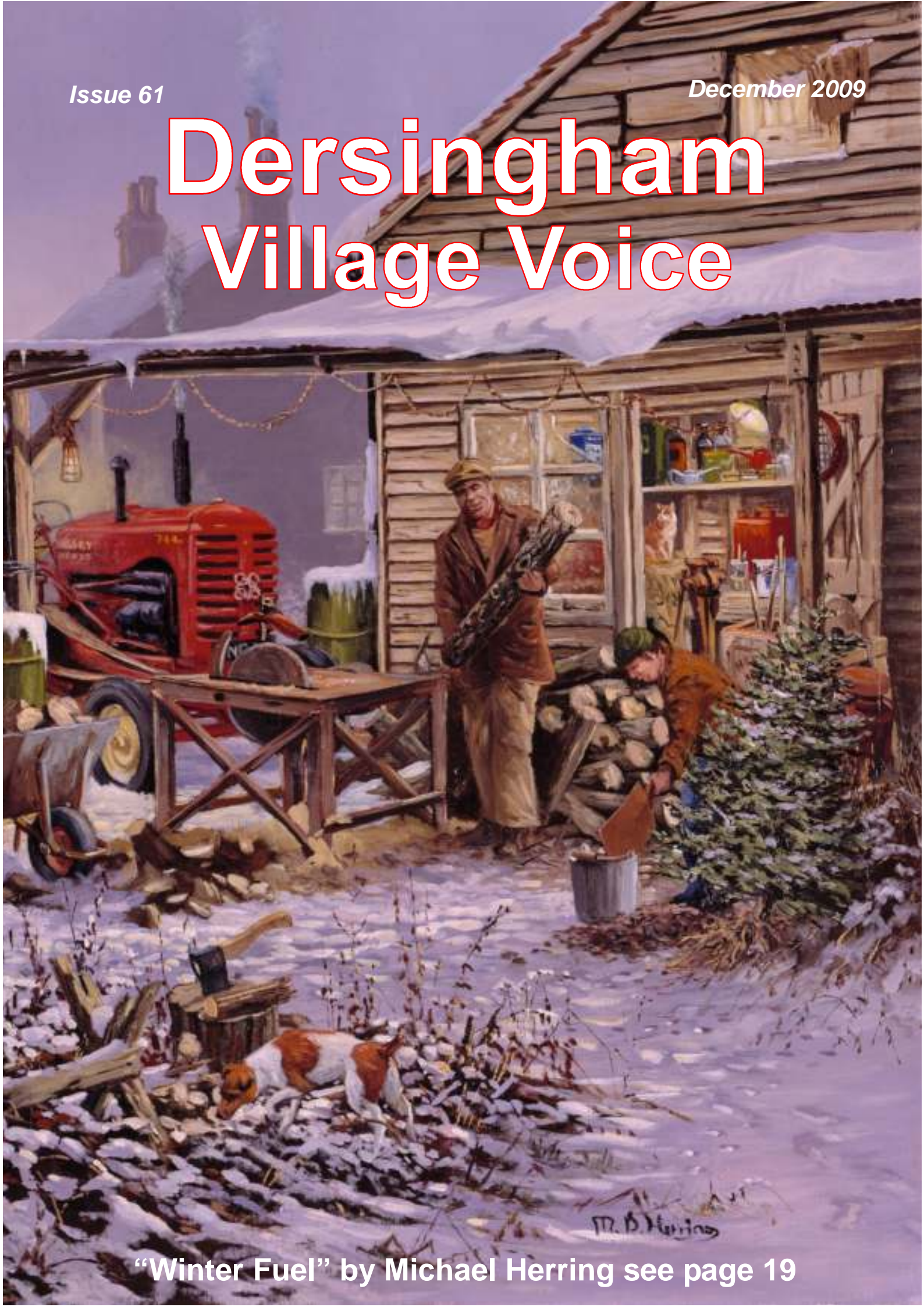


Issue 61

December 2009

Dersingham Village Voice



“Winter Fuel” by Michael Herring see page 19



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Editor's Notes

Welcome to the festive season's V V. As I write, the wind is howling and the rain is lashing, but it is not at all cold. This dismal showing is heightened by the recent warm, sunny end to October and frankly it does not suggest that Christmas is just around the corner. We really need the cold to put us in the right mood. How about moving Christmas to February 25th?

There seem to be two distinct themes emerging in this edition - bicycles and cats. I am of course in your hands as to what turns up for consideration. If you want to extol the delights of some other mode of transport or domestic animal do feel free.

We have a good selection from our regular contributors - many thanks to you all. Dick Melton, David Bingham, Steve Davis, Trevor Riches, Bryan Beers, Steve Nowell and many others keep the articles coming and this would be a pretty thin publication if they did not, but if the urge to write grabs you, don't hold back. Newcomers are very welcome.

We have a new garden writer this time, introducing herself and her garden on page 65.

The village website - www.dersingham.org.uk - needs improving. Yes, the details of clubs and organisations etc., will be updated soon when we publish Dersingham Data. What we need to know is what else should be there. Do please let us know how you would like it made better.

It is coming up to the tenth anniversary of the global disaster that was the Millennium Bug. Did it affect you? No I thought not. What a big anti-climax it was. Like a lot of these much heralded events, I noticed nothing.

It's Guy Fawkes day as I finish writing this piece. Sunny and 13 degrees C, quite a difference from when, as a lad, I made a "guy" out of fallen leaves stuffed into old cushion covers and watched it burn through freezing fog. Now, did the weather then influence the timing of the plot or would Guy have had better luck with it in this year's climate?

Do have a good "Mid Winter Festival" and even a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. There are a few festive recipes about the place to help you celebrate.

Don't forget the volunteers who deliver V V. When they get to you they will need a mince pie and a glass of sherry. □

Tony Bubb



V V team member Rob Smyth produced this picture of Mrs S after the last issue. She looks well used to this pose.

The Parish Council office will close on the 23rd December at 1pm and reopen on January the 4th at 10.30am.

WHATS HAPPENING*

December

1. DEC Christmas Fayre, 6-8, Thaxters Coffee Shop grounds.
4 - 6. Christmas Tree Festival
10am - 4pm, noon - 4pm
Sunday. St Nicholas Church

5. Christmas Fair 10am-4pm
St Nicholas Church Hall
12. Christmas Crafts 11-12
Dersingham Library.

13. "Something for everyone"
Park House 2.30
20. "Christmas Crackers
Extravaganza". Park House. 7.30

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

Dersingham Village Voice is published by Dersingham Parish Council



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Dear Village Voice



I would like to take the opportunity to comment on Tom Hooker's reminiscences in October's issue of the Village Voice. Firstly, I would like to say how pleased I was to read this article, particularly the piece on the Handley Page Hampden crash on Ken Hill wood. As a keen amateur aviation and military historian I conducted some research on this crash some years ago. I would therefore like to add a little to what Tom wrote.

I can be a little more specific on the date the aircraft was lost. Tom was out by 1 year on his lower estimate. The aircraft came down on Ken Hill wood at 03:25 AM on the morning of 12 Feb 1941. The aircraft befell a similar fate to many others that morning. They were all returning from bombing missions over mainland Germany and on arrival in UK airspace, found the south eastern corner of the United Kingdom completely fog bound. Many aircraft diverted to other airfields further north and west but some did not have the fuel load remaining to do this. The Hampden that crashed on Ken Hill wood was returning to its home base at Hemswell in Lincolnshire after a bombing operation over Hannover. The 144 Squadron aircraft's radio was out of action which exacerbated the situation. The pilot, Sgt E Dainty, did briefly catch sight of the flare path but as he descended into the murk lost sight of it once more. With his fuel gauge reading empty, Sgt Dainty climbed the aircraft to a safe altitude and ordered his crew to bail out. Sgts L A F Wilmot, T Grosvenor and G Bottomley successfully took to the silk at the approximate location of Kirton Lindsey, Lincolnshire. The pilot stooged around for another 30 mins hoping for the fog to lift but eventually abandoned hope, set the auto pilot on a course to take the aircraft out to sea and followed his colleagues into the cold night air. All landed safely. The aircraft, serial number X3007, flew on for nearly 70 miles before crashing at Ken Hill wood.

Sources for this information are Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War Vol 2 by W R Chorley and The Hampden File by Harry Moyle.

I would be interested to hear from any readers who have memories of this or any other aircraft crash in the local area from 1939-45 period.

Brian Scott

Was this when global warming started? This picture shows a freak storm that hit the top of Fern Hill and caused a 'flash flood', which hit Post Office Road and West Road in 1975 or 6 - reaching



as far as the shop which is now Suttons Estate Agents. The boat was a 'tender' to our boat we had on the River Wissey at Hilgay. Fortunately, we had it at home at the time. It was great fun for our two sons Paul and Neil, and their friend Richard Brown, whose mother had to leave her Morris 1000 Traveller in our drive for two days, until the water receded.

Sheila Broughton



In reply to Dick's column VV 60, I moved into 17 Heath Rd, Dersingham, mid Dec 1960. Major Northfield & his wife, Tess, were our next door neighbours for many years. The house name was in fact 'Winberry'. The Major taught art at Smithdon School before ill health overtook him. He did indeed sing in the choir, but I can only remember him wearing either a black bowler or a homberg. His usual garb was a Sherlock Holmes type tweed coat and a Deer stalker to match, always complimented by bone handled walking stick plus of course highly polished shoes. The poor chap went missing one day after going to Parkers Stores, he used to wander a little, so, there was no panic, but after several hours had passed we were a little concerned. He had caught a bus to Lynn and then to Norwich! The Police brought him home none the worse for his excursion!

Dave Tomlinson

Just another short note to jog Dicky Melton's memory and throw in my three penn'th. The land down Centre Vale not owned by the Jackson family was not farmed by the Balding brothers (Bob and Fred) or Dun Cow Farm but by their uncle James Balding, my grandfather, who lived in Post Office Road and, until he sold it, owned White Horse Farm. He owned the land behind the Albert Victor where, until it was moved to the present sportsfield (part of the Pastures) behind the Feathers Hotel, was the tennis courts and tennis pavilion with access over the dyke behind the Albert Victor.

An area one of your readers may be able to enlighten me on is "Happy's Hut". This was just into Centre Vale on the right going down, just beyond Jackson's barn. It consisted of a railway carriage with partitions and an external entrance through a kitchen with solid fuel cooker added onto the side. This was on James Balding's land and always referred to as "Happy's Hut" but I have been unable to find out who "Happy" was.

Now referring to Old Picture Corner - Past and Present. The photo of the garage is earlier than I remember as at the time it burnt down there were petrol pumps (four I believe) and an opaque glass canopy with roof, with the showroom behind and the repair garage complete with pit down at right angles along between what is now the Chinese Takeaway and the house. At the time, the garage was run by Jack Twite, although I think his name was spelt Twaite. The garage and house burnt down. Nobody was at home at the time but the Fire Brigade prevented the petrol going up. They also saved the wooden paraffin shed and the storeroom in the very corner of the property. The paraffin shed was used for a number of years after the fire as was the repair garage. Along with the garage there were at least three cars that burnt. John Riches from the shoemakers raised the alarm. Jack Twaite's family also owned the large house on Chapel Road near "Cherry Reynolds" with a block of garages in the yard.

In the "present" photo (Chambers Court) to the very right can be seen the gable end of the house where we lived in Post Office Road. We were told to move out when the garage was on fire so moved to grandfather's at the other end of the row.

On the subject of old Dersingham, I would be most interested in obtaining old photographs especially in the region of the Post Office/Twaite's corner, the White Horse and Dun Cow and farm areas.

Ivan Green

Last winter in the dark of the night, I heard frantic mewing outside my patio doors. On opening them a sorry sight met my eyes. A thin and bony cat looked up at me with pleading and more or less demanded to be let in. Not wanting a deluge of fleas taking residence, I just handed the tramp a bowl of food, and hoped he would have moved on by the morning.

I think gypsy cats had bent twigs outside our house to indicate 'suckers live here' for the bony one was still opportuning by the door in the morning. His bones stuck out so much, he was covered in ticks, but he didn't seem to lack energy as his mew was voracious. I made him a little bed in a box with a hot water bottle and left it in our covered way, and put down food, milk and water. That was scoffed in no time. He jumped in the bed with gratitude, and his sad eyes showed such relief. I

thought I could build him up for his journey. I wasn't going to let him in or keep him. Oh no.

I made enquiries. Nobody knew of him. How far had he travelled? What was his story? I rather hoped he would move on but, no, he remained in his little box, his head popping up expectantly when he saw me, and constant meowing at the window to remind me he had chosen my house and wanted to come in, thank you very much.

I phoned the RSPCA to ask if they would come and get him. "Sorry Madam we have so many cats to find homes for we can't take any more" Nothing like the t.v. programmes, then.

I bought some flea powder and worm tablets and administered and pulled out the ticks.

My granddaughter said "He has chosen you - you must keep him". "No, I can't - I've enough on my plate". My 97 year old Mum and my old lurcher both with mild dementia keep me busy. I didn't want a skinny vagrant cat as well. By the length and bone structure he must have been a huge cat in his hey day.



But, he persisted. I rephoned the RSPCA and asked them if they would pay to have the cat assessed at the vets. Was he skinny from starvation or from kidney problems (which was what my first instinct was) They did agree to this, and I told them I would look after this cat until a home could be found. (I never heard from them again.)

The vet said the cat hadn't got kidney problems, so I looked forward to fattening him up prior to his new home. I did

find someone willing to take him on, but on the day of collection, we looked at him, looked at each other, and agreed we didn't want him to go. It seemed unfair that he had found the home of his choice, settled in and got less confused and we were going to make him go through it all again. No, he could stay. His plan had worked after all!

The name 'Norman' came out of the blue for him, and he didn't object. By now, of course, he was indoors and emphatically declared he was never leaving. I thought our lurchers might eat him, but no, he biffed them on the nose, and that did the trick. He sat in front of the parrots' cages licking his lips, but seemed to understand when I said they were off limits.

It was soon apparent that Norman was suffering from dementia too. His vacant gaze showed confusion at times, but he was well at home and comfy and had quickly found his way into our hearts. His manners were excellent, his appetite voracious and he would stand at the sink tap waiting for it to be turned on for him. He was an utter cutie. A survivor.

He didn't put on weight though, and despite the vet's verdict, I was sure the problem was his kidneys.

We'd had Norman for six months, when he took a turn for the worse one Sunday. We rushed him off to the vet who declared his internal organs (and yes, kidneys) had given up the ghost, and so they kindly put him to rest for the sum of £90.00.... Yes, that's what I thought, too.

I do wonder who his owners were. I had originally thought he had wandered to us from miles away, but it could be he was local - his dementia might have caused him to forget where he lived - so perhaps you could print this story and the lovely photo of him, just in case his past owners recognise him, and know that his last six months were spent in complete luxury and love. We still miss him terribly - he had such charisma - and we will never forget him.

Valerie Anckorn

I am writing in the hope of learning more about the house that used to be called Dersingham Hall, but now it has been split up into flats is known as Jannochs Court. My interest in the building arises because I believe that it was once occupied by my great grandfather, Mathias Goggs, probably as a result of the Goggs Brothers of Swaffham success in largely re-building Sandringham for Prince Edward and his architect, Mr Humbert.

Mathias was a partner in Goggs Brothers. He must have made a good sum of money out of that contract plus the follow ons from others in the neighbourhood. I am pretty certain he lived at Dersingham around 1870; and probably did some alterations etc. Around 1900 he sold it to someone else. My grandfather, Mathias only son, was going into the church; lived in Sussex; and would have had no connection either with the firm in Swaffham or in living in that area. Later I discovered Mathias's grave and headstone at Colkirk near Fakenham. The inscription said he had lived at Dersingham.

Ten days ago I spent a few days in Norfolk visiting places with which he had been associated. When I was standing on the roadside looking across at what is now Jannochs Court, completely by chance I met a retired policeman whose name I think was Adrian who happened to be walking past. He could not have been more helpful; and I could not have hoped for anyone with so much information. It was him who told me all the building's recent history; and advised me to get hold of a copy of Village Voice (which I have). Are you able to help? - **aqq@btinternet.com**

I cannot end without saying how VERY impressed my wife and I are with Dersingham's Village Voice. I wish our Community produced something like that. We do have a lot of activities, much as you do; but we lack a sophisticated newsletter keeping everyone in the picture.

Quentin Goggs



In Octobers V V Dick Melton mentions special constables. This photo shows specials on a inspection at the rear of the police station. The ones I can name are back row, second right Hubby Cross, third Stanley Bird, fourth Wallace Twite, fifth Jim Chandler, ninth Bill Playford. Front Row, first left Claud Taylor, second George Batterbee, in civies Jack Watts.

Bernie Twite

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DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP

Twenty-three walkers enjoyed the scenic walk in the grounds of Old Hunstanton Hall and Ringstead Downs on a warm, sunny afternoon in early October.

The following week we had an enjoyable and instructive walk around Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve led by the Reserve Warden, Ash Murray. He took us to some parts not normally walked and brought home to us what an important natural habitat we have on our doorstep. Again there were 23 walkers, including some who were walking with the group for the first time.



Photo: Steve Davis

The walks in December 2009 and January 2010 are:

WEDNESDAY 9th DECEMBER

Start 1.30pm from Dersingham War Memorial (map ref.L 132/686 309). A 4.5 miles circular walk around Dersingham and Ingoldisthorpe led by Elizabeth Fiddick (540940).

WEDNESDAY 13th JANUARY

Start 1.30pm from the lay-by off B1440 south of Ingoldisthorpe (opposite the recreation ground) (map ref.L132/683 325). A 4.5 miles circular walk around Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham led by Valerie and Michael Smith. (540728)

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 they stay at the rear of the group.

The leaders are happy to organise and lead these walks but stress that each participant must appreciate that there are hazards associated with walking and take responsibility for their own safety.

Keith Starks (542268)

The Sandringham Newsletter

by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate



Apart from a very few showers at the beginning of September, there was no appreciable rain for the whole month. This was good news for apple-pickers at the Royal Fruit Farms and for people enjoying the Country Park and the Gardens, but has made life more difficult for the Gardens and Farm departments. The gardeners at least can use sprinklers on beds in particular need of water (the water comes from the lakes, not the mains), but the Farm don't have this remedy so the crops of winter barley and winter wheat sown earlier this month will be slow to germinate.

A few changes have been made in the Museum this month; the photographic display showing the history of the House and the Estate has been updated, and with the help of the Royal Photographic Archive at Windsor Castle, more photographs have been located and added to the display. Estate staff also discovered a Humber tricycle which once belonged to King Edward VII; it has been cleaned and polished and is now on show beside King George VI's bicycle.

The Fruit Farm's apple harvest has been completed, both Pick-Your-Own and those picked for juicing. The wetter weather earlier in the year followed by late summer sun meant that most varieties were a good size and a good colour by the time they were picked, and they have sold well both from the Plant Shop and from the orchards. Blackcurrants from the organic area of the Fruit Farm have been made into blackcurrant conserve which is now available from the Gift Shop, shortly to be followed by an apple chutney and a red onion marmalade, again made very locally in small quantities from local produce.

On the Farm, the sugar beet harvest began in September – so Estate staff and local residents are now awaiting the arrival of skeins of pink-foot geese filling the skies. The geese feed on the beet tops left behind in the fields and are so much a part of the autumn landscape around Sandringham. On the Farm's organic fields, mustard will be sown soon as a green manure; when mature, it will be ploughed back into the ground to help improve both the structure and the nutrient content.

The glasshouses have been busy potting up chrysanthemum cuttings and hyacinth bulbs to come into flower during the winter. Some of these will be used to decorate Sandringham House and others will be sold at the Plant Shop at the Visitor Centre.

The sunshine in October made it an excellent month to visit Sandringham's gardens, with their autumn foliage blazing. Naturally, the day chosen to welcome RHS members for a guided garden walk with Sandringham's Head Gardener turned out to be the one day when it rained all day, but everybody came prepared and enjoyed their private tour through the Walled Garden.

On the subject of gardens and gardening, the date of next year's Sandringham Flower Show has been agreed and will be Wednesday 28th July.

Well before July, the next event to take place here at Sandringham will be the Christmas Craft Fair in West Newton Park (27th – 29th November). This is always a good place to go to find Christmas gifts for hard-to-buy-for people – as is the Visitor Centre Gift Shop, which doesn't just sell Sandringham souvenirs but also has a wide range of books, food, puzzles and toys, china and hand-made Christmas decorations, and is open every day through the winter.

