

# Dersingham Village Voice



**Herbs, potions and witches.**





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## Editor's Notes

The recent interest in the village drainage got me wondering how Dersinghamites got their drinking water in days gone by. I find it difficult to believe that much was taken from the dykes and streams, particularly as a lot of them run with a bright orange hue, so presumably they drank from wells. So where were they. I believe there was one in the yard of the Temperance Hotel which is now Ashdene House but that cannot have been the only one. So have you got one on your property and if so is it still in use?

Wasn't it wonderfully quiet when the planes weren't flying. Odd really because we are not really under any flight paths of planes from local airports so the ones we see vapour trails from are very high and in theory inaudible. But they must contribute to a general background noise that we are unaware of normally so when there is no flying we realise that they do make a noise.

Most of us when we are out and about will pass an attractive front garden. It brings joy to the heart. So this summer let us know who deserves a pat on the back and we will try to find the best. no prizes - just the satisfaction. Details on page 8.

With the spring planting season in mind I invited our regular contributors to work to a theme of herbs and also their use in remedies and potions with , perhaps, a slight nod towards witchcraft. Well they have all grasped the nettle and mainly gone with the witches. Have we uncovered a latent trend in the village? Watch out for bestial rites on the common, come June 24th!

Most of what you read and see in VV comes to me by email. Quite often the first appearance of an article is in a format that is unknown to my computer. OK I try with a web programme that is supposed to find out what the programme is and translate the piece into something recognisable. This has never worked on anything yet. So - What programmes do you use? What planets are they from? Help!!

The Parish Council report is back, now that we have found a new and able correspondent, but sadly Sarah, our Parish Clerk is laid low with the lurgi as we go to press so nothing from her. There are however 3 recipes this time - all involving herbs.

Sorry, but the better weather has meant that everyone is cheerful so no grumpy bit this time. If you are much vexed by the world, do put it down on paper and share it with us.

Our volunteer delivery squad aim to reach each and every letterbox in the village but if yours doesn't get a copy of VV or you know of someone who is deprived please let us know so we can rectify the situation.

Is it my imagination or are there even more pigeons about this year? I found a dead one in the garden one evening and when I went to remove it in the morning it had moved about a yard - none of those nasty foreign meters in our garden. There was no evidence of feline interference or indeed any ruffled feathers. Most strange!□

*Tony Bubb*

### WHATS HAPPENING\*

#### May

30 & 31. Open Gardens 2 - 6  
St Nicholas Church Hall or any open garden

#### June

5. Open Day 11-3 Snettisham Sailing Club  
5. Centre Stage Swing Band  
7.30 St Nicholas Church

17. How to look good - dressed.

7-9.30 Knights Hill Hotel - tickets from Norfolk Hospice

19. Scout & Guide Fete 12.30  
Scout HQ Manor Rd

26. Strawberry Fair 2-5  
St Cecilians Church

26. Hillington Station Fete. 2-5

26. Karen Stewart concert  
7.30 St Nicholas Church

#### July

15 - 18. Flower Festival. 10-6  
St Nicholas Church

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

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## Dear Village Voice



The references to Heath Garage (DVV 62 & 63) reminded me that, in the late fifties I purchased a new car from Mr. Whisker. I was living in Ely at the time, and I spotted the car, with which I was familiar, as I passed by on my way to Heacham (no by-pass then). The car was a Goggomobil 250 - a remarkable little vehicle which at the time had earned the unqualified praise of none other than Mr. John Bolster. Mr. Bolster was an acknowledged expert in all matters relating to the motor car, one whose authority could not be challenged. He was so enthusiastic about the 'Goggo' that he advised British manufacturers to "...race each other to Dingolfing" (in Germany) where the cars were made; to obtain licences to build them in the U.K.

For the sake of fellow-anoraks, the car had a twin-cylinder two-stroke air-cooled engine of 247cc's capacity - tiny, but having a surprisingly good performance (in the words of the Italian mechanic .....she lika da revs) Of course it would be found wanting in today's traffic, but it was able to compete then.



The gear arrangement was of particular interest, because the familiar H-pattern was turned through 90 degrees, so that one began at the top left of the toppled H for first gear, across to top right for second, downward to bottom left for third and so on. It paid to double-declutch, although anyone new to it could cope if they took it slowly.

Unfortunately, in the British car market at the time, only big was beautiful and so the little car faded in this country. Elsewhere the Goggomobil was a resounding success and in total 214,198 were built.

I wonder if any readers remember this little car or indeed were proud owners?

Eventually, due to a job change, I had to run larger vehicles and with reluctance I parted with my diminutive gem. Thereafter, sadly I lost contact with the charming little Dersingham garage.

**John Delanoy**

In the April V V editor's notes he mentioned Dersingham not having a coast, officially this is true but unofficially the piece of beach in front of the jetty was always known as Dersingham Beach. This area is under the control of Snettisham but was used by residents of Dersingham. After the second world war it was where village people went at weekends either walking or on bikes. Although when the tide is out it's all mud, around two or three hours at high tide the sand and shingle make a nice beach, which was used by families, younger people and good swimmers who used the shingle pits but because of the deep water you had to be careful. At the end of the concrete road the footpath went straight across the pits by means off a causeway to the beach. At that time by the time buses and trains for Hunstanton got to Dersingham they were always full, and families probably could not afford the fares so the beach and pits were the next best thing.

After the big storm in 1978 the causeway was washed away, Dersingham Parish Council supported Snettisham in trying to get the causeway reinstated but the R S P B objected and wanted it re-routed round the pit. They said heavy machinery wouldn't have access and it would be costly, and offered to reinstate the path themselves. Eventually they won the day, and the path they put in is what's there today, at the time they also then brought in machinery and reshaped the pits. After the sixties as people got cars and other forms of entertainment the use of the area got less and today very few people go down there.

Has anybody noticed how little access there is to the Wash by vehicle between King's Lynn and Snettisham. At King's Lynn if you go down Crossbank Road past the Fisher Fleet and follow the river towards what is known as the Point and park you have a short walk to reach the mouth of

the river. As far as I know there is no access at North Wootton for vehicles.

At Wolferton it used to be possible to drive to the pumping station, park and then a short walk along the bank to the foreshore, no vehicles are allowed there now. At one time lads from the village, including my son, used to bike via the drift to the Pumping station to fish but its not allowed now. From Dersingham station you could drive down the concrete road, and then a short walk to the beach, but the erection of at least two gates by landowners has put a stop to that. So Snettisham beach is the next one along. This is a long stretch of coast without easy access, okay if you are a walker or a fit person, but not so good if you are elderly or not able to walk to far but would enjoy a change of scenery. This seems to have been done by large landowners and organisations in the name of security and conservation, what happened to open access?

And lastly, why is it when a footpath shown on a map crosses crown land it is no longer shown. An example of this is the map on the library wall which shows footpath 22 which runs along the concrete road starting at the by pass to the shingle pits. It's shown as a red line but when it comes to crown land the line stops, and is shown again close to the Ingol river and round the shingle pits. Is it confusing to visitors checking on walks?

**Bernie Twite**

My name is Roger Atterwill and I am the Chairman of Swanton Morley Parish Council. I would be very grateful if you could help me trace a couple who I am told recently moved to your village. Their names are Eric and Betty Dreibholz. They recently moved from Sandy Lane in Dereham.

Eric was the church warden at Gressenhall church where my grandparents worship each Sunday. My family and I are organizing a diamond wedding anniversary party for my grandparents and we would like to extend an invitation to Eric and Betty. Unfortunately we don't have their new address or telephone number! I know this is an unusual request but I would be grateful for any information. My work number is 01362 637000 and Home is 01362 637383. Address is 23 Primrose Square, Swanton Morley. Dereham. Norfolk. NR20 4PN. Your help would be very much appreciated.

**Roger Atterwill**

Here a true story which happened in South Essex, which I think is very original and funny.

In December, when the roads were very icy and full of snow, the wheely bin men could not collect the bins for 2 weeks, because the Council decided it would be to dangerous for those big waste collecting lorries to drive down the little roads.

An elderly gentleman had an idea how to solve the problem of his overflowing bin. He took his wheely bin, wheeled it to the next bus stop, took it on the bus which took a bit of explaining to the bus driver and went to the town centre. He got off the bus, and wheeled his bin to the council's office. Here he went inside to reception and positioned his bin right in the centre of the reception area. The Lady at reception asked him what this was all about, so he explained: "Well, my dear, because the Council was unable to collect my bin, I brought the bin to the Council, because it says on the side "Property of ... Council".

"You cannot leave the bin here" says the receptionist. "Why not?" asked the gentleman. "It is the property of the Council, this is the address and I simply just return their property."

He said that and left, leaving the receptionist baffled, not really knowing what to do.

A few days later the empty bin was returned to the gentleman by the Council without any comment.

I think the elderly gentleman deserves a medal for this ingenious idea.

**Antje Franke**

Thank you very much for supporting our Open Garden on Sunday April 25th by advertising it in Village Voice. Despite a rainy morning, we had a good afternoon and had 220 visitors. This



enabled us to send off £670 to the NGS charities. In addition, Doreen Asker and her helpers, selling cream teas and other items in the Church Hall to our visitors, were able to raise a further £212. This money is used to help buy the flowers for St Nicholas Flower Festival.

**Jane & Walter Blaney**

Dersingham Station Road Allotments will be open again this year in conjunction with the garden at 11 Bank Road on Sunday 6th June from 11am to 5pm for the National Garden Scheme charities. A plant stall will raise funds for St Nicholas Church and teas for Dersingham Day Centre. Cost for both is £4, children free

All the allotments are occupied and this year look better than ever and the garden has a revamped alpine bed and some new planting. Last year more than 80 people attended the first opening in the worst of weather, so hopefully this year the sun will shine and bring more visitors.

**Ruth Mountain**

## Have you seen a Pine Marten?

There has been a bit of discussion recently about these creatures so here is a little information.

The pine marten is a mustelid, related to the weasel, stoat, otter and badger, but quite distinctive when seen clearly. It is about the size of a small to medium-sized cat.

It has a slim body, with rich, glossy brown fur, an elongated, almost fox-like muzzle, and a long bushy tail. Pine martens have a creamy yellow 'bib' on their throat and chest. In summer their fur is shorter and darker. Pine martens have relatively long legs and are very agile, climbing trees with ease. Although predominantly nocturnal, pine martens are sometimes active during the day, especially in summer during early morning and evening.



### Village Voice Sudoku No 12

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

An omnivorous animal, they can be tempted with peanut butter sandwiches and chicken smothered in strawberry jam left to go rancid.

