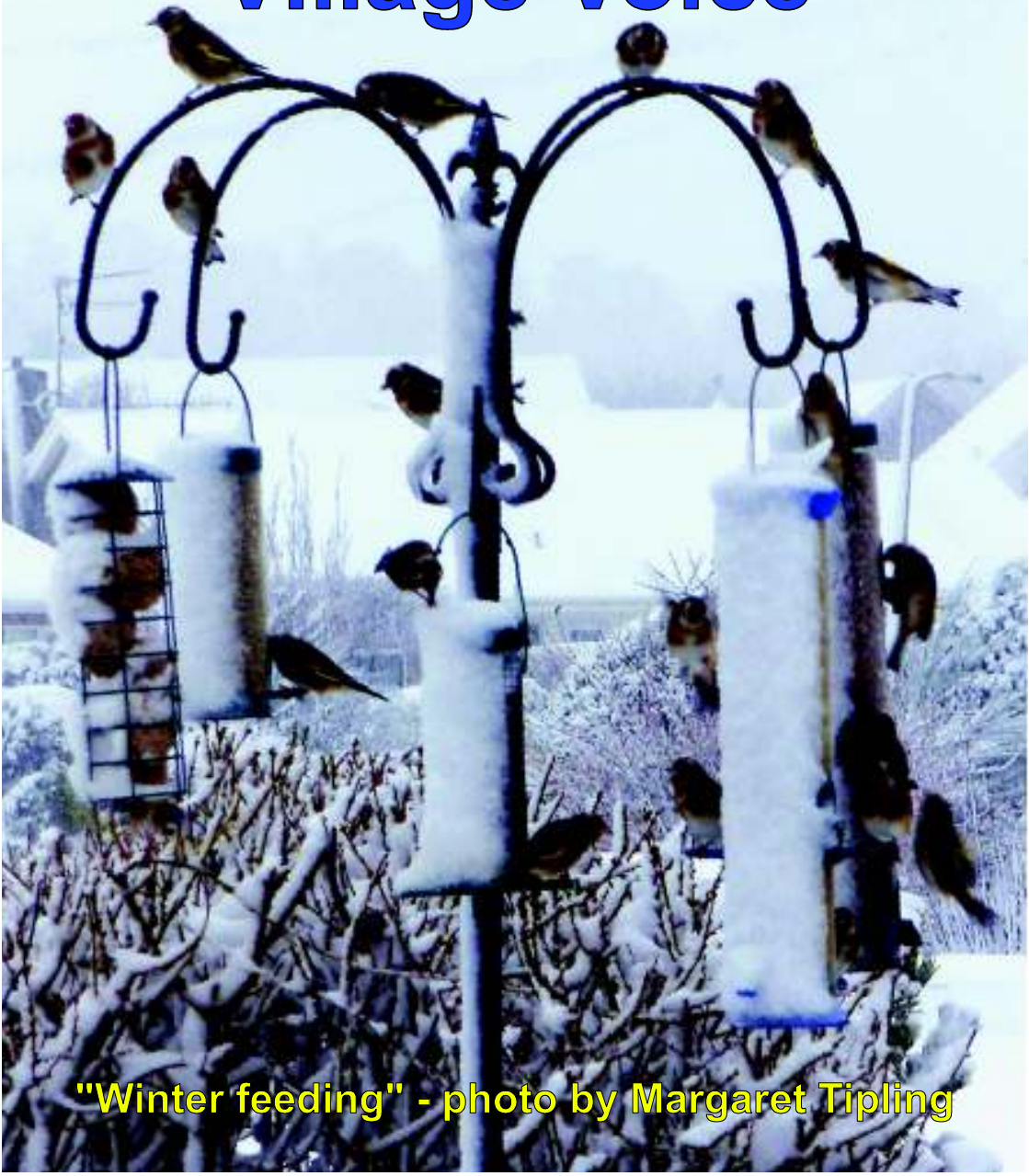


Number 62

February 2010

Dersingham Village Voice



"Winter feeding" - photo by Margaret Tipling



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Editor's Notes

I am looking out of the window at a snow covered scene which, if it is like the winter of 67/68, will still be with you long after this magazine arrives. It was the first year I was driving to work and I remember that the roads had turned to ice and had a surface reminiscent of heavy duty corrugated iron if a little less regular. The vibration gave my little Singer Chamois a good seeing to requiring a round of nut tightening weekly. Ah the good old days!

There is plenty to cheer you up in this volume. From new councillors to griping reindeer. It is wonderful that your contributions just keep on coming.

This issue completes the first year of VV in colour. The feedback we get has all been favourable and we continue to be well supported by our advertisers who are increasingly turning to colour advertisements. Whilst VV was never meant to be a major source of income it never the less, together with its sibling VV Live, makes a small surplus which is put to good use in the village.

To redress the balance for our canine friends John Avenell has taken this picture of his "dual action" dishwasher. Remind me not to eat at his house.

The keen eyed amongst you might have spotted that we published the answer to Sudoku no 9 instead of the problem. I didn't spot it and more significantly, neither did Rob Smyth who not only sets the puzzle but proof reads the magazine. Just one reader reported the error, may I take this opportunity to thank the pedant.

Not much in the 'Whats Happening' area this time. Go on, let us know what you are planning - it's got to be the best free advertising in Dersingham. Every letterbox and on the website too!

Being a fan of old cars and knowing that there are a few garaged about the village, I thought it would be interesting to have their keepers send in a few pictures and details of them for others to enjoy. If you don't like old cars but collect something else, - postcards, Moorcroft, medals, furniture, who knows what - well tell of your passions and you never know, you might find some like minded souls lurking in the parish. □



Tony Bubb

WHATS HAPPENING*

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* 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 write with regard to Natural England's activities on Dersingham Fen and Dersingham Bog.

I have accessed Dersingham Bog for the past 30 years and kept records of the population of Bats, Grass Snake, Pine Martin and other protected species. Clearing the Bog of trees has resulted in a two mile wind tunnel being created driving away gnat and moth food species for the Bats, hence their number have plummeted. Trees helped the Bog to maintain damp conditions by providing a canopy just like a rain forest. The tree felling work on the Bog has also had a dramatic negative effect on the number of Grass Snakes from the disturbance of their sites and the toxic chemicals put down by Natural England to stop tree re-growth. Anyone familiar with the "Le Hair's Hike" walk will have noted that Natural England had Tree Preservation Order (TPO) numbers on many of the trees. Last week a great number of these TPO numbers were removed and these trees and others were felled removing habitat for the Pine Martins and other species. These trees have significant commercial value.

It seems to me that Natural England can operate with impunity and make whatever changes it wants to the sites as long as the activities and species it is interested in are pursued. Protected species status clearly means something but nothing to Natural England.

I would like to draw to the attention of Villagers that Natural England plan to reduce the Dersingham Fen site to just 5% tree coverage as part of its 5 year plan. I am concerned that a similar loss of habitat will occur and that local residents are not being consulted over the plans.

Fred Smith

Pine Martens? The nearest recorded ones are in the Rusland Valley - 223 miles away. Ed.

Many thanks for the excellent ad you devised for the last edition of Village Voice - it was very much appreciated and the turnout to see Santa was overwhelming - fortunately we managed to ensure that all the children came away with a present although I get the impression that it was a close call, but all was well thanks to the sterling work of Rhona and Donna Seal.

Likewise the support of the Parish Council was very much appreciated.

Nigel Kelk

I have read with interest the recent items regarding Major Northfield in Village Voice. I must point that although he was a commissioned officer he was not a career soldier, his commission only being for his time during the Second World War. He actually was for much of his life a director of the family decorating firm of Northfields in Cambridge. He was a Fellow of the Institute of British Decorators, and one of the most talented and artistic men of his generation. His talents ranged from sign writing and calligraphy, to perspective water colour paintings for colour schemes, and just about everything artistic in between. As a result of his skills the firm had many quality commissions to decorate churches, hotels and large country houses including West Wrattling Hall for Lady Cunard, a most formidable matriarch. He left the family firm in 1938 when, as a result of financial problems the firm was taken over by a group of Cambridge business men.

After the war he worked for what was then known as The Rural Industries Bureau for Norfolk and was based in Norwich. During those years he, and his Irish wife Tess, lived near Melton Constable where he got to know some of the game keepers from the nearby country estate and would commiserate with them regarding the poaching that went on. What the keepers did not know was that he used to join the poachers in their illegal expeditions! I asked Mrs Northfield why he did this. Her reply was that he loved the danger of it all!

A remarkable man who started the first evening classes in decorating at Cambridge Technical College and the pupils of which, many years later, organised a reunion dinner in Cambridge with him as their honoured guest.

David Harris



Dear Bonzer the dog,

Oh dear- someone is feeling a bit cruel, putting animals in toilets is something only the worst of the "humans" would do.

I had to learn to live with this affectionate old moggy, very embarrassing, as I always thought cats were for chasing .

So next time, please, something happy and properly funny.

Signed 'Old Pup' (from the grave). Pp Mrs P Burgess



In the last Village Voice Dick Melton thought I had been errand boy at Terringtons, sorry Dick not true, I might have moonlighted once or twice but spent two happy years at Norfolk Stores. There was an article on this in one of the early mags. I followed Alan Goff, if you read this Alan, happy days. Some of the people working there at that time were Arthur Steward, who was the manager, Joy Soanes, Doreen Davison, Mary Wright and Derek Laws who worked in the shop and also drove the van and collected and delivered orders. The van was an Austin A40 pick up with a canvas tilt. One of the things I learned was to pack orders in boxes or bags for delivery, soap washing powders and smelly things first, then tins round them, then the rest of the order with light things on top. Now the grumpy bit, I will not go through a super market check out if the till has someone packing, they always put eggs and anything light and breakable in first and heavy goods on top. What happened to staff training.

The prisoner of war camp at Snettisham Beach, I still have a ship in a Camp Coffee bottle which was made by one of the prisoners, they also made the pecking hens on a flat base, there were a lot of these made. Some of the prisoners worked locally on farms and the items made were passed on to the locals who worked with them, I suppose some payment was made, has anybody else still got anything from the camp.

Many thanks for everyone's support of the Shoe box Appeal. With the help of many friends and organisations in the village we filled 350 boxes.

On the 4th of December a lorry containing 7800 boxes left Huntingdon for Kyrgyzsatn near the Chinese border and on December 18th approximately 10,000 additional boxes were dispatched to Serbia and Swaziland.

Thank you also to all those who dressed Cindy Dolls, knitted, made soft toys and donated items and money for the boxes.

Joan Scolah



I am writing to see if you can find room for the attached article regarding the Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly. (*We have and it's on p38. Ed.*) We have had a very stressful few months since we learnt (a) the Parish Council were handing the Community Centre back to the Sandringham Estate and our 28 year tenancy was coming to an end in February and (b) Adult Social Services were stopping our annual grant (albeit less than half of our outgoings).

So many people, including Adult Social Services, were convinced we would have to close, but they underestimated the determination of the handful of Volunteers who run the Day Centre, and you will see from the attached article that we are looking forward to the New Year and the new start of our 29th year in the Church Hall.

The Dersingham Village Voice just gets better and better and you might like to know that we have a gentleman who is registered blind and he likes nothing better than having VV read to him, and then discussing the various items and recalling places and events before he lost his sight.

Alison Worth - Hon Secretary

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DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP

Sixteen of us enjoyed the December walk through Life Wood and along the old railway line to Ingoldisthorpe, returning by the side of the 'top' road with views over the Wash.



The walks planned for the rest of the winter programme are:

WEDNESDAY 10th FEBRUARY

Start 2.00pm from the track leading to Roydon Common car park on the right of Grimston Road 0.75 miles east of Knights Hill (map ref. LI 32/681 230). A 4 miles circular walk led by Lindsey and Steve Davis (543138).

WEDNESDAY 10th MARCH

Start 2.00pm from Great Massingham Green (map ref. LI32/798 229). A 4 miles circular walk around Massingham led by Pat Reed (540757).

SUNDAY 21st MARCH

Start 10.30am from Sandringham Visitor Centre (map.ref.L 132/689 287). A 4.5 miles circular walk around the Country Park led by Christine Taylor and Geoff Toop (542807).

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 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)

Summer 1953 and the village put on a pageant. Were you in it? Can you put names to the faces?



The Sandringham Newsletter

by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate



The overhaul of the organ in St Mary's Church which continued for most of 2009 is finally complete. The organ was built by John Walker & Co. and was King Edward VII's last gift to the church, installed in 1909 seven months before his death. 100 years later it was rededicated by the Rector at a simple service in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh last November. The anthem at the beginning of the service was "O Praise God In His Holiness", written by Charles MacPherson, organist of St Paul's Cathedral, for the rededication of the organ in a Portsmouth church in 1924.

Fundraising for neighbouring St Nicholas's Church in Dersingham continues, and the latest event in their programme was a literary dinner held at the Visitor Centre Restaurant last November.

Fruit Farm staff recently attended the National Fruit Show, held annually at Maidstone in Kent. Sandringham's Laxton's Fortune apple juice was entered into the Show's single variety apple juice competition and came a respectable 5th out of over 30 entries.

The winter tasks of planting and pruning are well under way: Fruit Farm staff have been tackling apple trees and blackcurrant bushes, while Country Park staff have been clearing and thinning rhododendrons and scrubby undergrowth. Forestry staff are continuing the ongoing programme of replanting and rejuvenating hedges across the Estate. In the Gardens, some of the tallest Lawson's cypresses near the Ticket Office entrance have been taken down to allow more light and air through for other plants which were struggling, and because their roots were causing damage to the garden wall.