The apple harvest is now completed, and the work of pressing all the apples into juice has begun. The sugar beet harvest has begun and so far the sugar content in the harvested beets has been high. Finally, the pumpkin harvest from our vegetable patch is also well under way and pumpkins are appearing at the Visitor Centre Restaurant in soups, risottos and quiches.

Since the start of 2009, we have received 140,000 visitors to the Sandringham website - www.sandringham.co.uk - from all over the world – more, in fact, from Moscow than from Maidenhead, for example. More than 5,000 people have visited this newsletter on line; we hope you enjoy keeping up with the estate's events and news, and will continue to look in and see what is happening "Around The Estate". □

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Old Picture Corner - past and present

Here is the station around 1910. It looks like all the station staff & friends have been mustered to put on a show. Have you any names for these folk? Has anyone got bits of the bridge still?

Taking these comparison pictures is not as easy as you might think. Here at the old station for example, the photographer would appear to be on the end of the down platform. But when you try to reproduce the view you discover that to get the angle of the canopy to match and at the same time preserve the width of the gap between the two buildings, this cannot have been the case. He must have been standing on a box or trolley. His lens must have been pretty wide as no way was my “wide angle” lens able to capture all the view, I had to stitch 3 shots together to achieve the same coverage.

The differences over the years are pretty obvious, but under all Semba's wares, the fabric of the station is remarkably intact. Once again there are many more trees around now. Sadly there is no hissing monster lurking just out of shot waiting to take us to Hunstanton and there probably never will be again. □



SHORT STROLLS IN AND AROUND DERSINGHAM

8. Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve



Although the Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve stretches north to the by-pass, at the time of writing, there is no easy access from Dersingham. As the reserve is open access land, it is possible (and permissible) to climb over the five-bar gate at the side of the A149 but this is not a good way to start a walk!

This circular short stroll of about 1.75 miles begins, therefore, from one of the two 'official' entry points at the southern end of the Reserve off the road to Wolferton. Although there is very limited parking at the 'Scissors' entrance, there is more at the Wolferton Car Park and this is where we start. (1). As will be seen from the notice at the gate into the Reserve, Natural England have designated three walks and this short stroll takes in two of them - the Cliff-Top Stroll and the Heathland Ramble. All the paths are in excellent order.

Go through the gate and walk ahead to the signpost. Follow the sign to the cliff by turning left and following the wide path as it takes you gently up to the cliff top (2). Pause here to read the notice, admire the view and imagine what it would have been like

6000 years ago when the sea was lapping at the foot of the cliff. Turn right and follow the path along the edge of the cliff as it descends to a flight of steps (with a hand rail). Note the 'John Daniels' seat higher up on your right.

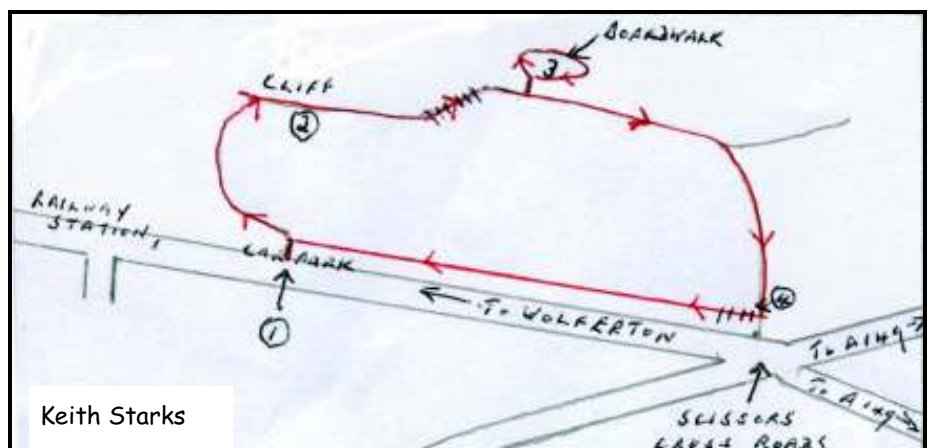
Turn left down 40 easy steps to the Dersingham Bog Boardwalk (3) on your left. Follow the boardwalk through the bog in a clockwise direction looking out for the rare flora and fauna (see the Bog News articles in Village Voice for details). There is a seat part way round. When you come off the boardwalk, turn left and follow the wide, level path until you come to a fork.

At this point, take the path to the right which is signed 'Scissors Car Park' and follow this through a valley. Just before the gate to the car park, on your right, are signs 'Heathland Ramble' and 'Wolferton Car Park' (4). Turn right by these, go up the 19 steps and follow the path straight ahead through (mainly) rhododendron bushes and silver birch trees. At the sign post, turn left back to the gate through which you entered the Reserve (1).

Some 300 yards down the road from the car park is Wolferton railway station which was used by royalty and guests on their way to and from Sandringham for many years. The signal box, crossing gates and the station (now private residences) have been beautifully restored and are well worth the walk down the hill to see them if you have the energy. □

Keith Starks

This is the last in this series of Short Strolls in and around Dersingham. If anyone has ideas for other walks or would be prepared to write some notes on the routes, please contact the editor.



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Michael Herring

When Michael Herring was growing up in a post-war Watford that was showing signs of rapid urban development, he could still cross the road to enter a natural world of woods and fields where he found comfort and joy. That passion for the countryside deepened further with visits to his grandparents' farm in Essex.

When, in 1970, he lost his country-loving father and his daughter was born, it spurred him into painting as a pastime. Although he was shown how to paint portraits in life classes, he really felt happiest with wildlife as his subject matter. Befriending a local gamekeeper, he was invited onto a nearby estate, which led to an encouraging demand from gun-dog owners wanting portraits of their canine friends.

He left behind his job in the binding department of a printers to paint professionally in oil and acrylics in 1985, and moved the emphasis of his subject from dogs to childhood memories, recapturing the days of his 1950's boyhood and the traditional sights and sounds of rural England through the seasons.

"I'm a child of the Fifties, which meant we spent a lot of time outdoors doing things like train-spotting, knowing the make of a car without looking at the badge and wandering through the countryside without harm coming to us," said Michael. "We then had the freedom to roam and so most of us absorbed an awful lot about the great outdoors."

Once he began to have one-man exhibitions, his art career took off. "I can remember selling my first painting - for £6. We spent £9 celebrating!" he recalled.

He works from sketches, digital photographs, books and, above all, his own memories to produce up to 18 paintings a year to satisfy requests from leading companies specialising in limited edition prints, jigsaws, greeting cards and collectors' ceramics plates. The jigsaw of our cover picture is the prize for the winner of "Ron's Quiz"



Ron Brackstone presents quiz winner Shirley Brooks with her prize

Michael moved in 2001 from the "ever-growing concrete and traffic of Hertfordshire" to Dersingham in Norfolk, as he always wanted to live and work in the lovely county from where his parents originated. "My mother was brought up in Hillington, my grandparents, with my father, lived and worked at Congham Hall and I had an aunty & uncle living in Dersingham so I feel I have in a way come home". It allowed him to also paint coastal scenes but he maintains he remains a countryside artist at heart.

"Each picture is an idea - the challenge is to get that idea onto a canvas and for it to say what you want it to say," he said.

Artist samples of Michael's work that have been produced by Danbury Mint, Gibson and House of Puzzles which include clocks, ceramics, table mats, jigsaws and prints can be found at A.S.K.Framing in Manor Road. He can also often be found at the various art exhibitions held in the village. □

The Irresistible Alan Clark, his Widow, his Biographer and his Whip



Ion Trewin and Jane Clark in conversation with mid-Norfolk MP Keith Simpson

Many people who had been intrigued and fascinated by their reading of the three volumes of Alan Clark's Diaries, edited by Dersingham author Ion Trewin, were delighted to attend a Literary Dinner at the Sandringham Visitor Centre in October, organised by the Friends of St. Nicholas' Church, Dersingham.

Following dinner, Ion Trewin, author of the recently published 'Alan Clark: the Biography' took to the stage in the company of Alan's Widow, Jane, never one to seek the limelight, and Keith Simpson, mid-Norfolk M.P., Alan's one-time Whip in Parliament and Military Historian, who acted as the interviewer.

A very interesting, free-flowing conversation between the three of them continued for well over an hour, including many good-humoured and candid comments on Alan Clark's life, his love of family and his many other interests as well as his reaction to Parliamentary life.

There followed a book signing by the author and Jane Clark which brought an end to this most enjoyable and successful fund-raising evening, a triumph for Keith and Vanessa Blythe and their Committee.

□

Gordon Brown and Nigel Sisson

Ion Trewin writes: Jane Clark has written since the dinner to say how much she enjoyed the occasion and was only sorry she did not meet everyone who attended personally. Copies of ALAN CLARK: THE BIOGRAPHY are available, signed by the author, from Beck House, 88 Chapel Road, Dersingham (01485 544089) at the special literary dinner price of £20.

Photo's by Tom Morris



Signed copies for sale after Dinner. L to R Peter Tudor-Miles, Jackie Sisson, Ion Trewin, & Jane Clark.

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With the Christmas festive season approaching fast, a visit to Thaxters Garden Centre at Dersingham can be really handy in more ways than one – and rather pleasant too.

Thaxter's Christmas display, which is now open, has become something of an attraction in its own right as it has developed over the years, bringing in visitors from many a mile. It's reckoned to be one of the best in the region and a visit will really help you to savour an early taste of the Christmas spirit.

There are fibre optic village scenes, LED lights, a large selection of artificial Christmas trees and all the trimmings to go with them (**real Christmas trees will be on sale from the beginning of December**).

A full-size animated Father Christmas is on display, telling stories to the children, and there are plenty of Christmas gift ideas, including the ever-popular HTA (Horticultural Trade Association) vouchers that make a most welcome present for the gardener in the family.

With so much to explore and discover, it's good to be able to take a break in Thaxter's coffee shop to have a drink and a cake or snack and consider which section of the centre you can look round next.

Call in soon – then you will have time for another visit nearer Christmas if you wish.





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That's My Business

Time Out Beauty Salon

For those of you who had not had the experience of Time Out yet then let me introduce myself, my name is Katie Bowman and I opened the salon last December. It was hard work changing it from the former pet shop to what it looks like now, we had a lots of fish & chip suppers on the floor late at night that month but the results have been worth it.

Each day the salon becomes a little bit more busy with lots of different people - men and women - from birthday girls aged 6 having their nails done to ladies in their 90's trying to get rid of their aches and pains with a massage!

The name Time Out is what I tried to create. A place for people where they can come to relax and unwind.

Jo also joined the salon in January; working part time she has now built up a great clientele and really is an asset to the salon; and my dear lovely Mum, Denise, works on reception

making lots of cups of tea and is always a friendly face when you walk in!!

I would like to think that the salon has grown a lot in its first year, we now display stunning art work by Jill Illet and also a small collection of handmade jewellery. We also launched a website at the beginning of this year and we have expanded and improved our treatments.

Time Out is open Monday to Saturday with Wednesday and Friday our late nights. If you have not yet been in the salon then pop in and see what your missing out on or, if you know someone who you think would like a treatment, we also offer gift vouchers.

I would like to thank all our clients for making the first year a fantastic one and making Time Out feel very welcome here in the village Dersingham.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year. □



Christmas Recipes from the Bluebell Cottage Kitchen, by Lindsey Davis

Christmas Chutney

586ml	<i>vinegar</i>
500g	<i>mixed dried fruit</i>
250g	<i>dried apricots, chopped</i>
250g	<i>prunes, chopped</i>
450g	<i>cooking apples – weighed after peeling and coring, chopped</i>
125g	<i>soft brown sugar</i>
5ml	<i>each of ground ginger, cinnamon, ground cloves, mixed spice</i>
1	<i>lemon, just the rind and juice</i>

Soak the dried fruit in the vinegar for 1 hour. Add remaining ingredients, bring slowly to the boil, then cook until thick. Spoon in to prepared jars.

Best left for a couple of weeks to mature. Ideal with cold turkey or ham on Boxing Day.

Getting on a bit!



I just had to put pen to paper (what an out of date action) and write down, before I forgot, some of the things that seem to be gently and quietly slipping away from me: like remembering I used to be up, scrubbed and dressed before the first cup of tea, as opposed to now shuffling in dressing gown to the kitchen etc. and then needing just to sit a bit to drink it; or reading instructions or directions once and doing it - not now, oh no. I spend more time re-reading, checking I've checked it and still not quite grasping it. Oh, dear. I'm actually sitting here now gazing out of the window, brain on standby, pen poised for some witty observation, but nothing seems to be happening!

And what about the panic when confronted with a debit/credit machine or the dreaded "hole in the wall". I'm actually going to admit now that I have never attempted to use the "hole" outside my bank. It has so many buttons and functions I would be afraid of "losing the lot" at the press of a wrong button and holding up an impatient gueue (look, I couldn't even spell that correctly) of demanding users. The number that has burnt into the brain cells that accesses my money has taken that precise moment to erase itself and what about having to supply one's phone number under stress. Can you remember the code or the right sequence of digits? Ah, I thought so.

I also get quite agitated (poor ol' gal) going to an unfamiliar venue or driving to an unvisited destination. Will I miss the correct turnoff, which way round this roundabout. No, I've not actually gone the wrong way round but there's always the danger of it and it always seems that everyone else knows exactly what they are doing, where they are going, which unmarked door in the ladies loo and what to do at an automatic checkout at Tesco's. Have you tried one? Hi-tech, un helpful, makes you look stupid and slow.

I have to say though I'm pretty sharp when it comes to measuring the wine in other people's glasses, counting loose change and checking my till receipt and the grandchildren can vouch for the sharpness of the "eyes in the back of my head" and my sense of fairness. My tongue is just as sharp as it's always been (ask my husband) and I still enjoy a good barny (ask him again!) On the downside I'm terrible with names or even recalling if I've met you before.

I suppose most of what we forget can't be so important or the things we don't do now we mustn't miss but when flashes of a former useful and meaningful life struggle across my conscious mind I wonder when it left and where it's gone. Actually, I still have my sense of humour, however warped, and a fine sense of wellbeing but that could be the accurately measured wine in my glass! See you around, although I might ignore you if I can't remember meeting you before. □

Sheila Bryant

Christmas Recipes from the Bluebell Cottage Kitchen, by Lindsey Davis

Turkey and Red Wine Pot

Leftover turkey and trimmings, 1 large onion, 1 tbsp olive oil, Plain flour, Mixed herbs, 1 dtsp tomato puree, 500ml red wine, Turkey stock, Salt, pepper, sugar, Potatoes with rosemary

Dice all of the meat and trimmings. Chop the onion and fry in a pan with a little olive oil. Add a handful of flour, then your diced meat and trimmings, along with the herbs and a spoonful of tomato puree. Cover with the red wine and some turkey stock made from the bones.

Simmer until cooked through then finish with a seasoning of salt, pepper and a little sugar.

If cooked on the stove, the casserole will take approximately 1 hour, or until the sauce has been reduced to the desired consistency. If cooked in the oven, the dish will take approximately 90 minutes at about 170°C(325F, gas mark 3).

Serve with crushed potatoes and rosemary (include any roast potatoes from Christmas Day)

THE COACH AND HORSES

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Christmas Day Menu

Bookings now being taken for sittings at 12 & 3pm

Starters

Cream of curried parsnip soup with balsamic glaze served with a crusty roll & butter
Rosette of gala melon with blackcurrant sorbet & fruit compote
Haddock terrine with fresh salad leaves, toast & red onion marmalade
Classic prawn cocktail with brown bread & butter

Mains

Roast turkey served with traditional accompaniments
Roasted bacon wrapped pork fillet with wholegrain mustard & brandy sauce
Poached delice of salmon with classic hollandaise sauce
Roasted butternut squash with chestnut stuffing and served with parsnip jus

Desserts

Traditional Christmas pudding served with brandy cream or custard.
Cassis sorbet
Brandy snap basket filled with Bailey's syllabub
Warm chocolate brownie with vanilla ice cream & fruit compote
Coffee & mince pies

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Please let us take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas!

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, DERSINGHAM CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2009

Between Friday 4th December and Sunday 6th December, St Nicholas Church will again host a Christmas Tree festival. Twenty-four trees, each displaying a theme representing the local group or organization responsible for decorating, will be positioned around the Church. In addition, local Flower Club members will be adding festive arrangements to the pillars and windowsills. The Church will be open for viewing from 10.00am to 4.00pm on Friday and Saturday and from 12noon to 4.00pm on Sunday.

In the evening of Friday 4th December, the Friends of St Nicholas host a concert given by Norfolk Brass starting at 7.30pm.

The decorations and trees will remain within the Church until after Christmas and will be open for viewing each weekend before Christmas Day between 12noon and 4.00pm. Light refreshments will be available on these occasions at the back of the Church.

Coinciding with this Festival, in the nearby Church Hall, we have the monthly Coffee Morning on Friday 4th December starting at 10.00am, always a great attraction, and on Saturday 5th December there is the annual Church Christmas Fair between 10.0am and 4.00pm. A great variety of stalls will be found on both days and, of course, our now famous refreshments will be available.

Something for everyone, from the toddler who enjoys the colour to the more mature who appreciates the creativity of the decorations in St Nicholas Church? What an exciting and excellent way to start the festive season by visiting Dersingham's annual Christmas Tree Festival.

St Nicholas Church will be open every weekend during December until Christmas Day, Light refreshments will be served. □



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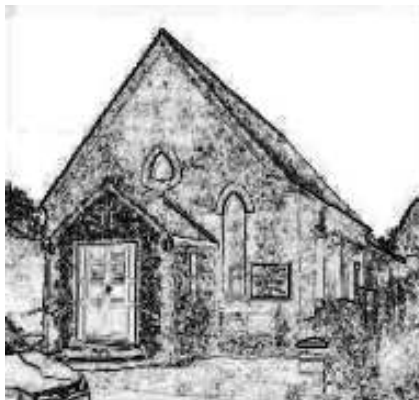
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Greetings from the manse

Members of Parliament are none too popular with the public at the moment. This is nothing new of course! But did you know that in 1652, during the Commonwealth, when General Oliver Cromwell was Lord Protector and the Puritans ruled the country they abolished Christmas in England. Such firmly religious and devout people, as they undoubtedly were, strongly disapproved of keeping any day special - except Sunday, 'the Lord's Day.' So they passed an act of parliament to cancel Christmas 1652, and to show that they meant it, they decided that parliament would sit just as on any other

day of the year. Everything connected with Christmas was banned - from mince-pies to church attendance. Indeed there was no connection in their thinking between their devotion to Christ and all the festivities and revelries that were held purportedly in his honour by the populous on this day, 25th December.

Even today it is often pointed out that the winter solstice falling around this time of year has always been a day for celebration, perhaps to the darkness and death of the old year and to encourage the light and the new year - or perhaps because people in the northern hemisphere need some kind of half-way merry-making in order to endure the entire winter. Yet others express their belief that the early Christian missionaries to the Germanic lands of northern Europe transformed the pagan rites of Yuletide by designating 25 December as birthday of Jesus.

On Christmas Day 1652, John Evelyn, the diarist, defied the ban and went to church with his wife. He records what happened. As they were receiving communion a party of musketeers broke in. They waited till the service was over, and then arrested the worshippers. They soon let them go again, unsure how to punish people for going to church.

No one is likely to cancel Christmas again, but perhaps for many people the real Christmas is already cancelled if not abolished. How come? Simply because Jesus is left out of the celebrating and festivities. He may make an appearance here and there, on greeting cards or in the Queen's Christmas broadcast, but generally he is left out of sight and put out of mind, an unwelcome guest at his own party.

However, I for one believe that the Christmas story of the birth of the Son of God cannot be cancelled or abolished, no more than can the life, death and resurrection of Jesus be separated from God's gift of salvation and eternal life for those who believe in him and put him at the centre of Christmas.

With every Christmas blessing, □

Kim Nally

Dersingham Methodist Church

The October coffee morning for the East Anglian Air Ambulance raised £255, the Wednesday afternoon bowls club has donated £200 making a total £455. This will be presented to the Air Ambulance on Wednesday 11th November at 3.00 p.m. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this excellent result for such a necessary service.