Although the majority of sightings are in the north of Scotland and in Eire, there have also been reports from the Pennines, Peak District, Cumbria and West Wales. However, there is always the slim chance that one has hitched a ride down south.

If you think you have seen a pine marten, or want to get involved in the Prospects for Pine Martens project, visit the project website at [www.pinemarten.info](http://www.pinemarten.info).

## Councillor suspended

Dersingham Parish Councillor John Houston has been suspended for three months by the Standards Committee of King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council for breaching the Parish Council's Code of Conduct at a meeting of its Finance & General Purposes Committee in July last year.

At a meeting of the Standards Committee Panel held on 21 April, Mr Houston was found guilty of failing to treat others with respect but was exonerated from a charge of bullying. The Panel found that Cllr Houston had subjected the Chair and Clerk of the Parish Council 'to unreasonable personal attack in accusing them of being thieves and in his other behaviour towards the chair'.

The Panel gave the following reasons for suspending Mr Houston:

- That his behaviour fell far short of the standards of behaviour that are expected of Councillors when conducting Council business
- That Councillor Houston throughout the course of the investigation and at the hearing had shown no contrition and for this reason the Panel did not feel it appropriate to require him as part of the sanction to apologise to the Councillors concerned
- Councillor Houston's behaviour at the Parish Council meeting had an adverse effect on Councillors and had disrupted the conduct of Council business
- Councillor Houston has previously been found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct. In August 2007 he had been censured for failing to comply with paragraph 14 of the Code but more seriously in February 2007 he had been found to be in breach of the Code by failing to show respect towards a County Councillor when conducting Council business

Councillor Houston was told that he had the right to apply for permission to appeal but that the sanction remained in place during the course of any such process.

The Standards Committee Panel also recommended that the Parish Council review the way in which it handles its minutes so as to avoid, wherever possible, the need for lengthy debate concerning their accuracy at a subsequent meeting. The Parish Council is considering how best to achieve this.□

*Standards Board report Synopsis by Paul Burall*

## ***Dersingham's Best Front Garden***

We would like to find the village's best front garden. Is there one you live near to or pass by, that has the wow factor or is just perfect?

Nominate your choice for our judges to view by September 1st.

Please do not put forward your own garden or that of a close relative.

Let us have your suggestions in writing or by email with your name and the address of the garden you would like considered.

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## DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP

In view of their popularity last year we have included several extra evening walks in this summer's programme which we hope will be well supported. We also have the coach trip to Southwold in July. The full programme for June and July is:



### WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Start at 6.30pm from the car park off the Ringstead to Burnham Road (map ref. L132/722 405). A 4.5 miles circular walk around Courtyard Farm led by Christine Taylor and Geoff Toop (542807).

### SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Start at 10.30am from the car park opposite the West Lodge at Houghton (map ref. LI32/777 289). A 4.5 miles circular walk around Houghton and Peddars Way led by Christine Taylor and Geoff Toop (542807).

### WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Start at 6.30pm from the Sandringham Visitor Centre (map ref. LI32/689 287). A 4.5 miles circular walk around Sandringham Country Park led by Valerie and Michael Smith (540728).

### WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JULY

Start at 6.30pm from the lay-by on the B1440 south of Ingoldisthorpe (map ref. LI32/683 325). A 4.5 miles circular walk around Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham led by Keith Starks (542268).

### WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JULY

Start at 6.30pm from behind the Dogotel on the A148 at Harpley Dams (map ref. LI32/772 255). A 4.5 miles circular walk along Peddars Way and around Little Massingham led by Pat Reed (540757).

### THURSDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> JULY

Coach (to book a seat (£15.50) contact Maureen on 01485 544514) leaves from opposite Budgens at 9.25am to take us to **SOUTHWOLD** where Keith Starks will lead a 6.5 miles circular walk around Southwold and Walberswick. Bring a packed lunch.

There is **NO CHARGE** for these walks: just turn up on the day (wearing suitable clothing and sturdy footwear). **WELL-BEHAVED** dogs are welcome provided they stay at the rear of the group.

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

*Keith Starks (542268)*

A modest gathering of around 16 of us set off on the first evening walk of the year (14<sup>th</sup> April) from Burnham Deepdale along the coastal bank footpath then across the marsh footpath to Burham Norton and back via a permissive path on the other side of the hedge along the main road. At a

total of a just over 5 miles this was a perhaps a little further than our usual walks of 4 – 4½ miles. For the most part it was a bright, if a little cool evening, with very appealing views across typical North Norfolk salt marshland, the constant sounds of wading birds, and a good sighting of a barn owl.

*Steve Davis*





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## A Charm of Powerful Trouble

Elizabeth Fiddick

In the last edition of Village Voice I wrote of Roger L'Estrange and his attempt to rally support in this area for King Charles 1 at a time when the whole of England was in a state of intense anxiety. The relationship between Parliament and the Crown had broken down and we were making war against the King who many still believed ruled by divine right. Village was set against village, town against town and even fathers against sons.

News of the battles and skirmishes was carried to the towns and villages with terrifying rumours of the behaviour of the opposing armies. It was reported that soldiers were. "*ranging about the country breaking and robbing houses and passengers.*" In Cheshire some villagers had taken refuge in their church steeple when the King's army was sighted. The soldiers set fire to the pews and the villagers were "*barbarously and contrary to the laws of arms murdered.*" Such stories were heard from both sides but also added to this was the very real fear of Papacy. There were rumours that a papist army was lurking in South Wales waiting for the right moment to invade. Thomas Beale, a poor man, stated that while he was hiding in a ditch he heard two men discussing a plan to surprise and take London. Roman Catholics were rumoured to be amassing gunpowder to blow up the chief cities.

But perhaps even more terrifying than all of this was the fear in people's minds that they were not just fighting princes and papists but that the rulers of darkness were all around. The people saw enemies everywhere and believed there were women and some men who were able to channel the powers of the Devil. A Royalist newspaper declared, "*We have also multitudes of witches among us*". Another pamphlet linked witches with monsters, thunderstorms and wars. "*The Lord is angry with us every one.....have not a crew of wicked witches done many mischiefs in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex...*" The figure of the witch was used as a propaganda weapon by both sides. The witch was considered to be a secret agent. One woman hanged as a witch in Bury in 1645 was said to have sent her imp into the army to kill parliamentary soldiers while another had sent her imp to kill Royalist soldiers.

Both sides attempted to link leading figures with witchcraft. Cromwell was likened to a witch while 40 witches arrested here in Norfolk were said to be working for Prince Rupert. Prince Rupert, the flamboyant nephew of the King had a favourite dog called Boy that accompanied him everywhere. This dog, it was rumoured, used to be a beautiful white woman but had been changed into the handsome white dog that was the familiar of witches. It was believed that Boy could find buried treasure and was proof against any attack. A man who tried to attack the dog with a dagger reported that the dagger just slid off his skin. Boy was supposed to be able to catch in his mouth any bullets that were aimed at Rupert and thus keep the Prince "*shot free*" Boy was killed at the battle of Marston Moor in 1644 where the Royalists had over 4,000 killed and Rupert's reputation was largely destroyed. In this febrile atmosphere the denunciation and persecution of witches came to a peak. But of course the fear of witchcraft was already centuries old.

A peak period for hangings for witchcraft had been the decade following the Spanish Armada. During this time King's Lynn was a most important port exporting items including Lincolnshire salt and Derbyshire lead while importing furs from Siberia, coal from Scandinavia and many other commodities. The town had been slowly rebuilt of brick during the reign of Elizabeth 1 and sewers had been laid to drain the floods. Dealing with sin and crime however was a constant concern. Pillories and whipping posts stood in both the Tuesday and Saturday market places. At Purfleet Quay Ducking stools for scolds could be found and a gibbet for exhibiting the corpses of offenders. Tuesday Market Place was the principle place of execution. Crowds would have gathered to see Margaret Reade burned in 1590 and in 1598 to watch Elizabeth Housegoe hanged.

There is in Lynn a visible reminder of one such execution. Mary Smith was the wife of Henry Smith a Glover of the town. Mary made and sold cheeses but she was apparently very jealous of the success of other traders and made many disparaging remarks about them. In 1616 one Elizabeth Hancocke accused her of stealing a hen. Mary responded by calling Elizabeth names

and wishing, “*a pox to light upon her*” Elizabeth fell ill so her father sought advice from a man who professed knowledge of magic. He said Elizabeth was bewitched and was reputed to have shown the father the face of the witch in a glass and given him the recipe for “Witch’s Cake” to counteract the spell. Elizabeth recovered but later after yet another quarrel with Mary she fell ill again and this time Mary was publicly accused of witchcraft. It was stated that she did, “*forsake God for the Devil who came to her in the shape of a black man*“. She was said to have used her power to get ahead in the trade and that she did wither away the body of a sailor who had hit her son. The sailor was one John Orkton who had struck Mary’s son after he had misbehaved. Mary cursed that “*his fingers might rot off*”. Within nine months his fingers did become so infected they had to be amputated. Once Mary was taken to court many other people complained they had suffered misfortunes at her hands. At her trial she confessed to being a witch because she envied her neighbours and the devil had tempted her. Her black cat was denounced as her familiar. She was sentenced to be burnt at the stake. While in gaol she repented. It is said that when in January 1616 she made her way to Tuesday Market Place to face her punishment the crowds instead of jeering her, as was usual, sang psalms. Her chief accuser was the Rev. Roberts who was highly regarded in the town. In 1615 he had been awarded 20 marks by the Lynn Corporation for building a water pipe from the conduit to his house in Tuesday Market Place. It is said that when the flames on Mary’s pyre were at their fiercest her heart flew from her body and smashed into the wall of the Rev. Robert’s house. If you look up at the house today you will see a heart carved into the stone above the window to mark the spot. Some said this was a sign of her repentance but others insisted that it was her final curse against the magistrate who convicted her. The house may also have been cursed for it is said even today that doors slam shut or open of their own accord and ghostly footsteps and mutterings are also heard about the building. However there is another version of this legend. Marc Alexander in his book “*Haunted Inns*” states that the heart belonged to a servant girl boiled to death in the Market Place in 1531 for murdering her mistress.



