there, all told. You don't get that sort of quantity any more. There's no room for 'em.

You've got to be brought up on wildfowling and shooting, though. My grandfather and my father after him were both shooting men. My son Johnny is very interested too, even since he was a little tot. In fact he used to do better than me in his small days. The birds couldn't sec him, y'see — they only heard his gun and then it was too late.'

Jim retired from active wildfowling when he began to draw his old age pension. But retire is an ambiguous term since for many years afterwards he spent as much time on the saltings as he had before, now however engaged more as guide and teacher.

Birds still surround him, mostly those wooden models, for he visits the foreshore little nowadays. In his garden shed workshop they gaze at you from a shelf on an end wall. They are replicas of the species he has hunted most of his life. In his sitting room a male mallard sitting on a shelf just below ceiling level has now gained a female mate, and both of course are decked out in their natural colours, the male with his distinctive green-sheened neck. The models begin as a solid chunk of birch and Jim's 82-year-old hands shape them with saw, chisel and file. There are even flamingoes on his wallpaper. And you'll find a radio or two in Jim's home, but not a TV, for which his son and he have little time. □

*This article first appeared around 1970 in a wildfowling magazine though I have been unable to trace either the magazine or the author. Ed.*

### Ron's Quiz

Ron Brackstone has compiled this 3 part quiz to test your local knowledge. Save the answers up and send the completed list to the editor by October 22nd 2009.

First correct entry out of the hat wins a prize.

- 1) What is the third digit in the year the spire was removed from Dersingham church? Place in the numbered space below.
- 2) A recumbent lady lies upon a log in Sandringham woods close to the car parks. She has a letter of the alphabet on the lower part of her stomach What is this letter?
- 3) Write the third digit of the year the 'tithe barn' was built?

- |    |             |
|----|-------------|
| 1  | Answer..... |
| 2  | Answer..... |
| 3  | Answer..... |
| 4  | Answer..... |
| 5  | Answer..... |
| 6  | Answer..... |
| 7  | Answer..... |
| 8  | Answer..... |
| 9  | Answer..... |
| 10 | Answer..... |



# BREAD OR BLOOD AND CAPTAIN SWING - Part 1

## Elizabeth Fiddick

During the Middle Ages poor relief was largely a matter for voluntary charity. In the previous article I wrote of the bequests to the Poor Man's Box that were frequently found in the wills of villagers as well as gifts of land left for the village elders to use for the benefit of the poor. The Guilds in our village gave support not only to their members but also to the wider community. However throughout the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries there was a huge increase in the number of paupers. This was due to many factors but the total population was rising rapidly. The numerous acts of enclosure left many villagers without the arable land, grazing meadows and common land that had supported them. These acts were seen as robbing the villagers of their traditional rights. New methods of farming with the substitution of machinery for the traditional labourer led to unemployment and great distress. In 1779 Dersingham was affected by acts of enclosure as Little Common, Marsh Common and Badger Fen Common were subjected to enclosure. 160 acres of land were allotted in lieu of vicarial tithes. 457 acres, that is 329 acres of Marsh as a stinted Common and 128 acres of heath land for providing whins and turf, were enclosed within a ring fence for use of the Parish. Arthur Young the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture reported in 1804 that as a result of the acts of enclosure in Dersingham the income from rents had doubled, twice as much corn was produced and the number of sheep had increased. He concluded that the poor were not affected except by an increase of employment although he also is quoted as saying that in nineteen out of twenty acts the poor were injured and in some cases grossly injured.

As the number of people living in poverty increased a series of Acts were passed that made the Parish the administrative unit for the relief of the poor. J.P.s were empowered to levy a poor rate on landowners, farmers, shopkeepers and householders. Overseers of



Dersingham workhouse

the Poor were appointed to administer funds and J.P.s conferred with them to decide which persons could be in receipt of poor relief. The impotent poor, infirm, or those of old age received payments of money. Pauper children were to be bound as apprentices. The able bodied poor were to be "set on work" although they usually also received money. The Act of 1722 encouraged parishes to establish workhouses and to refuse relief to those who were unwilling to enter them. Between 1776 and 1815 in this area alone workhouses were established not only here in Dersingham but in Brancaster, Docking, Sedgeford, Flitcham, the Rudhams, Great Massingham and Gayton.

However in most parishes outdoor relief remained the most frequently used form of help. By 1803 42,872 people in Norfolk received such help while 3996 were maintained in a workhouse. Relief



Docking workhouse

could be paid in money or kind and was paid to the employed and unemployed alike. The unemployed received all their relief from the parish. In the last article I explained that money obtained from renting the land left for the poor of our village was used to provide bread and coals to the deserving poor. If the wages of those who were employed were considered inadequate then the parish would make up the shortfall. This encouraged farmers to keep wages very low knowing that



the parish would supplement the workers from the Poor Relief. Thus during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and for much of the 19<sup>th</sup> there was continuous unrest not only in Norfolk but throughout the country as unemployment and starvation took its toll. On November 5<sup>th</sup> 1795 111 day labourers from Heacham, Snettisham and Sedgeford with 4 Heacham farmers gathered in Heacham church to sign a declaration and petition Parliament for a minimum wage proportionate to the price of wheat. The statement began with the biblical quote adopted throughout the country.