Gardens staff were also busy for most of the month collecting fallen leaves – not just to be tidy, but because when composted they make a very good mulch and soil conditioner. Leaves, grass clippings, bracken and shredded prunings are all re-used in this way, as well as the composted vegetable peelings and scraps from the Visitor Centre Restaurant.

The sugar beet harvest has begun, and the sugar content seems to be quite high, despite less than ideal growing conditions through the year. The beet tops are left on the field after harvest and once again the skeins of pink-footed geese have become a regular daily sight as they fly over the Estate from their roosts on the coast to feed on the tops during the day.

The Estate is fortunate to have skilled people working for its repairs department, both as employees and as contractors, and every month they will typically deal with over 100 maintenance and repair jobs, as well as longer-term projects. This month, carpenters have been making and fitting new window frames, doors, garden gates and fireplaces; plasterers and painters have been working in Sandringham Church and in houses in West Newton; and roofing, concreting and electrical works have been carried out in domestic and commercial premises across the Estate.

On Saturday 12th December, the Choir of Sandringham Church held their annual Coffee Morning. Many of the choir had worked tirelessly making the room festive, preparing stalls and quizzes, baking cakes and making preserves and jams and organising raffles. Over a hundred people arrived to enjoy home-made biscuits with their coffee and the morning raised a magnificent £727. Many thanks to all who supported this event. The money will help buy music for use by the ever increasing number of singers who sing at services in Sandringham Church and at all the churches in the Sandringham Group. □

MAUREEN'S DAY COACH TRIPS

01485 544514

		FARE	Pick up opp Budgens
FEB THURS 11th	ANGLESEY ABBEY, CAMBRIDGE. SNOWDROP WALK (entry extra £5.20 to National Trust non members)	£12.00	9.55
MAR TUES 9th	MELTON MOWBRAY (a visit to "Ye Olde Pork Pie Shoppe" is a must!)	£15.00	9.25
MAR THURS 25th	COLCHESTER (am) TIPTREE JAM SHOP (pm)	£16.	9.10
APRIL TUES 6th	LONDON, OXFORD STREET	£17.50	9.10
APRIL THURS 22nd	YORK	£20.00	7.40
MAY THURS 6th	STOW-ON-THE-WOLD (am) BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER (pm)	£20.00	7.40
MAY THURS 27th	STRATFORD-UPON-AVON	£18.50	7.55
JUNE TUES 8th	WALPOLE ST PETER FLOWER FESTIVAL (am) WALPOLE ST PETER WATER GARDENS pm	£8.00	10.10
JUNE FRI 18th	EAST OF ENGLAND SHOW PETERBOROUGH (excludes entry)	£12.00 £13.50	9.25 9.25
JUNE THURS 24th	BURY ST EDMUNDS MARKET AND GARDENS		
JULY THURS 1st	ROYAL NORFOLK SHOW, NORWICH (excludes entry)	£11.50	9.25
JULY TUES 13th	DERBY DALES TOUR (lunch at Matlock not included)	£18.50	7.40
JULY THURS 22nd	SOUTHWOLD	£15.50	9.25
AUG WED 4th	GREAT YARMOUTH	£12.00	9.25

Fare to be paid in full on booking and is non returnable if cancelled by you. Trips subject to minimum numbers, please book early. For further details please contact 01485 544514

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Village Hall for Dersingham?

Dersingham Parish Council, at a special meeting held on 16 November, has voted to go ahead with the first stage of planning for a new village hall. The Council has identified two possible sites and has agreed to appoint a professional negotiator to try and acquire one of these subject to planning consent.

The Council has also appointed a new committee to produce an outline business plan for running the hall once it is built and to identify sources of grants and other help. The Council has been advised that substantial grants for a community building such as this are unlikely to be available after 2010.

At the same meeting, the Council decided to close the Dersingham Community Centre at the end of February. The Centre is on a full repairing lease which means that, at the end of the lease in three years time, the Council would be required to restore it to a good state of repair.

The Sandringham Estate - from which the Centre is leased - has recently offered to waive the obligation of the Council to put the building back into good repair and condition. A survey has found that the repairs needed at the end of the lease would total in excess of £30,000. By waiving this obligation the Estate is hoping that this will assist the Parish Council with its plans to build a new Village Hall.

The Parish Council believes that it cannot justify this cost or the risk of more substantial defects arising in the next three years and has therefore decided to accept the offer from the Sandringham Estate.

“We know that this will cause problems for some of the users and that they will be disappointed with this news and we have written to them individually offering to help with relocation,” said Paul Burall, chairman of the Parish Council. “However, we believe that we could not justify to local people the cost and risk of keeping the Centre open for another three years and have therefore agreed to accept the generous offer from the Sandringham Estate”. □

Dersingham St George's CE Junior School

The last term went very quickly. We managed to put on a super Christmas production where all the children took part. Each class produced an entertaining show with the violin group playing Christmas carols at the beginning and finishing off with the whole school singing Christmas songs. Jesus' Birthday, Annie, Native American Cinderella and Aladdin were the shows with excellent performances from all the children.

Many of the school were represented at the Christingle service at St Nicholas Church. The children read some prayers and sang two carols as part of the joint choir with Dersingham Infant and Nursery. The children had joined forces the previous day to help with the making of the Christingles. The joint choir also sang at the two school fairs and at the Christmas Fair at Thaxter's in the village.

Ann Doubleday, who many of you will remember as the school secretary, has retired after many years at St. George's. She had been the corner stone of the school keeping five head teachers organised during her time with us. We thank her very much for her stalwart service to the school and wish her well for the future as she takes on the role grandparent.

If there are any parents who would like to visit St. George's at any time we would be delighted to show you round. Please just contact the school and Julie Booth our new secretary will be pleased to welcome you. (01485 540308) □

Ann Pope

DERSINGHAM COMMUNITY LUNCH

Tim Rounce of Rounce & Evans Estate Agents and Luke Loades of Rounce & Evans Property Management did everybody proud when they sponsored the Dersingham Community Lunch on the 18th of November at St Nicholas Church Hall, and all credit must go to Pat Moss and her team of volunteers who laid on the buffet lunch for the 64 people present.

Once again the attendance was from a broad spectrum of the village community with representation from 10 local businesses, 3 churches, the Parish Council, 2 schools and various organisations from Dersingham all of whom went out of their way to say how much they enjoyed these occasions and that many benefits were being gained through them.



The speakers were Neil Adams, Churchwarden, and The Rev. Michael Brock, Vicar, of St Nicholas Church who announced that a recent appeal for funds to repair the church organ had been most successful with the necessary target having been met with help from a recent large donation.

The vicar then went on to say that, as with all buildings of this type, upkeep was an ongoing problem, which was

the reason that a new appeal was now being made for help to finance a new central heating system to replace the existing one which is not only deteriorating but is also uneconomical and environmentally unfriendly. If any reader would like to contribute to the fund for this purpose it is certain that the vicar would be pleased to hear from you.

During the course of the lunch a raffle was held which succeeded in raising exactly £100 towards the church which may be allocated for the above.

The next Community Lunch is to be sponsored by the Dersingham Methodist Church and will take place in the Methodist Church hall in Post Office Road from 12 noon on Thursday 28th January 2010.

Following this event, another lunch is to be arranged at St Cecilia's Church on Thursday 18th March which will have the sponsorship of James Graven's Budgens. □

Any queries regarding the lunches can be addressed to me, Bob Tipling, Co-Ordinator, Dersingham Community Lunches, 45 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Dersingham, Norfolk PE31 6JQ Tel; 01485 541347 – e-mail; communitylunches1@btinternet.com

Bob Tipling

Photos - Tim Rounce



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

There will be a large selection of good secondhand books (plus jig-saw puzzles, videos and C.D.s). There will also be a varied and interesting collection of Bric-a- Brac, plus a range of well-presented Nearly New clothing.

We are not able to sell large pieces of furniture or anything that is upholstered. Unfortunately we are not able to accept any electrical goods. All items for the bric-a-brac stalls should be delivered to the Church Hall as early as possible on Friday, 23rd April, from 9.00a.m. onwards. Books and clothing can be received at any time during the coming weeks. Books and Clothing can also be delivered to the monthly Coffee Mornings at the Church Hall. Alternatively you can contact one of the people listed below.

Clothing contact: Mary Sharp, Tel: 01485 540350.

Bric-a-Brac contact: Doreen Asker, Tel: 01485 540601.

**Donations of Books and general enquiries about the sale,
contact: Neil Adams, Tel: 01485 540857**

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

DERSINGHAM OPEN GARDENS

30th and 31st May 2010. 2.00pm to 6.00pm

Fascinating Gardens - Art Exhibition - Cream Teas

Please make a note in your calendars and diaries. Tell your friends and plan to come to this enjoyable annual event. There will be further details in the next issue of this publication.

Also, would you consider opening your garden for the two afternoons of the Spring Bank Holiday? If you are interested and would like to discuss this, please telephone Neil Adams on 01485 540857.

Have your say on street lights

Norfolk County Council has proposed switching off many of its 45,000 street lights between midnight and 5am in order to save money and cut the carbon emissions that are increasing the risk of climate change. This would include the 34 lights along Lynn Road and Hunstanton Road in Dersingham.

Dersingham Parish Council is also to consider switching off the other 180 odd lights in the village for which it is responsible, also from midnight to 5am. The cost of installing time clocks would be paid for by lower energy costs within two years, after which the village would save around £1500 every year.

There are, of course, fears that turning off the lights will encourage crime and lead to an increase in traffic accidents. A survey carried out in central London in the 1980s did find that street lighting cut crime.

However, more recent studies in more rural areas have found that crime actually fell when lights were turned off. A trial in Essex three years ago when lights were turned off between midnight and 5.30am resulted in night-time crime in Saffron Walden being almost halved; crime in Dunmow fell by over a third.

A definitive study carried out by the Home Office and published in 1991 - *The Influence of Street Lighting on Crime and the Fear of Crime* - concluded that "No evidence could be found to support the hypothesis that improved street lighting reduces reported crime".

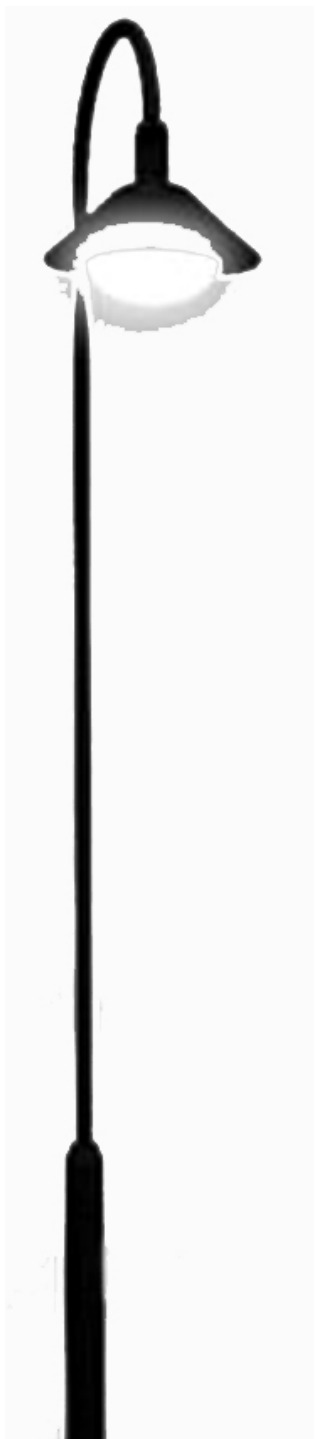
Another study, published by the Manchester Police, suggested that in some circumstances lighting can actually help criminals by showing them vulnerabilities they might not otherwise spot; this has been supported by experience showing that night-time vandalism of schools reduces when external lighting is turned off.

But what do you think? Please let the Parish Council have your views on whether or not Dersingham street lights should be turned off from midnight to 5am. In particular, we would like to hear of any areas that you believe require special consideration where the lights might need to be kept on.

And please contact us if you are in favour of switching off the lights: it is usually those who object to change who respond rather than those who support it.

Either write to the Parish Council at 7b Hunstanton Road, Dersingham PE31 6HH or e-mail dersinghampc@tiscali.co.uk

Paul Burall



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Now we have the full set!

With our two latest recruits, introducing themselves below - one new face and one old one, the Parish Council is up to full strength with it's full compliment of eighteen members.

John Pattison

We came to live in Dersingham in 2007. I was born in Gravesend, Kent (resting place of Pocahontas) and went to school in Rochester.

My career in the Paper Industry, which involved extensive travel throughout the UK, came to an abrupt end, being made redundant some 34 years later. After a great deal of study I became a fully qualified Chiropodist, which I practised for 15 years prior to my retirement.

We cannot believe our good fortune for having such a lovely place like Dersingham to retire to and we have been made to feel so welcome by all who we have met.

I am very pleased to have been co-opted onto the Parish Council. I hope I can make a positive contribution to the satisfaction of the village.



Bob Tipling



I have lived in Dersingham for the last 14 years and have spent a great deal of that time being involved in the interests of the village having previously been a Parish Councillor, a former Editor of Dersingham Village Voice for four-and-a-half-years and Co-ordinator of Dersingham Community Lunches for the last year.