### **The Witchfinder General**

After the defeat of the attempted coup by Hamon L’Estrange in 1643 Lynn became the most important garrison in the Eastern Association but the costs were huge. By 1646 the Mayor of Lynn had approached the Mayor of Norwich for help to relieve the town of its miserable state. The summer had been very wet and there was disease among the animals and in the crops. The wheat was poor and the rye was full of the black rot of ergot. The cost of beef, mutton and butter rose sharply. Desperate farmers were forced to sell their seed corn and the poor supplemented their stews with nettles and docks. Ergot found its way into the flour causing paralysis, fits, hallucinations and gangrene. People felt their skin was being pricked and torn. Soldiers drifted home from the war spreading infections and unrest.

These troubles added to the political uncertainties and religious tension meant that rumours of witchcraft abounded. A bird tapping at a window foretold death. Sprites were said to pull men from horses and animals believed to be bewitched were burnt. Old Mother Gabley was said to have boiled eggs in a pan to sink a ship returning from Spain. In May 1646 the Mayor, Edward Robinson, instructed a Captain Revett to send for Matthew Hopkins the famous witch finder. His charges and recompense would be met by the town. So a trooper was sent to issue the invitation.

Hopkins had used the Civil War to bring about the worst level of witchcraft persecution. He had begun in his own village of Manningtree in Essex. Elizabeth Clarke an old woman with only one leg had confessed to keeping familiars those wicked servants sent by the devil to cause illness

and mayhem. Elizabeth had to be helped up to the gallows when it was her turn to suffer the ultimate punishment. Hopkins travelled throughout the area actively encouraging neighbours to denounce each other. He probably arrived in Lynn in August. The excitement in the town was so intense that two of Revett's men were sent out on horseback to the town's gate. One man acted as an escort while the second rode in advance beating a drum. The undercroft of the Town Hall had been converted from a wine cellar into a gaol and 8 women and 1 man were imprisoned there waiting for Hopkins. All had been committed for trial as suspicious marks had been found on them. Witches were known to suckle their familiars at their witch mark. So all a witch finder needed was to keep a witch under guard in a locked room, for her familiars were sure to arrive. Any small mark found on a suspect's body was sure to be the witch mark. Grace Wright, Cecily Taylor, Katherine Banks, Emma Godfrey and Lydia Browne, widows, were charged with, "*consulting and covenanting with an evil spirit*". Dorothy Griffin, Thomasine Parker, Dorothy Lee, and one male suspect, labourer Thomas Dempster, were also charged. They all pleaded not guilty. Hopkins himself gave evidence against Dempster. After this evidence two labourers accused of robbery, and a thief on the run from London, were brought forward for trial. When the verdicts were announced six of the witches were acquitted. Lydia Browne was considered mentally disturbed and so not fit to plead. Only Grace Wright and Dorothy Lee were convicted and sentenced to hang in the Market Place.

It seems the citizens of Lynn doubted the evidence of Mr. Hopkins. As the trial ended news arrived that plague had been discovered in the town. Hopkins left promptly. He had been paid £15 to discover witches. This would be the amount the drummer who heralded his arrival would earn in 16 months.

The persecution did not end with Hopkins' departure. Dorothy Floyd was hanged in 1650 three years after Hopkins' death. Belief in witchcraft was still found in Lynn in the nineteenth century. William Armes remembered in 1864 a Mrs. Sparrow, "*a wise woman*" was contacted by men wanting her to use her powers to find thieves who had robbed them or even a girl for them to marry.

So the next time you join the crowds in Tuesday Market Place at the Mart, or to watch an entertainment at Festival Time, or even just to shop look up at that carved heart on the house in the far corner and remember what the citizens of Lynn all those years ago came here to see.

### **Correction**

*When I was checking through my last article I failed to notice my careless slip about the L'Estrange family. They were certainly staunch Royalists but not Roman Catholic.*

## **Bus Service**

Following the cut late last year in the number of buses serving Dersingham from three an hour to two an hour, the Parish Council has been looking at ways of improving the service for the village.

Norfolk Green came to the March meeting of the Council and said that it would consider introducing a service that would go round the village linking the main estates with the central area and doctor's surgery and then go into King's Lynn. However, it was unlikely that this could start before 2011 and would probably require a subsidy from Norfolk County Council.

The Parish Council has also been in touch with the County Council and First Bus. First Bus has said that it will increase the frequency back to three services an hour during the summer; but it would appear that the extra service would not continue during the winter.

In response to requests from people living in the Valley Rise area, First Bus has also investigated the possibility of diverting one of its routes to run via Mountbatten Road and Station Road. This would require some work to two trees to allow double-deckers through.

The Parish Council would welcome comments on any of these possible developments and especially from people who would find a bus serving the west of the village helpful or from anyone who might have any objections. □

*Paul Burall*



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## DERSINGHAM OPEN GARDENS & St Nicholas Gallery

**30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010. 2.00pm to 6.00pm**

*Fascinating Gardens - Art Exhibition - Cream Teas 2-5pm*

This local event is increasing in popularity each year. Please note the date and also bring along friends and family. When relatives are visiting on a holiday weekend it is good to have a special attraction to take them to.

The gardens that are open are inspiring and all uniquely different. Added to this, the **St Nicholas Gallery** art exhibition in the Church Hall displays local work of a very high standard.

Cream Teas and a variety of other refreshments will be served in the Church Hall from 2.00 to 5.00pm

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| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <br/> <b>Girlguiding UK</b><br/> <small>girls in the lead</small> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Wanted!</h3> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Brownie Guider</h2> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">The 1<sup>st</sup> Dersingham Brownies need a new leader.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursdays from 5.30 – 7pm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Games, activities and lots of FUN!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If <b>YOU</b> can help:<br/>Please contact (01485) 544753</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <br/> <b>Girlguiding UK</b><br/> <small>girls in the lead</small> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">Recycle your waste paper with<br/>Dersingham Scouts and Guides</h2> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>We accept newspaper, magazines, paper, cardboard, telephone directories, catalogues, junk mail, cards and other paper products....</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">All contributions can be left (tied up or in bags) at the Scout &amp; Guide HQ, Manor Road, Dersingham</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div> |
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## THE BEACON - Your local TALKING NEWSPAPER

For over 20 years the Hunstanton and District Talking Newspaper charity has been producing 'THE BEACON' using local news from the Lynn News, The Citizen and the West Norfolk pages of the EDP.

The Beacon is a weekly C60 Audio cassette tape which is put together every Tuesday and posted to around 50 blind and partially sighted listeners free of charge.

The Beacon has now increased its coverage of local news by using items from our local newsletters and we are presently using The Dersingham Village Voice, Snettisham News and Views, The Heacham Newsletter, The Hunstanton Newsletter and The Parish News which covers the coast from Titchwell to Burnham Deepdale and we are interested in using others.

We use around 50 volunteers working in teams comprising Administrators, Editors, Readers and a Recordist on a 5 weekly rota every Tuesday using a small studio at Glebe House School Hunstanton,

We are always pleased to receive requests for our tape from the partially sighted and welcome enquiries from prospective volunteers wishing to help

For more information please contact John Cole on 01485 542412. □



## It's Witchcraft (Out of the microwave and into the caldron)

Macbeth's that well-known eatery  
Just north of Invergordon  
With three bewitching lady cooks  
All dab-hands at the caldron

Their recipes throughout the land  
Are famous for their magic  
Any attempt to rival them  
Could prove a wee bit tragic

Their cooking of gizzards is second-to-none  
And it took them no time to establish  
That Macbeth's was the place that people would  
come  
If they wanted the very best haggis

But that was before that rival clan  
The McDonalds came to town  
They were slaves to the microwave  
And oh yes you may very well frown

Compare a victual cooked in a caldron  
To one zapped with a microwave burst  
And you're likely to see a finished performance  
Not one that's just badly rehearsed

So the Thane of Glamis sent his missis  
Along to the McDonald's caff  
And she returned quite quickly  
Saying their cooking was '..really quite naff

'In fact their food is pure Macduff  
It murders taste and flavour  
And haggis cooked in a microwave  
Is known for its dodgy behaviour.

'For to microwave a haggis  
Is a very risky endeavour  
You'll end up covered in entrails  
And a feeling you've not been too clever.'

Macbeth was very relieved at this  
He said 'Good then we've no need to worry  
Our caldron-based cooking is safe and sound  
We might even attempt a new curry

'Our three lovely ladies can cook anything  
From haggis to cow's-bladder hotpot  
For caldron-cooked food is better by far  
Than things that explode in the whatnot

'So let the three ladies get cooking  
Their best caldron-boiled bill-of-fare  
And show all those microwave mugginses  
That their cooking is tres au contraire.'

*\* With eye of newt, and toe of frog,  
Wool of bat, and tongue of dog,  
Adder 's fork, and blind worm's sting,  
Lizard's leg, and how let's wing*

All are bare essentials  
That give their haggis allure  
For Macbeth and his team are the haggising  
experts  
And Macbeth the true epicure

You can tell the clan of McDonald  
That no matter how hard they try  
They'll never match caldron-cooked haggis  
Macbeth here's mud in your eye.

'Och Aye! I could murder a haggis!'



## Dersingham Brownies Pack Holiday 2010

From 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> April, 25 Brownies and their leaders stayed at the Wells Field Studies Centre for their annual Brownie Pack Holiday. This year's theme was "Winnie the Pooh", so the leaders, sixes and activities were named after characters from the stories.

The brownies were split into five sixes, each containing a mixture of ages and pack holiday experience. They were called; the Owls, the Kangas, the Roos, the Rabbits and the Lotties. The Brownies did their own washing up, assisted with the cooking, kept their rooms and the Centre tidy, laid the tables as well as completing crafts and playing games. They were awarded points for the six, and this year the winning six was the Rabbits.

We also had activities away from the centre, these were a trip on the steam train to Walsingham, swimming and visiting the local fire station. There was a pyjama parade on the first evening where our mystery judge awarded prizes for the prettiest nightwear, dressing gown, cosiest slippers and cuddliest toy.

Brownies on their first pack holiday were given a camp fire blanket and all the girls were given two badges to sew onto their blankets, the GirlGuiding Anglia Nights away and centenary badges. On the last evening we had an indoor campfire before going outside to toast marshmallows. The Brownies earned lots of badges over the four days and this year the following badges were awarded; Pack Holiday and Pack Holiday Advanced, Cooks and Cooks Advanced, Swimmer and Swimmer Advanced, Craft and Agility. They also received a certificate and a Guiding Centenary Teddy clip as a memento of the event.