*“That the Labourer is worthy of his hire- and that the mode of lessening his distress as hath lately been the fashion by selling him flour under the market price, and thereby rendering him as object of the Parish rate is not only an indecent insult on his lowly and humble situation (in itself sufficiently mortifying from his degrading dependence on the caprice of his employer) but a fallacious mode of relief and every way inadequate to a radical redress of the manifold distresses of his calamitous state”.*

They intended that this would be the start of raising a national petition to Parliament so they advertised it throughout the country. However the dreadful events taking place across the channel in France, where revolution had become a very bloody affair, made Parliament extremely wary of any unrest here. So the Acts against Treason and Sedition which silenced protest were hastened into the law books by Pitt’s government following riots when King George III opened parliament just one week before the Heacham meeting. There is a plaque that commemorates the labourer’s statement in Heacham today. The first years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were concerned with the war against France and Napoleon. The threat of invasion and the constant news of battles on land and at sea with all the consequent loss of life made unrest at home too unpatriotic to consider. All villagers throughout Norfolk would have been anxious for news of the events taking place in Europe. They would have followed the exploits of that son of Norfolk, Horatio Nelson. Men in even the smallest villages would liable to be called up for service. A document of 1807 records that 30 Dersingham men were liable to serve in the militia. The sum of £6. 16s. 6d was raised in Dersingham for *“the relief and benefit of the brave men killed and of the wounded sufferers in the Battle of Waterloo and in the several battles which have or may be fought in the present campaign.* The Parish magazine of 1899 recorded the recollections of Maria Hudson, a “cheerful old Lady” who had just passed away aged 94. She recalled the inhabitants of this part of Norfolk *“anxiously looking seawards for the fleet of ships which Boney had threatened to invade England with.”* She recalled that careful householders kept their “bits of silver” packed up ready to hide or carry away at a moment’s notice. A lookout would be taken the last thing at night to see if fires were lighted on the beacon tower of Blakeney Church or on any of the Beacon Hills.

The end of the Napoleonic wars heralded years of depression as agriculture reorganised itself. The ranks of the unemployed were swelled by the return of men discharged from the forces. The price of bread and flour rose rapidly. By 1816 admissions to the hated workhouses were the highest ever known. The number of men tried for poaching increased and in this coastal area smuggling was an accepted and lucrative occupation. Something had to give. Riots broke out throughout the county. Great hostility was shown to Millers and Bakers who supplied flour at high prices, and towards farmers who paid low wages. The people demanded subsidised flour and wages of 2 shillings a day. Their rallying call was BREAD OR BLOOD. In Downham Market and Littleport rioters marched to





Ely where there was a pitched battle with the military. *"I might as well be hanged as starved"* commented Richard Rutter a rioter at Ely. William Dawson from Upwell proclaimed, *"I would sooner lose my life than go home as I am. Bread I want and Bread I will have."* The Swaffham cavalry was mustered in Mundford to disperse a crowd armed with bludgeons and the Riot Act was read. In Feltwell a crowd assembled at six in the morning armed with pitchforks to demand money from local farmers. In August at the Norfolk and Norwich Assizes nine men and six women arrested after the riots in Ely were sentenced to death. After an appeal only two were executed the rest were transported to New South Wales. On August 31<sup>st</sup> 1816 there was a public execution of the men along with one man condemned for sheep stealing. The severity of the sentencing kept this area quiet for many years.



Further disturbances occurred in 1822 when crowds attacked and destroyed the new threshing machines that were being used in place of manual labour. But it was in 1830 that the most serious disturbances happened led by a shadowy figure known as Captain Swing. It started in Kent but soon engulfed most of the country. The original target was the hated threshing machine although other machinery was soon included along with rick burning and other acts of arson. Riots over wages and tithe payment soon became included in the unrest. Most of the trouble here was in the North East of the county. In North Walsham 70 men marched demanding all the threshing machines be destroyed. The first machine was broken in Paston and then it spread to Holt, Melton Constable and Briston. There were riots and attacks at Docking, Burnham Overy and Burnham Thorpe. At Burnham Overy the machine was broken to the shout of *"Break it! Don't let him take it away. It keeps an honest man from getting work."* In Lynn and Tilney All Saints there were instances of Arson. Altogether in Norfolk 29 threshing machines were broken and 11 other items of machinery. There were 19 cases of arson, 3 wages riots, and 11 tithe riots. The farmers targeted in these attacks were often warned with what became known as a Swing Letter. One such letter was sent to a farmer in Norfolk. In one letter the recipient is advised to make his will as his name is *"down amongst the Black hearts in the Black Book."* The letter continues *"Ye have been the blackguard enemies of the people on all occasions. Ye have not done as ye ought. Swing."* Deportation was the usual punishment for rioters and although the movement was defeated contemporaries were impressed that the ordinary labourer had actually risen. Farmers and landlords became acutely aware of the strength of the labourers' abilities. During the disturbances of 1830 there was considerable hostility towards the workhouses that were seen as symbols of the



oppression of the poor. They were often disease ridden with frequent outbreaks of smallpox, measles, whooping cough and fevers. In some places rioters attempted to pull workhouses down and had to be restrained by dragoons. The 1830 riots did produce slightly higher wages and an increase in the poor allowance but it was in 1834 that further significant events occurred. In that year six Dorset labourers were arrested, tried and sentenced to be deported to Australia for espousing workers' rights. A rally and march to Parliament in their support persuaded the government to release them but they will always be remembered as The Tolpuddle Martyrs. However the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act in that same year was to prove another catalyst for unrest.