I am currently employed on a part-time basis as Communications Manager for James Graven and Sons, the parent company of the Budgens Supermarket in the village, a position that allows me to act as a link between the company and the people of Dersingham. My past experience has seen me spending 25 years in the hotel & catering trade, 20 years in local government with Leicester City Council and, since retirement, being employed by The Butterfly Hotel in King's Lynn, Thaxter's Spar Supermarket, as an invigilator at the College of West Anglia and as Clerk to Congham Parish Council.

I hope to put all of this to good use as I again take on the role of Parish Councillor.

A recipe from the Bluebell Cottage Kitchen

Vegetable Crumble by Lindsey Davis

A really tasty one to support the *Meat Free Monday* campaign. This quantity gives 4 generous servings, so why not reheat it for a *Meat Free Tuesday* too?

1 large onion, peeled and diced
approx. 2lbs mixed vegetables (e.g. 3 carrots, 1 parsnip, 1 courgette, 1 small sweet potato, a few beans or any other vegetables you may have) peeled and chopped into bite-sized pieces
2 heaped tsps cornflour
half pint milk
half a vege Oxo cube or bouillon
6oz cheese (Cheddar or Red Leicester work well)
6oz plain flour
2oz oats
4oz margarine
sunflower and sesame seeds

1. Boil the onion and vegetables in large pan of lightly salted water.
2. Make crumble by mixing together flour, oats and grated cheese then rubbing in margarine (easily done in food processor).
3. Put cornflour into a microwaveable jug. Add a little of the milk and mix to a smooth paste. Gradually add remainder of milk and stir well. Cook in microwave for 1 minute at a time until thick. Flavour with vege Oxo cube or bouillon.
4. When vegetables are cooked drain well. Add white sauce and mix thoroughly. Place in large ovenproof dish. Smooth top.
5. Place crumble over top. Sprinkle with sunflower and sesame seeds.
6. Cook in pre-heated oven Gas 6, 200 degrees for approx 30 mins until golden brown. □

Dersingham Evening W.I.

In November we held our Annual Meeting and there were eleven nominations for a new committee. Reports from the Treasurer, and Secretary were followed by President Lesley Geer's address on the year's work and she thanked everyone who had helped in the running of our W.I. Nominations for President for the coming year were taken and members voted for Lesley to continue in the post. Two members from Hunstanton W.I. acted as Tellers and they were presented with plants as a thank you gift.

John Woodford gave a fascinating talk, accompanied by slides on 'Bees and Beekeeping', and we learnt how important it is to encourage bees in our environment as 75% of our food supply is pollinated by them and other insects.

It was agreed we enter in the 'New Members Pack' competition and a subcommittee has been formed to deal with this.

December saw us enjoying a demonstration of Christmas themed flower arrangements by 'Yvonne' our local florist, which were much appreciated by the ladies who won them in the raffle. Congratulations were extended to talented member Pauline Campbell whose entries in the 'handmade bag competition' organised by the Norfolk Federation, won second, and third prize and a Highly Commended.

A 'wrapped gift stall' proved another popular way to raise funds towards our expenses.

As our pre-Christmas celebration, members had brought plates of delicious food which was enjoyed by all, and the meeting ended with our president wishing us all a Happy Christmas and anticipating another eventful New Year. □

Phyl Jones

Old Picture Corner - past and present

It's hard to date precisely this hand coloured print but it has to be around 1920. As usual the trees are much smaller and fewer affording clear views of the hillside that is now mainly covered by Tudor Way. Note the fingerpost at the road junction, when did that go?



Buildings now obscure the view of Hawthorn Cottages and the paintbrush has been used on the two most prominent buildings but we still have the Recreation Ground as a “green lung”.





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

We managed to raise £105.32p for The Poppy Appeal at our Coffee Morning on 5th November, many thanks to everybody who supported us.

At the County Conference our Standard Bearer, Mrs. Audrey Barlow, obtained a 1st. Class Certificate of Merit in the Photographic Section. The Diana Stimpson Plate was awarded to our Chairman, Mrs. Ivy Hawkins in her role as Secretary of Group 1. We are extremely proud of them both.

We have again taken part in The Christmas Tree Festival at St. Nicholas Church, with the Branch contributing half of the cost of the tree and the Women's Section decorating it. Docking branch were hosts for our Group Meeting in December and members enjoyed their hospitality at the Ripper Hall.

Our Christmas Party was a very lively affair, held at the home of our President, Mrs. Betty Edey. On behalf of our members may I wish you all a Very Happy Healthy New Year. □

Village Voice Cover Photo Competition

this years subject:-

Dersingham Wildlife

Get one of your pictures on the cover of the October Village Voice. You may submit entries as prints or electronically, on a disc or by e-mail for the closing date of **Wednesday 1st September**. Pictures must have been taken within the parish boundary, not have been previously published and not have been digitally manipulated. Remember that the cover is portrait (upright) in format so, we may have to crop your work to make it fit. Good luck and happy snapping!



Send your entries to:-

Village Voice photo competition
Dersingham Parish Council
7b Hunstanton road
Dersingham PE31 6HH

or e-mail to:-

villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk

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Dersingham Infant and Nursery School

Children at our school find themselves involved in many exciting activities and challenges. Since starting the school year in September 2009, children have sailed the 'Seven Seas' on their new playground pirate ship and have also been able to work creatively on this theme as part of their curriculum work. This culminated in a Pirates' Parade, where the children dressed up; as did some parents who came to watch too!



Our younger children in Reception Class enjoyed learning through play based activities in a 'Witches and Wizards Shop' where they also made cakes and sold them to their parents.



In Nursery the children learnt about light/dark and night/day. They were fortunate to visit the Baytree Owl Centre to meet the owls who usually only come out at night.

Key Stage 1 children have also been enthralled with their work on 'Amazing Brains!!!' and have discovered just how talented they all are!





DEC 2009 Christmas Fayre

Finally, time to draw breath – Christmas is over, New Year has been and gone (or should that be been and started?), everything can be put away for another 40 odd weeks and then it can all start again.

Now that the festivities are over though, I can take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in putting the Christmas Fayre together and hope that all those who came to Thaxters on 1st December (all those weeks ago) enjoyed themselves – particularly those fortunate enough to see the big

red man.

Preparations for the 2009 Fayre began in September 09 when Andrew, Rhona, Donna and I met to discuss what we were to do – gifts to be ordered, Santa to be invited, favours and sponsorship to be asked for and so the list grows. At this point though Christmas seemed so far away but it is surprising just how quick the weeks fly by so much so that the morning of the Fayre quite took me by surprise when I had to be up early with Andrew to collect stalls and then assemble them ready for the evening. Later that afternoon stalls were moved into position and a willing army of people were there to help.



At 6 O'clock the Fayre was ready for business, Santa came and made himself comfortable in the coffee shop, the Schools Choir sang, the stalls looked festive and busy, Razz and Auntie Pearl danced and sang, I flipped burgers and hot dogs with mother and the queue for Santa grew and grew and grew. By 7 O'clock the fayre was still busy and the queue for Santa was still growing and I was flipping mother with burgers and hotdogs - the strain was beginning to show. By 8 O'clock Santa had seen the last child in the queue and was ready to go home, burgers and hotdogs had run out and all was winding down.

After everyone had finally gone the clear up operation swung into action with stalls taken down, electricity cables wound up, litter cleared away and coffee drunk by the last few remaining people. Once again the night seemed to have gone well and not too many problems presented themselves and everyone who came to Santa got a present.

I really hope that all those who were able to come to the Fayre had a good time and that the night help start their Christmas celebrations. I would also like to thank all those involved with helping to get the Fayre up and running – Thaxters for the use of the Coffee Shop grounds and car park, the staff of the coffee shop for helping out on the night, my mother, Santa, the stall holders, Razz and Auntie Pearl, the Parish Council for their generosity, the Village Voice team and particularly Andrew, Rhona and Donna without whom the Christmas Fayre could not happen. □



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Dick Melton

First of all I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. Next I would like to thank Ivan Green for putting me right about the land down Centre Vale. In the year 1925 there were three Baulding brothers who were farmers in Dersingham - Frederick, George and James. There were other farmers in the village too. Charles Clayton was a pig farmer and dealer, James Emmerson Jnr. was a smallholder who lived at The Emblems, James Jackson farmed down Centre Vale, William Smith farmed at Hill House Farm, Fern Hill, Richard Hugh Stanton was a farmer who lived in the Manor House and was also a smith and wheelwright, Richard Tallent farmed at Ling House and Mr. Henry Towler was a poultry farmer. There is no mention of High Farm being in the parish of Dersingham in 1925.

In the December issue of Village Voice the editor mentions about bowling for a pig at a fete in the grounds of Beaulieu Abbey in the New Forest whilst on holiday and he wondered how he would have got it home had he won. This reminded me of a story of a friend of mine who many years ago was on holiday in the west country. On the last day of his holiday he went to a local cattle market. There were some very nice calves for sale so he bought one, caged some straw off a local farmer and brought it all the way back home to Dersingham on the back seat of a Ford 8.

Many people ask me about the old jetty that is on the foreshore between Wolferton and Snettisham, one of the reasons being is that it must be the most photographed structure in the area. You see it on calendars, in books and in the press all the time. There is not much left of it now as most of it has been washed away but most of the damage was done to it in the 1953 and 1978

floods. It was built in 1942 when the shingle pits were opened. It had a narrow gauge railway run along it with small tipping wagons that brought the shingle out of the pits and into barges that were then taken across to Lincolnshire to build the runways on the aerodromes for the Second World War but most of the shingle was taken away by lorries to build runways in Norfolk. During the floods most of the track and some of the wagons were washed into the shingle pits and as far as I know they are still down there. As boys we used to swim in those pits but now of course they are out of bounds unless you are a birdwatcher.

I was very interested in Keith Starks article about his walk around what he called Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve. For a start it is not a bog and it was always called Dersingham Fen or Cranberry Fen until the bypass was built when it was split in two and then called Dersingham Bog by Natural England or English Nature who took over the management of the 79 acres of fen that the people of Dersingham have the rights



to dig, cut and cart away, let, sell and graze for the sole use and benefit of the Dersingham parishioners and no one else, these rights being granted to the people of Dersingham in 1779 by King George III. Over the years these rights have been contested many times but the people of Dersingham have always won and these rights still stand today. I will just tell you about a few things that have gone on over the fen in past years.

On 27th May 1862 the Hunstanton Railway Company paid Dersingham Parish Council £20 for a piece of the west side of the fen to build the Hunstanton to King's Lynn railway line on. In 1907 a rifle range was built on the fen with bunkers and a target area. For the use of this the King's agent, Captain Beck, paid Dersingham Parish Council £27 a year. When the range was in use a red flag was hoisted on a pole on the top of the hill near the sandpits. I don't think the range was ever used after World War One. Between the years of 1909 and 1912 a dyke was dug out starting from the Lynn Road all around the fen. When the electric pylons were erected over the fen Dersingham Parish Council asked the electricity company for rent but they said No, we have already paid it to Sandringham Estate, so this started another dispute about the rights to the fen. At a meeting of Dersingham Parish Council on 13th October 1930 two people on the Council, Mr. Parker and Mr. Wheeler resigned over these rights. Then, at another meeting on 13th July 1932, after the Council had been in contact with the King's solicitors, Bircham and Co. of London, everything was settled and the people of Dersingham still had their rights to the fen like they do today. In 1933 Fred Daniels was paid 12 shillings to erect six four foot high posts along the boundary of Dersingham Fen and Wolferton Fen. Marked on these posts are the letters D.P.B. DERSINGHAM PARISH BOUNDARY. Fred was also paid each year to clean out the dyke. In Keith Starks article he says that it is permissible to access the fifty acres of fen that are fenced in by climbing over the five bar gate next to the A149. If this is so why is this area of fen fenced in?

Just going back to Ivan Green's letter, he asks about a dwelling called Happy's Hut down Centre Vale. I don't remember this but I do remember my father telling me about a man who lived in a hovel for many years on the open common. He was called "Hoddy" and that area of common was always known as Hoddy's Hole.

We have just had a week of ice and snow. Where were those gritting lorries? Bring back the days when the men would stand on the back of a lorry or horsedrawn cart and spread the grit everywhere including the pavements. Well, that's another load of Dersingham Notes or as some people say, Squit from Dick. See you all in April. □

Planning Decisions for the last couple of months

09/01513/F	Mr Markillie, 13 Shernborne Road, Dersingham. Application for repositioning of highway access. – Granted
09/01479/F	Mr T Edmunds, Application for construction of detached garage at 25 Hipkin Road, Dersingham - Granted
09/01601/CU	Assent Building Control Ltd, Amber 53 Lynn Road, Dersingham. Application for change of use of first floor from one apartment into one office suite.- Granted
09/01541/F	Mr D Rix, 60A Manor Road, Dersingham. Application for proposed single storey two bedroom dwelling at land north of Holly Lodge. – Refusal
09/01602/A	Assent Building Control Ltd, Amber 53 Lynn Road, Dersingham. Application for advertisement consent – Erection of standing sign and fascia sign. – Granted
09/01643/CU	Miss K Bowman. Application for change of use from pet shop to beauty salon at Time Out Beauty Salon, 62 Manor Road, Dersingham. – Granted
09/01874F	Mrs L Smith, 1 Waldens Barns, Chapel Road, Dersingham. Retrospective application for conversion of outbuilding to form annexe. - Granted

The Dersingham Beat



Here we are at the end of one year and the beginning of another. Hopefully I can add some good news to all the doom and gloom elsewhere in the world.