Christmas celebrations

You are warmly invited to join our celebrations -

Christmas Lunch - Monday 7th December, 12.15 p.m. For further information ring Jane Clay 01485 542241 or Jean Grggs 01485 543623.

Christmas coffee morning - Saturday 12th December 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon

Christmas services - Sunday 20th December 6.00 p.m. Candlelit carol service

Friday 25th December 10.30 a.m. Christmas Day Service

Elizabeth Batstone

Christmas Events 2009
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Santa

Santa will be coming to give out presents &
once again DEC has arranged for visits to
Santa to be free to all children under the age
of seven and we look forward
to seeing you all.

CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE (CBHC) PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) NEWS

From: T G Morris, PPG Committee

Swine flu

The Practice expects to get deliveries of vaccine from November onwards. The Department of Health has issued instructions on the priority order for the vaccines. So the tentative schedule is:

- November - vaccine available to those aged 6 months to 65 who are also eligible for the normal seasonal flu vaccine. So this means you can only have the swine flu vaccine if you also fall into one of the chronic disease groups (e.g. asthma, diabetes, etc) who can have the normal flu vaccine. You don't though actually have to have had the normal flu vaccine in order to have the swine flu vaccine.
- December – pregnant mothers and the families if immune-suppressed patients
- January – people aged over 65 who are also eligible for the normal seasonal flu vaccine.

If you fall into one of these groups you should ring the Practice at the beginning of the appropriate month to make an appointment. Please don't ring before this as you will simply be asked to ring back at the appropriate time.

More Medical Facilities for St Nicholas Court

At a Norfolk Surgical and Diagnostic Centres Board meeting in May, it was decided to proceed with a plan to turn Barn 1 at the Carole Brown Health Centre complex into an endoscopy unit. This will involve moving the set up currently at the St James Surgery in King's Lynn to Dersingham and expanding its potential by providing recovery beds so that light sedation can be used. It is also planned to provide the appropriate level of air flow so that if it does not end up being used full time for endoscopy, there will be the potential to undertake additional surgical procedures. This means that the Gayton Road Health Centre theatre will continue to be used as it is now and those services will not be moving to Dersingham. The grand scheme for Barn 4 incorporating endoscopy and theatre suite worked out to be too expensive".

Fundraising by the Coach & Horses

Thanks to the efforts of Sheila Roythorne, landlady at the Coach and Horses, a cheque for £378 was donated to the CBHC PPG. Sheila is pictured handing over the cheque to Vanessa Blythe, the PPG Chairman. The money was raised in July by 11 individuals sponsored on a bike ride and a Wildwest Day Rodeo ride at the pub. Well done and thank you Sheila and the Coach & Horses

PPG Meetings

The following are the planned dates for future PPG meetings to be held at the Carole Brown Health Centre at 7.00 PM:

- 10th December 2009
- 18th March 2010
- 8th July 2010 (AGM)
-

Please look out for posters in the local area regarding agenda items. □



Our new Parish Councillors

Jonathan James

Since buying the Budgens Supermarket just over two years ago, I have been overwhelmed by the support of the people of Dersingham. Whilst I do not live in Dersingham, having a business there has given me a good insight into the wonderful community spirit and I hope that by being a Parish Councillor I can begin to give something back for the support that I have received.



Julian Freeman

I am 39 years old and was born in Leeds, West Yorkshire, where I lived until I moved to West Lynn in 1996. I worked for a local window manufacturer but was made redundant after 2 years. I then started work as a bus driver and that same year moved to Dersingham where I live with my parents.

I have now been living in Dersingham for over 10 years and have made many friends. I have a keen interest in what's going on in the village and have joined the Parish Council so that I may get more involved.



Luke Loades

I was born in Kings Lynn and spent much of my early childhood in the area. I was then away for a few years for my education but moved back to the area about 14 years ago where I started working for Tim Rounce at Rounce & Evans. In January 2003 Tim Rounce offered to sell his Lettings portfolio to me and Rounce & Evans Property Management was formed.

The last 13 years of working in the village have flown by and I very much look forward to the next! In my job I come into contact with members of the village everyday and hear their what they have to say. I believe that I will listen to and represent the views of local people and businesses to the best of my ability and look forward to sitting on the Parish Council.



Irène Williams

I originate from the Netherlands, which is why my name has an accent on the first 'e': Irène, and is pronounced Erainuh. Thank goodness my surname is simple and straightforward: Williams.

I moved to Dersingham 4 years ago last July. Shortly afterwards, my partner Jonathan decided to let his home in Norwich and move in with me.

On retirement earlier this year I spent the summer being mildly bored and looking to be productive. I have done two things: firstly I set up a consultancy which aims to support and guide small businesses; having spent more than 25 years as management consultant and in business strategy and planning.

My professional background includes some years at the Henley Management College where I spent considerable time researching and supporting small businesses in the ever more dominant supply chains of retail and car manufacture. I left there to become the Director of the 'Brunel Management Programme' at, you guessed, Brunel University in West London; another area which predominates in small businesses which were our largest client group. After that I worked at the University of Reading as a Business Manager for Post Graduate Programmes in the Department of Construction and Engineering, in addition to management teaching.

Secondly, and most relevant, I recently decided to join the Parish Council. I very much hope that my background and experience will enable me to make useful and practical contributions to the village and our lives and I look forward to meet more people in this lovely village in which we live.





Dick Melton

I was looking through an old magazine (1912) when I came across an advertisement for a village fete and the main attraction was bowling for a pig, the second prize was a calf and the third prize a ton of coal. How many of you can remember this? The bowling set up was a long board with holes in it. Level to the ground each of these holes had a number over it; you bowled the balls through the holes and the highest score at the end of the day won. If there was a draw then you had a play off; I think you had just three balls. At most fetes the pig would be in a trailer next to the bowling so that you could see what you were going to win. In those days, when I was a boy, lots of people kept pigs in a sty at the bottom of the garden. I remember one man who kept pigs lived at Pleasant Place near the common in Dersingham. He had an allotment up Fern Hill and he would take the pigs' muck up there in a wheelbarrow. What a long haul? There would always be a garden fete once a year in the Manor House gardens with bowling for the pig. It would not be allowed today - health and safety - but if they did the ton of coal would be the first prize and, at around £300 a ton, it would be worth much more than a pig or a calf.

Parkers

There has been quite a lot in the local press lately about Parkers' old shop, Parkers Stores in Manor Road Dersingham. The shop, of course, is still there but Mr and Mrs Parker gave it up around about 1960 when a Mr and Mrs Barns took it over. Parkers also had a shop in Le-Strange Terrace, Hunstanton; this one closed down in the 1940s. I worked at Parkers as an errand boy in 1953; the other people who worked there at the time were Mr Patrick, Miss Carter and Jack Asker. Jack drove a small 5cwt Morris van and he would deliver the groceries up to Sandringham House and the surrounding villages.

The shop in Manor Road was painted white with big double doors. As you went through the doors, if you went to the left you were in the clothes, shoes, and haberdashery department. If you went to the right then you were in the grocery. Right down the end of the store was Mr Parker's



office and just to the left of it was the coffee grinder - no instant coffee them days, the smell from the coffee beans could be smelt as soon as you entered the store.

My main jobs, apart from delivering groceries were to sweep up in the shop and fetch the paraffin from the garage out back. If a person wanted to buy some paraffin they had to leave the can outside the main door and I would go and fill it for them. All the shops in the village had errand boys them days: Wiskers, Towers, Miltons, The Norfolk Stores, Lindfords and Andrews. I think my mate Bernie Twite was an errand boy for Terringtons in Manor Road. The hours you done were one hour after school each day and all day on a Saturday and for that you would get paid about ten bob or in today's money 50 pence, but it was enough to buy some fags with and go to the pictures at the Forrester's Hall.

Military at Snettisham

What a very interesting letter Tom Hooker had in the Village Voice about the two aircraft that crashed in The Wash off Snettisham during the Second World War. While I was doing some research into these plane crashes myself I came across all the military activity that had taken place down Snettisham beach over the years. Way back in the 1890s the beach and marshes were used as a training ground for soldiers going to fight in the Boer War, then during World War Two, the USAAF had a gunnery school there. There was a concrete track with iron rails on so that the targets could be moved back and forth; and at the end of the war there was a prisoner of war camp. There was also a lot of military fortification, like a minefield, tank traps and lots of barbed wire that went all the way along the foreshore as far as Boathouse Creek at Wolferton. It is said that a lot of this fortification was put there to defend Sandringham House.

Coal bonanza

Here's just another little story about Snettisham beach that was told to me by a friend many years ago. When he was a small boy in the 1930's he lived with his grandparents at the Red Lion public house in Station Road, Snettisham. Early one morning he was awoken by lots of people going by, so he got up to see what was going on and many people were going by pushing wheelbarrows, prams, handcarts and any thing with wheels on, all heading in the same direction past the station and down Beach Road. Later in the day his grandfather told him what had happened: a coal barge that was bound for King's Lynn from Newcastle had floundered in heavy seas out in The Wash. It had lost a lot of the cargo of coal which was being washed up on Snettisham beach, so many of the villagers went down the beach to collect it up, and after a few days it had all been cleared away.

Christmas

Well by the time you read this it will be about one month to Christmas. When I was a boy I loved Christmas: one of the things I looked forward to most was about a week before Christmas when, on a good dark night, my father and my Uncle Sid would go over the fen to the second hill to get a couple of Christmas trees, and they always took me along to hold the torch. Oh what memories! Happy Christmas everyone. □

I remember bowling for a pig (OK a piglet) in 1960 at a Sunday afternoon fete in the grounds of Beaulieu Abbey in the New Forest whilst on holiday. Quite what I would have done with it, had I won, is open to speculation and I can just see my parents sharing the journey home with it in the Armstrong. Ed.

“I do not object to people looking at their watches when I am speaking. But I strongly object when they start shaking them to make sure they are still going.” *Judge Norman Birkett*



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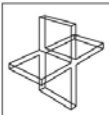
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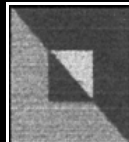
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Hunstanton Lions Club

It's now December and very nearly the end of 2009. There's still a lot to do before the year ends. Starting on Monday December 7th for the week we've invited all the senior citizens in our area to a special **"Turkey & Tinsel"** lunch at the Green Lodge Restaurant on the Green in Hunstanton. The cost is only £3.00 per head, with the Lions subsidising the balance. There may still be some places left for the end of the week, so if you're interested please call 01485 533108. This has been very well received, but we hope to be able to fit you in.

Keeping on the run-up to Christmas as usual we're Carol Singing with the residents of Docking Grange in December. Every year we do this and they really enjoy themselves. We leave giving them each a Christmas present. Talking of Christmas presents our now famed **"Christmas Grotto"** is again being held in the basement of Hunstanton Town Hall, so please bring along all your young children to be escorted by our elves, walk by the misty stream, be mystified by lights and bubbles ending up meeting Santa himself, who will give them all a present. Our thanks go to a local Toyshop who have sourced some really good presents. This will be open on Saturday and Sunday December 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th, and Christmas Eve. To coincide with the Grotto we are holding a **"Craft Fair"** in the Town Hall so come along and buy some special last minute gifts for Christmas. There's going to be a great selection of toys, decorations, jewellery, home made preserves, plants and lots, lots more. Really something for everyone.

As it is the end of the year we would like to remind you of some of the activities we've been involved in during 2009. Our limited number **Raffle** for a pair of ladies and men's **"Bottecchia Bicycles"** was won by Angela Churchman of Snettisham. This was drawn at one of our Car Boot Sales at the Glebe School in October, and raised well over £1000.00 for our charity funds. Angela was phoned just after the draw and turned up to receive her prizes from our President and Lady Mayor, Christine Ernshaw, who drew out the lucky ticket. Thank you all for supporting this raffle. We again held a very successful **"Bowls Weekend"** at Old Hunstanton Social Club in August. This year the weather really helped. The sun blazed down on us all weekend. There were many winners, and we had to give special thanks to three small girls, Hayley, Jasmine and Tanika who unbeknown to us charged to paint finger nails, then gave all the money they collected to the Lions. The Bowls weekend is now an annual event, so look out for details of how to enter in **"Village Voice"** next year.

During the summer we, with the fantastic help of Fred and Chadwick Pooley and their team who opened the Fair especially for us, invited the children from the **"Ethel Tipple"** school, King's Lynn, and the Woodside school in Sherringham to have a day out at the Fair. We paid for the coaches to bring these disadvantaged children to enjoy **'all the fun of the fair'** ending up with **"Fish 'n Chips"** and a drink. The look on their faces told all. This year we had well over 200 children and helpers, who had a great time, as indeed we did !!! This is an event we hold every year, and it is very close to our hearts.

November again saw us out and about collecting money for **"Children in Need"**. We tour all the pubs and clubs in our area on the Friday night collecting for this very worthy cause, with all the money collected going directly to **"Children in Need"**.

We also held a **"Race Night"** in conjunction with the local branch of the **"Naval Association"**. This helped them raise much needed finance for their group.

Not only do we donate to people and organisations who need financial help, we also provide practical help ourselves. Among other things this year we are providing a new kitchen to a local Scout Group, and later in the year we laid out a back garden with two raised sandpits, pathways, and a paved area for children's swings etc. at a refuge in our area. For this project we are extremely grateful to Messes Ridgeons of Snettisham who arranged at no cost to us the supply

of nearly all of the materials involved. Without their great help this project would have been far more costly.

We also yearly sponsor a young child in Zimbabwe – Shepherd Tenser for his education, and are helping build a school in Nepal. In future editions of “Village Voice” we hope to give you more information about our International help.

After a small rest over Christmas and the New Year we’ll be back with new ideas and events. **Our Car Boot Sales** will be held every other Sunday at the Glebe School starting around Easter. Exact dates will be given in “Village Voice”, as will details of all the other events we are planning. Lions Club International is the worlds largest service club organisation with 1.3 million members in 45000 clubs in 205 countries and geographic areas. Founded in 1917 we are people who volunteer our time for good causes. Remember our motto is “**We Serve**”, so as ever if you know of somebody or organisation who we may be able to help, please let us know.

Our area extends from Brancaster to Dersingham taking in Docking, Shernborne, Sedgeford, Snettisham, Heacham, Hunstanton, and all the villages along the coast.

We hope you all have a great Christmas, and wish you a very “Happy New Year”. □



The Dersingham Beat

Safer Neighbourhood Team Update:

Some of you may have heard that we had a burglary and an attempted burglary in the village on the 6th of October. (Please be reassured that burglaries are very rare in Dersingham)

I was overwhelmed by the volume of calls made to the police regarding a suspicious male and a silver car seen in the village at that time. The information was pulled together and further house calls were made by PC Adrian Fryett and PCSO Jackie Smith which provided enough information to link this suspicious male with the burglaries. This male has been arrested at his home address thanks to one sharp eyed resident who wrote down his car registration.

Can I please express my gratitude to all involved, I know that PCSO Katie Richardson phoned all the witnesses back to update and thank them personally.

This is a great example of how a community should look after itself. Well done all.

If anyone wishes to set up a “Home Watch” scheme in their street, please contact the team on 0845 4564567.

I am particularly concerned at present regarding a group of youths that are causing a nuisance in Dersingham in the evenings. Members of this group are obtaining alcohol and consuming it in the area of the recreation area and the allotments. Damage has been caused and eggs have been thrown at houses. My team are working hard to identify those responsible and we will deal firmly with them. They are interacting with youths whilst on their patrols and asking them to account for their actions when appropriate. Most youngsters know how to behave but there are others that unfortunately do not. These youths will be visited at home and their actions will be brought to the attention of their parents. Please don’t let this happen to you.

If you have children aged between 12 and 16 and allow them to go out after dark, ask yourself these simple questions.....”Do I know where they are, who they are with and what they are doing?”

I hope to have some more good news for you in my next instalment.

If you have any knowledge or information about anything that is affecting your quality of life in Dersingham please ring us on 0845 4564567 or e-mail us on sntdersinghamgayton@pnn.police.uk

Thanks for your support and may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. □

Andy



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Dersingham Community Lunches



L to R Andrew Lawn, Bob Tipling the Mayoress & Mayor & Ann Pope

What a pleasure it was for those present at the last Dersingham Community Lunch on Thursday 17th September to be able to greet the Mayor and Mayoress of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, Michael and Gillian Pitcher, who entered into the spirit of the event, mixing with the gathered members of the community, and with the Mayor speaking to the audience about his chosen charity, the Alzheimers Society.

The guest speaker, Andy Lawn, fundraiser for the Norfolk Hospice Tapping House, spoke of his role within that organisation and the

importance of the income from events which are held for the purpose, and of the events which were already planned. (*See page 54. Ed*)

Parish Councillor Gill Sergeant spoke of the need for more Parish Councillors to supplement the existing limited number of members, the full complement should be 18, but the council was short of this number. The main requirements for becoming a Member are that you should be aged 18 or over and be either a resident of the village or be employed within its boundary. Should you wish to be considered for co-option call the Parish Clerk on 01485 541465, or call into the office during opening hours.

The head teachers of the two village schools were keen to let the attendees know of their planned co-operative efforts which would see, for example, one Board of Governors for both schools. The Dersingham Community Lunch co-ordinator was later to be able to assist in promoting a meeting of villagers and other interested parties by use of his e-mail list with which to contact those who are already receiving invitations to the luncheons.

Our thanks go to Ann Pope, head teacher of St George's (CE) School, who had provided the venue and had sponsored the excellent buffet, which was prepared by the school's catering team who also deserve our appreciation.

The next Dersingham Community Lunch is to take place at St Nicholas Church Hall on Wednesday 18th November, being sponsored by Tim Rounce of Rounce & Evans Estate Agents and Luke Loades of Rounce & Evans Property Management.□

Bob Tipling

Please don't forget that if your business or organisation is not already on the invitation list it can be arranged by contacting Bob Tipling, Dersingham Lunch Co-ordinator, at e-mail communitylunches1@btinternet.com or telephone 01485 541347.



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The time leading up to Christmas is one of mixed emotions for many people. Whether or not Christmas has any religious significance for us, there are extra things that need to be done, presents bought, food prepared and people to be thought about. The weather is often miserable, and as we hurry to make our preparations (trying to remember those whose needs are often greater than our own too) we can become weary and sometimes wonder what all the fuss is about.

For some, all these pressures are all the harder as they struggle to cope with the loss of a loved one in the family. The dark evenings heighten their sense of loneliness, and the emphasis on the family can be almost unbearable as the world around them start their celebrations earlier and earlier.

For some time the hospice movement has recognised this distress and tried to offer the bereaved an opportunity to acknowledge what they have lost by joining in an act of remembrance for their loved ones early in December. We of the Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House have held these Light-up-a Life services across the area we serve for some years now and have been told how they have helped many people cope with the Christmas season. We ask a donation for each candle lit in the memory of a loved one and we put every penny of this towards continuing the work of Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House with those with life-limiting illnesses, both at the day hospice and in their own homes.

Christmas is often a time when we remember loved ones and those precious to us, many of whom are no longer with us. Everyone is welcome at the services, irrespective of belief, race or age so please come along as we want to light up as many lives as possible in this, our 25th Anniversary year. To receive details of this year's services, and to find out how you can contribute to Light-Up-A-Life, please contact a member of the Hospice's Fundraising Team on 01485 542891. Meanwhile, the dates of the services for your diary are:

St. Margaret's Church, King's Lynn, Sunday 6th December 3.00 pm

Sandringham Visitor Centre, Monday 7th December 4.00 pm

St. Edmund's Church, Hunstanton, Wednesday 9th December 6.30 pm

St. Edmund's Church, Downham Market, Sunday 13th December 3.00 pm

Dersingham Evening WI

In September, Mark Fuller, from the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, gave us a detailed account, accompanied by slides, showing the hard work that had gone into the refurbishment of The Walks & Greyfriars Tower in King's Lynn. He also told us some of its history and members were very impressed to see the improvements that have been made.

Arrangements were finalised for the Macmillan Coffee morning on the 18th, which raised a total of £306.

Members were reminded that the subscription for the coming year will be £29.50.

Yvonne Autie came to our October meeting and we enjoyed hearing the history of rag rug making. She also gave a demonstration of 'prodding' and 'hooking', two methods by which rugs, wall hangings, even bags and tea cosies can be made, showing us numerous samples of her work, some of them quite breathtaking.