*I recommend the following books to any one wishing to read in more detail of these traumatic events. Both can be borrowed from King's Lynn Library although a special order has to be made to get them from the central store.*

*Bread or Blood by A.J. Peacock Captain Swing by E.J. Hobsbawn and G. Rude* □

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## THE WEST NORFOLK SINGERS

The West Norfolk Singers are the current legacy of a long standing choral tradition within the Heacham area. Evidence exists of at least five choirs in the late 1940's/early 1950's, some of which participated in the Hunstanton Festival of Arts in the early 1950's. Original minutes of "The Heacham and West Norfolk Singers" record meetings from 1983 and detail the day to day running of The Singers, much of which is relevant today, including the recruitment of new members!

Many people have directed and accompanied The Singers over this period and presently we have **Nigel Wickens** directing with **Edna Stafford** accompanying. Nigel studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Norman Allin and Roy Henderson, and also in Berlin and Paris, winning many major awards in addition to reading modern languages at Oxford. Specialising in English, French and German song and oratorio, he has given some hundred Radio 3 broadcasts in addition to performing both here and abroad. Initially invited to teach for one day a week in Cambridge over thirty years ago, he devoted himself to his young family and increasingly, to his large teaching practice. Now resident in this area, he combines some Cambridge teaching, occasional performances and adjudication with the delights of rural life.

The Singers repertoire varies from popular and lesser known Christmas music (with audience participation) to lighter classical and secular pieces, and/or traditional English songs. Where appropriate, readings, monologues and solos may be included. The Singers year is divided into Spring and Christmas seasons, concerts of appropriate music being performed in local West Norfolk churches, raising several thousand pounds for these churches in doing so.

Currently, membership stands at about thirty, most of whom are from a wider area than Heacham itself, hence the recent change of name to "The West Norfolk Singers".

As ever, we would welcome potential new singers who are able to read music in four part harmonies. A very warm welcome awaits those who wish to enjoy the delights and camaraderie of choral singing. Rehearsals are held in Heacham Methodist Chapel in Station Road at 7.30pm each Wednesday.

If you wish to try your singing talents, for further information contact:-

Adrian Huggins on 01485 542359. □





## Pentecostal Greetings from the manse

Are you driven or called?

A recent article in my possession talked about the things that give people direction and purpose in their lives. The article distinguished between people who are driven and people who are called. Driven people want to accumulate things, to be recognised as somebody, to achieve something, to exercise power somewhere. Driven people are often extremely busy and competitive and quickly flare up if crossed or frustrated. True, they get things done but at the cost of damaged relationships and often a loss of peace of mind. Driven people don't feel at ease alone with themselves or with God for very long. They prefer to be active, absorbed in one project or another, otherwise they get tense and difficult to live with.

We might well see something of ourselves being described here. What makes us like this? Perhaps we feel we have something to prove to the rest of the world. Maybe we try to live up to the dreams of our parents, or to climb a little higher up the social ladder than they have done. Sometimes, though, when this is happening we don't admit to it and maintain that we are just ordinary folks, like them next door. The trouble is, them next door are likely to be playing the same game too!

Called people on the other hand, start from understanding that they are loved and valued from the beginning, regardless of what they have achieved. God loves us all just as we are however imperfect and unacceptable we feel. We don't have to earn His acceptance. Called people don't mind if the majority regards them as not being particularly successful, influential or powerful. Relationships and peace of mind matter more to them. They respond to the call of God to lay down their heavy loads to follow Jesus into the new life of the Kingdom of God his Father.

What is the motivating force in your life? Are you driven or called? God calls us to give up our "driven-ness" and go back to the start and begin a new race, a new life, secure and whole in God's love. The adventure He calls us to will always be tough as well as exciting, tearful as well as joyful and it will always be open to change and renewal. The blessing of Pentecost assures us of the personal presence of God in the Holy Spirit as we respond to our calling in love and peace and freedom.

Many blessings at Whitsun to you and your families. □

*Kim Nally*

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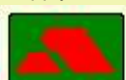
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The village has been fairly quiet, with few complaints of anti-social behaviour or crimes reported.

Something for parishioners to be aware of is theft of garden ornaments. There have been odd incidents of bird-baths and planters going missing, and as now is the

time for folks to be buying such items for their gardens, maybe we need to be more aware of how to keep them secure. Perhaps bird-baths and tables could be cemented to the ground, or if they are made up of several pieces they could be joined together to make it more difficult to remove. Try also to avoid placing them too near to the gate or roadside and think about security lighting. If the worst does happen then it's always helpful if a photograph of the object is available.

As always, if there is anything you feel we should know about or anything you would like advice or help with, please contact us.

Telephone 0845 456 4567 Email [sntdersinghamgayton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sntdersinghamgayton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk) □

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| Sudoku No 5 Solution |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

PCSO 8382 Jackie Smith



## David Bingham A snake in the heather



Dan Powell

Several of nature's people  
I know, and they know me;  
I feel for them a transport  
Of cordiality;

But never met this fellow,  
Attended or alone,  
Without a tighter breathing,  
And zero at the bone.

*From 'Snake' by Emily Dickinson*

19 April

I spent today searching for adders. A quest to find venomous snakes is likely to be an activity undertaken alone so I had to promise that the day would include a stop for some 'posh nosh' in Holt to ensure I had company on my hunt. The weather was ideal for snake spotting with sun to encourage them to come out and bask but a cool wind to slow their movements. Like all snakes, adders are cold blooded and require the warmth of the sun to speed up their metabolism. On cold days, they spend their time underground in a torpid condition. On hot days, they are fast and alert and likely to make a rapid retreat before they are seen. Adders are the most northerly distributed snake and are the only species found within the Arctic Circle. Their ability to hibernate and the fact that they have live young means that they are well adapted to cooler climates. They are often found on heaths and this includes the heaths of Norfolk but not, as far as I know, those immediately surrounding Dersingham.