So far this period we have been dealing with a small group of youngsters that have been consuming alcohol in the area of the recreation ground and damaging property on the allotments.

Through their investigative work my team has identified two adults that knowingly purchased alcohol from shops and supplied youths with it, these were expensive rounds, it cost each of these adults £80 for a fixed penalty ticket!

Two local youths have signed up to an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) for their part in these problems within the village. This is a positive effort to improve their behaviour.

We have seen a noticeable decline in anti-social behaviour since these tickets and ABCs were issued.

It is worthy of mention that since the Safer Neighbourhood Team arrived little over two years ago there has been a 50% reduction in all calls to the police regarding anti-social behaviour which is good news for all concerned.

I mentioned in the last edition of the Village Voice that my team are going to “re-launch” Home Watch in the New Year, well we are but Home Watch will be run corporately from Police HQ as from April 2010. I do not have any further details at present but when I do you will be the first to hear about it.....I was hoping to manage Home Watch locally and ensure a personal touch but this has been taken out of my hands.

Other recent highlights include the success on Halloween night itself, it must have been a first for the village as we didn't have a single call regarding ASB. I put this down to the excellent work carried out by the team by getting into schools, educating local youths and seeking cooperation from local shops by preventing the sale of eggs and flour leading up to the event.

I also mentioned in the last edition that a house had suffered damage from eggs being thrown and staining the brickwork. The good news is that three local youths were identified and dealt with by means of ‘Restorative Justice’ for throwing the eggs. RJ is where the offenders come face to face with their victim(s) in a controlled setting. This was very successful with all parties feeling fairly treated. (Apparently only 10% of offenders dealt with by RJ are likely to re-offend). It is also a more “satisfying” resolution for the victim.

An 18 year old man was arrested in Hunstanton having been seen to steal an advertising sign from outside Thaxter's. His car was stopped outside Hunstanton Police Station and the sign was recovered. The man was cautioned for the theft and the sign was returned.

Most of you will have noticed the newly refurbished Police Station. We have now been back in the building since the first week of November and feel that we are now back “in touch with our community”.

Thanks again for your continued support and I hope that 2010 brings even more good news! □

Andy



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St Cecilia's Church was Christmas card pretty in the snow

News from St. Cecilia's Catholic Church

Greetings from Fr James Fyfe

After a snowy and bitterly cold Christmas season, the longer days and spring flowers in the shops are hopeful signs of the warmer times ahead. We pray for you all to have God's blessings of good health and loving companionship in 2010.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began on Monday 18th January. This was a wonderful time for all the Christian churches in our parish to join together in prayer and thanksgiving.



The baptism of Dersingham's Milla Eva Zawilla, daughter of Karina and Adam, which took place at Hunstanton.



The Christmas Flower Arrangers at St Cecilia's in 2009.



Parish-in-Council Member Sue Walker (right) gives the Speaker Mrs Janet Doyle from Tapping House some flowers at the Ladies Shared Lunch in November.

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DERSINGHAM DAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY

The Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly celebrated its 28th year in November 2009 at a time when we were in dire straights, having been told by the Parish Council that we had to vacate the Community Centre by February 2010. This blow was then followed by the news that Adult Social Services were withdrawing our annual grant (under half of the actual running costs) from the 1st April 2010.

We are a small but strong loyal team of Volunteers and we quickly decided that we would not close because of lack of funds - we would just have to work harder on our fund raising. However, providing a roof over our heads was going to be a much bigger challenge. Through the next few months we explored every possible venue in the local vicinity, including the Sandringham Estate, but we couldn't find anywhere that had cooking facilities, essential for us to provide our hot two-course lunches, and could also find room for our equipment.

Just when our hopes were fading, the Vicar and the Church Hall Committee heard of our plight and offered us accommodation in the Church Hall. We always have a wonderful Christmas Lunch and Party, and we were determined to make it the best ever, and this it proved. The best Christmas Present any of us could have wished for came when the Vicar announced that the Church Hall would be our new home from March 2010.

We now look to the future with optimism and would like to take this opportunity to thank all those local organisations who support us so loyally, as well as those of you who come along to our Fund raising events and support us on our annual Flag Day. Please continue to do so.

The Dersingham Day Centre is there for those over the age of 70 who feel they would benefit from a day out each week to socialise and enjoy the company of others. Members come through recommendation by the Surgery/Carers/Friends etc. . If you know someone who would benefit from our Day Centre, please let us know.

For further information you can contact Alice Worth on (01485) 544673.

Hon Secretary: Mrs Alice Worth , 53B Chapel Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn, Norfolk. □



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We Hate Rudolph!

by Steve Nowell

I would hate to offend anyone but I have to say that I'm ruddy well p...d off! The highlight of my year has come and gone and even that was a disaster. So now there's three hundred and sixty some odd days to wait before there's any hope of having a bit of fun. It's alright for you Village Voice readers, sitting in front of your simulated log fires and massive plasma screens, but I have to *work* for a living. I only get one day a year off, and even then I'm working. The boss calls it a 'relief day' would you believe? Oh, sorry. I didn't tell you but my name is 'Comet'. You think I'm kidding, don't you, but I'm not. I'm one of the eight reindeer who pull S. Claus's sleigh on Christmas morning. And that's supposed to be 'relief'? What makes it worse is that I'm one of the pair nearest the sleigh and nearest to 'himself'; right in line for a whipping and to be blamed for anything that goes wrong. 'Oh no' I hear you say 'but Santa is such a kind old gentleman. He wouldn't hurt a fly.' Maybe he doesn't hurt flies but as for lashing my backside... I reported him to the RSPCA last year but he spun them such a cock and bull story about saving us from being converted into steaks for human consumption that it was me who got the rollicking.

Normally we reindeer enjoy Christmas morning. We flash from chimney to chimney, dropping the old man off to do his bit and grab handfuls of mince pies in the process; not to mention the hundreds of bottles of booze he manages to stash away in his toy sack. But we know that pretty soon there will be millions of happy, cheerful children all over the world to whom we have given pleasure, and that's what makes the whole thing worthwhile. However, as I said earlier, this year was different. To start with the boss had a king-size hangover before we even got going. He treated all his diminutive obnoxious elves to their Christmas knees-up at the Feathers on Christmas Eve and the little b's kept plying him with double whiskies until he was paralytic. (I would like to say that as far as those elves are concerned I reckon Herod had the right idea.) We weren't worried about SC's capabilities though, because this year he had really splashed out and bought a Sat-Nav for the sleigh. Fine, but he didn't know that all the routes were based on distances from some place in northern Finland. Then there was the case of the little lad who had saved several rockets from November 5th. His idea of 'a wikid wheeze' was to wait till his Mum and Dad had gone to bed, then he pointed all the rockets up the chimney and... It took several buckets of snow to put out the fire in Santa's trousers. But the incident which really got up my antlers was when he took that poofy poseur Rudolph down a chimney with him. SC had gone down first and was greeted by 'We want Rudolph; we want Rudolph...etc'. He negotiated a bottle of Jack Daniels out of the family in exchange for letting the three kids have a ride on him. That might almost have been acceptable but when the kids shouted for us to 'Mush! Mush!' while that plonker Rudolph sat on the sleigh, we felt it was adding insult to injury. By now you'll understand that I haven't much time for Rudolph. He's no more than a mascot. Ask him to do any pulling and he'll report you to the Reindeer Council for 'Infringement of Reindeer rights'. He wasn't one of the original team you know, SC imported him from Lapland. 'To improve our image' he said. He skips along in front of the team doing no work whatsoever, acting like a prima donna in case anyone happens to look up and see him. And that nose? I bet you think that red is its natural colour. No way. SC has rigged him up with an intravenous drip of 'single malt' to keep it glowing. I could go on, but I must be positive. By now you will be thinking I'm just a grumpy old reindeer but Christmas wasn't *that* bad I suppose. There must have been good times. (I can't think of any but there you go).

I will now let you into a secret. You wonder how we can deliver so many presents all over the world between midnight and breakfast time and you also wonder how reindeer can fly and how overweight Santa Clauses can squeeze down chimneys, don't you. It's all down to the 4th Dimension. You humans live in three dimensions so you can walk about, jump up and down, and things like that. But we reindeer, plus the old man, live in four dimensions so we can travel

through time as well, much like your Doctor Who. That's why we can flash from house to house worldwide in the twinkling of an eye. And that was where the boss made another nasty error this Christmas. We were sailing along quite happily over Australia in the 4th dimension when he leaned across the sleigh to get to his hip flask and accidentally hit the knob marked '3rd Dimension'. So there we were, suspended in space above the Sidney Opera House until I, yes me, a humble underpaid reindeer, sorted things out for him.

Anyway, Christmas has come and gone. What's in store for us? A year of hauling sledges and logs for the Sami people. It's hard work but the Sami's are very good to us. For example they actually apologise before shooting us for the next meal. We shouldn't complain though, the eight of us who pull SC's sleigh, plus that waster Rudolph, get special treatment during the summer when you folk come to Scandinavia for your holidays. We stand in line, side by side, while visitors throw lassos at us. The idea is to get the lasso entangled in our antlers which represents a 'catch'. How degrading is that? Never mind, there's always next Christmas to look forward to. □

Comet



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Our Bob

How many times do we villagers meet
Let alone sit together for an edible treat
Though I'm no Rudyard Kipling
I must extol our Bob Tipling
Who brought us together for first course and sweet.

He rallied the forces who gave us our courses
And made sure that we all were replete
The whole operation
Without hesitation
Was a truly magnificent feat.

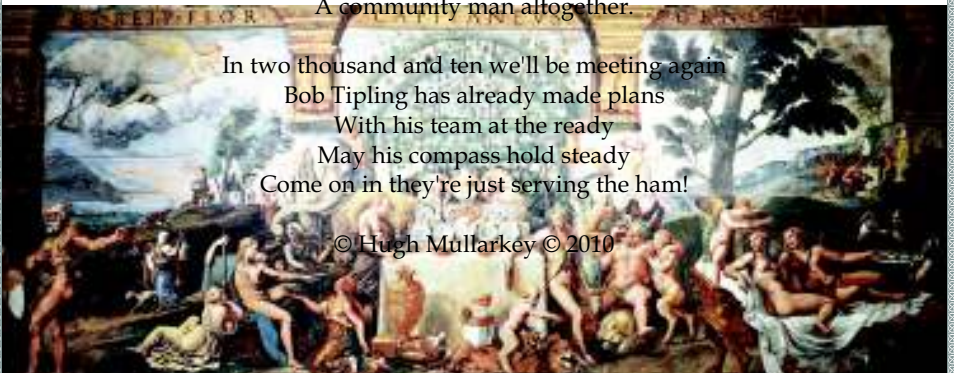
So many good neighbours were giving their labours
It seemed we were attending a feast
They all worked as a team
Raising village esteem
A community triumph at least.

Sponsored by the good Rounce and Evans
The Rev. Brock representing the heavens
Thus paying the bill
And redeeming us still
I mustn't leave you at sixes and sevens.

Let's return to our Bob who's done such a good job
Of bringing us all together
He's really succeeded
Just where it is needed
A community man altogether.

In two thousand and ten we'll be meeting again
Bob Tipling has already made plans
With his team at the ready
May his compass hold steady
Come on in they're just serving the ham!

© Hugh Mullarkey © 2010





From the parish office...

I hope that you all had a great Christmas and a Happy/Merry New Year. As I am writing this the snow is coming down thickly and it is settling on the pavements and roads again. I hope that you have not fallen over and hurt yourselves and I hope that children of the village enjoyed the most snow that some of them will ever have seen. I know that Norfolk County Council Highways are doing all they can to keep the roads driveable but at the moment it must seem that they are fighting a losing battle. I hope that if you have any elderly/disabled neighbours that you have checked that they are keeping warm and have sufficient food as it is extremely wise for them to stay in the warm. I trust that being neighbourly has not been lost by the people of Dersingham.

We currently have clear recycling bags available in the office for your extras as, due to the weather, they may have not been able to empty the green bins. These bags can also be used at other times if the green bin is full.

Unfortunately the Parish Council are having to go VAT registered due to this magazine, it is in direct competition with other publications that charge VAT and the magazine is so popular we have reached the threshold. This means that other products we sell will also have VAT charged to them now e.g., dog bags etc. The trade bags and items from the Borough Council already have VAT included so no change there.

I spoke in the last magazine regarding people reporting streetlights being out, this need continues and problems seem to be sorted quickly by our contractors. Also in this magazine there is a piece regarding turning off the streetlights between midnight & 5.30am which will halve the energy costs but what do you think? Please let us know your views. Streetlights are still available for adoption.

I would like to welcome our new Councillors Mr Pattison and Mr Tipling; this means that we now have a full crew. I hope that Messrs Pattison and Tipling will be happy on the Council and know that they will make a difference to the parish. Most of you will know Mr Tipling from previously being Editor of this magazine and a councillor and he is now busy organising the super community lunches. I am sure you will get to know Mr Pattison in the coming months.

We are receiving lots of complaints regarding the lack of swings and equipment for older children on the playground. Children/parents please write in and tell the Parish Council what you would like to see on your playground.

Buses are the hot topic at present, how is the new timetable affecting you, good and bad? Write to us so that we can fully understand the situation and pass on your comments. Thank you to the people who have already emailed and written in with their concerns.