All who attended had a very enjoyable time, our thanks must go to the leaders who gave up their time to organise and attend. We eagerly await next year's Pack Holiday. □

*Lynne Wheeler*





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# The Sandringham Newsletter

*by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate*



The weather continued cold and grey for most of February and into March, which seemed to delay signs of spring by at least three weeks. On the positive side, when Sandringham House and Gardens did open to the public, the drifts of daffodils were looking glorious; on the negative side, February has been a frustrating month for the Farm where we were at least one to two weeks behind where we would expect to be with a large acreage to plough.

The Forestry department have thinned out some of the older larches and pines around the Visitor Centre car parks, and have planted hedges along the approach roads and drives – we are now well past the 5-mile mark in our hedge planting, and the Visitor Centre looks much neater.

On the Fruit Farm, 60,000 new blackcurrant cuttings have been planted, as well as cuttings from established bushes, filling a 20-acre field all planted by hand. Staff have continued pruning apple trees, and gardeners have also been pruning – the pleached red-twigged lime trees around the North Garden all have to be pruned by hand and the growths tied in to a framework of strings and wires to produce an interwoven canopy by summer. The lime walks in summer are a very peaceful, green, shady place to be, the result of almost a month's work in February and March.

The gates at the entrance to the walled kitchen garden have been refurbished; all of the rusted wrought iron sections were cut out and renewed, and then reassembled using the same riveting methods as would have been used when the gates were first installed in King Edward VII's time.

Sandringham House and Gardens have now been open to the public for some weeks and the sunshine in April has meant that camellias and magnolias were in full bloom and looked breathtaking. Some of the less well-known trees and shrubs in the Gardens, like osmanthus, mahonia and azara microphylla, all with very sweet scents, were also out and were well worth seeing and smelling. A Spring favourite is the variegated sycamore "Brilliantissimum" – at this time of year its young leaves are a bright coral pink; here at Sandringham, they have been planted against dark evergreen trees, and the contrast is striking.

Visitor numbers over Easter were encouraging, and people have been enjoying this year's Ballroom exhibition, "Family Treasures", and the view it gives of 150 years of gift-giving within the Royal Family. At the Visitor Centre, work is starting on rearranging the Gift Shop to make it feel more spacious and airy, and new gift ranges are starting to appear on the shelves.



Brilliantissimum

The fruit farm staff are still pruning apples and blackcurrants but have nearly completed this mammoth task. The automated irrigation system that protects blackcurrant blossom from late frosts is also being checked over and put in place. The fruit farm's apple juice is now being stocked by local branches of Sainsbury's as well as Waitrose, so cropping plans for this autumn are being adjusted to try to ensure that there will be enough juice for all our customers.

Farm staff have sown crops almost non-stop for the last month now that the really cold weather seemed to be over and average temperatures were rising. Conventional fields have been sown with sugar beet, spring barley, spring wheat and peas, and the organic areas with barley, wheat, oats and beans. In both areas, wildlife conservation strips are left right around the fields to provide safe places for pheasants and other ground nesting birds to construct their nests and raise their young.

Finally, a reminder that there will be a Will Young concert taking place in Sandringham Park on Saturday 7th August. Tickets are on sale now for personal callers to the Gift Shop. There will also be a Russell Watson classical concert with a firework finale on Sunday 8th August; tickets should be on sale in the Gift Shop by the end of May. □

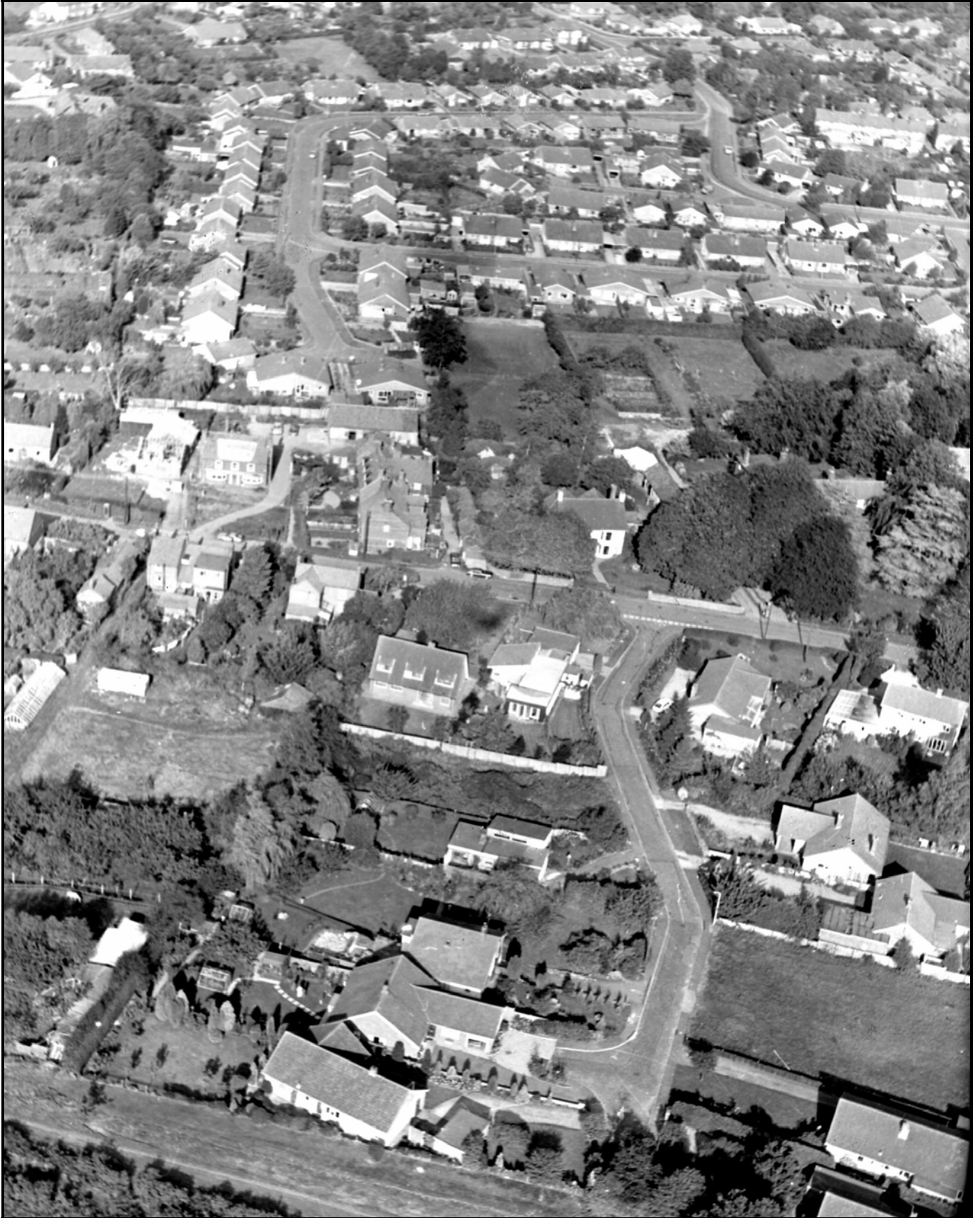


## Old Picture Corner

This aerial shot was taken around 1980 by the late Gordon Anckorn. Looking north from a position over the heath it shows a view largely unchanged although a few of the gaps have now been filled in.

Sadly I was unable to take an up to date version as my Auster was in for a service.

*Tony Bubb*





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# Dersingham Scout & Guide Annual Fete

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June  
Scout & Guide HQ, Manor Road  
Open at 12.30pm  
Grand Raffle drawn at 3.30pm

Games, Strawberries & Cream, Cake Stall, Bric-a-brac, Teas,  
Competitions, Greasy Pole, Plants & much more!

*Come & join the fun!*



## 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](mailto:villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk)





## The Dersingham Beat

You may have realised by now that I am a “glass half full” man. This month did not start off very well for us on the crime front but gradually improved as the weeks went on.

We have experienced a great deal of damage this period to fences and to ‘For Sale’ signs. The allotments had two sheds targeted and both had had their doors kicked in and nothing stolen.

The night after the damage to these sheds was reported, PCSO Sally Calaby and PCSO Katie Richardson patrolled the allotments and having stood in the darkness for a short time they witnessed a group of youths climb over the gate and four of them were seen to rock one of the same sheds back and forth, all ran off but were detained nearby. PC Adrian Fryett will be interviewing them about this.

I interviewed three local youths regarding their involvement in crime in Dersingham and eight offences were admitted i.e. damaging fences in Burma Close and Crisp Close, damaging two For Sale signs and stamping on chain link fencing in Mountbatten Rd. A hidden camera recorded footage of another local youth performing a “WWF” style drop kick on a ‘For Sale’ sign and once identified he will be dealt with.

It is disappointing that having worked as police officer for 20 years in various areas of West Norfolk, I have never known a village like Dersingham which has this type of crime trend.....What is it about fences in Dersingham? Hopefully now that we have had a few admissions and caught another red handed on CCTV the message will get out to these “yobs”.....this has got to stop!

We are visiting the families of a number of local youths that we come across on our patrols late at night, whilst we can not point the finger, these youths are out and about when the crime is committed. We will be asking parents to take an interest in where their children are late at night. Quite often they tell their parents they are at a friends house when infact they are roaming the streets and up to no good.

We appear to have made some progress at last regarding difficulty experienced by residents of Woodside Avenue when leaving the junction on to Hunstanton Road. As school children await their collection by bus their presence causes an obstruction and therefore a hazard. We have liaised with the relevant authorities who will arrange for these children to be allocated alternative bus stops for their collection.

An unofficial party got out of hand thanks to an announcement going on ‘Face Book’. This encouraged over 100 youths to attend a band practice at The Feathers and when denied entry they caused problems around the village. Many were under 18 and in possession of alcohol, much of it was confiscated. The licensee was concerned that the experience may have upset the local community but we realised that this was out of their hands and thanked him for taking the initial positive action.

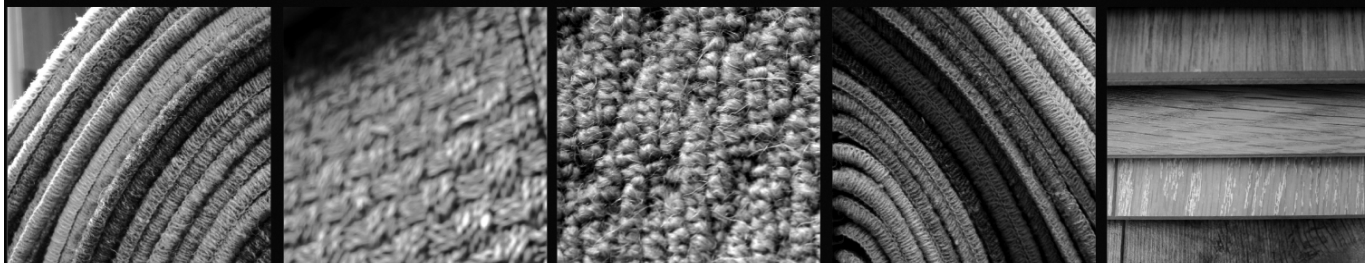
I would like to pass on some crime prevention advice based on my experience as a police officer. Most burglaries that we attend (fortunately not too often in Dersingham) occur in the evenings. The simple reason for this is that if a property is in darkness it appears that there is no one home. If it looks like this to us on our patrols it certainly will to “Billy Burglar”. My recommendation is that you try and leave a light on a timer switch to give the impression your home is occupied when you are out.