The search began with a visit to Kelling Heath. Sheltered spots in the sun were carefully checked. Especially the bare sandy patches close to exposed tree roots that would warm up quickly and provide an easy escape route for the snakes. Spring is also the mating season for adders and there was a chance that males would be found in ritual combat when they rear up at each other and try to push the head of their opponent onto the ground. Our tramp across Kelling Heath proved fruitless (or snakeless) and we headed off for the promised lunch at Byfords of Holt. This was followed by a stroll on Cromer Pier where children were busily crabbing. Some crabs had been released onto the pier decking where they were being photographed as they scuttled sideways in a bid for freedom - no doubt to appear later as the star in someone's twitter or blog. Crab lines have come on a long way since I last had a go and are now baited nets in which the crabs are caught with no chance of escape. I think old-fashioned lines were more fun because there was always a chance that the crab would let go and success was never guaranteed. This lack of certainty also puts the excitement into adder hunting and with this in mind, we set off to Holt Lowes to continue the chase.

The heaths at Holt Lowes adjoin Holt Country Park and it was obvious that a lot of good work has been done to restore the habitat. Gorse has been removed creating what looked like excellent bare basking patches for adders. The successful end to the hunt was unexpected. I almost stepped on an adder that was coiled up out on the open heath. It was a fine specimen with unmistakable black zigzag markings on a yellow background. The colours are much the same as those of a wasp – similarly acting as a warning to leave well alone. The adder reared up and pulled his head back at our approach, unsure of the best thing to do. There followed a bit of a commotion as I struggled to get my camera out of its case - accidentally ejecting the lens cap towards the recumbent viper. This gave our quarry an opportunity to silently glide (not slither) away towards





the nearest gorse bush. I managed to take a single pathetic photo when snake's head had already disappeared into the roots of the gorse and all that can be seen is a stretched out body.

Adders are fully protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act and must not be harmed. A handful of adder bites are reported each year and they can be painful, but are

very rarely lethal – the last fatality in this country was in 1975. Probably the only chance of being bitten by an adder would be to tread on one in your bare feet. Don't be scared of them because they aren't out to get you and they aren't very dangerous. If you want something to be scared of on your country rambles, I would suggest the humble tick. They *are* out to get you and they *are* quite dangerous! □

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## Dersingham Methodist Church

Please note our evening services are commencing at 6.00 p.m. from the beginning of May onwards. You are welcome to join us at this service and also our 10.30 a.m. service.

**DON'T FORGET OUR FLOWER FESTIVAL**  
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**SUNDAY 2.00 - 5.00 p.m.**

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## News from St Cecilia's Catholic Church

Easter was a wonderful time of renewal for all at St Cecilia's. The church was packed on Easter Sunday, and even with all the extra chairs from Fr James's house, there was still standing-room only. It was the same at Our Lady's in Hunstanton. The church was beautifully decorated in gold and white. White Longi Lilies for Remembrance graced all the windowsills and two stands at the front. Thank you to all those who prepared the church so beautifully.

The Parish Ladies Shared lunch was attended by 45 women, who came from the Catholic Churches in Dersingham, Hunstanton and King's Lynn with lots of their guests from other churches in the Parish too. The raffle made £71.10. And a magnificent feast suddenly appeared.



**Easter Flower arrangers at St Cecilia's Church:** Anne Trangmar, Anna Stuart, Brenda Baird, Carole Casey, May Davey, Sue Gostling, Mary Grimley, Hanne MacMahon, Angela Walker, Tony Walker and Pat Webster.



**Spring Parish Ladies Lunch at St Cecilia's on 25 April**

Tricia Steel gave an interesting presentation on the Hunstanton Parish website, where everything happening in the parish is published. There is also information about the history of the churches and some old photographs. View it at :-

[www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org](http://www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org)

Our next ecumenical ladies shared lunch is on Saturday 14th November at noon, when we hope more from St Nicholas will be able to come. Most were busy with their own booksale and teas that day and we missed them. Weren't we all so lucky with the weather!

The Hunstanton Parish-in-Council AGM will be held at St Cecilia's on Wednesday

10th June at 7.15pm. All Catholics from the Parish are very welcome to come and hear what has been done at both churches during the year and what plans are afoot. Chairman Chris Davey is standing down after three years, so there will be an election to replace him.

Everyone is invited to the **Strawberry Fair and Summer Fete at St. Cecilia's on Saturday 10th June from 2.00 to 5.00 pm.** We have had excellent support from the village in previous years and hope to make you all very welcome to enjoy a generous strawberry tea and browse the many stalls and games. □

*May Davey*



**What a wonderful spread!** The bring-and-share lunch for the Ladies of Hunstanton Catholic Parish and their guests from many other churches





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## Round the Horn

For many years our holidays were of the touring variety but, as we have aged, these have tended to cease and we have now come to like the more relaxed cruising holiday; and I don't mean the 'dripping of diamonds.' kind but the relaxed 'unpack your suitcase and that's it' kind.

In March we therefore embarked on a 20 day cruise of South America and Patagonia with Norwegian Cruise Line. This cruise line is a freestyle cruise line, which means you can eat when you like, without dressing up, but if you so wish you may dine formally. We flew from Heathrow Terminal 5 by British Airways to Santiago (Chile), not the best airline to travel on, unless of course you upgrade, but this can be expensive. We stayed a couple of nights in Santiago before transferring by coach to Valparaíso (Chile) to board the ship. We always choose the cheapest cabin onboard, which is an inside cabin on the lowest deck in the middle of the ship, as I get seasick. Our thinking is, what is the good of having an expensive cabin when the only time we use it is to sleep. It is always dark, but then you put the light on.