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.

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. Hopefully the sun will be shining when I write my page for the next issue. □

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Old Girls Patch

by Meetze

It is relatively boring now without Mini... Hmpf...

My big friends must have thought similar because when I came home for dinner on Monday, Stumpy was sitting on the sofa. She smells of hospital – grrrr. Let's have a sniff than... Whoops, she hissed at me. ME!!! She even got up for that. But what is that? She only has three legs! How did she manage to lose one? Very strange. And now she is hissing at my big friend's boots. And now at the plant pot. Stumpy is short sighted I think. Now she is running off. It actually looks like sort of hopping rather than running. Looks like a rabbit from the back.

Not sure yet if I like her or not. I growled at her just in case and she, she hissed right back at me. But I think that doesn't mean anything, because she is hissing at everything that is about her size or smaller I noticed. She even hissed at the rabbit just now that lives indoors with us and at my boyfriend. She definitely is short sighted as she growled at the hideaway box and the sofa cushion as well. Maybe she needs glasses? My big friend has some of those in her face. They are stuck on her nose. I think that's what Stumpy needs, but they look rather large to me. Do they come in different sizes?

I also heard my big friend saying the other day that Stumpy has something wrong with her ears. "Selective hearing" - I believe she called it. Whatever that is, it seems to work for her, because she gets spoiled rotten just like me.

But Stumpy's purr is different to mine. Hers sounds like a broken water pump is running overtime. Stumps, as I heard my big friends calling her, has also loads of fur, mainly white. I saw her being brushed and a massive amount of fluff got stuck to the brush.

And the weirdest thing ever, between 3 and 4 in the morning Stumpy starts meowing loudly, hopping for that into the centre of the kitchen. The first few mornings that happened my big friends and I went downstairs to see what was wrong. She got picked up – what else – and she shut up. Nice trick. Got to remember that, might be useful in the future. Her meow sounds like she has a sore throat. Meanwhile I do not go downstairs anymore when she calls, why should I? I cannot pick her up. And what is it with all the constant cleaning? Where does she go secretly, that she thinks she needs to do the "cute" thing all the time?

Have a look at the picture... that's Stumpy... Friend? Maybe! Annoying? No! Interesting? Definitely! □



The Grumpy Bit

Bedrooms, DIY and such

My parents visited for one week in May and decided I need proper bedroom furniture in my spare bedroom.

First we had a look at some catalogues (as you do) and then off we went to Kings Lynn. to visit some stores. Then back to one of them and then back to another.

A nice Lady at asked if we needed any help. We told her our plan about the bedroom, and she was really nice and helpful. She gave us a brochure, explaining, that “we can pick the bedroom style we like from that brochure and pick the bedroom pieces we want, and the handles and the colour and we will deliver the bedroom furniture we picked to your doorstep”.

Great idea we thought, took the brochure and went home to measure everything and to write down the pieces of furniture we wanted.

Two days later, back we went to give them our order. Another friendly lady seated us and started taking our order.

Oh dear, the first problem, the style we had chosen was discontinued. So we had another look at the styles on offer and picked another one. But that did not look right in the colour we wanted, so we changed the colour as well.

Everything went well until we came to the bedside cabinet. Apparently there was none in the style we had chosen. “But”, the Lady said, “there is a similar one in our colour we can have”. So we went for that one instead.

Next problem, the handles we picked were discontinued as well. Now my dad had had it, got up and walked off. So it was up to my mum and me to pick different handles. The ones we picked out are now available, so happy day after all.

My mum paid and we were given the delivery date. The 27th June 2009. It was the 3rd May 2009, so nearly two months later they were able to deliver our bedroom cabinets. Never mind, we lived without for years, so what are 2 months waiting?

Finally the 27th June. The shop called at 9am to confirm the delivery within the next hour. Very nice and considerate of them. 40 minutes later, the truck turned up and the driver started unloading our bits.

But what was that? 3 packages had a hole in the packing right in the middle and I could see that there was damage to the furniture piece. Another package had a corner missing. I was gutted. I refused the whole delivery and went to the phone to call the shop. The gentleman on the phone was very understanding and scheduled the replacement delivery for the 15th August, 6 weeks later! He apologized, but apparently “there are no earlier dates available for delivery”. Oh well, never mind, I thought, just 6 more weeks.

15th August! They rang at 9am again to confirm the delivery for 1pm. Just before one the truck came and there was no damage to any of the pieces. Thanks God for that, I thought.

We took everything indoors and started unpacking and assembling. Unpacking the 2nd bridging unit, we found there was damage to the facial at the side. Unpacking the 3rd bridging unit, there was damage to the bottom and unpacking the bedside table, we found out, that the colour did not match at all the other bedroom furniture pieces and the handles were not the ones we had chosen in May either.

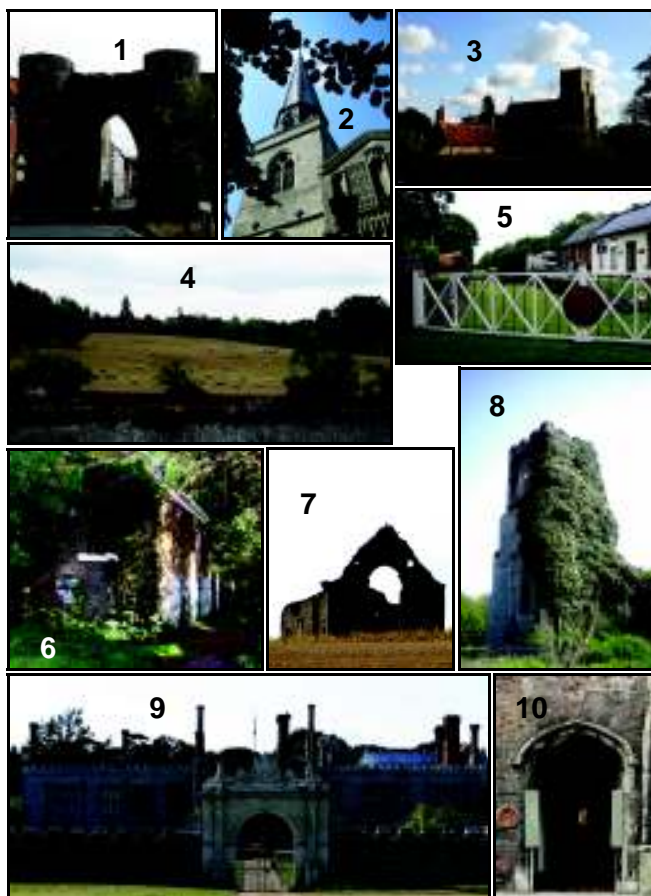
So, back to the phone and call the shop. We were told that “we can exchange the handles in store and return the bedside cabinet”. The replacement pieces for the damaged ones we would get delivered 2nd December. We drove to King’s Lynn, exchanged the handles and returned the bedside cabinet and got the money back for that. Checking out the bedroom furniture again, we were told, that “there is actually no bedside cabinet at all that would match the style and colour we had chosen”. We were puzzled. How can one sell a bedroom without matching bed side cabinets? We

thought bedside cabinets were a basic part of a bedroom. Apparently not at this shop.
2nd December. No call. No call all day from them. We did not leave the house all day in case we might miss the delivery guy. 5pm! A van arrived with our replacement pieces.

So if you want friendly staff, a bedroom and you do not mind waiting over 7 months for the complete delivery and if you do not mind not having matching bed side cabinets ... we now know where to go! □

Christmas Teaser answers

1. Castle Acre gateway.
2. St Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn.
3. Old Hunstanton Church.
4. Dersingham looking towards Dodd's Hill.
5. Raynham Park station.
6. Snettisham Water mill.
7. St Andrew's Chapel. Hunstanton.
8. St Felix's Church, Babingley.
9. Hunstanton Hall.
10. King's Lynn Arts Centre.



The Grumpy Bit 2

The local pheasants which insist upon crossing (or trying to cross) the road in front of my car.
The plastic/wire bag ties which have gone from being 100mm in length down to 80mm long.
The 'International' telephone calls at all times of the day/evening which tell me that I have won 'another' Cruise!

The Mail-Order companies that deliver your goods 'within 28 days' by which time I have either . forgotten the order and re-ordered it or bought it somewhere else!

The back-ground music which hinders my concentration for 30 seconds on Countdown.

The dipped headlights of on-coming vehicles which are just as dazzling as full beam.

The Fish Pie which seems to be 99% potato mash and has a tiny piece of 'fish' which may turn up before I get fed-up with eating potato!

The Barbers Shop which closes at 4.30 pm but locks its door at 4.10.

The man who has played MY golf ball but refuses to admit it.

The car driver who will exceed the speed limit in order to catch me up and sit upon my tail!

The modern singers shown on television who are supported by any number of 'androids' dancing and gesticulating behind them.

The Croutons in my Cup-a-soup.

The film personalities who can open doors, locks and safes with a piece of wire.

The 'piped' laughter imposed upon 'Have 1 Got News for You' and other programmes.

The Tabby cat from down the road who comes to my back door for attention and reminds me of MY beloved Tabby who was put to sleep a year ago.

The Television camera operators who flash from one shot to another repeatedly.

The X Factor contestants who are mainly either unmarried mothers, unemployed or untalented.

The pigeons and other birds which will decorate my car and my house windows.

The frequent delivery of Mail Order catalogues from suppliers that I have purchased from sometime in the past.

The irritating little figures shown on my TV Screen gesticulating with their hands and arms in an effort to tell me and other hard of hearing viewers, what is going on!

The pretty local surgery nurse who when I declared that I was trying to lose weight in order to look more attractive to the nurses said "just win the lottery Richard" .

The Traders who advertise with "we will pay your VAT". They are only giving a normal discount because VAT is always payable by the customer as a proportion of the selling price!

The Papworth Hospital daily 'pill' orderly who only gave me two double-sotch drinks on the day that I was leaving hospital after my By-Pass operation.

The Post and Newspaper delivery that includes two, three or four copies of advertising leaflets.

The frequent press reports of metal-detector users finds of Saxon and Roman Treasure

AND - Why, when I offer a £1.00 coin for The Guy' don't I get 99p change?

Why can't a rifleman in a Western or Crime film hit somebody 20 yards away whilst the Hero with a revolver or pistol can kill at 50 yards?

Why do modern dance and song routines on the telly leave me cold. I must be showing my age.

AND-Finally.. Garfield !??? The X Factor !!!!! □

Keep on grumbling, keep on sending them in, lets put the world to rights! Ed.

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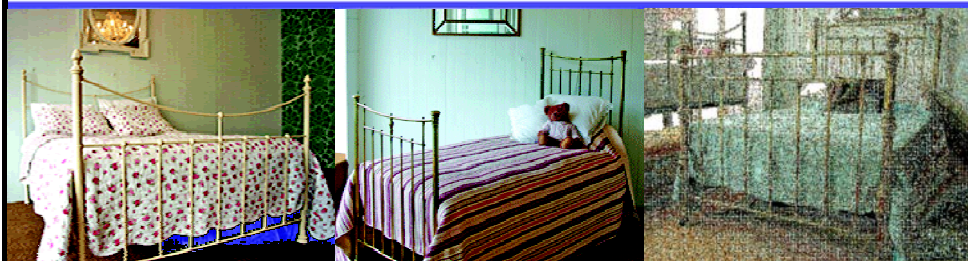
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The Dersingham Weather

observed by John Murray

I said in my last article that unless we have deluges of rain before the end of the year then it should work out at being a lot drier than last year. *Sorry.* It was my fault.

November was the wettest month of the year, beating even our very wet July. It could have been worse though. Look at the storms that produced flooding in several parts of the country, Cumbria being the hardest hit. We had a total of 108.5 mm for the month and the highest on a single day was on the 29th when we had a total of 16.5 mm. That's not a lot more than half an inch when other places were having several inches a day.

However it's swings and roundabouts. Overcast and rainy means milder temperatures whereas bright and clear weather at this time of the year produces low temperatures after the sun has gone down. The average temperature for our mainly overcast November was 8.7°C. Last November it was only 7.3°.

The mild November came to an abrupt end, appropriately, on the 30th. On that day the lowest temperature was 10.6°. The following day, the 1st, the minimum temperature was -0.2°. A shocking decrease. This was a warning of things to come. We had low temperatures and a pretty hefty snow fall that lasted a few days and took a week or so to completely thaw.

As far as temperatures were concerned, December 08 and 09 were pretty similar. 2008's average temperature was 3.9 degrees with the lowest recorded being -4.6. Last December the average was 3.6 with the lowest being -4.2. However the rainfall for December 2009 was just over double the previous year. We had 82.9mm compared to 40.9mm.

So, overall how did 2009 compare with 2008? I have put the relevant figures below in a chart to compare.

Year	Average temp	Highest temp	Lowest temp	Rain
2008	10.5	29.8	-5.9	828mm
2009	10.7	30.4	-5.3	726mm

In real terms this shows that there was very little variation as an average. There are other figures which I won't bore you with that further prove this. Although it looks a lot wetter for 2008 in fact there isn't a big difference. For those of you who prefer imperial it was just over 33 inches compared to just over 29 inches. A 4 inch difference isn't a lot.