In the meantime as always I look forward to hearing from you and until then please rest assured my team and I will do all we can to keep you safe.□

“Mind how you go”..... *Andy*

sntdersinghamgayton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk    Crime Stoppers - tel no 0800 555 111

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## Suzy Daniels fills the Parish Council vacancy

I have been given this opportunity to introduce myself to you, so here goes, a very brief autobiography...for those of you who don't know me, my name is Suzanne Daniels, and for those of you who know me as Suzy.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> Of April 2010 I was co-opted as a new Parish Councillor. I have lived in Dersingham since 1980 having moved here from Ingoldisthorpe. At the age of 4. I went to Dersingham First school and then St Georges Middle school as they were known before the restructure a few years ago, followed by Smithdon High school. After finishing my education at NORCAT (College Of West Anglia) I started working at Budgens when it first opened in Dersingham and remained there for 5 years when I fell pregnant with our first daughter.

I am happily married to Richard who also grew up in Dersingham and we both have Parents and in my case a Grandparent living in the village. I am a full time Mum to our two daughters; Demi-Sian aged 10 and Alexandra who is 6. They both go to school in Dersingham and take full advantage of extracurricular activities provided by the school or other organisations within Dersingham, which makes me a part-time taxi driver too!!!

We run a successful small business; P.A.T.E.S.T. (Portable Appliance testing and Electrical Safety Testing) providing a fast, friendly service to local businesses. Working from home will give me the time and flexibility I require to dedicate myself to the Parish Council.

We made the decision to raise our family in Dersingham with the knowledge that it is generally a safe and friendly environment. Having family and great friends here, is another reason we wouldn't want to live anywhere else!!! Although the village has changed and grown considerably over the years the feeling of community spirit seems to still exist on the whole.

So what made me want to be a Councillor????? I have worked with the Parish Council over the last couple of years when various situations arose while I was managing the Dersingham Community Centre and felt I would like to become a Parish Councillor and continue working in the community with the chance to make a difference, when the Community Centre closed. I believe that raising two young daughters and volunteering at Dersingham Day Centre for the Elderly gives me the advantage of understanding the requirements of both generations. Being in the middle of both these age groups also allows me the opportunity to relate to the needs of a vast number of Dersingham parishioners.

Starting a new chapter in life is always full of uncertainty, but I am an optimist and confident that my local knowledge and proven track record of helping within the community will add value to the Council and to the village. There will always be decisions to make and changes to implement and I hope that being involved with those concerning this Parish will offer me the opportunity to give an enthusiastic and positive input towards the requirements of you, the parishioners of Dersingham.

One final note..... That's enough about me; it must be time for another coffee!! With my best foot forward.....let's move on to matters arising!! □





# **Park House Concert Programme 2010**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July - 5.00pm**

**Chapterhouse Outdoor Theatre Company  
present**

**“Pride & Prejudice”**

**Tickets**

**Adults £12.00 Children £8.00 Family £35.00**

**Gates open for picnics from 2.30pm**

---

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October - 3.00pm**

**The Wandering Minstrels**

**Present the**

**Gilbert & Sullivan**

**“Savoy Operas”**

**Tickets £12.50**

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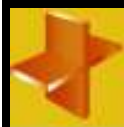
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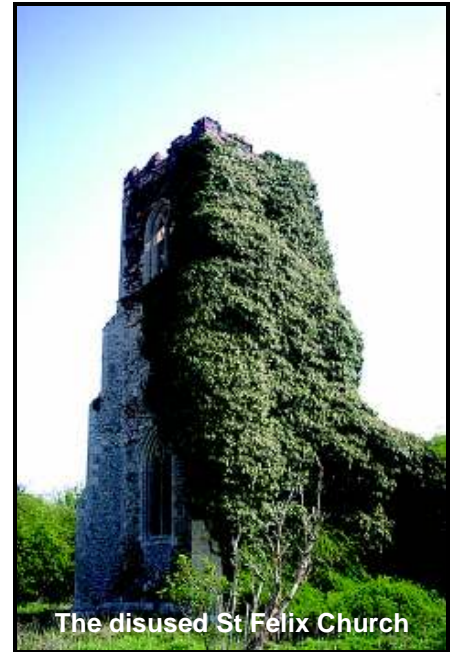
# TIN TABERNACLES

by Maggie Gray

It was in 1828 that Henry Robinson Palmer invented corrugated iron as it's known, a material which was cheap to produce, highly practical and easy to transport. The main use was as a building material and during the California Gold Rush of 1849 it was used extensively, and two years later during the Gold Rush in Australia.

In this country, in the 1860s and up until the Great War, there were massive increases in the production of coal and lead in particular, which meant that large numbers of people were moving around the country to find work. Once communities were established, they needed buildings such as schools and chapels, and corrugated iron provided the material for these.

Many of these buildings didn't survive, they were only ever intended as stop gaps, nothing permanent, and so most have disappeared, and of those that have survived, this is largely due to the fact that they were built for religious use. There are others such as small railway stations, meeting houses, the occasional small school, looked after by various people who have an interest in them and the community in which they are sited. Some have even been kept as museums and



The disused St Felix Church

preserved, such as the Henton Mission Room which is now at the Chiltern Open Air Museum and several turned into private homes.

Sadly there are those standing that are in a desperate state of repair, almost derelict and no longer fit for use. But not all, for just a mile or so from Dersingham is a little tin tabernacle which has not only been lovingly preserved, but kept in use too.

The little hamlet of Babingley, believed originally to have been called Babinkelia, is where St.Felix of Burgundy is said to



The chapel before restoration

have landed in AD600 and built the first Christian church in East Anglia. That church is no longer in existence, but just off the main road between King's Lynn and Hunstanton, down a small track you will find a quaint little building, constructed of corrugated iron and with a thatched roof. This is the St.Felix Chapel and it was erected in 1894 - 5 by Edward, Prince of Wales, and after some extensive work, now restored to its original charm and beauty and is used by the British Orthodox Church.□

*These buildings were made by Boulton & Paul who are the subject of the June village Voice Live. Come along and find out more about them and what they cost. Ed*



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## Dick Melton

What a sad thing it is for the village and the people that live in it that the Dersingham Communtty Centre has closed down. A lady from the village sent me some pictures of what it looks like now and it is a very sad sight.

Dersingham Community Centre or village school as it was, was built, I believe, about 1870. In 1891 it was enlarged at a cost of £240 and was then enlarged again to take 326 children. It was built on land owned by the Sandringham estate.

I first went to school there in 1945 and, of course, them days we had the very large horse chestnut tree right in the middle of the playground. There were four teachers: Miss Robinson, Miss Crow, Miss Boyce and Miss Hudson. Mr Jones was the headmaster. One of the best things about the school was in the winter time: when it was cold at play time we would nip over the wall at the top of the playground and slide on the ice on the pond in the Emblems. The question is what will the estate do with it now: will it just stand empty like Shernborne club?

### Beck House

A chap from the village rang me up and he said, "Hey Dick, where is Beck House?" Well, I could not tell him off-hand, so I had to look it up and I found out that it is the large house next to the Red Pumps Garage. Now this house started life as Blackheath Lodge; then, after the First World War, Sandringham estate bought the house and gave it to a Mrs Beck and her children to live in for the rest of their lives on the request of King Edward the Seventh. Captain Beck, Mrs Beck's husband, was the land agent on the Sandringham estate. He led the Sandringham company of volunteers, 'E' company, 5th Battalion, Norfolk Regiment, who were actually a group of gardeners, grooms, household staff and farm labourers, all of whom were lost in action at Gallipoli on August 12th 1915 during the First World War. When Mrs Beck took over the house she renamed it 'The Shieling' which is Scottish for a shepherds hut. It kept this name until about ten years ago when it was renamed 'Beck House'. In the Kings Lynn Blue Book for 1965 there was still a person by the name of Beck living there, but by 1974 the name of the occupant had changed



The school - as it was.

to Isherwood. By the way, it was Captain Beck who had the rifle range constructed in 1909 at the eastern end of Dersingham fen.

### **Dykes and drainage**

Now what about all these dykes and the drainage of the village. On our way home from school, one of the things we done was to put a bit of wood in the dyke near the Feathers Hotel and watch it go all the way until it came out of the tunnel at the top of The Drift on the other side of the main road. This dyke, by the way, went all the way down to the marshes where it came out in Boat House Creek, somewhere near the pumping station. There were many dykes around Dersingham, a lot that have been filled in or piped. The dykes along the main roads in the village were kept clean by the roadmen or lengthsmen as they were called, but the dykes like the one that ran at the back of the houses in Lynn Road from Manor Road to the Post Office Corner were kept clean by the householders. The dykes around the allotments down Station Road, the police station and up Sandringham Hill were the responsibility of Dersingham Parish Council who would employ a man to clean them out about once a year - it was usually Fred Cross or Bill Howsan. The big red dyke that ran along the edge of the fen, and still does I believe, was cleaned out by the catchment board or drainage board as they were known.

### **Captain Ryder**

A lady was having a walk around Wolferton churchyard when she came across a seat that is dedicated in memory of a Captain Ryder V. C. She was interested to know more about this gentleman, so I done a bit of searching and I found out that he was the captain in



charge of the Naval section of the operation to blow up the dock yard and dock gates at Saint Nazaire, a French port that had been taken over by the Germans in the Second World War.

Captain Robert 'Red' Ryder was in charge of the Royal Navy side of the operation and Lieutenant Colonel Charles Newman was in charge of the commandos. Both men won the Victoria Cross.

The Saint Nazaire raid took place on the night of the 28th of March 1942. Of the 277 commandos who took part, 64 were killed and 153 were captured; only four of the motor launches that entered the river that night eventually got home, 105 sailors were killed and 106 were taken prisoner; out of a total 611 men committed to the raid, 403 failed to return. 5 Victoria Crosses were among the many decorations for bravery won that night. Captain Ryder lived for many years in Wolferton and while he was there he was a church warden and also chairman of the Wolferton Social Club.