Tickets, priced £2 each, were available for those wishing to attend the Sandringham Group W.I. in November. □

Phyl Jones

Property News

A personal view by one of our local estate agents



The property market has been in the doldrums but I am glad to report that we have seen a huge improvement over the Spring and Summer months. Prices have fallen from the peak in 2007 by about 15% in this area which is less than many other parts of the country.

This area has a broad appeal to applicants seeking retirement Bungalows, family Houses, Holiday homes, first time buyers and investors looking for buy-to-let properties. Living here we perhaps tend to take the facilities for granted and so it's useful sometimes to remember the wonderful beaches, Sandringham Park, coastal path walks, excellent bird watching, golf, sailing and other recreational facilities we have on our doorstep. None of this has changed in this recession, so the appeal of West Norfolk remains constant and this has helped to stabilise house prices.

One of the main problems has been the lack of finance from Building Societies and Banks which has caused huge problems. This situation has improved gradually over the year but it is unlikely there will be any relaxation of lending criteria making mortgages particularly difficult for first time buyers. These buyers are being asked for a 10% deposit which at local levels is likely to be £12000 - £15000 which in many cases makes it difficult to get a foot on the ladder without the 'Bank of Mum and Dad' but without this help many young couples are forced to look in cheaper areas of the county. A sustained improvement in the housing market will depend on the availability of mortgage funds and levels of unemployment.

Home Information Packs have proved to be a bit of a non event and whilst it is a legal requirement for the estate agent to have the HIP in their office before marketing can begin, very few applicants have asked to see a copy. The cost of providing a HIP has levelled out at about £250 including Vat which can be deferred until completion of a sale in some cases. The Conservative Party has pledged to scrap the HIP and just retain the Energy Performance Certificate so whether the HIP in its present form has a long term future only time will tell. The original thought was that by providing the HIP at an early stage it would shorten the Conveyancing process but in our experience this hasn't happened so in many cases sales still take between 8 – 10 weeks to complete.

We have been extremely busy over recent months with many new applicants registering on our mailing lists so I am optimistic that we are over the worst and the improvement in the housing market will continue. If you are considering moving get advice from a reputable independent local agent who is member of the National Association of Estate Agents.

The rental market is also very busy at present with the greatest demand being for 2 or 3 bedroom properties in and around the Dersingham, Snettisham, Heacham and Hunstanton area.

In the current economic climate, it is as important as ever to use a Letting Agent who is using the latest referencing procedures and more importantly is able to bond all of the Landlord's and Tenants money. As members of ARLA you can be assured of the best possible service as well as making sure all the old and new legislation is adhered to. □

Christmas Recipes from the Bluebell Cottage Kitchen, by Lindsey Davis

Orange and Cranberry Marmalade

1kg sweet oranges with one lemon
250g fresh cranberries
2kg granulated sugar
5ml each of mixed spice, cinnamon

Chop oranges and lemon, remove pips. Cook in pressure cooker with 500ml water for 10 minutes or boil in large pan until soft. Allow to cool a little, then whiz in food processor for a few minutes. Put in preserving pan with cranberries, sugar and spices and another 500ml water. Bring to the boil slowly to allow sugar to dissolve. Boil to setting point. Pour into prepared jars.

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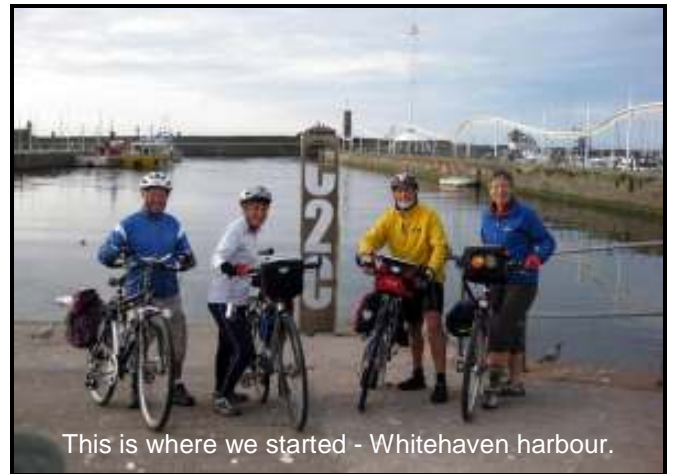


C2C - A coast to coast bike ride.

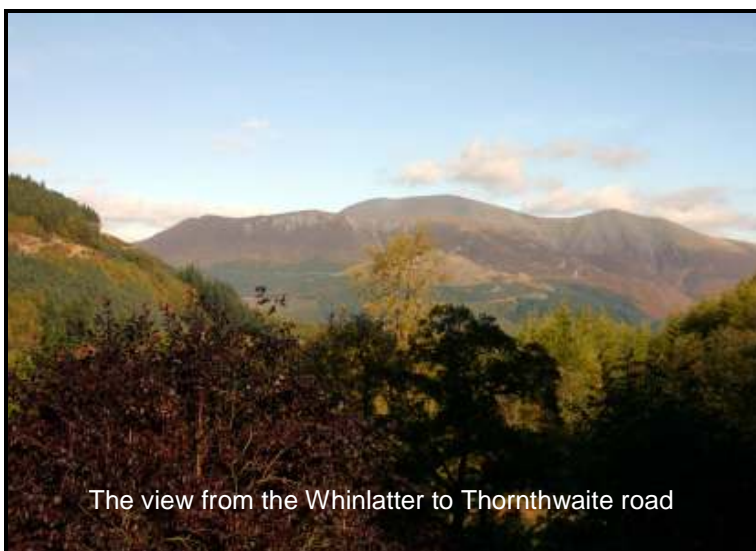
I blame Anne Armstrong. She mentioned one day that it would be a good idea for a few of us to cycle from Whitehaven on the west coast to Sunderland on the east coast along the Sustrans Routes 71 and 7. Sustrans is an organisation dedicated to encouraging the use of sustainable transport, and is responsible for those blue cycle-route signs dotted all over the place. There is now a network of more than ten thousand miles of signed cycle routes throughout the British Isles, and Routes 71 and 7 are just two of them. Route 71 begins at Whitehaven and leads one on a combination of on-and off-road tracks into the Lakeland hills. Just before Penrith one joins Route 7 which continues across the north Pennines, to join the Waskerley Way and gently downhill past Consett and Beamish, ending at Sunderland, the sea, and one option to end the C2C. The other option is to end at Tynemouth via Newcastle, and we chose to dip our wheels at both Sunderland and Tynemouth, returning to Newcastle for the train journey home.

Our group consisted of Anne, Angela Mason, Mike O'Brien, Bob Dilks and me (Trev Riches). We travelled by train from King's Lynn to Whitehaven, and back from Newcastle. In theory, travelling with bikes by train should be straightforward, but the British system of lots of separate companies covering different parts of the country makes the practicalities exciting, not to say at times frustrating and uncertain. If I told you that each company has its own set of cycle-carriage rules, and some of them seem to be framed to lower ones spirits, would you be surprised? No? Nor were we. In the event, we got there and back without developing ulcers. To get there we had to change at Ely, change at Peterborough, change at Newcastle, change at Carlisle, in order to disembark at Whitehaven. With five of us in the party, each with a loaded bike, and one of the trains having only a single carriage, we had to be prepared to split up and rejoin at Whitehaven. We had cycle and seat reservations on the Peterborough to Newcastle stretch, and took pot-luck on the rest. It worked, and on the afternoon of Friday 11th September we cycled to Whitehaven harbour and dipped our wheels in the sea next to the C2C sign.

We stayed at bed and breakfasts, covering about 35 miles between each. In Norfolk, such mileages would be rated as modest, but when one considers that our total ascent was 13,217 feet, and descent 13,186 feet, (so Memory Map tells me), we thought 35 daily miles plenty. Our first day took us to Keswick, where we stayed in the youth hostel which is located in a beautiful spot on the River Greta. It has a licensed restaurant and laundry/drying rooms, and is altogether satisfactory. Our Whitehaven accommodation was at the top of a b****y great hill and presented



This is where we started - Whitehaven harbour.



The view from the Whinlatter to Thornthwaite road

a rather dingy aspect, so our lungs ached and our hearts sank, but our hosts were warm and welcoming, and we each had our own double en-suite room, so all was well. Our first serious climb was over the Whinlatter Pass, which is getting on for 1,000 feet up. The countryside is stunning, the Whinlatter Forest Park a mountain biker's heaven, and we were very relieved to reach the tea-room. After this welcome break there followed an exciting downhill off-road forest trail to Thornthwaite, and an easy ride into Keswick. The great thing about cycling downhill is that gravity takes



Anne and Angela - not another b****y hill!

over and the living is easy. BUT... when crossing the Lakeland hills and the north Pennines, every DOWN is followed by an UP, and there were times when one reflected that Noel Coward was right – Norfolk *is* flat. On our ride from Keswick to Little Salkeld we paused in Greystoke, home of Lord Greystoke of Tarzan fame, and of the Greystoke Cycle Café and Tea Garden. We enjoyed Indian summer weather and only modest hills for the rest of that day. In Keswick I met a cyclist who assured me that, having crossed Whinlatter, our stress levels would go no higher. Our climb the following day over Hartside and out of Garrigill to a height approaching 2,000 feet just went to show how wrong he was. The

Hartside Café at the top of the hill was a godsend, and we made the most of a very welcome break.

On our third day we climbed over Black Hill, which at 609 metres is the highest of the trip, and that evening we stayed at the Allenheads Inn; old, warm and comfortable. We slept well. The run down into Allenheads, exciting as it was, carried a warning in its tail, and sure enough there was a steep climb to Currick the following morning, and even steeper climbs out of Rookhope and Stanhope onto the Waskerley Way. From here all was bliss. The Waskerley Way is a cycle track following an old railway route which used to carry raw materials to feed the heavy industries of the northeast. Thus



Misty day high up



One of many sculptures en route from Consett to Sunderland.

the gradient is gentle and well suited to Norfolk cyclists. Every one of our overnight b & bs had its own character, all good with the exception of our Newcastle venue which was bad enough to be good in a sort of masochistic way. None of us makes a habit of sharing the bathwater, but here we made an exception, (girls after girls, boys after boys)!! Not quite as bad as the tin baths of my youth, but with less headroom since we occupied the somewhat cramped loft space; being in a good humour at the end of our ride we forgave the proprietors, and kept our fingers crossed that there wouldn't be a fire.

It only remained for us to catch our train(s) home, and to reflect on a thoroughly enjoyable trip. If any reader would like information on local cycling organisations, please email me at:

trevorriches@talktalk.net □

Trevor Riches



Beautiful stretch between Sunderland and South Shields.



Bob, Mike, Anne, Trev & Angela at the end of an energetic Coast to Coast ride.

THE CHRISTMAS TEASER

These 10 pictures were taken within a 20 mile radius of Dersingham. Just work out where and what. Answers in the next edition.





The term is going well and numbers are good for the new intake. We have as usual set up in the hall for babies and toddlers, with the carpet area and ride on toys.

First day back was the photo shoot with Tempest coming once again this year, all the children waited very patiently for their family photos to be taken. All the photos were delightful and everyone was very pleased with them, even though it had been quite a long tiring day all round. Our guest for Sept was Natasha, a qualified Montessori teacher. The children really enjoyed the activities she set up for them. It was very interesting to learn some different methods of encouraging your child's growth and learning potential.

In October Eddie, one of our local firemen, took us for a tour of the fire station, he gave all the children an activity pack, where, after being told the safety instructions, we were all allowed to have a turn squirting water with the hose, which the toddlers thoroughly enjoyed. We then all had fun looking around the fire engine. There was then a photo shoot with the Lynn News who kindly agreed to let us use the photograph with this article.

The craft that day was black silhouette buildings against a red "London's burning" sky. One of the children decided to present the fireman with their completed craft as a thank you for the visit. This now holds pride of place in the fire station.

On Friday 16th Oct we held a Bingo evening to raise funds toward the Christmas party, the night was a great success. It was a busy day for Eddie as he was also our MC/caller for the evening, making it a brilliant night for all. We had a pair of cushions from Christianna Fabrics as the last prize of the evening, with chocs from Budgens and wine from Suttons. We would just like to thank all the local businesses who donated prizes throughout the year.

On the 13th November we have Jenny bringing her wares from her company Printsrus to give some ideas of personalised Christmas gifts that are available.

Fraser the post master is coming along again this year for the morning to collect the letters to Father Christmas, he said he'd enjoyed it so much last year that it would be a pleasure to do again. We are hoping to have a tree at St Nicholas Christmas tree fair this year, the mums and toddlers

can have fun making something for the tree and take part in decorating it.

We are organising our Christmas party. Father Christmas will be visiting and we are hoping that all of our special guests over the year will be able to come along. The children are going to have invitations so they can invite nanny and granddad too, then they can come along and join in all the fun. □





From the parish office...

I hope that you are all ready for Christmas as it is only a few weeks away. It seems to come quicker every year but it may be down to my age, or bank account.

The new office seems to have gone down well as we are getting to meet more of you. The more the merrier and hopefully any problems you may have had are being solved if it's within our powers.

We seem to be having a lot of calls regarding streetlights now the dark nights are with us. If you would like to adopt a streetlight by your house, you would be most welcome. Contact the office for more details.

I would also like to welcome our new Councillors Mr James, Mr Freeman, Mr Loades and Mrs Williams. I hope that you will be happy on the Council and know that you will make a difference to the parish. I have just had an enquiry from another gentleman wishing to come on board so that will leave us with just one vacancy. Hopefully it has your name on it!! It would be great to have the full set.

Still keep the laminated posters coming for the Public Noticeboard; it is well used and must be an asset to the village and its organisations. The suggestion box is being used more often, which is good; keep your ideas and concerns coming in.

I have been asked by the Editor to include the Planning Decisions for the last couple of months so here they are:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 09/01235/F | Mr & Mrs Bradley, 8 Manorside, Dersingham. Application for construction of detached bungalow with integral garage. – Granted |
| 09/01250/F | Mr G Coton, 17 Woodside Close, Dersingham. Application for extension to dwelling. - Granted |
| 09/01228/CU | Sandringham Estate, Hill House Farm, Fern Hill, Mill Road, Dersingham. Application for change of use of redundant farm building to storage and distribution use for Sandringham Foods. – Granted |
| 09/01383/CU | Mr Arthur Massen, Application for change of use from residential to business (A2) at 1A Jubilee Court, Hunstanton Road, Dersingham. - Granted |
| 09/01374/F | M Baird, Application for construction of conservatory at 5 Beech Drift, Dersingham. - Granted |
| 09/01136/O | Mr R Lefevre, 75A Manor Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn. Application for construction of 3 bedroom cottage and alteration to main access. - Granted |

Well I think that is all from me. If there is something happening in the village that you wish to know more about, or not happy about, please do not hesitate to contact me at the office, and I will do my best to help. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. □

Sarah

Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening Times

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

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can be obtained at the Council Office during the above times.

The Grumpy Bit

THAT DREADED 'C' WORD - CHRISTMAS!

Every year, from September onwards, we're bullied into believing that we've got to start preparing for that one time in the year when everybody in the civilised world is supposed to SPEND too much, EAT AND DRINK too much, and above all ENJOY THEMSELVES!! Equally surely, every year, from September onwards, everyone moans and groans about the COST, the WORK, the SHOPPING in over-heated stores, not knowing WHAT TO BUY, the TIME it all takes, the CALORIES you eat, the criminal WASTE, and the cost, the cost, the COST of it all. Everywhere you go, on the bus, in the train, on the High Street, people whinge, 'God, I hate Christmas!' and often they add, 'But you've got to do it, haven't you?'

HOLD ON A MINUTE!! GOT to do it? Says who?

Let's do a rethink. We're not automatons. Actually, we don't HAVE to do any of it. We can choose NOT to be forced down Christmas grinder, to emerge with great holes in our bank commercialism and RECLAIM scowls with smiles. Peace and you sigh. Well, let me suggest

You could begin by asking would be willing to STOP not to do it. After all, who needs another tea-cloth? Or some that will just get handed on from bring-and-buy stall? How many

burn? How many boxes of sweet things go uneaten because the recipient is diabetic? A friend of ours, Christmas after Christmas, received a bottle of after-shave from a lady who evidently hadn't noticed the beard he'd been sporting for ten years. What was she trying to say - 'I don't notice you as a person, but look how kind and giving I am?' BONG!! Years ago, my sister and I decided not to send each other gifts costing more than fifty pence. We had a lot of fun finding and swapping ingenious 50p items. You could do the same. Put the Merry back into Christmas.

Of course nobody wants to be nicknamed 'Scrooge'. It takes some courage to be the first to suggest that you might drop the annual exchange of unwanted bric-a-brac, but if you can summon the nerve you'll be amazed how relieved your friends will be. Believe me. We've tried it and it works.

Same applies with Christmas cards. When our list grew to way over a hundred, costing a small fortune in both cards and postage, one year we cut out the people we could hardly remember. Next year, those people very happily stopped sending to us, too. We have now started to cut out all those who send cards mechanically, with just a scribbled signature, 'Fred and Ethel', not even a word of greeting or news. Each year, these people sigh with relief and concur, only too happy to stop so long as someone else takes the initiative. Genuine friends who are far away and who care about you will enjoy receiving a card and maybe a few news headlines to keep them up to speed (but most people hate those computerised round-robins boasting at length about expensive holidays, new cars, successful children etc. etc...).

Then again... why do we bother to send cards to friends we're actually going to see? Can't we agree with each other to make do with a cheery, sincerely meant, 'Happy Christmas!' and maybe a chat over coffee, or a cup of tea in your kitchen? Children at school may measure their self-esteem by how many cheap cards they collect, but we're supposed to be grown-up. Cards are not



the funnel and chewed up in the exhausted, bad-tempered, and balance. Let's defy the forces of CHRISTMAS, replace the goodwill... 'Oh, if only....' I hear some answers.

your family and friends if they exchanging presents. Just agree another ornament? Or yet useless hand-crafted piece of tat jumble sale to car-boot-sale to scented candles can one person





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important. (Except to the people who make and sell them of course, but that's their concern, not mine.)

Christmas is, as the cliché goes, a time for children. Well, we wouldn't want to deprive the little darlings, though frankly when I've watched my own grandchildren ravage their way through mounds of beautiful parcels only to emerge from oceans of ruined wrapping paper moaning: Got that already... Oh, not another jig-saw... That's so babyish! ..This is the wrong size... the wrong colour... hate those... never wanted that... Bo-o-oring!... Don't they know I'm a boy?... They may not say it aloud but you can see it in their disappointed faces. You want to say to those absent present-givers, 'Why do you bother? Save your hard-earned money.' Or, better still, give it to children who don't have a dozen other people buying things for them. Agree to send a cheque to the Children of the Andes, or the orphans of Africa. Get your own children involved, explain to them how lucky they are to have any presents at all, let alone a slightly smaller mountain this year. Some of the world's poorest children would be delighted with a hillock. And what about the waste of paper, expensively bought only to be thrown away, adding to the piles of

rubbish in our land-fills?

Then the food... Do we HAVE to have turkey and 'all the trimmings'? Even if we hate them? Turkey leaves me cold, and as for overcooked Brussels sprouts... Lately we've settled for a joint of beef and vegetables we actually like - much more of a treat.

On the day itself... Try cooking dinner in the evening, rather than at lunchtime. You have the whole morning then to enjoy lazing (or watching the Huns'ton swim!!), something light for lunch, the rest of the afternoon to share the cooking, and when you've done eating you can roll straight into bed to sleep it off. Much more civilized. And why not stagger the celebrations, spread it out over the whole ten days or so, instead of trying to cram everything and everyone into one day? If father-in-law hates Auntie May, don't invite them both at the same time. Make it easier on everyone involved.

I could go on, but you've got the idea. Anybody with me? Want to join a campaign?

Anyway, Crumble Chrimble to you all. □

May B Humbug

And also:

As I sit back on a Sunday afternoon and watch the Grand Prix on the television, I can help but feel that strange sensation we call de javu. I ask myself, 'where else have I seen cars speeding towards me and flashing past my eyes in an instant?' Ah, yes, Mounthbatten Road of course, the place where all budding Lewis Hamiltons seem to 'do their laps'. The last thing we want is a car nestled between the sofa and the television! We must remember that unless stated otherwise, all roads hold the 30mph speed limit. A limit which is in place for a reason. The sooner we all remember this, the less chance someone has of being hurt - or even worse..