The voyage took us down the South Pacific Coast through the Patagonia Channels, the Chilean Fjords and the Strait of Magellan, stopping at ports most days. If you felt like it, optional excursions were always on offer, for instance at Punta Arenas (Chile) an optional Antarctic landing was available. This I thought was rather expensive, but did involve a 2 hour plane flight. We did not go, as for the cost plus a bit more, an actual full length Antarctic cruise can be purchased. The cruise line did however manage to get a small plane load to partake. Credit crunch, what credit crunch?

The ship continued, rounding Cape Horn, taking a daily travel sickness tablet works wonders, I had no problems, diverting to the Falklands, then on to Puerto Madryn (Argentina), Montevideo (Uruguay) before arriving at Buenos Aires (Argentina), where we stayed for a couple of days, before flying home, again by British Airways.

I must confess the whole point of this trip was to visit the Falklands and I was not disappointed. The time spent there was far too short and I would love to go again. The Falklands are more British than Britain, the residents are proud to be British, some British citizens are not. For the scenery, think of the Hebrides, Scotland, add penguins and wild life galore and you have the Falklands. Stanley, the capital is half the size of Dersingham and the main form of transport is 4 x 4's. The residents we spoke to were so pleased to see us and gave us an insight into the war. It caused a good deal of suffering to the island and islanders, it still does (for instance many uncleared minefields cover the countryside and there is difficulty clearing them due to the way they were laid by the Argentine conscripts). The boggy nature of the soil is also a hindrance, the mines tend to move around. Acres and acres of barbed wire surround the countryside.

One message came across loud and clear though, the islanders are British and want to remain so. The Argentine passengers on board the ship, together with some of the Argentine guides made it quite clear that the islands belong to Argentina, even to the point of ripping a map of the South Atlantic which was in the ship's library. Even though the war was over 25 years ago, feelings still run high.

Our next cruise is in June with Voyages of Discovery, to the Land of the Midnight Sun (Norway), rather a contrast. □

*Ann Chapman*







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## Dersingham Evening W.I.

In March, members of Dersingham Evening W.I. were taken on a fascinating tour of Peru with the aid of slides shown by Dr. Walter Blaney, who captivated us with his description of the stonework and buildings dating from the Incas onwards.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> April we held a very successful Open Day with displays of craftwork, a cake and produce stall, and details of other activities including our dining club, theatre group etc., and our entry for the Cator Cup competition was much admired. Scrapbooks showing photos and details of our many activities since 1963 proved fascinating to members and visitors alike. This led to seven ladies attending our birthday meeting in April with a view to becoming members. Comedian and Raconteur Keith Loades entertained us with his hilarious brand of humour. After everyone had tucked into savoury starters provided by members, delicious sweets and drinks were served by the committee. An interesting report by Lesley Geer, our delegate at the Federation Annual meeting was appreciated by everyone. Pre-wrapped parcels yielding many surprises were on sale during the evening and boosted our funds by over £55.00. □