### **Nature remedies**

I was having a chat to the editor of the V.V. and he asked me what I knew about people using herbs to cure ailments. Well, not a lot really, but I can remember when I was small if I got stung by a nettle my granny would rub it with a dock leaf; and they would gather the leaves off stinger nettles and make them into herbal tea to drink if you felt poorly. Also, people would lay on a bed of stinger nettles if they had a bad back. I knew an old boy who lived down the beach and, if he caught a cold, he would go and get a pail of sea water, bring it to the boil on the stove and inhale the steam. I don't know if it worked but he lived till he was over ninety.

Well now I had better stop there as its getting dark. What with the price of electricity I can't afford to put the light on, so I go to bed at dusk and get up at dawn, except for the nights I go out for a drink - then I just feel my way home. □



## **DERSSINGHAM DAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY**



The Dersingham Day Centre held its Easter Party on the 7<sup>th</sup> April in its new 'home', St Nicholas' Church Hall in Manor Road.

Members, Volunteers and Guests, totaling 46 people, sat down to a roast lamb lunch with all the trimmings, followed by home made lemon cheese cake, tea/coffee. Thanks for a splendid meal were expressed to Ruth Mountain who had prepared and cooked it.

Members who wished to had been asked to make an Easter Hat and there was a very good selection for the judges to choose from. Mrs Elsie Tuddenham from Beech Drift won the ladies' prize and Mr Godfrey Walter (Goff) won the prize for the gentlemen.

Once lunch was over the tables were cleared and Mr Leigh Murfet of Hunstanton kept everyone entertained with music to sing to and music to dance to. Some of the Members were able to join in the dancing but everyone was able to sing along to the songs they had grown up with from the 20s onwards. Tea was served with buttered hot cross buns and then the party came to an end with everyone joining in the old favourite "We'll Meet Again". It had been a lovely day and as the Members left for home they were each given a chocolate Easter Egg.

It was our sixth meeting in the Church Hall and we have settled in so well. It has been a real treat to arrive to find the Hall warm and welcoming, particularly on those very cold March days.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> April Genene Henshaw from Age Concern in Lynn came to talk to Members about a new project that has been set up to help senior citizens with those jobs around the house that are difficult as one gets older. Tasks will include "non-tools, un-skilled" jobs such as changing lightbulbs, hanging/taking down curtains, moving furniture, helping with use of domestic appliances, defrosting fridges/freezers, helping with moving home etc., etc. It is a free service for all pensioners and more details are available from Genene on 01553 778672.

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June the Day Centre will be holding its annual Flag Day under the auspices of the Queen Alexandra's Rose Day. We have organized this event for the last six years as a means of raising money towards our running costs. As we have now lost our Social Services Grant it is even more important that we make the most of this Fund Raising Day. We were only able to cover the morning hours last year due to a lack of Collectors but this year we would like to cover the afternoon as well. If you could spare an hour to collect for us in Dersingham on that Saturday please contact Alice Worth on (01485) 544673. Any help would be very much appreciated.

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. □

### **THE COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME IN DERSINGHAM**

The Car Scheme is there for anyone who has difficulties in reaching appointments and has no other means of transport. We cover trips to the surgery, opticians, dentists, clinics and other medical appointments We also do the occasional shopping trip, visits to the hairdresser and clubs.

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These weekends, at which the concerts are given by artists of international renown, take place during the summer months and in various parts of the country.

The Trust, apart from the need to cover the modest cost of part-time secretarial help, is run entirely on a voluntary basis. In its first 21 seasons it arranged 58 weekends and with the support of business organisations, charitable trusts, the Friends of Music in Country Churches and other generous individuals, was able to make donations to those

## Parish Council Report

It was pleasing to see such a high number of parishioners attend the meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> April..... hopefully this was due to interest in the happenings of the Parish Council. In recent months there have been as few as two present.

*CRIME.....nine too many!!!*

Nine crimes were reported by the police during the period 22<sup>nd</sup> March to 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Criminal damage accounted for eight of these with the other being theft of a vehicle. Two youths have admitted six offences of criminal damage and others would be interviewed concerning some of these reported offences.

### *WEST NORFOLK PARTNERSHIP*

A presentation was given by Peter Morris, Delivery Officer for the West Norfolk Partnership. Outlining plans for local engagement and responding to local issues. The partnership structure would enable groups of Parish Councillors to meet up together with the Partnership to identify common problems and share experiences on dealing with them in order to reflect local issues. This approach paralleled that of the Police through its SNAP programme, the two would be coordinated. Although decisions would have no statutory or mandatory authority, they would influence the work and spending plans of the Partnership and ultimately benefit the community. The Council resolved to support the proposal in principal.

### *BOROUGH COUNCIL.....parking problems!!!*

Cllr Johnston mentioned several reports of inappropriate parking on amenity land between Duck Decoy Close and Stanton Road and had taken this up with Borough Council officers. He was aware of similar problems elsewhere in the village including the top of Dodds Hill and the top of Valley Rise.

A letter was sent by the Borough Council regarding the role of the Parish Council in emergency planning...this was referred to the Environment Committee. A Parish Councillor requested the help of the Borough Council in developing its emergency plan and was assured this was the case. A brief explanation was given on how the flood warning system had worked previously.

### *MATTERS ARISING*

Regarding the open spaces on the Sandringham View estate Cllr Burall explained he had been exploring the possibility of the Parish Council taking over four areas from the Borough. It was recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee that the Council should offer to take over the spaces in Phillip Nurse Road and James Jackson Road and a four acre space, but not the small area between Duck Decoy Close and Stanton Road as this should be managed as part of the other verges. It is likely that the Borough would hand over all or most of the £65,000 that had been received from the developer when the Borough took ownership. There will be no financial risk for the Parish.

The County Footpaths officer would be erecting a Footpath sign at either end of the right of way through Life Wood

### *A NEW COUNCILLOR*

Mrs S Daniels applied for the Parish Council vacancy. It was resolved that she be Co-Opted.

### *PLANNING APPLICATIONS*

1 Chapel Road, change of use from dwelling and retail to dwelling.....Recommend Approval

36 West Hall Road, removal of conservatory roof and window frames to construct dayroom....

Recommend Approval

23 Woodside Avenue, construction of 3 bedroom chalet style dwelling with integral garage following demolition of single story extension....Recommend Refusal

### *DETERMINATIONS*

25A Hunstanton Road, Construction of bungalow following demolition of workshop.....GRANTED

44 Hunstanton Road, proposed demolition of existing front first floor balcony area and construction of ground floor extension with lean to pitched roof ....GRANTED

60 Manor Rd, proposed extension to dwelling....GRANTED

14 Dodds hill Rd, Proposed extension to dwelling....GRANTED □

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## News From The Norfolk Hospice

Our supporters, including the Dersingham-based Knit and Natter Group knitted 285 Easter chicks (see photograph) which were then stuffed with crème eggs as part of the 'Easter' theme for this year's Spring Coffee Morning. The chicks, together with coffee, cakes and crafts were sold and more funds raised though a raffle, tombola and numerous other games and stalls, over £1,200 in total. Thanks to our volunteers and supporters for the help and donations.



'The Moonies' Gig held at Snettisham Memorial Hall in March was a great success and enjoyed by all from the very young to the more mature! Tickets for the event were completely sold out and also raised well over £1,200. The band - pictured below as they are today and when they first got together in 1995.



In addition to our appeal for good furniture in the notice below, we still need good quality clothing, bric-a-brac and books to help our shops continue to raise much-needed funds for the Hospice. For more information please contact the Fundraising Office on 01485 542891 or call in at one of our shops, the nearest of which is at 41 Lynn Road, Snettisham (tel: 01485 543250).

**Zena Penty** Fundraising Co-ordinator



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## GALA

The weather had been unsettled for the few weeks leading up to hold a Gala Day on the car park at Budgens Supermarket in the village of Graven, the owners of the supermarket, were this year celebrating 100 years since Easter Sunday, the store would not be permitted to open.

Jonathan James, Managing Director of the company, made a donation to the community his store serves, and offered any charity, club or organisation to use the car park for their benefit. The idea was that no charge would be made for the use of the car park between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm, a 'free-to-use' bouncy castle would be available in the form of a burger van and a 1940s style ice cream truck, supplied by Tim Plumb from Heacham, would hark back to the village's business in Ely, exporting all forms of agricultural machinery to many parts of the world.

The weather has been mentioned because, as anybody who has experienced a cold day is the one thing you cannot plan, and the omens on the day before the event were not good.

It was, therefore, with some apprehension that the two organisers were allocating the stalls – that is if the booked stallholders had not been requested a stall turned up, resulting in stalls for the Carol Brown Hobbies, the Evening Women's Institute, The Dersingham Section of the Norfolk and Norwich Dersingham Cricket Club, Pets as Therapy, The Royal National Lifeboat Institution and Dersingham Infant and Nursery School, these being supplemented by a Jazz Band, Face Painter and Balloon Artist 'Crazy Bananas' and a team of firefighters from Sandringham Fire Station who are based in the village.

Then day turned out to be on the cool side, but was alleviated by a time before again turning to cloud, but, nevertheless, it did not rain.

Reports are that each of the stalls had had a satisfactory response, and that 40 vehicles in the village which were a lot cleaner than they had been.