Concerned resident of Mounthbatten Road

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Old Girls Patch

by Meetze

Hi, my name is Meetze, and I am an Essex cat. I am the “old boring” sister; Mini Me is referring to in the last issue of Village Voice. FYI, I am not old, I am only 10 and I am definitely not boring, only laid back. It is not my fault that I like that monkey puzzle tree. It is just at the right spot and has the right height for me to see everything and everybody from there. My sore paws when I climb back down are an acceptable side effect. And I am not a Wuzz either. I just know it doesn't make any difference if I struggle or not when I am getting the orange de-worming tablet put down my throat.

Anyway, I moved in with my 2-legged sponsors when they moved in. Gradually. First I just sat in their garden looking pretty and watched them. Then I started walking around and falling over in front of them, showing them my snow white belly. And they fell for it, I got loads of stroking. After a few days of doing that I meowed loudly in front of their back door. They understood and gave me some food. I increased my vocal sounds on a daily basis and after a while I got my own bowl and regular breakfast and supper. As it got colder outside I started napping on the washing machine in the conservatory. And they let me. I even got a cosy blanket. And it got colder and colder outside. My new found food source felt sorry for me and put the heating on for me in that conservatory. Guess where I moved to next? Bingo, the window sill over the radiator became my new napping place. And my blanket moved with me. It was at my new spot when I came back from a long walk. As it got warmer again, they left the back door open and one sunny day I just went inside and had a good look around. After investigating for what seemed hours I got really tired. So I curled up on the nearest armchair and had a nap. I woke up because I got stroked. I started purring and I got picked up and carried to the sofa and put down on the lap. They kept talking to me, but they must be foreign, because I did not understand a single meow of what they were saying. It did not even sound like meowing. More like stuttering with a bad cold. Whatever, I am a happy cat. Now, 8 years later I have my breakfast, sit in front of the back door when I want to go out, come back a few times a day to check up on things, sleep in my own room in a massive double bed on top of the cosy fluffy duvet and even can bring my boyfriend.

I am only visiting Dersingham on the weekends and on holidays. During the week I am in Essex and there I have the boyfriend. A fit one. He comes in the morning to pick me up. But before we take off, we are having breakfast together. He takes me back home for lunch and dinner. But he is not allowed to stay overnight. Sometimes he sneaks in and we having a nap together on the



armchair in the afternoon. And nearly every Friday my limo comes and my chauffeur is taking me to Dersingham. A much nicer place if you ask me. So many nice things to see. Butterflies, bumble bees, rabbits, little birdies, large birdies, loads of dogs and cats and sometimes even a muntjac deer.

BUT, after Mini Me's accident, I am not allowed anymore to go outside in Dersingham. (Too many racing drivers on Admirals Drive.) I now have a new spot. I sit in the window and can see everything from there. Now that it is getting colder outside, I prefer the window seat anyway, because the radiator is just below me. And I have people pointing at me when they see me. Some come to the window and poke their finger at me. Good thing the glass is between us, otherwise I may poke back.

Got to go now. My paw hurts from typing. It is hard without a thumb. Until next time ... □

Fundraising for the Norfolk Hospice

Andrew Lawn

I have recently been appointed Fundraiser (Events and Marketing), at The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House. Although based in Snettisham The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House, does as the name suggests and serves an area stretching from Wisbech in the west to Dereham in the east and from Mundford in the south to Sheringham on the tip of the North Norfolk coast.

Now I imagine many of you reading this will be thinking “fundraiser, brackets events and marketing” what does that actually mean? Six months ago as I finished studying for a degree in politics at the University of East Anglia I would have been amongst you.



Back then however I was too busy explaining to anyone who would listen, or more likely, lack the ability to remove themselves from ear-shot what the degree meant, to be giving much thought to what I might do with it once I left the cosseted, ruthlessly efficient debt building world of a university campus. Then, on completion of my degree the expenses scandal removed the only perk of being an actual politician. As a result my ducks all remain homeless, although they are doing OK for themselves selling Big Issues. With politics out of the equation I sought a different kind of noble profession. Luckily for my own sense of self-worth I think I found it. Now if only I could explain exactly what, it, is.

In essence my role at the Hospice is to promote and organise, revenue based, Fundraising Events. Which, in layman terms means, make as many people as possible aware of the events that are being held with a view to raising the maximum funds to support and maintain the day-to-day services the Hospice offers to the community it serves. Some of you may be aware we, as a Hospice, are looking to build a new Hospice in Hillington. This is a separate fundraising campaign to those which I am involved in and for which we have a different fundraising team in place which is based, in a rent-free office, on the Sandringham Estate.

The Hospice based at Tapping House in Snettisham costs over £1million per year to run, 85% of which we need to raise ourselves as the NHS only contribute 15%. It is this 85% which my role is focussed towards achieving.

However, the day-to-day life of a fundraiser is a difficult one to explain for a variety of reasons, the principle one being that day-to-day the job varies so dramatically. On any given day you can begin by putting up a marquee, driving 30 miles to put up signs and posters, before returning to the office to check emails and return telephone calls, before moving on to writing up press-releases for the local media, and designing posters, flyers and tickets for an event that is still three or four months off. The next day you can find yourself out of the office all day in meetings or giving talks to members of the local community. Alternatively you can find yourself in the office all day answering calls and publicising events as widely, and crucially, as cost effectively, as possible. Meanwhile if there is an event on you can find yourself gathering equipment which has somehow become more scattered around the office than ticker-tape on a windy day, or running a tombola, serving people cups of tea on a refreshment stall or just directing people to the nearest available car-parking space or vacant toilet. Any day can be any combination of the above, and any given week normally features all of them in some form or the other.

If pressed for an “average day” it would begin at 8:50am when I arrive at the Fundraising Office in Snettisham. My first job of the day is arguably the most important; I make a cup of tea. Then, mug in hand, I sit down at my desk and read through any notes that have been deposited on the desk, or emails that have slipped sneakily into my inbox overnight. Once they have been read and prioritised I get to work on those jobs that are particularly urgent. That could be a poster which needs designing, printing and distributing asap, or a newsletter or press release that needs finalising before a publication goes to print. Throughout the morning I will work my way through my now bulging, and constantly growing, in-tray. The actual task I will be working on changes rapidly throughout the morning and by lunchtime I have completed maybe 15-20 individual jobs while I have received maybe 40-50 more that need doing. After lunch I may have a cheque presentation to attend, with accompanying, pre-prepared, novelty sized cheque, or maybe a pile of posters that need distributing around the local area, or even in and around the Hospice and Fundraising Office themselves. Once back to the office I may have a team or individual meeting to discuss and re-cap where we are in terms of organising and promoting upcoming events, and what we still need to do in order to ensure that the event is publicised as widely as possible. Then before I leave off I will fire off any emails or telephone calls that will allow me to begin the process again the next day. The journey home will also normally involve me dropping off or collecting something on the route such as posters or collecting pots which are full and need replacing.

Without the support and generosity of the local community, and our volunteers, The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House would be unable to survive and provide the, completely free, care and support to our patients, and their carers, allowing them to live their lives with dignity. It is my job to try to ensure that, that same community is aware of how they can support the Hospice and enjoy a night at the Bingo, a game of Bridge, a spectacular firework display or an off-road horse ride, at the same time.

If you, having learnt all about me, wish to know more about the Hospice there is a wealth of information on both the existing, and proposed, Hospice online at www.norfolkhospice.org.uk. Alternatively, if you have any ideas for Fundraising Events please don't hesitate to send me an email. Send to andrew.lawn@norfolkhospice.org.uk or call for a chat on 01485 542891. □

Three events coming up:-

25th Nov Wed 11.00 – 17.00

Congham Charity Chic – Congham Hall

Congham Hall is opening up the grounds to host a Charity Chic day. Featuring well-known boutiques this is an excellent opportunity to browse the end-of-season reductions. Tickets are £20 and include a glass of champagne and canapés.

9th Dec Wed 18.00 Snettisham Victorian Christmas Market

What better way to kick off your festive celebrations than with this delightful Victorian Christmas market? Come and say hello at our Hospice stall.

19th Dec Sat 18.30 – 01.00

Charity Ball – Lynnsport, King's Lynn

Why not make this your Christmas Function? With a five-course meal and wine on the table, dancing to Dynamite and a raffle and auction this promises to be a very special night. Tickets are £37.50. Tables of 8 or 10. **All proceeds to the Hospice**

♦ **NORFOLK HOSPICE, TAPPING HOUSE CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW ON SALE ~ in the Hospice, the Fundraising Office, all of our shops and via mail ORDER. Two designs carry our logo, so it will be on show all over the festive season!**

FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON ANY OF THE ABOVE EVENTS PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE FUNDRAISING TEAM ON 01485 542891

David Bingham

End to End

“It is by riding a bicycle that you learn the contours of a country best, since you have to sweat up the hills and coast down them. You have no such accurate remembrance of a country you have driven through by car as you gain by riding a bicycle” - Ernest Hemingway

In the summer of 1969, I set off on a bike ride. I had no special route planned and ended up cycling down through the Cotswolds and along the north coasts of Somerset, Devon and Cornwall to Land's End. It was there that I made the rash decision to cycle up to John o' Groats. My route north meandered along the south coast of Cornwall and Devon and up through Wiltshire, County Durham and the Cairngorms. Sometimes I cycled every day and sometimes I stayed for a few days in places that I liked. The return journey was even more circuitous, going west to Cape Wrath and then down the coast of Scotland to the Lake District and east through the Yorkshire Dales. I ended up near Manchester and can clearly recall making the disheartening discovery late one afternoon that I only had four pennies in my pocket with the Pennine hills between me and home. I'd been away for 65 days and had started with £60 in my pocket so my trip had cost just under eighteen shillings and sixpence per day - I've lost the ability to work this out to the nearest farthing! I've also calculated the mileage on a modern route planner and it comes out as 2409.8 miles. This would be a bare minimum because route planners stick to main roads. In addition, back in the sixties many of the Scottish sea lochs didn't have bridges so big detours or ferries were often part of a day's cycling.

I'd always wanted to do an 'end-to-end' ride again and decided that 2009 would be the year – to mark the fortieth anniversary of my initial trip. Going both ways would take too long so I caught a train to Wick and peddled up to John o' Groats with the aim of cycling to Land's End and then returning home by train. The only real reason for going this way was that I liked the idea of ending at Land's End. A decision I soon regretted because the weather in early May this year was bad and I had to fight against strong head winds and rain almost every day.

My overnight stays were in youth hostels - in sixty-nine, the reason was financial necessity, whereas this year it was more about nostalgia and the need to dry my soaking clothes in the evening. Forty years ago, you had to do a chore before leaving in the morning and cars and booze were forbidden. All this has changed and the hostel wardens regularly offered to crack open a cool Beck's for me while I waited to sign in. What hasn't changed are the freebie shelves where hostellers leave unwanted food items for those following along. A great source of nutrition forty years ago when concoctions such as tinned pears and Weetabix were often on my menu. I still regularly managed to forget to buy food on my latest trip and was saved more than once by free culinary delights such as 'Coffeemate porridge' (don't try this at home it's repulsive - but nutritious).

This year's ride followed the Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC) YHA route west to Tongue then south via Glencoe, Loch Ness, The Lakes, The Forest of Bowland, The Welsh Marches, Bodmin Moor and on to Land's End. This is a very picturesque route of 1023 miles but was clearly designed to cross the hilliest countryside in the land! I didn't meet anyone else doing an 'end-to-end' bike ride back in the sixties but do recall meeting a few cyclists. I met an American couple in Glencoe who had cycled up from London. They were surprised when I congratulated them on their achievement because they thought that this country was so small that it didn't warrant the use of a car! I also recall a conversation with an elderly lady cyclist (she was probably in her fifties so actually only elderly in the eyes of a teenage boy). She was cycling around the country on an old black Pashley bicycle with a wicker basket on the front. We met at dusk on the moors above Consett in County Durham where the fires from the blast furnaces made a very dramatic backdrop to our short conversation. In contrast, this year I met loads of 'end-to-enders'. There was Alan, who is a big cheese in the world of suspended ceilings. He was doing the trip on a lovely old Geoff

Longstaff bicycle that he'd had completely rebuilt in the Geoff Longstaff workshop. We met on the train going north and I think we had a reality check at about the same time when we were both struck by the fact that the train was going very fast and we had been on it for a very long time! Then there was Ian who is the manager in a children's home in Manchester. He was heading in the opposite direction to me and showed me some of the footage he was filming to show the children when he got home. His excited commentary of his crossing of the Severn Bridge added to my enjoyment when I made the crossing the next day. There were also several lone women 'end to ends', including a posh girl on a black hand built Roberts cycle with a 'LEJOG' (Land's End to John o' Groats) motif painted in gold letters on the cross bar. She said that daddy was following along in the camper van to cook her meals and make her bed for the night. I only met one cyclist who was doing the journey in both directions - as I had done in the sixties. He had a heavy old Raleigh bike weighed down by a mountain of camping gear. He said his knees were spoiling things for him!

The weather wasn't good for birdwatching this year and the only bird that caught my eye was a black-throated diver I saw on a lochan in northern Scotland. I saw more on my first trip including a ring ouzel on the moors near Barnard Castle, a red-throated diver on Loch Maree and loads of Gannets diving into a shoal of fish off the west coast of Scotland. The most enjoyable wildlife spectacle this year was the stunning display of flowers and ferns in the sunken lanes of Devon and Cornwall. These were much easier to enjoy on a bicycle than they would have been if I'd driven down the same lanes in a car.

Some say that people were friendlier back in the sixties and I remember being helped by a family from Belfast who gave me a lift to a nearby town and back to buy new tyres when they found me looking forlornly at my tattered tyres on a deserted Scottish roadside. Most of the people I met this year were equally friendly. The drinkers in a rough Glasgow sports bar stopped watching the Chelsea v Barcelona match to help me find a place to stay for the night when it became clear that I wasn't going to make it to the New Lanark hostel. Admittedly, this nearly led to a pub brawl when there was some disagreement on the best advice to give. Apparently, I was the only person who'd ever wanted to stay there so the concept was new to them. A lady also came over and asked

if I needed assistance when she saw me looking dazed and confused after becoming trapped by the 'event horizon' of the town of Leigh in Lancashire.

I fell off my bike twice this year. Once while cycling up a hill in the Lake District when my forward momentum wasn't enough to counteract a sudden cross wind and once in Scotland. The latter fall resulted in a series of puncture wounds in my thigh from the chain wheel sprockets. The scars remain and so I will always be able to calculate the gear ratios I used on this year's trip. I only had one memorable close contact with the tarmac back in sixty-nine. It was in Caithness and I had to crawl under an abandoned farm cart to recover - no mobile phones then to call for help. In fact, a mobile phone wouldn't have been much use to me because I didn't know anyone with an ordinary telephone.

I missed seeing the moon landing back in sixty-nine. When it was happening I was staying in a remote bothy on a hillside looking out over the sea to the Western Isles. It was heated by peat blocks and lit by paraffin lamps. I was pleased that the





television coverage was repeated this year and was probably more amazed than I would have been in the sixties at the thought of two guys standing on a Bacofoil covered bedstead as it hurtled above the lunar landscape - guided by less computer power than a modern microwave oven.

This year the weather seemed to get worse and worse the further south I got. Cycling conditions on the exposed top of Bodmin Moor were horrendous. The rain came



down in torrents and all I could see were waving sheets of water from which mysterious megalithic standing stones would loom into view every now and again. Conditions improved on the very last day for my obligatory photo at Land's End. The chap who took it said his father would have taken my picture in the same spot back in the sixties. Coincidentally, his father was the one who set me off on my 'end to end' ride because he told me there was also a signpost and resident photographer in John o' Groats (I just went to get my photo taken). I now have a matching set of four photos and I've sent off for my CTC certificates and 'end to end' fabric badges. I was never a boy scout so these will be my first achievement badges. Better late than never!! □



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Bog News



This time of year brings a different feel to the reserve. The summer migrants have all but disappeared and the winter birds have begun arriving. The relatively bright colour of the heather has been replaced with vibrant browns and yellows and the trees are beginning to lose their leaves. In the skies skeins of Pink Footed geese can be seen flying from their roosts in the Wash to the newly harvested Sugar Beet fields.

This autumn has been a relatively dry one but finally after a few days rain there is a change on the reserve and a sign that we are in the full throes of autumn. Fungi have been slowly appearing across the site since August but now the bog and heath are awash with spectacular colours. We have many species of fungi on the reserve and the reserve total at the moment stands around 130 species. The main species that many people can relate to is the Fly Agaric. This has quite an exotic feel to it with a bright red cap and white spots on the top. This is the fungus that is normally seen in many children's books and is always seen as the typical toadstool. This can be found on the reserve quite often and is normally associated with Silver Birch trees but is poisonous so should be treated with caution.

Another common fungus found here at Dersingham Bog is the birch Polypore. This is known as a bracket fungus and is normally seen on the trunk of a silver birch tree. Many people think of fungi as being the traditional toadstool shape but there are a large variety of fungi that can be found growing on trees like the Birch Polypore. Many of the Birch Polypores you see on the reserve will probably be found on dead birch trees although they can be found on living specimens as well.

This time of year is a busy time on the reserve and is when we undertake the majority of our scrub management works. The reason for removing scrub such as birch and pine is that, Dersingham Bog supports one of the last remaining fragments of lowland heathland in eastern England. Since 1960, 85% of the UK's heathland has been lost, resulting in significant declines in the many species that are dependent upon it.

Since 1989, Natural England has restored 55 hectares of heathland on this reserve, creating the necessary habitat to allow species such as glow-worm, nightjar, woodlark and the red-tailed cuckoo bumblebee to thrive once more. This year we will be felling approximately 8 hectares of



self-sown pines from the former heathland plateau. Felling will start in mid October and will continue until early February 2010. For health and safety reasons, Le Hair's Hike will be closed throughout this time. The aim of this felling is to further improve the available habitat for the key species at Dersingham Bog and also to restore part of the heathland area that has been lost from this area.

This autumn Nigel Downer, a local photographer, has been working with local schools on a project on the reserve here at

Dersingham. The idea of the project is to introduce local children to the wildlife on the site by visiting the area and Nigel is showing them the wildlife that occurs from photos that he has taken on the reserve. This has been very successful with good participation from local schools.