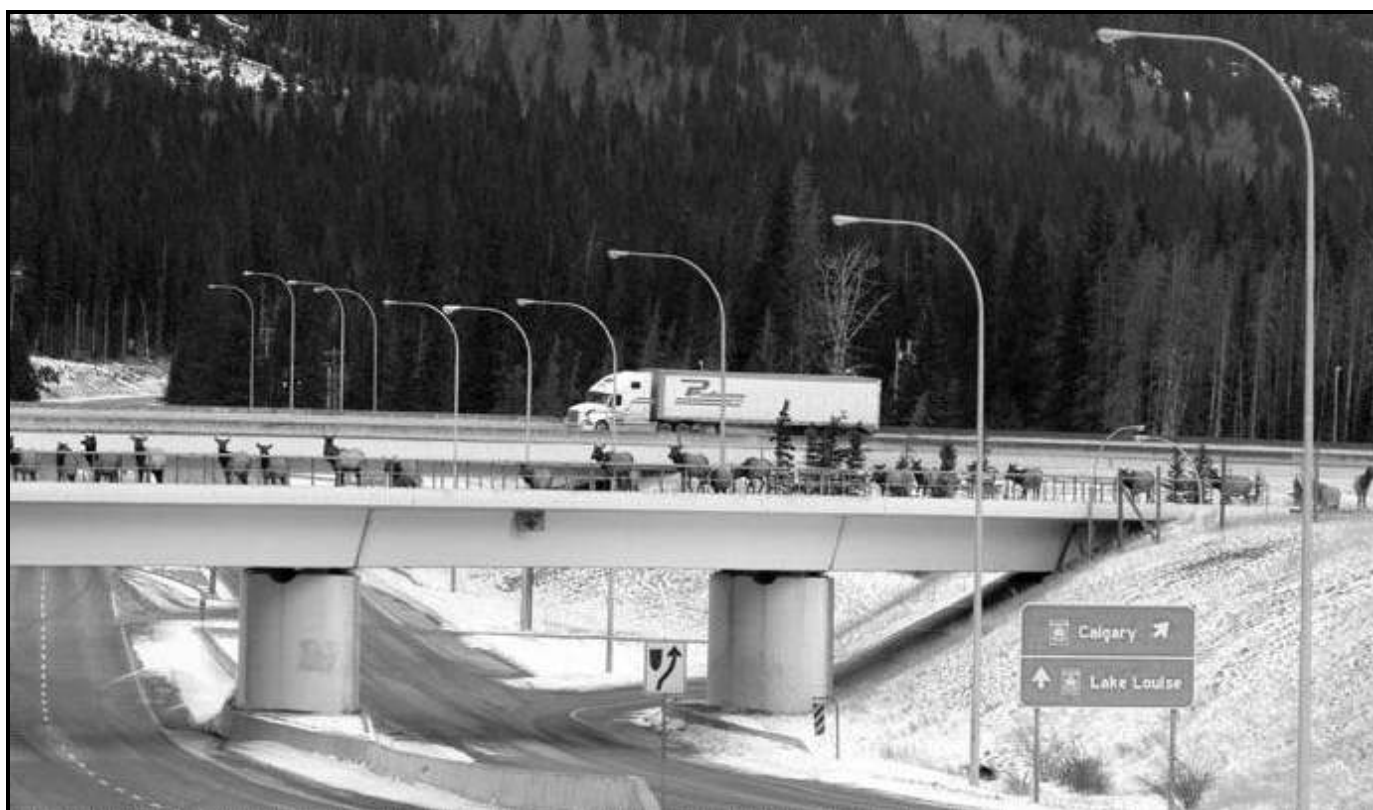
*Phyl Jones*

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## Community Centre

The community centre is well used but there are still vacant rooms and times available for use. With rates as low as £4.50 per hour it is an affordable venue for your meeting or activity. For more information and to make a booking call Suzy Daniels on 544789. □

~~~~~



We may think that we have problems with the occasional Muntjack, but in Canada they had to build the animals (especially the elk) their own crossing because that was where the natural crossing was and after the highway was built there were far too many accidents. It didn't take the animals long to learn that this was their very own bridge! And then you have some people saying 'Animals are stupid'. Really....?



## THE GARDEN FARMER - DIG FOR THE FUTURE

June can be a fabulous month in the vegetable garden, weather permitting; your crops should be growing rapidly and looking lush and healthy. As too will be the weeds!!



This month you could be lucky enough to be living off autumn sown spring cabbages, the first and tastiest of your broad beans, the youngest and sweetest potatoes and those two fabulous summer crops of strawberry and asparagus.

You may also be benefiting from all the lettuces, spring onions, spinach and leafy salads sown in the spring and you may find you have to give a good number away as you discover that you planted far too many.

The greenhouse tomatoes will soon be as high as your head, which is probably high enough. Unless you are growing “bush” tomatoes which sprawl across the ground or hang from baskets, the plants need to be trained up strings or tied to stakes as they will not climb naturally. As well as taking off the side shoots from the main stem, I pinch out all the growing points once the plants reach 6 feet high to encourage the fruit to develop and ripen. Tomatoes are one of my favourite plants and are relatively easy to grow. With care and regular feeding they usually give large and reliable crops.

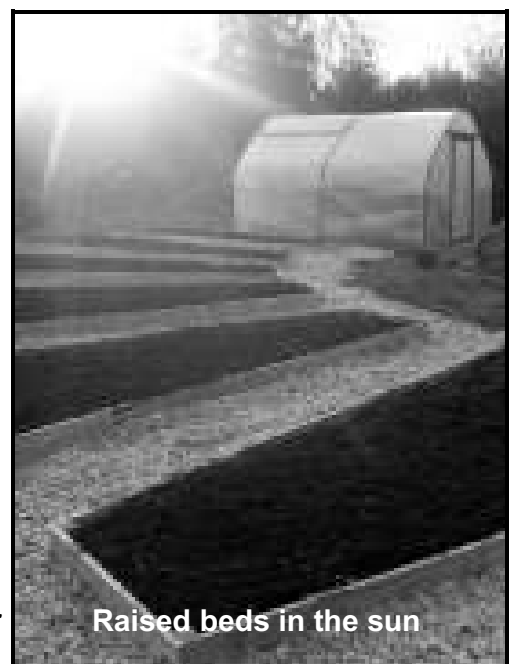
At this time of the year it is well worth continuing with a regime of successional sowing; a fresh sowing every two weeks of lettuce, radish beetroot, spinach and peas; just a small number each time will keep you well fed late into the autumn.

This is also the time when the weeds can start to take over if you are not careful. An hour or two spent each week with a hoe and hand pulling the weeds close to your crops should be enough to keep on top of a decent sized plot. Hoe off weeds almost as soon as they appear; the bigger they are and the more established, the harder they will be to control. Time well spent now will save long hours weeding in August and give you better and bigger crops. After hoeing I lay an organic mulch such as compost, leaf mould, grass clippings, nettles or comfrey leaves on the surface to suppress more weed growth.

Watering can also become an increasingly vital issue now. The last couple of summers have been very soggy disappointments but I feel we should always plan for a dry spell. It is better to give your plants a good soaking every few days than to water lightly every day. This way the water sinks to the lowest roots where it is most needed and encourages root growth downward where moisture is better retained. In soil that is wet only in the top couple of inches, roots will tend to develop close to the surface where they are more prone to drying and physical damage during weeding. Again the use of a surface mulch reduces evaporation from the soil. If you have a veg plot that seems to dry out too quickly, then it is worth making the effort to dig in plenty of organic material in the autumn; whether animal manure, compost or green manures. This will improve the soil's ability to hold water as well as adding nutrients. Also try to avoid standing on your veg beds as capillary action causes water to be drawn to the surface more quickly in compacted soil than in loose soil. A permanent raised bed with deep soil and a good cover of mulch material is a great water storage device; the closer planting that can be achieved on a deep bed also means that the soil is better shaded.

The summer is the time of year when nature sets the pace of work in the vegetable garden. There is plenty to do to keep up, but hopefully this year we will enjoy many long sunny days. □

*Bryan Beers - The Garden Farmer*



**Raised beds in the sun**



# St. Nicholas Church Dersingham



## FLOWER FESTIVAL 2009

"PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES"

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2009

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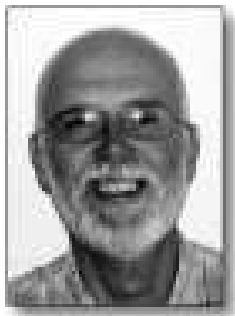
SERVICES IN CHURCH

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2009

10.30.a.m. Morning Service

6.30p.m. Songs of Praise





## Steve Davis

### Here Wii go again

In the last issue I mentioned my introduction to the delights of the Nintendo Wii (*Wee*) computer in particular, the Wii Fit system that has gained such popularity with all age-groups. Well after my wife had a similar enthusiastic experience, I have to somewhat sheepishly admit that we now have our own, not that we are short of things to occupy our time of course, especially when the weather is fine! But now together, invariably last thing before retiring for the night, we load up the system and go through the prescribed exercise routines largely relating to balance, posture and aerobic control using the *Balance Board* and do some of the very entertaining training exercises. Mind you, my wife has sneaked the odd go whilst I have been out leaving me to discover that what I had proudly thought might be a record-breaking score in some activity has been placed several slots below hers in the record chart! Actually though, I am really quite delighted that this is one computer that she feels very happy to use without any encouragement or assistance from me. It is certainly capable of progressing and monitoring you through from *Couch Potato* to semi-youthful *Athlete* status, with the dubious bonus of giving you (or your onscreen *Mii* alter ego) a daily *Wii Fit Age*. My wife has managed to get hers down to 31 with seemingly little effort! I have yet to be so lucky! Still, I did achieve *Yoga Master* status for a deep breathing exercise! Exercise time spent in outside activities such walking, cycling, gardening or even doing household chores can also be entered onscreen into your personal Wii Fit records that are built up on a daily basis.