Please keep looking at the current weather online. The Christmas period put paid to any work on the new site but hopefully you will soon be able to follow a link from the Parish website to the current data. □

You can contact John Murray at - murrayjohn@btinternet.com

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Bog News

As 2010 dawns on the reserve the weather from 2009 is still with us. As I am writing this article there is a light snow flurry outside and sub zero temperatures are almost giving a feel of the Scottish Highlands. Over the Christmas period the site was a brilliant white glistening carpet of snow giving a beautiful view of the area that is not often seen.

The land that the bog sits on has a wide and varied history, and one of our volunteers is currently trying to compile a definitive collection of stories, memories and photos of the area. So, if you have had any interaction with the bog over the last century we'd love to hear your recollections.

Anything is useful, and we'd like to build on the knowledge we already have of the site. For example, we know that the site was used for quarrying but we'd like to know where the stone went and which buildings specifically were built out of Dersingham Bog stone. We know the land was used as a rabbit warren, but does anyone know anyone who was a warden or who has records of how many rabbits there were and how commercial an enterprise it was? There are stories of the recreational use of the land, were you one of the children who played on the bog in the 40s and 50s, could you tell us your story? People have been bird watching on the land since at least 1910; do you have any memories of wildlife you have seen on the reserve?

We're looking to build a full and varied picture of life on the bog through the ages to help see how it has shaped the community. We want to put this record together as soon as possible before we lose the memories forever. If you have anything you think may be useful please contact our volunteer Janneke on **07742122083** or email ahybjd@nottingham.ac.uk. She will be happy to come and interview you if you'd like to tell your story.

Continuing the historical theme I thought that I would talk about a very useful website that I found when doing some research. This website is very useful in that it provides historical maps of many parts of Norfolk. These maps include Enclosure, Tithe, MOD aerial photographs from 1946, aerial photographs from 1988 and also the ordnance survey first edition maps.

The website is part of the Norfolk County Council website and the address is **www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/Emap**.

Although not all areas of Norfolk are covered by all of these maps the areas around Dersingham and Wolferton seem to be fairly well represented. You are able to type in either a postcode, a place name or a grid reference.



1946 Aerial photograph showing the area of our winter works

This will then take you to the map screen where you can look at the map you have chosen. You can also change which map you are looking at or even compare two maps at once.

As part of the job as a reserve warden this tool can be particularly good as we can use these images in presentations to members of the public or on guided walks to give them an idea of the history surrounding the site and what it might have looked like in the past. The maps can also help us in planning management across the suite of National Nature Reserves by showing us changes in habitat types and structure as well changes in the vegetation and flora on a site.

Bringing this in to the present, many of you are probably aware we are currently in the process of restoring 10ha of heathland on part of the site. The historic maps will be very useful for us in showing the work that we are doing on this part of the plateaux and how the area has changed over time. The 1946 MOD aerial photos are in black and white but show the area. It shows that there is a small belt of trees round the outside edge of the area which then changes into an area of scrubby heath before opening out into a large area of lowland heath.

Looking at the 1988 you can see that the large area of heath has totally disappeared and is now covered in pine trees. This is a trend that can be seen across the UK with over 85% of our lowland heathland lost and a decline of many of the species associated with it. If you were to look at other areas of former heathland across the country the aerial photographs would show a similar story, either the loss to woodland or the loss to housing and development.

Hopefully if another set of more modern aerial photos are uploaded on to the website you will be able to see the work we have been doing to reverse this trend and restore the heath back to its former glory.

I hope that you all had a good Christmas and New Year and if you do have any questions or wildlife sightings or would like to become a volunteer please get in contact. I look forward to seeing you on the site this year. □

Tom Bolderstone, Reserve Warden, Natural England, Dersingham Bog NNR
thomas.bolderstone@naturalengland.org.uk



1988 Aerial photograph showing the area of our winter works

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Having lost Scoles, our butchers, a year ago we were delighted to find that a new shop was opening in time for Christmas. Village Voice invited them to tell us a bit about themselves.

__In 1929 my grandfather, Hector Prior, moved from Welney to King's Lynn to manage a butchers shop at 6 Saturday Market Place for Ben Culey. One year later with a mortgage and loans from his father and father in law he purchased the business for £1500 and re-named it EH PRIOR & SONS.

In 1968 Hector sadly died aged 65 years and the business was left under the control of my father Dennis. I joined my father running the business in 1971 and helped to develop and maintain a thriving business in the centre of Kings Lynn. I am now joined by my wife Carol and sons Trevor and David who intend to carry the business forward.

In 2006 we expanded the business with the acquisition of the neighbouring bakery to enable us to develop and expand our range of hand made pies and cakes and by the opening of our butchery counter at Knights Hill Farm Shop.

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I and my staff look forward to welcoming you at one of our shops soon. □

Clifford Prior





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We can stop climate chaos

David Bingham

The world as a living being – one nature, one soul. Keep that in mind. And how everything feeds into that single experience, moves with a single motion. And how everything helps produce everything else. Spun and woven together. – Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (121-180AD) Emperor of Rome.

I'm writing this on a bitterly cold day just before Christmas with the snow lying deep and crisp (if a little uneven). So, my timing could have been better but I'm going to say it anyway. The world is getting warmer and it's our fault.

The reason I know that the temperature is rising is not because I've studied climate data, I haven't, it is because I've been looking at the world around me and seen things change and change rapidly. My first bird record dates from 1963, the year of Kennedy's assassination (I was playing table tennis when I heard the news), the Beatles' first LP and the most severe winter in living memory. I saw four curlews flying over Locko Park in Derbyshire and noted that they were flying west - all of my records had this nerdy quality. The only interesting thing about them is that they record what I saw and, perhaps more importantly, what I didn't see in those early years. I would have heard of a Dartford warbler but doubted that I would ever see one because they were almost wiped out as a British breeding bird in the severe winter of 1963. They are now regularly seen on the heaths around Dersingham and breed quite close to the village. I don't think I would have even heard of Mediterranean gulls, Cetti's warblers or little egrets. These birds have expanded their ranges northwards and are now common breeding birds in this country. It hasn't been all gains. I saw more turtledoves, spotted flycatchers, wood warblers, redstarts and other birds that migrate to sub-Saharan Africa and are currently suffering from, amongst other things, climate change induced drought. Birds that breed on the mountaintops of northern Scotland such as ptarmigan, dotterel and snow buntings are obviously in trouble in a warming world. They are as high as they can go and as far north as they can get so their options are limited.

My records include all kinds of things and not just birds. I didn't see any comma butterflies in the Midlands during the sixties but their range has now expanded north where they are a common sight right up to the Scottish border. The fact that oak trees come into leaf a full 26 days earlier than they did in 1963 is another astonishing statistic. New species of damselfly are also colonising England from the south. These small creatures go unnoticed by most but their arrival must tell us something.

Proving that climate change is down to us is a bit harder. James Lovelock's view that the world operates like a living organism where the entire biosphere is tangled up in complex feedback processes is a useful model to follow. This is the famous Gaia hypothesis, named after a Greek Earth goddess. I don't claim to understand Gaia (in fact it sounds a bit 'new age' to me), but the fact that the air I breathed in 1963 would have had the same oxygen content as the air I breathe today suggests some kind of feedback mechanism is operating. The much talked about greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and water vapour) are involved in this process as a kind of global thermostat. Contrary to popular belief, greenhouse gases are not bad things and in fact, the world would be almost uninhabitable without them. They work by trapping infrared radiation that is emitted from the surface of the Earth when it is heated by sunlight. This heat is re-emitted by the greenhouse gases in all directions instead of bouncing straight back into space, as it would do without them. A world without greenhouse gases would be very, very cold. The problem is that hundreds of millions of years ago vast quantities of carbon went into building the bodies of living things and these became fossilised into coal, oil and gas. We have been releasing this carbon, in the form of carbon dioxide, when we burn coal or gas to heat our homes or generate electricity. The carbon released from the petrol and diesel we use to power our cars should also have remained fossilised and buried forever but is being pumped into the atmosphere in increasing

quantities. Carbon dioxide levels have been rising and this rise tracks the rise in temperatures very closely so there is likely to be a causal link. Absolute proof may not be possible but if you have good evidence that a murderer is on his way to your house with a gun, you have two choices - wait for proof or take action. There are sinks for all this carbon dioxide, particularly shallow seas and rainforests. The Gaia mechanism will rebalance the system eventually, but this will take thousands of years and cost millions of lives and almost certainly a mass extinction event.

For me, these facts sank in a few years ago and I've been taking steps to reduce our household 'carbon footprint'. We've been busily insulating, replacing inefficient white goods (and an inefficient car), changing light bulbs, flying less, cooking seasonal local food, using 'bags for life', fitting an efficient boiler, switching to a green energy supplier and, of course, cycling more.

It does get harder to make reductions year on year but I plan to install a woodburner to meet the 10:10 challenge (10% in 2010). Burning wood is almost carbon neutral because the carbon stored in the wood while it is growing is released when it burns. I would also love to generate electricity from solar panels but that is for the future when the costs may become more reasonable. None of this need be a sacrifice and it is now easy to travel by train from King's Lynn to most of Europe (admittedly not a good week to 'big up' Eurostar). Our energy costs for petrol, gas and electricity are falling while everyone else's seems to be rising.

It doesn't matter whether you are motivated by the thought of losing charismatic creatures like the polar bear, preventing floods in Bangladesh, handing on a world fit to live in to your grandchildren or simply because you want to save money – the time to act is now.

I joined 60,000 demonstrators on a march through central London on the 5th of December. This was The Wave and the idea was to give a bit of impetus to the climate change talks in Copenhagen. The talks were less than were hoped for but someone told me that we are in a war so perhaps we shouldn't be too disheartened by defeat in a single battle.

"Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do."- Goethe. □



'The Wave'

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The Princess and the Big Bad Wolf



Who's afraid of the big bad wolf? We are! His name is Backlawn and he's threatening to Huff and Puff and visit all manner of horrors on our beautiful Princess... Look out! He's behind you!!

By the time you read this the 2009 season of Beauty and the Beast will be over, but our story does involve a Pantomime, and a Princess (in the shape of Hunstanton's Theatre) and a Big Bad Wolf, aka the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN). Are you sitting comfortably? Then I shall begin...

Rumours are rife concerning the future of the Princess Theatre; so we of the Princess Theatre Club thought you might be interested to know what's happening from our point of view. We know that the Borough Council needs to cut costs. Fair enough — we all know we're in a recession. The question is, which of the three entertainment venues is going to be hardest hit? BCKLWN manages the Arts Centre and the recently-revamped Corn Exchange, both in Lynn; and the Princess Theatre in Hunstanton. OUR main concern is, naturally, for the Princess, which brings people into Hunstanton from a wide area both for the summer shows and, most importantly, for the pantomime during the winter season, when any seaside town is sadly under-used. Many people benefit from these extra visitors — shops, restaurants and hotels, plus an incalculable knock-on effect.

Now, the Borough Council proposes to curtail the Princess Theatre's activities. They have issued a list of some five possible alternative plans, ranging from Seasonal Opening Only (i.e. summertime), to selling the venue, to setting up a Leisure Trust (whatever that means). I won't bore you with the details. Happily, they have categorically denied any plans to CLOSE the place. However, they seem bound and determined to uproot our extremely popular Panto and replant it in the Corn Exchange. This seems to us a most ill-advised plan. The words Goose and Golden Egg spring to mind. The killing of...

After all, not only is the Princess the most financially successful of the three venues (thanks in great measure to the annual Panto): it is also the only proper theatre, with facilities such as a proscenium arch, wings to each side of the stage, various dressing rooms with quick-change spot, capability of flying scenery, etc. Neither the Arts Centre nor the Corn Exchange has all these facilities. Our Acting Chairman has been involved with several productions at the Corn Exchange and in particular he was there when they attempted to install a traditional hired set, an exercise so fraught with problems that no-one since then has tried to repeat it. So they can't mount a traditional panto, for a dozen technical reasons. QED. What's more, if they tried it they would need to sell many more seats to fill that huge barn of a place, and many of our usual audience, including Schools and Senior Citizens Parties from far and wide, will probably go elsewhere seeking a 'real' panto. *Oh, yes, they will!!!* Anyway, our regular audience may balk at the huge increase in costs of tickets for the Corn Exchange. So we ask... Why take a reasonably healthy, blooming Christmas Rose and shove it into a pot that's the wrong shape, much too big, and in an area prone to cold draughts? Not good husbandry.

We are told that no firm decision on the theatre's future will be made until the spring. Meanwhile we of the Theatre Club will continue to fight to save this valuable amenity which is such a jewel in Hunstanton's crown. You can help, if you will. Call in at the Box Office and see what's on offer, while it's still there. See a show, or a film. Join the Theatre Club and help us fight — collect a Membership form from the Box Office (it's only £5 per annum), look at our notice board there, visit our website. Or write to the press, to our MP Henry Bellingham, or to Town and Borough Councillors who are involved. Express your opinion in whatever way you can. Please support us, and support the theatre. USE IT OR LOSE IT. Help save our lovely Princess from the dreaded maw of BCKLWN, the big bad wolf. □

Mary Mackie, for the PTC



Greetings from the manse

Happy New Year and greetings from the manse,

I think I'm right in saying that on Pope Benedict's schedule during his visit to Britain in 2010 will be the matter of the canonisation of Cardinal John Henry Newman. Generally, such an event wouldn't draw my attention as a non-conformist non-conformist! However knowing a little bit about the Cardinal I'm aware that he wrote one of my favourite hymns, and apparently one of Queen Victoria's too. It is said that as she great monarch lay dying at Osborne House in January 1901, members of her staff read verses of the hymn to her.