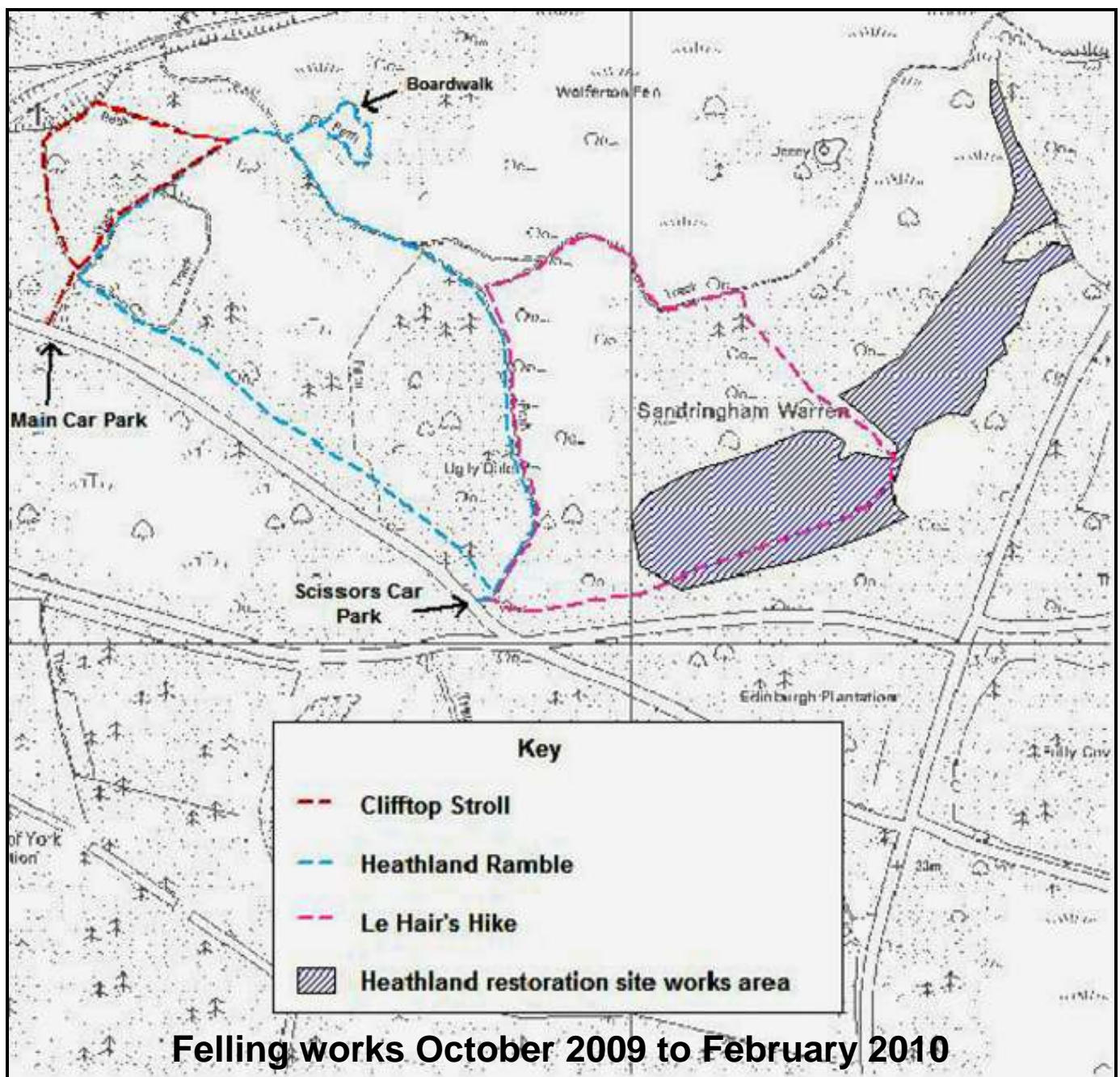
There have been many autumn migrants returning to the country and you may have noticed the flocks of Redwings moving throughout the area. From the cliff at Wolferton you can see the Wash and the RSPB reserve at Snettisham. This can be quite a good spot for seeing the waders moving off the mud flats at high tide. This can be quite an awesome spectacular and although they are fairly distant from the cliff, you can still get a good appreciation of the amount of birds that winter in the Wash.

Hopefully many of you will get the opportunity to have a walk round the reserve this winter and see the changing colours and birds that make this reserve as spectacular a place in winter as it is in summer and I look forward to seeing you on the reserve. □

Tom Bolderstone

Reserve Warden
Natural England
Dersingham Bog NNR

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24 th December CHRISTMAS EVE	4.00 pm Congregational Carols & Readings, Hunstanton Led by members of the France Family. 8.30 pm Vigil of Carols & Readings at S Cecilia's, Dersingham 9.00 pm "Midnight Mass" at S Cecilia's, Dersingham 10.45pm Midnight Mass at Our Lady's, Hunstanton
25 th December CHRISTMAS DAY	9.00 am MASS OF THE DAWN - S Cecilia's, Dersingham 11.00 am MASS OF THE DAY - Our Lady's, Hunstanton
26th December S Stephen, Martyr	10.00 am MASS at Our Lady's, Hunstanton (Altar Servers renew their Guild Promise)
27th December SUNDAY THE HOLY FAMILY	9.00 am Mass at S Cecilia's, Dersingham 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's, Hunstanton
1 st January 2009 SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD.	10.00 am MASS at Our Lady's, Hunstanton
3 rd JANUARY 2009 THE LORD'S EPIPHANY	9.00 am MASS at S Cecilia's, Dersingham 11.00 am MASS at Our Lady's, Hunstanton



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

Our September and October meetings were held at the home of our President, Mrs. Betty Edey. On both occasions we have been rather spoilt as some delicious refreshments have been provided by Betty and Deputy Chairman, Mrs. Effie Mills.

For our September meeting we had a speaker, Mrs. Jenny Shoebridge, who gave us a hilarious talk entitled "Holiday Bloomers".

The Group meeting on 14th September was hosted by Gaywood Branch at the Gay wood Community rooms. The Speaker for the afternoon was Mr. Brian Ogden, who entertained us with "Verse and Worse" again a very enjoyable afternoon.

Our Standard was on display at Wells Church for the Songs of Praise Service, our Chairman and Deputy Chairman also attended the event.

Mrs. Audrey Barlow attended the Norfolk County Poppy Appeal Launch with our Standard on 22nd October and, along with other members from our Group, was at The Princess Theatre in Hunstanton on 24th October for The Lest We Forget Evening.

We hope you all enjoyed our Coffee Morning on 5th November, the amount we raised will be in the next Village Voice. □

Greetings from Fr James Fyfe

The Season of Advent.

With its eager anticipation of the coming of Christmas I wonder what feelings, if any, Advent arouses in you and in those you know?

We face difficult times. Many are out of work, sick or simply worried about the future. The country has lost confidence in its elected leaders and some financial institutions. Many are starting to lose hope.

Years ago I visited the Orkney Islands and one of the places made a deep impression. Near the middle of the island there is a Neolithic burial mound called MAES HOWE. The burial chamber itself is reached by crawling along a low tunnel for about 50 yards and then a tall, stone-lined chamber gives the impression of being in a special place.

But why I remember it is because these primitive people cunningly and very accurately aligned the structure so that for nearly the whole year no light reaches into the chamber. However, on the day of the winter solstice, that shortest day of the year, just as the sun's rays are sinking down, only then does a beam of light strike the far wall of the chamber of death. It symbolises, for me, the belief that death is not the final end of humans – there is hope.

The story of how God became man at Christmas - the man Jesus Christ - offers the world a light which shines still in our sometimes dark world.

On behalf of the people of Saint Cecilia's Church, may I wish everyone who reads this a very happy Christmas. □

Fr James.



Fr James Fyfe celebrates his birthday



Friends at the Harvest Supper at St Cecilia's on 9 October 2009.



Fr James with Nick Grounds at his very successful flower demonstration



Participants in the 2009 Sponsored Walk which raised more than £1100.



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THE GARDENING COLUMN

By The Old Biddie

Let me introduce myself as your new garden columnist. I'm no Monty Don, but I love flowers and cannot be happy unless I have a plethora of blooms around me in my garden so, therefore, I've picked up a lot of useful information over the years. This information has come from intuition, trial and error, friends and family, books and magazines and just talking to other gardeners.

I've always gone for a cottage garden - free flowing and no earth showing. I'm not adverse to high grasses or pretty weeds growing in my borders, so long as they are pulled out before seeding. I like the garden to do what it wants to, with me there just as custodian, with an occasional bout of weeding. Keeping the grass mown, of course, is a necessity to keep it looking neat. I appreciate that many people like formal gardens that are neat and tidy, preferring bedding plants that can be dug out at the end of the season, and the soil dug over looking lovely and brown and smouldering over the winter. Each to their own, and nothing wrong with any system.

I am now living in Dersingham, having taken over my parents place, and putting to order Mother's garden, which she only stopped tending when she was 92 - she's still going strong and now 97, enjoying seeing me digging and toiling and watching the seasons' flowering. The only maintenance in the past five years to the garden has been a quick run around with the mower by a kindly neighbour - so as you can imagine how the weeds were rife.

When I moved in a year and a half ago the garden was chock-a-block in the back with ground elder, and in the front with horsetail. Both a nightmare to any gardener. I fear it will be years before I eliminate both - if that is possible. I don't want to resort to poisons, because my garden is visited by many birds, rabbits, hedgehogs and the occasional deer and I can't think of anything worse than inadvertently poisoning any of them.

I think the only way you can get rid of ground elder is to keep digging, year after year, until you have all the roots out. Leave one bit in and it soon multiplies furiously again. When I began digging, the roots had formed a huge dense mat in all the beds. I have to say that as I dug and pulled, I loved the ground elder perfume, and felt sure the plant must be useful medicinally. When in flower, the perfume is exquisite. I pick them for flower arrangements, and their aroma fills the room. I read somewhere that the Romans introduced the ground elder to Britain for medicinal purposes, so my surmise was correct. I also read that you can't get rid of it, but you can eat it! One of the recipes I found on the net: *Pluck a bunch of young ground elder leaves, take four eggs, butter, salt and pepper. Wilt the leaves in frying pan in butter, beat eggs and season, add to the leaves, cook for a few minutes or two, eat.*

I tried it, adding some parsley and dill. I've never tasted anything so delicious! A word of warning, eaten after flowering, it can give you the runs...

As to the horsetail it just keeps on going. You pull out what you can - the roots seem to reach down to Australia - and it then multiplies like a hydra-headed dragon. I find it pretty, so it's not overly worrying me, except I don't want it to take over and eliminate my flowers. Being a cottage garden, I can get away with its existence. It actually has a beneficial use too - as most garden plants do. After googleing it, I found out that it has been around for 30 million years, is almost impossible to eradicate. It has abrasive properties of silica granules and compounds which were utilised by early settlements for cleaning pots and polishing wood. It is also useful for treating open wounds, stemming blood flow, and a host of other medical things. It's welcome, then, but I'd ask it not to be quite so profuse!

As we are now in November, Nature is 'closing down' our gardens, allowing our plants and trees time to rest and rejuvenate before the Spring. There is still time to sweep up those stray leaves, though if you are lazy (like me) you can leave them on the beds to give protection to plants from the frosts, and to add nutrients to the soil. It gives the birds something to scratch through and find nourishment to keep them going through the winter. The leaves get wet, squished and reduce down and it's easy to remove them prior to Spring flowering.

Now is the time, if you wish for a barrier in your garden, to plant a 'fedge' or living fence. Some

of you might have noticed mine in Manor Road. I planted that last November. Fedges are made from willow. I googled the willow 'wands' and had to measure the area so they could calculate how many I needed. Not too good at maths I overestimated, but just as well, as I now have the fedge all round the front and enough for some in the back too. Luckily for me, they did not have the size I wanted and sent me 8' lengths instead – which was just as well, because I could push them in deeper, (about one foot) thus giving the wands more chance to 'take'. They are not rooted when you get them –the nursery cuts to order, and the wands need to be put in within two days – though if you put them in a bucket of water you have a week's grace



When I received mine, it had been snowing, the ground was rock hard, and the wands would not push in at all. I resorted to an iron rod the size of a willow wand-end and a mallet to bang it in the ground. I had to make holes every twelve inches, slanting one way, then go back and make holes slanting the other way, in between. This was hard work for an old biddie! Once the willow wands have been pushed well in, then you weave them in and out of each other making a trellis pattern. You leave enough at the top to bend over, twist, and form a top. I didn't have a clue what I was doing, but soon got the hang of it, and really enjoyed doing it. Willow is a thirsty brand, so I made sure that I watered the fedge well, especially in the dry months.

Needless to say, the local boys had great fun pulling them up, and I spent many a tearful morning viewing the damage and repairing. I resorted to weaving brambles into the top, which made pulling it to pieces painful! Luckily all but five of the wands 'took' and in the Spring the willow started to sprout. It looks very pretty, and many people passing by comment on it. As the twigs form you weave it in and out to make a thicker construction. Unfortunately it's not the kind of willow that baskets are made out of – I had enterprising thoughts of topping up the pension with some intricately woven masterpieces, but just as well, the weeding would never have got done.

Of course our gardens are now mostly bare in the November month. I like to leave quite a lot of flower heads for the birds to over-winter on. It doesn't look neat, but I would rather see my feathered friends supplied with seed and keep up their strength for the winter. To my mind a cottage garden is a garden that does what it wants with a little help from the caretaker. I let all the flowers seed where they wish, and only thin out if necessary to replant somewhere else in the garden. I like to think I have created a haven, not just for me, but for animal and bird life too.

If you haven't yet planted your spring bulbs, you can still do it. I'm often late with doing this kind of thing and have sometimes forgotten that I left some bulbs on the surface – they have still flowered! I have ordered some bare-root roses, arriving this month and I knew I would forget where I had planted my bulbs when the time came to put in the roses, so I plucked the twigs of some evergreen viburnum and also some rosemary, knowing that they all root easily when thrust in the soil. I pushed these twigs in where I planted the bulbs to mark where the bulbs are when the roses arrive. If the twigs 'take' I have the extra bonus that I have some young plants for elsewhere in the garden. If they don't take, well it doesn't matter – they will have done their job anyway.

I've got lots of 'grandmothers bonnets' (aquilegias) seedlings all over the garden which are very old originating from Mother's previous garden in Kent. I think the old varieties are much nicer than the 'frilly' modern day ones. However, I've introduced some new (lesser frillied) ones, so their mutations will be interesting to watch next year when they flower.

This year I had rampant sweet-rocket that originated from my grandfather's garden about seventy years ago, and all my rosemary bushes came from a snapped off stem from my first boyfriend's garden, oh, fifty odd years ago. Plants from friends bring them to my mind - that's the beauty of gardens, they can tell so many stories and evoke so many memories....

Now I have introduced my garden, I hope you will enjoy its doings in the future months. □

Mr. James E. Kemp

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SPIRIT OF REVENGE

A ghost story for Christmas by Steve Nowell

Nathan, Jamie, Kieran and Lee had been chums at school and their friendship continued when they all left at the age of eighteen to go their diverse ways. Kieran and Lee went to University. Nathan found employment in a small, but very progressive company, to suit his passion in life, namely developing and producing electronic equipment. He was an intelligent young man but felt that 'hands on' work was more suited to him than pursuing academic qualifications. Similarly, Jamie preferred to be 'doing' rather than learning and was well satisfied to be taken on as a Trainee Electrical Engineer with the Electricity Company in the town where they all lived. But tragedy struck the lives of Jamie's family and friends six weeks after the commencement of his traineeship when he was fatally electrocuted in an accident involving some high voltage switchgear. The exact cause of the incident was never completely established except that it was known to be something to do with the electronic equipment which controlled the switchgear. It was finally put down to the premature ageing of a particular component. Nathan could never fully come to terms with his friend's death because, although he was not personally involved, the faulty equipment had been produced by the company for which he worked.

It became a routine that when Kieran and Lee came home on vacation, they would meet up with Nathan and go clubbing in the nearest city, some twenty miles away. There were clubs in their home town but all three fellows enjoyed the rather up-market atmosphere of the city establishments. On one occasion after Nathan had driven them to the city, they went to their favourite club and found themselves a table not far away from the dance floor. They drank. In moderation – just enough to 'loosen up' as always. Suddenly, Lee stood up and vigorously brushed the front of his trousers. He turned towards Nathan.

"I say old chap. Steady on there. I will assume that you didn't intend to throw your lager all over me, but it's going to be a mite embarrassing walking past those delightful young fillies looking as though I couldn't get to the loo in time"

At first Nathan had no idea what was going on, but then he saw his glass lying on its side on the table. He was stunned. He apologized to Lee but wasn't convinced that he should have to. Had he thrown the drink? He had heard of medical conditions – he thought – where involuntary muscle spasms happened without the subject knowing anything about it.

Kieran and Lee were getting into the swing of things. Being partially buoyed up with 'liquid confidence' they ventured out into the dazzling brilliance of the dance floor and, with Kieran leading a rather self-conscious Lee behind him, they made a beeline for the girls Lee had spotted earlier. On the other hand Nathan just couldn't summon up the get up and go feeling of the other two. He went over to the bar. Above and behind it, mounted on the wall was a large plasma screen television. With little interest he looked at it until it was obvious that it was responsible for the thunderous noise throughout the room. Then Denise, probably Nathan's favourite barmaid of all time, casually came over to talk to him.

"Things not so good tonight, Naith".

"They could be better."

"Go on; relax. Get yourself out on that dance floor. There's fifty pretty girls out there who would swoon at your feet if you danced with them. Just be cool." Nathan smiled. He liked Denise – quite a lot in fact. She was so easy to talk to and a good listener. What made her a bit special in Nathan's eyes was that she would offer advice, or give an opinion, only if asked. He put his elbows on the bar and lowered his head. Should he tell Denise about his worry that he might be suffering with a medical problem? She interrupted his thoughts.

"Sorry Naith; got to go. There's a bloke down the other end screaming about having to wait. Back in a tick."

Explosion!! Everywhere was plunged into darkness. Some people panicked. Girls screamed. Several of the young men instinctively grabbed for their drinks. After a few seconds the building's

standby generator cut in and lighting was restored. Relief. But the room was almost silent apart of the general hubbub of people chattering. Nathan looked up at the television. It was virtually destroyed; with pieces of hardened plastic lying everywhere and a harness of wires hanging from the front where the screen had been. Denise came back to see the damage. Obviously the television blowing up was the cause of the explosion and the lights going out, but why had that happened? Neither Nathan nor Denise had any idea. Denise suggested that Nathan, who had been very close to the blast, might want to settle his nerves a bit with another pint.

"I can't see your glass anywhere so I'll get you a clean one" said Denise. Nathan looked at her with a raised eyebrow. He couldn't see his glass either but the blast had by no means been strong enough to blow it off the bar. Was Denise having a joke with him? She brought the fresh drink but stopped in her tracks.

"Nathan sweetheart; I hate to tell you this but your glass is lying in bits on the floor below the television. Look, there's a piece there with the brewer's insignia on it."

"Oh, no, Not again! I bet even you think I hurled that glass at the TV don't you? And there's no-one here to back me up."

"I really am terribly sorry but you realize I have to call the Manager and tell him what happened - as I saw things that is. He'll want to see you as well as the nearest witness. But if I can give you one ray of hope I personally think it would have been very difficult for you to throw a lager glass at the screen so violently as to cause that amount of damage."

The three friends left the club and walked to the B&B which they had booked into for the night. After a good breakfast they packed their overnight bags, paid their bills and went out to Nathan's car. Kieran and Lee were in good spirits after a pleasant evening during which they had both managed to 'pull' and set themselves up for future meetings. Nathan was pensive but relieved that at least he had not been blamed directly for the television incident and had not been barred from the club.

They headed home. Kieran was in the front passenger seat and Lee was in the back. As the journey progressed Nathan gradually relaxed. The two occurrences at the club had been examples of 'just one of those things' he told himself. Three miles from home the road ran alongside a river for a few hundred metres being separated from it by a low, narrow grass bank. Suddenly the car started to pull to the left; towards the river. Nathan managed to control it and keep it on the road, but it was difficult. He cursed the fact that the car must have developed a puncture. But it was more serious than he thought. The force on the steering wheel became stronger than he could handle.

"Kieran! Give me a hand! We're damn near in the river!"

Both young men tugged at the wheel and after a struggle managed to counteract the force that was pulling them towards disaster. Then just as quickly as the turn to the left had come on, it came off, leaving Nathan and Kieran tugging at the wheel and heading to the right across the road. The car ran into the path of an oncoming lorry. Both vehicles braked violently but the car ran into the side of the lorry causing much damage to the car. None of the occupants of the vehicles were hurt and the lorry was able to continue on its way after the driver had exchanged information with Nathan who, on the other hand, was going to be without transport for a while.

On their way home with Kieran's father Nathan shared his thoughts with his chums. He had been involved in three incidents for which he might be unfairly blamed. In the first two cases there could be a medical explanation which had worried him a lot. In the case of the road accident however he had Kieran's backing that an unknown 'power' must have been at work; a power that seemed determined to get Nathan into trouble. What lengths would it go to? Had these first three events merely been warning signs? After all they had become more serious in turn.

If only Jamie was alive. He was always fascinated by weird, or inexplicable experiences and had done a lot of reading on ghosts, the spirit world, and the like. If he was with them now he might be able to give some sort of explanation. Nathan shut his eyes, tilted his head back, and appealed for – he was not quite sure what – from anyone up there who might be listening; his Guardian Angel if such a thing existed.

Two nights before Christmas, the trio decided they would have a 'Christmas fling' and go to their club in the city. All three were relaxed this time. Kieran and Lee met up with the girls they had seen previously while Nathan was hoping that Denise, who had two assistants on that particular night, could take some time off to have a dance with him and a chat which would not be interrupted by people asking for drinks every couple of minutes. To a large extent his hopes were fulfilled. They had a dance after which they sat at a table near the bar where Denise could be called if things got busy. But it was Nathan who got called away. A loud voice from the back of the room, not far from the door, called out. 'Would Nathan Goldsmith please go to the main door where someone wants to speak to him.' Nathan couldn't think who on earth would want to see him, but it could be important so he complied. As he approached the door it opened, but not very far, and the same voice said 'Come outside please. I have something to discuss with you'. He went outside, but nobody was there. The door shut quietly behind him.