Rumour has it that, it having been so successful as a first effort, it will become an annual event, so watch your local notice boards for further details.

your diary!□





## A DAY

April 4, Easter Sunday, the day on which it had been planned to  
ge. The Gala Day had been inspired by the fact that James  
50 years of trading, and that, due to the law related to trading on

decision that this was a perfect opportunity to offer something back  
organisation in the area a means by which they could raise funds to  
e of a pitch on the day, which would be available for trading  
be provided for children who attended, refreshment facilities  
cream bicycle, and as a tribute to the origins of the company, a  
back to the time when James Graven started his engineering  
ny parts of the world.

had the task of planning an outdoor event in Britain will know, it  
e event were not good, with rain being forecast.

ers arrived at 8.00 am to start the task of setting up the area and  
put off by the overcast sky! No worry! Everybody who had  
ealth Centre's Patient Participation Group, The Dersingham  
Constabulary, The Cat's Protection League, Help for Heroes,  
boat Institute, Sunnyside Vets, Norfolk Hospice Tapping House  
mented by Dick Ropa's Bouncy Castle, A local three-piece  
d a very well received Charity Car Wash operated by the fire-  
llage.

d by some sunny spells which warmed up the atmosphere for  
t rain!

onse to their efforts to raise funds, there ended up being about  
l been, and a good day had been enjoyed by all.

ort, the company may repeat the event next year and it may  
s and the Village Voice, and keep Easter Sunday 2011 free in

*Bob Tipling*







## Steve Davis Back to Number 1

Though our progress through spring has perhaps been a little staggered weatherwise, each new burst of sunshine seems to have moved things on at an alarming rate. As I start to write on this May Day, our garden apple tree has never looked better with its all too short lived smothering of blossom; the first of the rhododendrons along the Sandringham Scenic drive (known locally I am told as *the Seven Sisters*) is in full bloom; the flocks of knot and godwit at the Snettisham Reserve are sporting their striking orangey-brown breeding plumage; the masses of cowslips in the fields around *Courtyard Farm* at Ringstead are as spectacular as ever and evening cycle rides down to watch the sun set across the Wash have never been more enjoyable. So many reasons perhaps for giving the somewhat presumptuous title of this article, though I will leave you to speculate a bit longer.



Now, I was a little surprised when told by our editor that he wanted to give this edition a *herby* theme. Not a particular specialism of mine, although an idle *Google* search on *Herbs* came up with no end of useful sites on the subject including the *Herb Society UK* at [www.herbsociety.org.uk](http://www.herbsociety.org.uk) covering herbs in the garden, kitchen, medicine, cosmetics, history, etc. Then there was the more scientific *HerbalGram* the journal of the *American Botanical Council* at [abc.herbalgram.org](http://abc.herbalgram.org) and, should you want to

buy any, there is *Norfolk Herbs* at [www.norfolkherbs.co.uk](http://www.norfolkherbs.co.uk) who are actually located in Dereham.

On the other hand, knowing our Editor's interest in cars, it occurred to me that he could have meant a *Herbie* theme, referring to the famous *VW Beetle* of the *Love Bug* films. So just to hedge my bets, and as it would look good on a colour page I thought I would include a photo taken on one of my visits to my brother in Cozumel, Mexico, a country that continued to market the old *VW Beetle* and spares long after they ceased to be available elsewhere! I understand too from a friend that there was a well-decorated *Herbie Car* entry in this year's May Day Spalding Flower Festival Parade that took the theme of *Screen Heroes*, though unfortunately I have been unable to locate a picture of it.

Anyway, now onto the subject of cars, somewhere around September last year, many of you saw the *Google* scanning vehicle patrolling the streets of Dersingham with its strange heavy camera antenna mounted on the roof. This was in preparation for the new *Google Street View* enhancement to the already popular *Google Maps* facility that has only recently gone live in this area and pretty much





everywhere else in the country, causing a mixture of fascination, amazement and trepidation. If you are not “blessed” with a computer do try and get someone who is to show you this as it is quite staggering. From the standard *Google* page click on Maps at the top of the screen. Enter a place name or postcode into the search box to bring up a local street map. Next click on the little gold man just above the +/- zoom bar on the left of the map, and drag him onto any street of the map. A full photo taken from the street at that particular point will appear on the screen. However, this is no ordinary photo, but a 360° panoramic view that can be clicked and dragged around to another viewing angle or move a little further along the street for another 360° view or zoomed in to a particular point of interest.

Here are a couple of rotations of views from the top of Chapel Road showing the old Scoles Butcher’s building, obviously just before the new building work had started. Of course many are concerned about what they consider to be a gross infringement of privacy. If you happened to be out and about at the time then you might be included in several shots from different angles, though in their defence, *Google* does blur out faces and car number plates. It is only views from streets that are accessible to the public, not beaches or countryside (or at least only what can be seen from the street); the scan car never goes off street or on to private land so you cannot really be spied upon by it. I must however say that impressed as I am by it, I am thankful that our front garden was tidy at the time they scanned it! Of course *Google Street View* scanning is going on all over the world. If when viewing a *Google Map* of a country, the *little gold man* is displayed, then *Street View* is available. So far I have “walked” around and revisited some of my favourite views in Cozumel, my recently painted brother’s house looking particularly good especially with its massive bougainvillea blooms bursting over the walls. Then there was the place we stayed in Majorca, the scope is limitless though I think perhaps now with the warmer weather it is much better to be getting out there and doing it for real!



Well by the time you read this, we will have a new government, summer will have arrived and I sincerely hope that I will have enjoyed the first camping trip of the season. But before I sign off I had better explain why “*Back to Number 1?*” Nothing to do with any release of a new single or my popularity or personality rating, as if! Neither is there a zero missing off the end that might allude to any preferred outcome of the General Election as campaigns reach fever pitch! No, simply that I have gone back to using the shortest *number 1* setting on my hair clippers – a sure sign nonetheless that things are hotting up!

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



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

T G Morris, PPG Committee

## Budgens Gala Day

Thanks to James Graven Ltd., the PPG was able to do some fundraising as well as publicising its work at the Open Day held in the Budgens Car Park on Easter Sunday to celebrate 150 years of James Gravens operation in various communities. Despite the 'cool' weather, and thanks to Barry and Hilary Judd's mobile accommodation a successful and profitable time was had by the hardy PPG committee members. Congratulations to all the prize winners.



## PPG Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Following the conducting of routine business and an update by the practice management on activities related to the Carole Brown Health Centre, an interesting and informative talk was given by Yvonne Fuller of the First Responders. Currently she is the only member in Dersingham and more volunteers are needed. Community **First Responder** volunteers are trained to attend emergency calls received by the ambulance service and provide care until the ambulance arrives. Full training given.

The PPG Annual General Meeting will be held in July on a date yet to be confirmed.

## Appointment Reminders

Missing an appointment costs money and denies others of an appointment slot. As patients are now able to book appointments further ahead, the practice can send a text reminder of your appointment to your mobile phone. If you would like this service please fill in the form available at Reception.

## CBHC Dispensary

Patients are reminded that under current NHS regulations, the dispensary at the Carole Brown Health Centre is only able to provide medication to patients who live more than one mile from their nearest pharmacy. □

## Task Force

Thanks to the article in the previous VV some new members have been recruited.

We have recently tidied the area surrounding the War Memorial and weeded the gardens in Burma Close.

Please let us know if there is a public area near you that needs our attention.

*Sue - 543870*



There is time for a laugh as well as working!

# Recipes from the Bluebell Cottage Kitchen

by Lindsey Davis

## Courgette & Dill Salad

Goes well with couscous or barbecue and is a good way of using a glut of courgettes.

### Ingredients

|            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| 50g        | <i>pine nuts</i>  |
| 500g (1lb) | <i>courgettes</i> |
|            | <i>olive oil</i>  |
| 1 tsp      | <i>dill</i>       |

1. In a frying pan, dry roast pine nuts and remove from pan.
2. Chop courgettes into 2" lengths and then cut into lengthwise strips.
3. Heat a little olive oil in pan; add courgette strips and fry well until lightly browned.
4. Add dill; mix well, then add pine nuts; leave to cool.

## Herby Roasted Vegetables

### Ingredients

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 450g (1lb) | <i>root vegetables (carrots, potatoes, parsnips, swede) peeled &amp; chopped</i> |
| 1          | <i>large courgette – sliced</i>  |
| 1          | <i>sweet potato – peeled &amp; chopped</i>                                       |
| 6          | <i>small mushrooms</i>   |
| 1          | <i>red pepper</i>  |
| 10         | <i>cherry tomatoes</i>   |
|            | <i>olive oil</i>   |
|            | <i>herbs – ground coriander, dried basil, dried parsley, dried rosemary</i>      |

1. Heat oven to 200° (gas 6); pour thin layer of oil into a large baking tin and place in oven.
  2. When hot add root vegetables; stir to coat in oil; cook 15 mins.
  3. Add courgette, sweet potato, mushrooms & peppers; add a little more oil if necessary.
  4. Cook 15 mins then add tomatoes and herbs.
  5. Stir well and cook for further 10-15 mins, when everything should be cooked.
- Serve with couscous and grated cheese.

## Herby Dumplings

### Ingredients

|                |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| 250g (8oz)     | <i>self-raising flour</i> |
| 90g (3oz)      | <i>vegetable suet</i>     |
| 150ml (1/4 pt) | <i>water (approx)</i>     |
| 1/2 tsp        | <i>mixed dried herbs</i>  |
| 1/2 tsp        | <i>dried basil</i>        |

1. Sift flour into a bowl; season with salt and pepper; mix in herbs and suet.
2. Add sufficient water to mix to a softish dough.
3. Divide dough into 8 pieces; roughly shape into balls and add to a stew such as vegetable and butter bean.
4. Cover saucepan with lid and simmer for 15-20 mins until dumplings are well risen and cooked.

## **Dersingham Parish Council**



A vacancy has arisen for a  
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to cover the monthly  
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# St Nicholas Church

## News



During Lent we had Lent Lunches in the Church Hall every Friday and the money raised is to be divided between the Day Centre and The Phobbies, we have raised £1,120, including the donations from the Hot Cross Buns after the Walk of Witness. A big thank you to all concerned, those who came and enjoyed the Lunches and also the ladies who donated the wonderful homemade soups and puddings!!

The Walk of Witness once again brought the 3 Churches together in a walk around the village. Starting with a short Service at St Nicholas, a welcome break at St Cecilia's for drinks and a prayer & hymn, then joined by the Methodist Church we continued now numbering over 45 ending up at the Church Hall for homemade Hot Cross Buns and tea or coffee. A lovely time together enjoying the real meaning of Easter.



## CONCERTS IN JUNE

5th JUNE—CENTRE STAGE SWING BAND in Church 7.30pm £7

26th JUNE—KAREN STEWART CONCERT in Church 7.30pm £6

## Dersingham Community Lunches

Alison Thorne

The village lunch at St Cecilia's Church was kindly sponsored by James Graven's Budgens, on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary. Jonathan James, MD of James Graven thanked everyone for coming. Over the 16 months since its inception the community lunches have continued to grow, with 71 attending the March meeting.

We welcomed Sue Elam on a fact finding tour from Chatteris, who are keen to set up their own community lunch scheme. There may in the future be opportunities for the various community lunch groups to meet.

Everyone was reminded that if they wanted a stall on the Gala Day on Sunday 4th April, that they should contact Bob Tipling. (*see pages 40 & 41*)

Once again the lunch tables were allocated to encourage people to meet and mingle with people they had not spoken to before. Indeed this proved to be true and I can tell you that table 7 discussed a wide range of topics including traffic congestion on Post Office Road, the decline and fall of petrol stations in the village (did you know there were 5 in the 1950s?), and the need for more volunteer drivers to support the Community Car Scheme.