The going rate for the Wii Console together with the Wii Fit System and Balance Board is around the £250 mark but you may find them bundled together for rather less as I did from one of the high street computer game shops, even if I did feel a bit like a fish out of water going in!! Of course you will need a TV that either has TV/Audio or SCART sockets but it does not have to be anything special. Our 21" TV is over ten years old and works fine, though if you have a modern widescreen one, so much the better.

On its own the Wii Console includes the *Wii Sports* software enabling you to play Golf, Ten-pin Bowling, Tennis, Baseball and even Boxing using life-like arm swinging movements picked up by the movement detecting *Wii Remote*. Call in the neighbours for a veritable active night out in front of your own TV!

The Wii gives you a range of channels too. Pop the SD card out of your digital camera into the slot on the front of the console, select and click on the Photo channel and you instantly have the most elegant way of displaying your photos as a smooth clear slideshow with background music, or of performing more artistic manipulation.

But if you have a Wireless Broadband (*Wi-Fi*) connection in your house then the possibilities go much further as I am increasingly discovering (when I get time!!!) You have the very easy to read, well presented and informative Weather and News Channels to tap into. You are now able to share your photos across the Internet by posting them onto other Wii user's *message boards*. There is also a Wii shopping channel, which although I have little interest in the numerous more conventional computer games on offer, I could not resist the temptation to download the Internet Channel. This did cost me 500 Wii Points (£7 buys 1000 points) – yes I did have to type in my debit card details and I know that troubles many. Two little asides on security here: firstly, it is essential that your *Wi-Fi* connection is secured with a WEP or WPA passcode. As I visit homes to help with computer problems, I often find Wireless Broadband connections that are unsecured. That means that they can be seen and connected to from houses within the immediate neighbourhood. You may think that your senior neighbours would not know how to link into your unsecured wireless broadband even if they wanted to but I would not be quite so trusting of their visiting grandchildren bringing with them their highly portable, *WiFi-ready*, compact *Netbook* computers! If you think that your wireless connection may not be secured, then do get advice; it is



a simple matter to sort out. Secondly, if you still feel bad about using your main credit or debit card, why not set up a separate debit card account as I have into which you can transfer just enough money to cover the online purchase (though more trustingly, I do make such transfers into my separate small account from our main joint-account using online banking!)

Anyway back to the *Wii Internet Connection Channel* that enables me full access to browse the Internet on the TV using the Wii remote. I can request, search for and interact with any web page, type in messages, even emails by using the Wii remote to point and click on the onscreen keyboard, that appears when necessary. Now granted this is rather slower than using a conventional computer keyboard, but then I am in a different more relaxed mode sitting in my favourite armchair watching the television to that which I am in now, sitting at my desk, frantically typing up this article to get it emailed off before the deadline! It is more restrictive too in that you cannot print or save information from the Internet with the Wii, but then it is safer in the sense that you will not pick up computer viruses or need expensive security software. Also, whereas a webpage may look clear enough filling your computer screen, it can be somewhat lacking in definition when viewed on your lower resolution TV screen from across the room. But again, using the Wii remote you are able to zoom into and pan around the webpage to fill the TV screen with just the bit you wish to focus on. Now this may not seem like much, but zoom into your favourite YouTube video until it fills your TV screen, then sit back and enjoy. (By the way, my current favourite YouTube video is Christian singer/songwriter *Kristyn Getty* singing *Come People of the Risen King* – a simple search on the title should find it.) The same works with *BBC iplayer* ([www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer)) - my wife and I recently watched an episode of *Robin Hood* that we had missed. It was a bit jerky but very watchable. The same will of course apply to the ITV equivalent *itvplayer* ([www.itv.com/itvplayer](http://www.itv.com/itvplayer)).

Well there you have it. My secret is out. I hope I have not gone down too much in your estimation. Blame it on the clean Norfolk spring air that is making me feel and perhaps behave younger even if my onscreen *Mii* pictured here might suggest otherwise! Even if you are not at all convinced or think it all sounds rather pointless or far too complicated, do try and get a Wii owner to give you a demonstration – a young person, child or grandchild perhaps or maybe even that more senior secretive Wii Fit enthusiast that lives next door!



By way of contrast, next week my wife and I hope to be off on our first camping trip of the season and, in case you were wondering, we will not be needing an electric hook-up and as far as I know they have not yet got a computer to run on Camping Gaz! It is back to nature for us and all the things that we can do without that will make it so special.