"Now it's just me and you; there's no-one else here" said the voice, which Nathan thought was coming from somewhere close in front of him. "You killed my son. You knew full well there was a fault on that control equipment but you did nothing about it. That was murder, and unfortunately for you I still believe in capital punishment."

It was clear to Nathan that he was talking to Jamie's father, although he could not see him. But surely he had died a couple of years ago in a road accident. Could it be Jamie's father's ghost? Surely not. Then, in the glow of a street light he saw the unmistakable image of a revolver, pointing above his head. It was suspended in space. For the first time in the encounter Nathan was scared. He tried to reason with the ghost and explained in detail the exacting procedures which took place before equipment was dispatched. The ghost was not satisfied. Nathan heard two clicks as the revolver's hammer was cocked, ready to fire. Slowly the barrel was lowered until it was pointing directly at his forehead.

"*Dive!!* The word was screamed at Nathan. A split second later the revolver fired but the barrel had been knocked upwards. There was a scuffle; the gun fell to the ground and Nathan picked it up. He was the only person visible at the scene.

"Are you OK? That was a close call. Wait here for a few minutes. I'll just take Dad home then I'll come back and explain everything to you." There was no doubt that the voice was Jamie's.

Jamie returned within minutes and suggested that he (still as a ghost, which would be his state for evermore) and Nathan should go back inside the club. They sat at the back of the room and Jamie explained the whole story. When he had his fatal accident, his father, who was already in the 'spirit world' became obsessed with the idea that Nathan was, partially at least, responsible for his death. So he set out to get revenge on behalf of his son. Hence the incidents with the lager soaked trousers, and the television blowing up. In both cases it was Jamie's father who was responsible. But he wanted a more severe revenge, so he worked out, and employed, the episode of the car being pulled towards the river. However, this was still not enough; Nathan would have to die. Hence the latest happening.

At this stage in Jamie's story, Nathan was convinced that he was lucky to be alive. Without Jamie's timely intervention he too would have gone to the spirit world prematurely. He pointed this out.

"It wasn't quite like that" replied Jamie "You'll remember that when things were getting bad you called for help from your Guardian Angel, if you had one. You were all mixed up about matters to do with ghosts and the spirit world. Well, just to put you wise, you do not have a Guardian Angel as such but we spirits get to know when someone who we were close to on earth is in trouble and needs our help. So in short, I got your message and followed you around very closely to keep an eye on things. I must admit though that I was shocked to find out it was my own father who was causing the bother. I've had a word with him already but there's still a lot to be said when I get back"

Nathan was satisfied. He understood, and had learned a lot. But wouldn't it be good to make use of some of this knowledge? With Jamie alongside him he went to the bar.

"Hiya Denise. Two pints of lager please."

“Two pints coming up. Your friend will be here shortly I assume?”

“No, he’s here already.” Denise watched in wonderment as a pint glass raised itself from the bar, tipped backwards, and the contents steadily disappeared. Neither was she prepared for what was about to happen. As if something was pulling her she leaned forwards over the bar. There was a sloppy sort of ‘mwaaa’ noise.

“My God! I’ve been kissed!”

“Happy Christmas, Denise. Lovely to see you again. Keep an eye on Naith for me – I can’t be everywhere at once, and if he doesn’t propose to you before New Year just let me know and I’ll sort him out for you!” □

Coming Soon to Dersingham Library

Christmas Crafts - Saturday 12th December from 11am-12pm

Come along and make Christmas cards and wrappings while listening to Christmas stories. Under 7s must be accompanied by an adult.

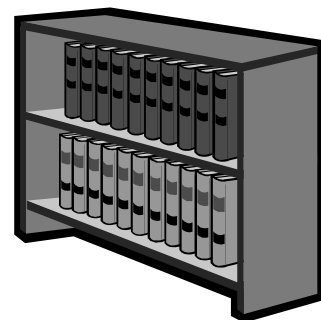
Christmas stories for under 5s - Thursday 17th December 10.30-11.30am

In the New Year we'll be restarting our Thursday morning storytimes for pre-school children. The first session will be on 7th January at 10.30am.

After the successes of the 'Playing Together' and 'Keeping up with the children' courses we'll be working once again with Norfolk Family Learning Partnership to run 2 free Friday courses starting in the New Year. 'Happy Families' is a relaxed and supportive course for parents with primary school children, and the second course will offer parents a chance to learn ways to beat the credit crunch by working together as a family. To find out more - just ask us when you next visit!

Happy Reading! □

Alison



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

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

Christmas and New Year Opening



CAROLE BROWN HEALTH CENTRE

Close 3pm Dec 24th Re-open Dec 29th. Closed New Year's day.

BOOTS (Dersingham)

Closed: Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Holiday Monday (28 December), New Year's Day.

Open: Other days as normal (9.00 am – 6.30 pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9.00 am – 5.30 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9.00 am – 1.00 pm and 2.15 pm – 5.30 pm Saturdays) No pharmacy between 1.30 pm and 2.00 pm.

BUDGENS

Closed: Christmas Day.

Open: Christmas Eve (7.00 am – 5.00 pm), Boxing Day (10.00 am – 4.00 pm), Sunday 27th (10.00 am – 4.00 pm), Holiday Monday 28th (8.00 am – 5.00 pm), New Year's Eve (7.00 am – 6.00 pm), New Year's Day (10.00 am – 4.00 pm). Sat 2nd (7am-4pm), Sun 3rd (10am-4pm).

THAXTERS COFFEE SHOP

Closed: Christmas Eve (from about 3.00 pm), Christmas Day, Boxing Day.

Open: Christmas Eve until about 3.00 pm.

New Year's Eve, New Year's Day and other days as normal.

DERSINGHAM NEWS

Closed: Christmas Day.

Open: Christmas Eve (as normal), Boxing Day (6.00 am – 10.00 am), New Year's Day (from 6.00 am – 10.00am), Sunday 27th (6.00 am – 12.00 noon) Holiday Monday (28th December, 6.00 am – 12.00 noon). Other days as normal.

LIBRARY

Closed: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Holiday Monday (28 December), Tuesday (29 December), New Year's Day.

Open: Wednesday 30 December, New Year's Eve (close at 5.00 pm). Other days as normal.

POST OFFICE

Information not available at copy deadline date

POST OFFICE SHOP

Closed: Christmas Day.

Open: Christmas Eve (from 6.30am. until Post Office closes), Boxing Day (from 6.30am – 10.00am), Sunday 27th (from 6.30am – 11.30am), Holiday Monday 28th (from 6.30am – 10.00am), New Year's Eve (6.30am until Post Office closes), New Year's Day (from 6.30am – 10.00am). Other days as normal.

SHOE SERVICE

Closed: Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Holiday Monday (28 December), New Year's Eve, New Year's Day.

Open: Christmas Eve from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. Other days as normal.

SPAR

Closed: Christmas Day

Open: Christmas Eve (from 7.00 am to 9.00 pm), Boxing Day (from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm), New Year's Eve (from 7.00 am to 9.00 pm), New Year's Day (from 9.00 am to 10.00 pm). Other days from 7.00 am to 10.00 pm.

WIGRAM & WARE (Dersingham)

Closed: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Holiday Monday (28 December), New Year's Eve, New Year's Day.

Open: Wednesday 23 December, Tuesday 29 December, Wednesday 30 December. Other days as normal.

Note: The above information is believed to be correct at the time of going to press but, in view of the lapse of time and other circumstances, changes are always possible.

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THURSDAY	1.30-2.30 7.00-8.00	Core Stability Bodyconditioning	Ingoldisthorpe village hall (booking essential) Dersingham Methodist Church

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Loo Cleaning Instructions:

1. Put the lid of the toilet up and add 1/8 cup of pet shampoo to the water in the bowl.

2. Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him towards the bathroom.

3. In one smooth movement, put the cat in the toilet and close the lid. You may need to stand on the lid.

4. The cat will self agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises that come from the toilet, the cat is actually enjoying this.

5. Flush the toilet three or four times. This provides a 'power-wash' and rinse'.

6. Have someone open the front door of your home. Be sure that there are no people between the bathroom and the front door.

7. Stand behind the toilet as far as you can, and quickly lift the lid.



8. The cat will rocket out of the toilet, streak through the bathroom, and run outside where he will dry himself off.

9. Both the commode and the cat will be sparkling clean.



Yours sincerely,

Bonzer the Dog

Christmas Recipes from the Bluebell Cottage Kitchen, by Lindsey Davis

Shortbread Garlands

125g plain flour
25g cornflour
100g butter
50g caster sugar

For glaze & decoration:

2x15ml spoons of milk
2 glacé cherries
1 strip candied angelica
1x15ml (level) spoon caster sugar

Rub the butter into the flour and cornflour. Stir in sugar and work to a soft dough. Wrap and chill for 20 mins. Roll out to 1.3 cm thickness. Using 7cm cutter, cut rounds then remove centres with 4cm cutter. Brush with milk; decorate with cherry and angelica; sprinkle with sugar. Bake 15-20 mins at 160°C (Gas 3).



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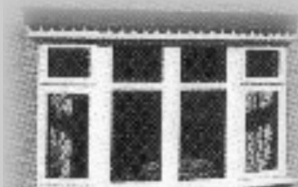
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THE GARDEN FARMER - DIG FOR THE FUTURE

This is the time for tidying the garden, once all the autumn crops are finished you could have a large quantity of organic material to deal with. As an organic gardener, I like to keep as much material in the garden as possible. However, any garden waste that you can't compost, perhaps because it is too woody or diseased, should go in the brown bin to go to the council composting scheme; I'm not keen on winter bonfires as it seems such a waste of good organic material, you can see the "goodness" literally going up in smoke. The council's composting scheme shreds all the woody prunings and the material is treated at a high temperature which destroys all weed seeds and diseases; the end result is excellent peat-free compost which is available to buy from the recycling unit near Heacham. All uncooked kitchen veg scraps can be composted as can weeds and finished veg plants from the garden.



Compost box

There is a huge variety of compost containers available in garden centres or from the internet. Personally I prefer a regular wooden box, open at the base so that worms and soil bacteria can get to the waste from the ground. The very simplest composter is just four wooden pallets stood on edge in a square and tied together. I also put a lid on the heap of plastic sheet or old carpet, which keeps heat in and rain out. This design gives a large volume which helps to keep the core of the heap insulated and allows the thermophilic (heat loving) bacteria to thrive. The slatted sides also allow air to circulate within the heap which is

vital as the bacteria need oxygen to live. It is better, if you can, to load your compost bin all in one go with a range of different materials than to fill it over months adding small quantities at a time. With a good mix of softer 'green' and coarser 'brown' materials, making sure the material is suitably wet, it should be possible to create a hot heap which will break down relatively quickly and give you a wonderful crumbly brown, sweet smelling compost after six months or so. If you are not able to fill your compost container in one go then perfectly good compost can still be made; the heap will not reach a high temperature but will still breakdown after about a year.

Many people get quite worried about their compost and imagine there is a special skill involved, but it's really not very complicated, it's mostly about getting a good mix of materials, keeping it moist, but not sodden, and allowing air to move through the heap. Similarly people are often disappointed that their compost doesn't look the same as the compost you buy in the sacks from the garden centre. This is because the large manufacturers shred the material before composting and screen it afterwards. A coarse garden sieve will take out most of the woody material left at the end; this can either be composted again or used as a mulch around your fruit trees.

The finished compost should be very high in nutrients and makes excellent soil conditioner and will improve soil fertility and structure. It is too rich on its own for seed sowing but can be used for potting-on or for making your own grow bags for tomatoes and cucumbers.

Crops available at this time of year include leeks, swedes, sprouts, winter cabbages, Jerusalem artichoke, celery and celeriac which is a wonderful knobbly root with a mild celery taste that makes a lovely mash. As Christmas approaches you could also be looking forward to harvesting



Sprouts



Jerusalem Artichokes

your own sprouts, parsnips, kale, carrots and potatoes to go with the roast dinner. □

*Bryan Beers - The
Garden Farmer*

St Nicholas Church



December Services

9 th December	-	Rotary Carol Service	-	7 pm
13 th December	-	Informal Tea & Carols	-	3 pm
16 th December	-	Mothers' Union Carol Service	-	2.30 pm
17 th December	-	Christingle Service	-	6 pm
20 th December	-	Service of Lessons & Carols	-	6.30 pm
24 th December	-	Crib Service	-	4 pm
	-	Midnight Holy Communion	-	11.30 pm
25 th December	-	Family Service	-	10 am

Please come and join us for any or all of the above Services

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE JANUARY COFFEE MORNING
WILL BE ON THE 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

8TH JANUARY

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On Sundays in termtime

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- Have a drink and biscuit after the service, and we finish at around 11.30/11.45am

Contact Alan Crawshaw tel. 543836
or Ruth Thorpe tel. 544539 to find out more!

Other things we do :

Kidz Klub Dersingham - on Saturdays once a month

It's at 10am - 12 oclock in the Church Hall on Manor Road.

We do energetic games, craft, story, song and prayer. Come and join us !

On Sunday mornings, as well as the All Stars Sunday Club we also provide :
Creche for 0 -3 year olds

Family Service - with children's activities - on second Sunday every month.

Children and families are of course welcome at all our services !

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DERSSINGHAM ST GEORGES CE JUNIOR SCHOOL

We have had a lovely start to the term with our new Year 3 pupils settling in really well this year. We have four delightful classes: two year 3 and 4 classes and two year 5 and 6 classes. This allows the teachers to support each other and works particularly well with the topic work that the children do.

MULTI-SKILLS DAY

The children participated in the King's Lynn Community Football Multi-Skills Programme. The children tried different activities involving teamwork, hand eye co-ordination and many other aspects of fitness such as agility and balance through a range of multi task, fun based activities. They also tried the new phenomenon that has come over from the USA called Speed Stacking. This is a fun and challenging activity in which a steady hand and good hand eye co-ordination is essential, we are working to develop this in schools as it helps children to improve concentration levels and ambidexterity whilst working against the clock.

Both staff and pupils enjoyed this!

COMMUNITY LUNCH *see page 38*

The school hosted a community lunch during September. Over 40 people from Dersingham and the surrounding area were able to get together for a buffet lunch, learn about various charities, and network with local groups within the community. These lunches are held about every two months at various venues around Dersingham. As a school this has helped us to forge helpful links with groups in the village. The Mayor of King's Lynn was our special guest.

A raffle was held and £80 was taken for the Friend's of the School that will benefit the children.

LEAVING AFTER 25 YEARS

Liz Murrell, who has been one of the kitchen staff, has left after over 25 year's service. She has decided to go and work at Hunstanton Infants. I know that the children will miss her but we wish her well in her new post.

FOOTBALL COMPETITION

St. George's football team played against Snettisham and Flitcham at Flitcham School. First, we played Snettisham and they got kick off. In less than one minute, they scored to make it 1-0 to Snettisham. Then we bounced back to make it 1-1 by half time. Soon Snettisham scored but we got one back again. With about three minutes left Michael Graves stuck one in the net. The end score was 3-2 to us, with Connor Daniels scoring two and Michael one.

The second game was against Flitcham. We got kick off but Flitcham chose to swap ends. By the end of the first half, it was 0-0 but we were all over them. In the second half Flitcham scored to make it 1-0 but Michael Graves bounced back to make it 1-1. We missed a few chances.

NETBALL COMPETITION

A netball team went to Lynnsport where they played other teams. The matches against: South Wootton we won 3-2, Clenchwarton we won 3-1, Anthony Curtain we won 4-0, Denver we won 5-0, St. Michael's we won 4-1.

The finals were against Hilgay, which we won 5-0. This means we got through to the county finals that will be played in Norwich.

EDUCATIONAL VISION

Both Mrs Platt (Head of Dersingham Infant and Nursery) and I were very pleased with the joint meeting held at the Infant's School about the future of education in Dersingham. There was a good turn out from the community. During the evening there were many ideas put forward at the workshop, which we have collated and will be discussing with the children to form a vision for the two schools. Thank you to anybody who supported the evening.

EVENTS

Christmas Fair Friday 4 December at 3.00pm

Bingo Tuesday 8 December 6.45pm doors open for 7.30pm start

Christingle Service at St. Nicholas Church 6.00pm

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Steve Davis

...and Finally! (almost)

Ah, the season of Advent upon us again. I love it! Not so much the commercial side perhaps, nor even the fact of it being the countdown to Christmas Day, which can at times almost become something of an anticlimax! Call me a sentimental old whatever, but I sense Advent as a time

for reflection, preparation, expectancy, anticipation and hoping for better things to come. A time for contributing to the welfare of others and of helping others to feel included. How is it for you?

For me music plays a big part in my appreciation of this time of year. Unlike some, I never tire of the old well-worn Christmas Carols (and some pretty good new ones too). I look forward to *Classic FM* waking me in the mornings with a carol or two and marvel that they are able to ride above the politically correct stance of 'not wanting to cause offence' that so many other public organisations seem to take these days. I have heard many knock Christmas Carols as being inaccurate or lacking in reality, and yet for me they are like gazing at pieces of well-known artwork, each with its own particular point to make or angle on the whole subject. So I am very happy to join choirs and carol singing groups or just busk them alone with guitar accompaniment and, given half a chance, provide alternative tunes so that familiar words might be seen from yet another angle. Before our move to Norfolk, I was involved with leading a party of Carol Singers around the wards of our local hospital each Christmas Eve evening. *Away in a Manger* and *Silent Night* were always the most frequently requested carols and arguably the most appropriate for our captive audiences' circumstances, but I think we managed to deliver them over and over with the same freshness and enthusiasm. There are quite a few Advent and Christmas events to choose from across our Dersingham churches this year. Though slightly biased, I would invite you and any friends and family to join us at St Nicholas for our very informal '*Tea and Carols*' at around 3:00pm on Sunday 13th December. It is very much an all-age, come-as-you-are and go-as-you-please event with Christmas refreshments served throughout and no standing on ceremony! This year, we also add hand-bell ringing to our musical pursuits as the *Dersingham Descanters* team make their debut during our Christmas Tree Festival.

Typing the word *Advent* into *Google*, I was led to www.thefreedictionary.com which gave the inspiring definition as '*The coming or arrival, especially of something extremely important*', before going on to explain the obvious significance within the Christian Calendar. Of course, I was also presented with a whole host of other company websites that have seized on the '*Advent*' term, applying it to their product. *PC World* or *Currys* would love to sell you an *Advent Computer*. Then there is *Advent Software* and *Advent Leisure Homes* and all sorts beside, all wanting to convince us that their products have *arrived*! Perhaps along the same lines of thought *Microsoft*, as you may well be aware, has just released its latest offering: *Windows 7*. Now I could reel off of at least ten previous versions of *Windows* in its relatively short history, so cannot help but wonder if the number 7 here is not so much a version number as an attempt to attribute the product with an almost biblical sense of perfection and completion! Maybe its creator *Mr Gates* might even feel that he can now rest from his labours! If, like me, you have purchased a new PC or laptop from July onwards this year, you may be entitled to a free upgrade to *Windows 7*, but you will need to decide whether you think it is worth the installation upheaval. The magazine *Computer Active* certainly thinks it is, as will a great many disenchanted *Windows Vista* users no doubt. Mine is on order, so watch this space!



Advent Calendars are much a part of our tradition, and my wife and I were pleased last year to find some stylish ones in the Sandringham Visitor's Centre for our grandchildren that were based on pictures from vintage books in the Oxford Bodleian Library. For us they captured something of the traditional feel of Advent Calendars that we had known as children. On reflection, perhaps our grandchildren might have been more impressed with the sort that provides a daily edible treat!

But for the young at heart, there are lots of online Advent Calendars to choose from, as a quick *Google* search will reveal. Here are a couple aimed at younger surfers that I liked the look of: www.helpkidzlearn.com/advent_calendar/advent_calendar.swf and www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/Xmas/calendar/, though the latter, as with others I have found, will not allow you to cheat and look ahead of the correct date! I will leave you to discover some of the more whacky online calendars for yourself.