The year was 1833 and midsummer sun beat down on the stifling deck, as the boat lay becalmed not far from the coast of Sicily where Newman had embarked. He sat on deck, pining for the breeze that would carry the cargo boat on its way to Marseilles and thence home to England. He had been travelling in southern Italy when he had fallen sick with a severe viral illness. He had survived though he was still weak and longing to reach home.

But John Henry Newman had more than his physical health to concern him. He was anxious and disturbed by the direction that his thoughts and feelings were taking. He had been brought up in a wealthy evangelical Christian home and had done brilliantly at Oxford. When he was ordained, he had moved away from his roots to the Anglo-Catholic wing of the church. In June 1833 he was still struggling with his doubts. As he waited for the wind to set them on their way, he wrote the hymn "Lead kindly light" (Hymns and Psalms number 67). Newman did not write the verses as a hymn but they were set to music and became a Victorian top of the pops, appearing in Roman Catholic, Anglican and Nonconformist hymnbooks. The tune was written in 1865 by John B. Dykes. It expresses his uncertainty of the way ahead but also confirms his trust that God will show him the way forward.

*Lead kindly light, amid the encircling gloom,
Lead thou me on;
The night is dark and I am far from home
Lead thou me on.
Keep thou my feet, I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me*

We can all of us lose the way or follow the wrong path or take the wrong direction in life. If however, we ask God to reveal a new way ahead in the coming year, he will and he will also accompany us on this new path to better and happier things and places. He will also give us the strength to become better people.
With every blessing in 2010. □

Kim Nally

Goose News

Goose numbers are lower than usual. We had an organised goose walk on Saturday and about 10,000 were seen. This is less than the usual 25-30K we normally get at this time of year. The official count this morning (21.12) was 2,640 so very low indeed. Not sure sure why but probably weather related. The sugar beet may be easier to find around Holkham so the birds could be over there. Alternatively, the snow is making the nights lighter so they may be staying out in the fields all night. They often do this when the moon is full. Or they may need to feed for longer and are leaving and returning in the dark. It will be interesting to see if the combined counts are lower than usual. The count on the 14 Dec was 28, 700 which is around average

We have a wild white snow goose in the Snettisham flock so worth keeping an eye out for this.□

David Bingham

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GLIMPSES OF LIFE IN A NORFOLK VILLAGE

BY MAGGIE © 1.1.2010.

Every village should have a Phoebe!

There is a list of things a typical English village must have it seems... including a village green, village pub, village school, village post office, and village shop. These make up the quintessential village, especially if you ask outsiders. But it also has to have a village eccentric. You know, the mad old woman who lives alone in a tumbledown cottage with her cats, shaking her stick at anyone who trespasses into her garden. Or maybe the old gent fallen on hard times, who sits and talks to himself about the good old days, occasionally shouting at strangers from his spot on the bench outside the pub.

And of course, this village is no exception. Allow me to introduce you to Phoebe. In her youth a beautiful young woman, with the kind of looks much beloved by artists.. doe eyes, curly red hair, creamy skin never allowed to be kissed by the sun. I have seen photos of her, being one of the few people she will actually tolerate long enough to have a conversation with, and believe me, she was absolutely stunning. Even now, you can see remnants of this, her skin smooth and creamy still, despite her age of 'somewhere between 80 and 90, shall we say dear?' according to her.

What most people don't know is that she was once married, briefly, to an Army officer, who turned out to be a bully and treated her like one of his raw recruits, turning her from a vibrant young woman to a quiet young woman who wasn't allowed to express her own opinions but to kowtow to his. It didn't last of course, and it was with relief she isn't ashamed to admit, that he died during WWII. The whole experience put her off marriage, but not men by any means. She had affairs with an actor ('always put on a stirring performance!' she would tell me, with a twinkle in her eye); the son of a very wealthy landowner who was friendly with the Royals, or so he told her; a politician ('he liked the sound of his own voice that one!'); and several other men who were charismatic, romantic, interesting, and exciting in their own way, including the local poacher. I did ask, how good a poacher was he if everyone knew who he was, but she thought I was being impertinent and refrained from answering, something she often did when the question was not, in her view, worth answering. He was her 'bit of rough' apparently, something she said all women like, rarely admit to liking, and even more rarely do something about. I refrained this time, from commenting!

Well, people in this village call her eccentric because of the way she dresses, her protests over the years about this and that, the fact that she keeps to herself, gives short shrift to anyone she considers a waste of space to use modern language, which she would never do. Phoebe is incredibly well spoken, loves the English language and hates the way it has been corrupted. She is very intelligent, an intellectual, who did an Open University degree course, achieving her degree in her seventies. She painted the outside of her cottage lilac, the only painted cottage to be seen around here, which wouldn't have been too bad but the window frames were all different colours, turquoise, scarlet, green and yellow. As this stands apart from any other housing, surrounded by her little copse and orchard, nobody complained. She has plastic flowers amongst the rambling roses, the gypsophila, the asters and nigella. And of course a few cats, all Persian.

Anyway, Phoebe's latest rant as the villagers call it, has been



about a fir tree which was due to be cut down simply because it's branches overhung the road and could be dangerous. Major Hutton, whose house is nearest the tree, was the one who told Phoebe about it, they get on quite well at times, and said he would not be sorry to see the back of the vermin. The vermin being grey squirrels, who had built their summer drey on one of the stout branches, a perfect ball of twigs and so on, covered with leaves and mosses, beautiful in its way. And Phoebe thought the same, so she got in touch with the leader of the Parish Council, who said it was nothing to do with him, and referred her to the Highways department at the local council. Phoebe wrote letters to the local papers, the councillors, and generally got a bee in her bonnet about this drey, though nobody knows why as she hasn't been averse to having vermin like this humanely trapped, if there is such a thing.

But nobody, not even Phoebe, knows why she gets wound up about some things, but in the end, when letters were ignored, phone calls never returned, she invited the local papers to watch her climb the tree to protect the squirrels! This caught everyone's attention of course, and who knows if she would have gone through with it if it hadn't been for the council having a change of heart and deciding just to get rid of the branches overhanging the road, leaving the rest, warning Phoebe meanwhile that they wouldn't be held responsible if it were lopsided now and blew down in the next gales. Which satisfied Phoebe, but didn't much please the Major!

DISCLAIMER...Any resemblance between characters in this story with people who have similar, or the same, names is totally coincidental. □

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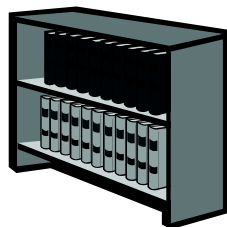
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Tony Bubb

Dersingham Library

Happy New Year to everyone!

Our regular Thursday morning pre-school storytime is back from 10.30-11.30. We've also got a new batch of Bookstart certificates so under 4s can collect a sticker each time they visit, and a certificate when they have collected 4.



We have more dates for internet and email taster sessions throughout the spring so if you need a little beginners tuition just ask and we'll book you on one of our 2 hour courses.

During February we're asking our readers to recommend the library to a friend as part of our Big Read. We're promoting 12 great reads for adults, books that you'll read and immediately want to tell a friend about. There'll be something for everyone - whether you love a good thriller, something to make you laugh or something to move you to tears. Watch out for displays around the library.

Our DVDs are going well - we have many more Top Titles than before so please come and browse. Don't forget that Thursday night from 6.30-7.30 is our borrow one get one free hour!

Our regular reading group has now moved to the fourth Tuesday of the month - from 6pm. New members are always welcome! □

Happy Reading! *Alison*

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	7			9				
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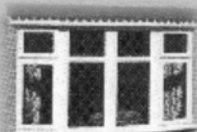
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DERSINGHAM INSTITUTE BOWLS CLUB

The bowls club ended the season with the Annual Presentation Dinner on November the 6th at The West Norfolk Restaurant, Heacham followed by the A.G.M. in the clubhouse on the 16th November.

Presentations were made at the dinner to the winners of the internal cup competitions as follows: Eadies Cup; winner Fred Hart, runner up John Pattison, Institute Cup; winner Richard Bridges, runner up John Pattison, Eddie Roye Pairs Cup; winners Lilian Bridges & Alan Walker, runners up Jane Burden & John Pattison, Powle Pairs Cup; winners Richard Bridges & Keith Richardson, runners up Jane & Richard Burden, Tansley Cup; winner Richard Bridges, runner up Jane Burden, Brian Morters Pairs Cup; winners Maureen Morters & Eric Hill, runners up Val & Derek Reader, Ladies Institute Cup; winner Jane Burden, runner up Rita Picton, Shirley Meredith Triples Cup; winners Lilian & Richard Bridges with Keith Richardson, runners up Sue Eastmure with Val & Derek Reader, Institute Bowl; winner Jean Fisher, runner up Edwina Starling, Tom Ward Cup; winner Terry Tomkins, runner up John Starling. Derek Newell Memorial Shield; winners Fred Hart, Terry Tomkins with Richard Bridges, runners up Ross Letts, Keith Richardson with John Chilvers.



Winners of the Eddie Hipkin trophy

These competitions are run throughout the summer season, also a tournament is organised every Saturday afternoon and a league type competition every Wednesday afternoon, in which over thirty club players are involved.

The officers elected at the A.G.M. were:- President, Bob Meredith, Chairman, Gordon Fisher. Vice Chairmen, Dick Murell & Richard Bridges. Secretary, Jenny Pattison. League Secretary, Terry Burrell. Treasurer, Derek Reader. Social Secretaries, Val & Derek Reader.

The club enjoys a membership of

over fifty people at present, but will always welcome new members, anyone interested in joining an enjoyable sport, pay a visit to the club, make your self known and join in, if you do not have the equipment usually bowls and shoes can be found on a loan basis to help out people who have not played before.

In addition to the internal competitions the club also enters teams to play in The North West Norfolk League, (Captain Roy Harrington) The Countryside League, (Captain Gordon Fisher) and two teams in the Albert Victor 3 rink League, (Captains Eric Hill & Richard Bridges) this takes them to many clubs in the north west Norfolk area.

Other social events included a Bar-B-Q', Fish & Chip Suppers , Tea Parties.

There is always a cup of tea and a biscuit available and visitors are most welcome. □



Winners of the Derek Newell shield

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The Garden Farmer - dig for the future.

I have just been in the snow-covered garden with a torch to harvest leeks and spinach for dinner. It doesn't take many minutes for the fingers to go numb in this weather but it's still very satisfying to be able to harvest your own crops in the depth of winter.

My favourite crop at the moment is kale, which I think is a much underestimated vegetable. I have plenty of it growing and harvest it regularly from mid-autumn, through the winter and well into the spring. I grow it both outside and in the polytunnel; it is extremely hardy and has recovered well from being under snow for a week before Christmas. The outdoor crop is coarser and takes more cooking than that grown in the polytunnel; which is almost as tender as spinach and needs only very light steaming. It is both delicious and highly nutritious. The varieties I have this year are Pentland Brig which is a fast growing, large leafed plant and Red Russian which has a smaller leaf and a lovely purple and green colour and a stronger flavour. In recent years the dark Italian kales such as Nero Di Toscana have become increasingly popular. These too are delicious and have a strong peppery flavour.

Often, in the darkest part of the year, it can be hard to summon much enthusiasm for getting on to the veg plot. I think that is absolutely fine, not much is growing anyway so, apart from tidying and maintenance jobs, there is little to be getting on with. It is probably just as constructive to spend this time scanning the seed catalogues and working out what you would like to grow this coming year and how you are going to do it.



have a longer cropping period, which, in general, is better for the home veg grower. The biggest advantage of the open pollinated plants is that the seed is genetically identical to the parent and can be collected from your own plants and used for the following year. The hybrid plants do not produce a viable seed.

Having said there is not too much to do in the vegetable garden, there is work to attend to on your fruit. If you haven't already done so, now is the time to prune your apples and pear trees and the fruit bushes and to plant any more before the weather warms up and the sap starts to rise, although this shouldn't be done if the ground is too wet or frozen. It's good to make sure the ground around your fruit bushes and young trees is clear of weeds and grass. An application of compost or muck will help them get off to a good start and a generous sprinkling of wood ash, but not coal ash, from the fire place provides much needed potassium. □



I try to buy organic seed where I can and favour the "open pollinated" varieties. These are seeds that have been collected from a parent plant which is the same variety. The alternative is the "hybrid" seeds which have been produced by crossing two varieties of the same species and can be recognised in the seed catalogues by the suffix F1. There are pros and cons to using each type. The hybrid varieties are well suited to commercial growing and are often more vigorous than the open pollinated. Hybrid seeds sown at the same time also tend to produce a crop all at the same time, whereas open pollinated varieties do not all come at once and

Bryan Beers - The Garden Farmer



Steve Davis

...Wintering on!

After the upheaval and excitement of the Christmas and New Year holidays with visits to or from families and friends, not to mention braving some pretty precarious winter weather conditions, there is something I find very settling about getting back to normality with the Christmas decorations bedded down for another year, the odd booking for work coming in and *Bargain Hunt* returning to lunch-time TV!