Have fun and keep as fit as you are able, howsoever! □

Email: [steve@davista.co.uk](mailto:steve@davista.co.uk) or visit: [www.davista.co.uk](http://www.davista.co.uk), [www.picasaweb.google.com/ukuleleboy](http://www.picasaweb.google.com/ukuleleboy) and [www.youtube.com/bovrilman](http://www.youtube.com/bovrilman)

## SUZIE'S FITNESS

### INTRODUCTORY OFFER FIRST CLASS FREE

|                 |                                       |                                          |                                                                                              |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MONDAY</b>   | 9.15-10.15<br>10.30-11.30             | Legs Bums & Tums<br>Stretch & Relaxation | Ingoldisthorpe village hall (term time only)<br>Ingoldisthorpe village hall (term time only) |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>  | 10.45-11.45<br>6.30-7.30<br>7.35-8.35 | 50s+<br>Aerobics<br>Latino Aerobics      | Ingoldisthorpe village hall<br>Ingoldisthorpe village hall<br>Ingoldisthorpe village hall    |
| <b>THURSDAY</b> | 1.30-2.30<br>7.00-8.00                | Core Stability<br>Bodyconditioning       | Ingoldisthorpe village hall (booking essential)<br>Dersingham Methodist Church               |

any enquiries call Suzie on 07900 818311 R.S.A. qualified / Fitness Professional Member



## 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 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  |
| Issue 62 | Wednesday 6th Jan 2010  | Thursday 28th Jan  |

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                   | 2.00pm or 7.30pm    | Freebridge Community Housing          | Bingo                                   | Orchard Close                           |
| 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, Saxon Way    |
| Every Tuesday                  | 5.30 to 7 pm        | 2nd Dersingham Brownie Guide Group    | Meeting for girls aged 7 - 10 years     | Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road             |
| Every Tuesday                  | 7 pm                | Dersingham Bridge Club                | Bridge Evening                          | The Feathers Hotel                      |
| Every Tuesday in Term Time     | 8.30 to 11.15 am    | St Nicholas Parent & Toddler Group    | Parent & Toddler Group Meeting          | St Nicholas Church Hall                 |
| Every Tuesday                  | 8 pm                | Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes | Sandringham Lodge Meeting               | Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road |
| 1st or 2nd Monday in the Month | 2.15 pm             | Royal British Legion Women's Section  | Dersingham & Sandringham Branch Meeting | Orchard Close Community Room            |
| 1st Tuesday of the Month       | 7.30 pm             | Village Voice 'Live'                  | Presentations by Guest Speakers         | St Nicholas Church Hall                 |
| 1st Tuesday of the Month       | 7.30 pm             | Dersingham Methodist Church           | Art Club                                | Dersingham Methodist Church Hall        |
| 2nd Tuesday in Month           | 7.30 pm             | Royal British Legion                  | Branch Meeting                          | Feathers Hotel                          |
| Every Wednesday                | 10.00 am to 4.00 pm | Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly | Recreation & Leisure and Mid-day Meal   | Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road |



|                                           |                     |                                         |                                            |                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Every Wednesday                           | 10.30 to 11.30am    | Music+Movement                          | Pre-school Music, Dance & Drama            | Dersingham Methodist Church Hall                         |
| 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                              | 9.45 am             | Freebridge Community Housing            | Coffee Morning                             | Orchard Close                                            |
| 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 Cecilians 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 black and white or £17.50 for colour per issue, to be very cost effective.

**Advertisements for inclusion** in the next magazine should be in the hands of Anita Moore, Dersingham Parish Council, The Police Station, Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LH **by Wednesday 8th July 2009** Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 01485 541465. E-mail — [anita.dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:anita.dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk)

**Articles for publication in the August 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](mailto:anita.dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk) before the **deadline date of mid-day on Wednesday 8th July 2009 for publication on Thursday 30th July**. (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, Distribution - Steve Davis

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Ingoldisthorpe \* Snettisham \* Heacham \* Hunstanton \* Docking  
Terrington St Clement**



# VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday June 2nd




*Mary Mackie*

Louisa Cresswell

'The Lady Farmer of Sandringham'

Well known local author Mary Mackie talks about the investigations for her recent book *The Prince's Thorn*



Tuesday July 7th

## CHRISTMAS ISLAND & THINGS NUCLEAR

Dr Ron Haddow

An illustrated talk



Dr Haddow has been involved with nuclear testing for most of his working life finishing up as chief scientist with GEC Marconi and promises a fascinating evening

Tuesday August 4th

## The return of the Saint to "Hunstanton St. Edmund"

An illustrated talk  
by  
John Maiden  
of

**HUNSTANTON CIVIC SOCIETY**

Why the Town should revert  
to its original name



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