Now you may remember from my last article that I had just returned from enjoying the *Scarecrows at Wolferton*. For our Coffee Morning stall at St Nicholas Church on the following Friday (and the first Friday of every month), I had produced and was selling packs of notelet cards featuring some of the recent *Scarecrow* photos. Well I did sell a few packs and news soon got back to the *Scarecrow* organisers, some of whom I have since had the pleasure of meeting. As a result, I have become even more enchanted by the Wolferton Royal Station, which many of you will remember from the past as a museum if not as a fully operational station. Having put his heart and soul into its meticulous restoration and development as a private dwelling, Richard Brown has directed the production of the most elegant and informative of websites at www.wolfertonroyalstation.co.uk, which since its launch in February of this year, has received well in excess of half a million *hits* from around the



world! Indeed it encapsulates a wealth of local history that we can share a pride in. Do make a point of looking or ask someone to show you and pass on the invitation to others. As an ongoing evolving website, Richard is very keen to receive feedback and any potential contributions for inclusion, (see the *Contact Us* page).

The beginning of December also marks the third anniversary of my own (and of course my wife's) advent in Dersingham. "*I wandered away from the dark crowded city, leaving my old life behind, and came to a place where a Ring of Bright water dazzled the care from my mind*" as the song from the

film goes. Well, perhaps that puts it a bit too strongly, but we did leave our old life behind and have certainly been dazzled by the natural sights and sounds around about as well as having been warmed by the many friendships made and cares released.

At the risk of overdoing the quotes I will leave you with the last verse of one of my favourite Carols *'In the bleak mid-winter:*

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give Him – give my heart.*

Giving heart and soul to the people, surroundings and things that make for community mindedness has certainly worked for us these past three years, and giving up and letting go of long nurtured hang-ups, grudges and prejudices really does take a lot of weight off life. *Peace and goodwill to all* as an attitude has much to recommend it and fuels the way to the discovery of one's own advent in the process!

Do have a good one! □

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



The Dersingham Weather

Didn't September start off badly? Just like someone turned off the 'summer switch'. The first three days produced 2.7cm of rain, over an inch, but, as usual, the rest of the country fared worse with severe flooding in some areas. From then on we had no rain until the 7th October representing an unusually dry spell. My water butts became empty. We then had another dry spell until 21st Oct when 32 mm (1.25 in) fell in twenty four hours. What a miserable day that was.

On the 8th September we had a high of 27.1°C. That was pretty good for the last gasps of summer considering that in the whole of the summer we reached 30° on only one day, the 1st of July.

Overall this September was much better than last year. The average temperature was a whole degree warmer at 14.7 and it was also much drier with only 27.4mm compared to 65.8 last year. I seem to be almost constantly saying how much better this year was compared to last but it certainly looks that way from my figures. Unless we have deluges of rain between now and the end of the year it looks like we will have had far less rain this year than last. I will summarise in the next Village Voice.

October was, I think you will agree, a pleasant month as far as the weather is concerned. Last October's average temperature was 9.8 but this year was an exceptional 11.6! The Met. Office even commented that on average throughout the country it was 1 to 1.5 degrees warmer than last year and here in Dersingham we did even better than that. It was also somewhat drier than last year; 66 mm as opposed to 74.2 mm. It is also interesting to see that in October 2007 it was very close to this year. The average temperature then was 11 and we had 65.3 mm of rain.

This warm weather made the second crop of runner beans in my garden turn out far better than I had hoped for. However they are now finished and I am waiting to see how the purple sprouting broccoli fares.

Since my last article I have been working on my own web site to make getting to the current weather conditions easier than typing in the long address. I hope to find the time to have it completed for the next issue. There will also be a link to it from the Dersingham Parish Council web site. Special thanks to Steve Davis for this.

Meanwhile, thanks to all who are looking at the site. I am still getting lots of visitors to www.wunderground.com/weatherstation/WXDailyHistory.asp?ID=MC8851

You can contact me at murrayjohnf@btinternet.com □

John Murray

For the Diary of Regular events please refer to the last edition as there is no change.

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 62	Wednesday 6th Jan 2010	Thursday 28th Jan
Issue 63	Wednesday 3rd March 2010	Thursday 25th March

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

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, 7b Hunstanton Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HH by **Wednesday 6th January 2010**

Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by callin 01485 541465.

E-mail — **villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk**

Articles for publication in the next edition of Village Voice must reach The Editor c/o Dersingham Parish Council, 7b Hunstanton Road, Dersingham PE31 6HH or e-mail; **villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk** before the **deadline date of mid-day on Wednesday 6th January 2010 for publication on Thursday 28th January**. (Contributors who are promoting events should take note of this earliest date of publication). Should you be providing graphics to accompany advertisements or articles, it would be appreciated if these could be in JPEG format.

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

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

Copies of most of the photographs published can be made available. Please enquire.

The Mobile Police Station
Will visit Budgens car park on Wednesdays
between 1pm & 3pm on

13,01,10. 09,02,10. & 10,03,10.

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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LANDLORDS

Are you paying too much for your property management service?

Are you being offered the best service available?
Is your management agent listening to you
and your requirements?

Are your tenants being vetted correctly?

For a comprehensive management service with no hidden fees or extra charges, contact us for a free appraisal.

TENANTS

Thinking about relocating?

We have a wide selection of properties available. Visit us at:

www.norfolklets.com

or Telephone: 01485 544740

Some of the areas we cover:

King's Lynn * Downham Market * Pentney * Wisbech * Dersingham
Ingoldisthorpe * Snettisham * Heacham * Hunstanton * Docking
Terrington St Clement

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday December 1st

A BRIEF TRIP AROUND THE

UNIVERSE

John Prockter
of the
North Norfolk
Astronomy Society

will give an illustrated talk
about the society, building
their observatory and their
very old
Calver Telescope.

Weather permitting, a chance
to view the night sky
at the end of the evening.



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

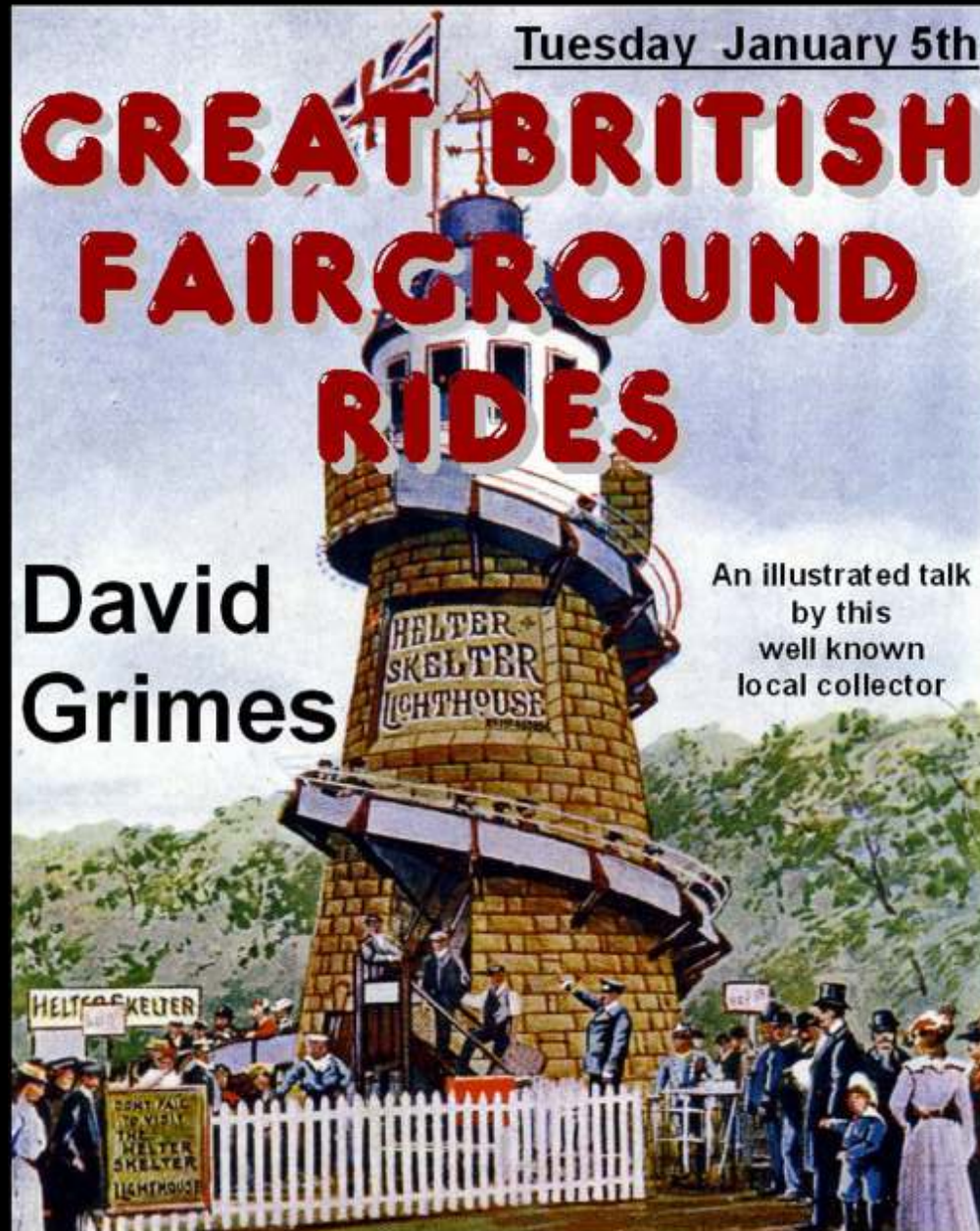
VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday January 5th

GREAT BRITISH FAIRGROUND RIDES

David
Grimes

An illustrated talk
by this
well known
local collector



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

Dersingham Village Voice

Contains all the bits that were too late or there was not room for in the main magazine.

Update from the Dersingham & Gayton Neighbourhood Policing Team

Mum fined for buying teenager drink

Police are warning of the consequences of buying alcohol for youngsters after one mum was caught and fined.

Members of the Dersingham and Gayton Neighbourhood Policing Team investigating vandalism by intoxicated youths used shop CCTV evidence to trace the sale of booze back to one of the teenager's parents.

Local officers were called to deal with reports of criminal damage and littering by a group of youths at Dersingham allotments on Sunday October 25.

PCSOs gathered evidence of underage drinking at the scene and checked CCTV at the villager's Thaxter's store which showed the mum of one 15-year-old girl buying the alcohol.

The woman was subsequently issued with a fixed penalty notice of £80 after admitting the offence.

PC Maria Lambert from the team said: "The evening after the alcohol was sold, we suffered a considerable amount of damage at the allotments, with bottles of alcohol the same as those bought in Thaxters found at the scene.

"Underage drinking is a common theme involving anti-social behaviour which can plague communities. Youngster will often ask adults to buy alcohol for them but this is against the law and we will take action as this case shows."

Neighbourhood police are focusing on underage drinking at the recreation ground at Dersingham as one of their three current priorities.

Other priorities agreed following a public meeting on Thursday are:

- * Paying home visits to vulnerable members of the community in Dersingham to offer face-to-face crime prevention advice and reassurance.

- * Working with Sibelco to reduce misuse of the local beauty spot Bawsey Pits by visitors.

In response to the priorities agreed last month, the team has carried out the following actions:

Anti-social behaviour in Dersingham:

The manager of the local housing provider has been visited by residents of Holyrood Drive complaining of loud music being played from vehicles close to their houses.

A local youth has been dealt with for making rude gestures at passing traffic. A local girl was dealt with for stealing from a local shop. She has been involved in a Restorative Justice meeting and paid for the items stolen and banned from the shop. She will be selling poppies outside a local shop. Otherwise, Halloween went well with increased patrols and very few calls were made to

police regarding anti-social behaviour.

Anti-social behaviour in Life Wood, Dersingham:

Life wood appears to be in order, although local officers have conducted patrols no youths have been seen. There is evidence that they have been there as ramps used for cycling over have been moved. No new fly tipping has been discovered.

The team hold regular surgeries at villages across the neighbourhood to listen to your views and concerns. Call the team on 0845 456 4567, visit www.norfolk.police.uk or watch out for surgery dates in the Lynn News On The West Norfolk Beat every last Friday of the month.

Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NARVOS)

For all your birdwatching needs.

All indoor meetings are on the final Tuesday of the month. Starting at 7.30pm.

Held in the Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Mangate Street, Swaffham.

New members most welcome. Outdoor meetings also held monthly.

2008 Annual Report now available from Philip Parker tel. 01553 630842 price £5.

Membership enquiries telephone Secretary Ian Black on 01760 724092.

What the lifeboat has been up to.

Monday 14th September – 6.37pm

Our Lifeboat was launched on service in response to a report of a wind surfer in trouble off Hunstanton. On arrival at the scene it was confirmed that the casualty had been in trouble with rig failure but had managed to get himself ashore. Yarmouth Coastguard requested that we make sure that no other persons were involved. This was confirmed and our Lifeboat was released to return to the boathouse. The weather conditions were wind force 4 to 5 NE with moderate seas.

Thursday 17th September – 6.50pm

Yarmouth Coastguard received a 999 call saying that an inexperienced canoeist had left his party earlier in day as he said he was bored. The party had now reassembled at Brancaster and the person was not with them and was now 1 hour overdue. Our Lifeboat was launched to the scene but before arrival the casualty turned up saying that he had got lost. It was confirmed that he was safely ashore and our Lifeboat returned to the Boathouse.

Saturday 19th September – 9.05pm

Yarmouth Coastguard requested the launch of our Lifeboat to assist Skegness Lifeboats in a search for a 29 ft yacht lost in the Wash whilst on passage from Wisbech to Snettisham with three persons on board. The only means of communication was a mobile phone with a low battery. The yacht had no compass, flares or radio. The yacht had left the river at about 10.00am that morning and with a falling tide had run aground on a sandbank somewhere in the Wash, where he stayed until the tide refloated him. He then made his way towards Snettisham but darkness overtook him and he became completely lost. Lifeboats deployed para flares to illuminate the search area and at around 10.30pm Hunstanton Coastguard unit located the vessel with their powerful searchlight

approximately half mile off Snettisham. Hunstanton Lifeboat went alongside but the owner refused to come off the vessel, but he agreed to allow his 12 yr old daughter and a teenage lad to be transferred to the Lifeboat and they were brought back to Hunstanton Boathouse and were reunited with their mother who had travelled from Snettisham where she was staying in a caravan. The owner of the vessel remained on board, aground off Snettisham, awaiting the next rising tide. This incident was caused by the owner of the vessel going to sea without any appropriate navigational and safety equipment.

Sunday 20th September – 5.03pm

Yarmouth Coastguard requested the launch of our Hovercraft to assist a person cut off by the tide on a sand bank off Hunstanton. As our Hovercraft was launched it was reported that the person had made their own way ashore. Information suggested that the person involved was under the influence of alcohol. Our Hovercraft was stood down and returned to the Boathouse.

Tuesday 22nd September – 1.25pm

Yarmouth CG requested launch of Hunstanton Lifeboat to go to the aid of a kite surfer reported to be in trouble off Old Hunstanton. Our Lifeboat was launched on service and on arrival it was established that with the aid of another kite surfer he had managed to get ashore. He had been in trouble due to a line breaking. Our crew made sure that no other persons were involved and returned to the Boathouse.

Sunday 4th October – 7.35am

Yarmouth Coastguard requested the launch of our Lifeboat to assist in the search for a Volvo car believed to be in the sea between Hunstanton and Burnham Overy. Hunstanton Coastguard unit located the car partly submerged on Thornham Marsh. Our Lifeboat proceeded to the scene but was unable to get near the vehicle as the tide was ebbing. Our Lifeboat stood by and was then released after the Coastguard confirmed that there were no persons in the vehicle. The occupants of the vehicle were believed to be Lithuanian and from the Wisbech area. The Police are investigating why they were in a remote marsh area of Thornham.

Sunday 25th October – 11.00am

Hunstanton Lifeboat was alerted and went to the aid of two kite surfers off Holme beach who had become entangled in one another's rigging and needed assistance. One person managed to make his way to the beach, and the other person was picked up by the Lifeboat along with his rigging and brought ashore.

Never give up hope!

Just 2 ½ years after requesting a new road name sign, residents in Queen Elizabeth Drive got their wish from the Borough Council.



Bathsheba my lovely.

© Hugh Mullarkey 2009.



Bathsheba my lovely, Bathsheba my dear
Our bookings are down, it's a bad time of year
Your standards of hygiene would make pig sties seem clean
No wonder our bookings are few and far between

(To potential customers)

Good morning and welcome to our proud hostelry
We're the last quality inn before the stunning Dead Sea
Our rooms are en suite with a free bucket of sand
And all that you wish for is yours on demand

(Later)

Bathsheba my lovely will you make up Room 3
There's nothing quite like a full B&B
Let us all thank the Gods for that Roman decree
We are full to the rafters not a spare cubit free

And still they come pounding on our handsome front door
A room for the night for three maybe four
I shrug and I say 'we've no room for no more
Try Abdul the Infidel though you'll sleep on the floor

(Later)

My darling Bathsheba don't disturb me right now
I'm doing the tablets for the taxman you silly old - sssausage
Not more ruddy bookings we've no room to spare
Yeah shove them both in the stable. I really don't care

I know we are due for an Inspection quite soon
*‘Sanitas et Securitas’ from whom no one’s immune
Well right now I’m too busy with keeping our accounts
So please do not bother me with silly amounts

Yes the stable is filthy. Bathsheba what’s new?
There are holes in the roof, that’s true, very true
Well charge them for a single of a room with a view
Now leave me in peace I’ve my tablets to do

Oh dearest Bathsheba please explain it to me
We are charging for one and it should be for three
Cos the girl is expecting and the baby is due
Oh leave me in peace I’ll leave the price up to you

(Later)

Since a quarter to six I’ve been sat in this bar
Not one of our guests has been thirsty so far
No bookings for dinner for breakfast for tea
Just where they’ve all gone is a complete mystery

Bathsheba my lovely, what did you say?
They’re all at a party? What party I pray?
A party for shepherds and angels and kings?
We must invite good King Herod and see what floozy he brings

And just where is this party, this shindig, this bash?
It sounds like a good way of making some cash
It’s here at the inn in the stable no less!
Next week we’ll sell tickets I’m almost impressed

(Later again)

Bathsheba my pretty, your funny ideas!
If they make us some money I could build a new career
Pack the couple in the stable until there are three
And then charge them top whack when they think it’s for free

We will take lots of bookings Bathsheba have no fear
In the art of making money I’m a real pioneer
*The SanetSecs’ inspection Bathsheba my dear
I am sure you can manage if I am not here

(Consequences)

Is ‘Bathsheba my lovely’ the girl to ignore
Or has she made much more sense than her professional bore?
Does she see what she sees and can she see a lot more?
Was she the quiet one who opened the door?

* Sanitas et Securitas=SanetSecs=Health and Safety

Good news for a change

Rounce & Evans Property Management Ltd are delighted to announce the opening of their new Lettings Office in Hunstanton.

Rounce & Evans have been an established local Estate Agent for 20 years. During that time, they have always had a residential lettings department but as the letting market grew busier, it was evident that they could no longer run the lettings side of the business as an 'add on' to the Estate Agency. Therefore in 2003, Rounce & Evans Property Management was formed to deal solely with Residential Lettings & Property Management.

They have been operating from their Dersingham Office since being formed and due to the continued growth in the private rented sector are expanding to the new premises in Hunstanton to better serve our clients in the town and coastal villages.

The new office which is located at 75 Westgate, Hunstanton will complement our existing office at 3 Jubilee Court, Dersingham.

The office will be managed by Kathryn Phillips who has lived and worked in the area for 20 years. Kathryn will be supported by the team at Dersingham comprising Emma Ward, Matthew Pooley, Emma Dinmore and Luke Loades.

The Norfolk Hospice

12th Dec Sat 18.00 Eduard Kunz Piano Recital – Old Hunstanton

We are proud to announce that St Mary's Church in Old Hunstanton is to play host to a one-off performance from renowned pianist Eduard Kunz. Tickets are £15.

All proceeds to the Hospice

**FOR TICKETS CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE
FUNDRAISING TEAM ON 01485 542891**



Thursday 17 December – 7.30pm

The West Norfolk branch invites you to a
SOCIAL EVENING, SLIDES AND QUIZ

with seasonal refreshments

Venue: Hunstanton Methodist Church hall, Austin Street

Cost: £1.50 members/£2 visitors