Mind you, the snow did make for some very picturesque scenes as I took the opportunity to trundle around the village and on up and around Sandringham and of course down the old farm track to my beloved Snettisham RSPB reserve with camera at the ready. You may like to view the results of my meanderings online at: picasaweb.google.com/ukuleleboy/Snowscapes



The early morning walks down to see the *pink-footed geese* take off from the Wash mudflats at Snettisham or the waders coming into the old gravel pits during the early morning high spring tides have been a treat too. If you still have an unfulfilled resolution to go down and see the geese taking off, then you will need to get your skates on (maybe literally), as already many have packed their bags and flown home to Iceland. (Avoiding four days either side of the full-moon, a visit to the beach at around 6:45am from the 4th to mid-February may

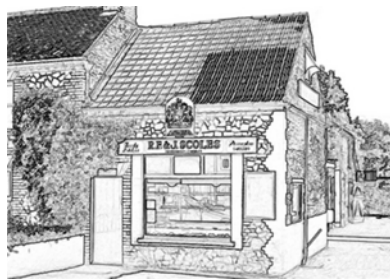
still just about be OK). The RSPB still have organised walks to see the waders. Though less predictable than the geese, the waders can, when conditions suit them, be even more spectacular and are right on our doorstep! If you missed the spectacular *BBC Autumn Watch* video taken on location, then it can be found at: www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/s/snettisham/video.asp

Well my free upgrade to *Windows 7* (as a result of purchasing my PC after the beginning of July 2009) that I spoke of in my last article duly arrived and after a few initial hiccups and no thanks to any helpful instructions whatsoever from my computer supplier, I managed to install it over the top of *Windows Vista* leaving all my files and other installed software packages intact. It is, in my opinion, a big improvement over *Vista*. Similar in operation apart from a restyled task-bar along the bottom of the screen, *Windows 7* is far more functional and I find to my delight that a couple of favourite packages I used to run successfully under *Windows XP*, but that had ceased to function under *Vista*, are now fully operational again in *Windows 7's* compatibility mode. Having said that, I think I might have been loathed to fork out the £65-£80 for an upgrade had I not got it for free! Any new PC, laptop, or the smaller *netbooks* will of course now come with *Windows 7* already installed and I understand that we will soon see smaller devices such as mobile phones and *iPod-like* contraptions arriving with *Windows 7* installed.



Some of you may have seen my greeting cards containing pictures that have the appearance of a

sketch or painting, though in fact were achieved using the now unobtainable software package *Photo Art-Master* to process digital photos; (one of those packages incidentally that *Windows Vista* refused to run but *Windows 7* now copes with). Although I sometimes feel a little fraudulent, offering these in an area that is blessed with more than its fair share of talented artists, some of the results have been quite pleasing and anyway I never try to pass them off as anything other than what they are! Just before Christmas, I purchased online a more advanced package called



Dynamic Auto-Painter. This has a remarkable ability to produce pseudo-paintings from digital photos in a variety of styles such as pastels, water-colours or felt-tips or those of Cezanne, Monet and even Van Gogh – a few results of which you may have noticed dotted around this article! To find out more about this, watch a video, download a demonstration version, or even to purchase the full version visit: www.mediachance.com/dap/index.html

It is nearly a year now since I was first introduced to the delights of the *Nintendo Wii* computer. Since purchasing our own in the middle of last year and our enthusiastic tackling of the *Wii Fit* regime I have to confess that enthusiasm had decidedly waned. However, during a dusted off session over the new year holiday whilst family were visiting I was somewhat alarmed to be informed how much weight I had gained since last using it. Should I perhaps be considering the new *Wii Fit Plus* upgrade for this year, or just doing more gardening instead? Last month though, I was delighted to be able to download (for free) a version of the *BBC iPlayer* for the *Wii*. I still cannot quite believe that we can now watch any programme that has appeared on any of the BBC channels within the last week at our convenience. The picture and sound quality is really quite amazing, though with our old-style TV we are not exactly *HD* connoisseurs! I understand too that from the end of this year, *Freesat* boxes (that have a broadband connection socket) will also be able to be connected up to use both *BBC iPlayer* and the ITV equivalent *itvPlayer*. Eat your heart out *Sky Plus* users! (Well in theory anyway!)

For the remainder of the winter, I hope to be plodding on with the development of our Parish Council Website at www.dersingham.org.uk. Do remember to look at it from time to time. The latest version includes a *Weather* button link to John Murray's *Dersingham Weather* page.

As a guitarist in my mid-teens (well over forty years ago), my Mum wrote me a song, the first two verses of which described the woeful signs of Autumn, before finishing with the lines:

*And men will battle the winter through
And times will change as they always do,
But one thing's sure,
On this you may rely.
On this you may rely my friend
That Spring will follow the winter's end
Whatever happens from now 'til then:
On this you may rely.*



Irrespective of whether or not you have had to battle with the winter weather or even a winter of discontent, much as the season may have to offer here in terms of the natural environment, it is a comfort to know that Spring is around the corner and where better to appreciate it than right here in Dersingham and its surroundings? – Whatever happens from now 'til then! □

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

Village Voice publication dates

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

No	Copy deadline	Publication date
No 63	Wednesday 3rd March 2010	Thursday 25th March
No 64	Wednesday 6th May 2010	Thursday 27th May
No 65	Wednesday 7th July 2010	Thursday 29th July
No 66	Wednesday 1st Sept 2010	Thursday 23rd Sept
No 67	Wednesday 3rd Nov 2010	Thursday 25th Nov
No 68	Wednesday 12th Jan 2011	Thursday 4th Feb 2011

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

DIARY OF REGULAR EVENTS

Date	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Every Monday	2.00 pm	St. Cecilia's Church	Rosary Group	St. Cecilia's Church
Every Monday	2.00 pm or 7.30 pm	Freebridge Community Housing	Bingo	Orchard Close
Every Monday	6.30 - 8.00	Dersingham Cubs	Meeting for boys age 8 - 101/2	Scout & Guide HQ Manor road
1st Monday of Month	12.15 pm	Methodist Church	Lunch at the Chapel	Methodist Church, PO Rd
3rd Monday of month	6 pm	Dersingham Library	Dersingham Reading Group	Library
Every Mon, Tues, Thur & Fri	9.00 to 11.30 am	Dersingham Playgroup	Playgroup Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Every Monday in Term Time	12.45 to 2.15 am	Sticking Together	Toddler Craft Group Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
Last Monday in the Month	7.15 pm	Dersingham Parish Council	Full Council Meeting	Infant and Nursery School, Saxon Way
Every Tuesday	5.30 to 7 pm	2nd Dersingham Brownie Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 7 – 10 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every Tuesday	7 pm	Dersingham Bridge Club	Bridge Evening	The Feathers Hotel
Every Tuesday in Term Time	8.30 to 11.15 am	St Nicholas Parent & Toddler Group	Parent & Toddler Group Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every Tuesday	8 pm	Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes	Sandringham Lodge Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road
1st or 2nd Monday in the Month	2.15 pm	Royal British Legion Women's Section	Dersingham & Sandringham Branch Meeting	Orchard Close Community Room
1st Tuesday of the Month	7.30 pm	Village Voice 'Live'	Presentations by Guest Speakers	St Nicholas Church Hall
1st Tuesday of the Month	7.30 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Art Club	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
2nd Tuesday in Month	7.30 pm	Royal British Legion	Branch Meeting	Feathers Hotel
Every Wednesday	10.00 am to 4.00 pm	Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly	Recreation & Leisure and Mid-day Meal	Dersingham Community Centre, Manor Road

Every Wednesday	10.30 to 11.30am	Music+Movement	Pre-school Music, Dance & Drama	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Wednesday	2.00 to 4.00 pm	Dersingham Methodist Church	Carpet Bowls	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Wednesday	6.00 to 7.15 pm	Beavers	Meeting for children aged 6 - 8	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every 2nd Weds of the Month	10.30 am	St Nicholas Men's Group	Men's Group Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every 2nd Weds of the month		Dersingham Walking Group	Circular walk	See programme for details or contact Keith Starks 542268
Every 2nd Weds of the Month Sept to April	7.30 pm	Albert Victor Bowls Club	Prize Bingo	Albert Victor Bowls Club, Manor Road
3rd Wednesday of the Month	7.15 to 10.00 pm	Dersingham Evening Women's Institute	Meeting	St Cecilia's Church Hall
Every Thursday	10.3 am to 3.00 pm	North West Norfolk Phobbies Club	Meeting	St. Nicholas Church Hall
Every Thursday	4.00 to 5.15 pm	1st Dersingham Rainbow Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 5-7 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every Thursday	5.30 to 7.00 pm	1st Dersingham Brownie Guide Group	Meeting for girls aged 7-10 years	Scout & Guide HQ Manor Road
Every Thursday	7.00 to 8.30 pm	1st Sandringham Guides	Unit Meeting	Dersingham Community Centre., Manor Road
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.00 pm	1st Dersingham Scouts	Group Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ
Every Thursday	7.00 to 9.30 pm	Norfolk Army Cadet Force	Sandringham Detachment Meeting	The Drill Hall, Dodds Hill
Every Thursday	7.30 pm	St Nicholas Church	Badminton Club	St Nicholas Church Hall
Every Thurs Sept -June	2 pm	Park House Hotel	Rubber Bridge	Park House Hotel
Every Thursday	7.30 pm	Hunstanton and District Camera Club	Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
1st Thursday of Month		Dersingham Flower Club	Meeting	St Nicholas Church Hall
2nd Thursday of Month	7.30 pm	Dersingham Horticultural Society	Meeting	St Cecilia's Church Hall
3rd Thursday of the Month	9.30 to 10.30 am	Dersingham Methodist Church Jigsaw Club	Meeting	Dersingham Methodist Church Hall
Every Friday	9.45 am	Freebridge Community Housing	Coffee Morning	Orchard Close
Every Friday in Term Time	9.15 to 10.45	Puddleducks Toddler Group	Toddler Group meeting	Dersingham Community Centre., Manor Road
Every Friday	6.30 to 8 pm	1st Dersingham Guide Unit	Unit Meeting	Scout & Guide HQ
Every Friday	6.45 to 9.15 pm	Dersingham Carpet Bowls Club	Club Meeting	St George's Middle School
Alternate Fridays	2.15 to 4.30 pm	Dersingham Seniors Club	Entertainment and Outings for the over-60s	St Cecilians Church
1st Friday of month	10.00 am to 12 noon	St Nicholas Church	Coffee Morning	St Nicholas Church Hall

Advertising in Village Voice

The Editorial Team would like to thank all of those who so generously support our magazine by placing advertisements in it, for without the income so generated there would be a possibility of the publication ceasing to exist. With this in mind it would be helpful if you were to support those who do advertise, and to then let them know that you used their services because you saw their promotion in our magazine. For those readers who perhaps provide a local service but who do not currently advertise with us, you may consider a fee of from £12.50 for an eighth of a page black and white or £17.50 for colour per issue, to be very cost effective.

Advertisements for inclusion in the next magazine should be in the hands of Anita Moore, Dersingham Parish Council, 7b Hunstanton Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HH **by Wednesday 3rd March 2010**

Enquiries regarding advertisements may be made by calling 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 3rd March 2010 for publication on Thursday 25th March**. (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.

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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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VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday February 2nd

Tim Clayton

JEWELLERY

IT'S DESIGN & MANUFACTURE



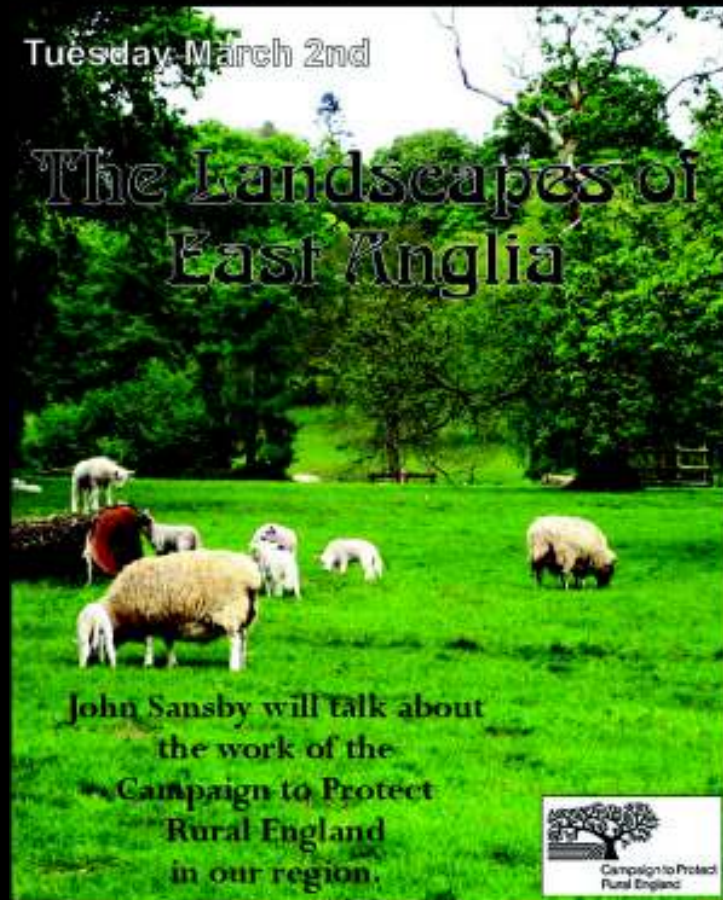
An illustrated talk by local jeweller Tim Clayton into the intricacies of this ancient craft with perhaps a bit about old boats.

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

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday March 2nd

*The Landscapes of
East Anglia*



John Sansby will talk about
the work of the
Campaign to Protect
Rural England
in our region.



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