After lunch, the first speaker was April Dobson, Retirement Housing Manager of Hanover Court. She gave an overview of the Hanover Organisation, established in 1963 and one of the largest specialist providers of retirement housing, related support and services in England. Hanover Court on Holyrood Drive has 45, one or two bedroom properties. Resident representatives work with managers to ensure that there are plenty of activities, including art and line-dancing. There is a big communal lounge, areas where residents can garden and residents are welcome to have pets. Visitors are welcome!

The second speaker was Sue Payne, an Inspector with Norfolk Constabulary, who gave us an introduction to the work of the special constables. The Special Constabulary is a team of



volunteers from the local community who provide tremendous help and support to regular police officers. Hours are flexible, with a minimum of four hours of duty per week expected. Anyone interested in becoming a special, and helping to make their community safer, can call 01953 423683 or email - [stepsspecials@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:stepsspecials@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)

The event ended with a thanks to the caterers, and for the raffle collection which raised £150 and will be donated to the St Nicholas Church heating appeal. □



**St. Nicholas Church  
Dersingham**

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FESTIVAL***

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**10am - 6pm - Church  
Craft Stalls & Refreshments  
in the Church Hall**

**10am - 5pm**

**All Proceeds to St. Nicholas Church**

## **The Old Biddie and her cottage garden.**

Valerie Anckorn

My apologies as I missed the dead line for the last issue. My piece was all completed and waiting to go, but I had ordered some books on 'gardening with the phases of the moon', which I had planned to incorporate in my column at the final hour so the delay made me miss the boat. All the more annoying was that I failed to comprehend the complexities of red moons, receding tides, ascending and descending moons, geobiology, the Hartmann grid, and electromagnetic bodies. I will just say, therefore, that planting at the New Moon is probably the best time!

When I originally moved to Norfolk I learned so much wisdom and country lore from wise and canny old boys, one of whom told me to sow and plant at a New Moon. I didn't understand why, but now a little wiser can inform you that with the New Moon we all feel 'uplifted' especially seeds and plants, and that the new moon 'draws' them upwards, (waxing moon) but when it is on the wane, energy levels and sap drops. When I come to a better understand, I will let you know. As an aside, and because I earned my latter-living as a candle maker, I plan to have etched on my tombstone "She waxed and waned"...

Did you know that when the moon is full, the mentally challenged in institutions are put on heavier doses of medication, and that the cop-shops are fuller as the criminal classes are more active? I know I have awful nightmares at that time - I wonder how the full moon affects our plants. Do they climb out of their beds and run amok till the morning dew calms them down?

Did you also know that plants have a language of their own, and have feelings? I once heard a tape of plant noises - and it was a gentle, ethereal, plink-plunk kind of noise. And, I remember reading about a 'plant murder', where a scientific experiment took place, with plants wired up electronically. Someone came in and tore one of the plants to pieces and then left the room. The electronic graph showed peaks of 'shock' as the murder took place, which died down until various people came into the room and the plants became agitated. When the plant murderer re-entered, the shock peaks of the remaining plants shot up as they apparently 'recognised' him. Makes you think, doesn't it. Some of us choose to be vegetarians as they don't like the thought of eating animals who, like us, have feelings and souls - but now what are we supposed to do? Make sure our plants and vegetables have a happy life prior to the cook pot, and apologise, I suppose!

I'm writing this in March for the June issue, so one has to think ahead to what is happening in the garden at that time - which is difficult when it is all grey and cold with nothing showing in the garden - well, just a few buds, but as you read this everywhere will have been blooming lushly and the garden at its best. I love May and June as there is so much promise everywhere - early Spring of course brings joy with the daffodils, snowdrops and so on, but during May and June everything is burgeoning and fat with promise. The leaves are all out on the trees looking fresh and frilly and joyful, with the purple honesty, bearded iris and columbines flowering amongst banks of forgetmenots and catmint while rose buds are getting plump and ready to bloom. It is a wonderful time, and I also love to see the cow parsley as it appears, all frothy and lacy along the roadsides. I usually pick large bunches to arrange in the house even though I know that my hay fever will be exacerbated by the lovely flowers. It smells good enough to eat and probably can be - but as there are some poisonous similars, best to leave that alone!

In my first column I mentioned that you could eat the annoying ground elder. I've done such a good job at eradicating it that only a little remains in my garden, but I fully intend to make more omelettes using the stuff - it is delicious and I shall try some in salads too. Dandelion leaves are good in salad - and you can roast the roots, then grind them, to make perfectly acceptable coffee. Young nettles boil down and taste similar to spinach.

I also have some willow herb that refuses to go away. I do find it very pretty with it's pink flowers on long stems, but if left unattended it will take over, so I always pull it all out - or so I think - only for it to show up again the next year. Well, this has a use too. Apparently the upcoming shoots can be eaten like asparagus, but according to my source you have to ensure it is



willow herb shoots you are eating – so I think I will pass on that experiment.

The resident wild rabbit is still visiting and eating many of my plants. Such a nuisance, and despite having two lurchers – one a youngster - they ignore it. Lucky bunny! I had thought of getting a ‘humane trap’ for it, then thought why the goodness would a rabbit need to enter such an alien and suspicious device for a bit of lettuce, when it has the whole of the garden to choose from that it knows is quite safe? It just looks up now, when we move around, and carries on eating. All the more excuse for me to leave the weeds, as it probably prefers them to my exotic blooms. I am a lazy gardener, full of excuses! The deer have been nibbling my bluebells too. I haven’t seen them, but their tracks and ‘sultanas’ are very evident where they step through the fedge.

I’m keen to find out how my cottage garden has formed itself this year. I leave things to seed and grow on their own, sometimes replanting elsewhere in the garden, but the garden seems to know what it is doing. It will be interesting to see how the columbines (aquilegia) have mutated – they seem to be different each year.

We have had so much snow, frost and rain over the winter which means that any plants such as geraniums, dahlias and the like that were left in over-winter probably died. Luckily, for once, I dug up my geraniums and they survived in the shed, but I only heaped more soil over the dahlias, so it will be interesting to see if there is any life left in them.

My pup, Crow, seems to be a keen gardener. He has ploughed up the back lawn, which mainly turned to mud with his enthusiasms with plant pots, and he is busy smelling the flowers that come out. He did try and dig up one of my newly planted roses, but has refrained since, thank goodness.

When I planted lots of bulbs, I snapped off some hedging twigs to mark the spots, knowing that I would be planting a lot of new rose bushes and didn’t want to slice through the bulbs when I did



Here’s a photo of the fabulous woods off Heath Road. I was delighted to discover these woods so near to my house, and to find that care is taken to make it walker friendly. Paths cut, or made up, and seats every now and again, which are most welcome when you’re not young, and great to sit on and just admire the views.

so. This proved to be a good idea, as I now have some nice hedging that has rooted and can be transplanted alongside my fedge by the pavement. The local boys - bless them - are up to their old tricks again and have been pulling out the supports and snapping and pulling at the willow, but luckily it's rooted though it's upsetting to see the damage. I guess their testosterone endows them with such manly strength that they have to show it off as they wander past with their tins of beer and food containers – which of course are thrown onto the lawn. But let's be thankful it isn't worse.

Do you remember Norman, the stray cat that chose our house as his rest home prior to his departure to the sky? Well, his owner read my piece and phoned me – Norman had gone missing from the other side of Dersingham, so his owner was pleased that his puss had a nice home for his last few months. Unfortunately I lost the phone number he gave me, so perhaps he would phone me again and we can swop photos of Norman - whose real name turned out to be Tom.

Do you think animals that die come back again? I have to wonder because we once had a wolfhound named Chullan who loved flowers. He would go on tippy toes to smell the highest rose, and once dragged me across the road when he spied the local florist with her estate car boot open and a wealth of beautiful flowers within. She screamed as she thought she was going to be savaged, but no he just wanted to smell the flowers.

I couldn't believe it when our new puppy, named Crow, started to smell the winter pansies with a beatific look on his face – just like our wolfhound used to. He loves to smell all the new blooms as they flower. Unfortunately he has found a talent for digging holes.... We noticed many traits that our wolfhound had in this new pup, and he has even morphed to be a mini-look-alike. It seemed even more certain when we cut the grass for the first time. Chullan used to go into a trance of ecstasy at the heady smell of grass, and Crow follows the same route.

As I write, I am imagining how the birds and their chicks will be faring in the month of June. They work so hard, and it's difficult to dig when the blackbirds peck around my feet for worms. They even come into the house to pick up seed that the parrots have thrown out. Heart always in mouth when the chicks fledge – they don't always make the fence or the branch they are aiming for, and that's when cats and dogs pounce. My old dog caught and killed two last year. I was so upset after watching the birds from egg to fledgling. The parents weren't too happy either! Talking of birds, I've noticed how few there are around now – there were plenty when I was a child – but here's a thought – my uncle aged 91 mentioned that when he was a small boy the teacher had to close the classroom window because nobody could hear him as the bird songs outside were so loud! What are we doing to our world, for goodness sake!

Enjoy your gardens this summer, and let's hope we have plenty of sun. We all have a different idea of how a garden should look – either neat and tidy, or wild like mine. In my opinion gardening is for enjoyment. If you haven't the energy of youth, don't let it worry you. I have to sit down regularly to gain my breath when gardening, but what is nicer than gazing round the garden while you are slowed down with old age. I can't kneel to weed any more, poor dear, but I do what I can and would say to everyone - enjoy what you can do, and don't worry at what you can't achieve. The flowers will bloom whether you tend them or not – but they do need water in the hot weather and evening is the best time to do that with less sun to dry out the wet soil, giving the plants more moisture – and again, what is nicer than appreciating your flowers and plants while you give them that precious gift of water - and never mind the water bill!

I have to report that the founder of my garden, my Mum Margery, is now in a home. I had to admit defeat in my care of her and am still on a guilt trip – but hopefully she is better cared for there than by my 'Mrs. Overall' efforts.. She is now 98.

P.S. Have you seen your house on Google World? It's very Big Brother. □

*The Old Biddie's and around 8 other gardens will be open on the 30th & 31st of May  
for the village open gardens event.*



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## Old Girls Patch

by Meetze

You know what? It is really hard waking up in the morning!!! If the rumbling belly would not make that noise, I easily would sleep through to lunch time. Well, off I go for breakfast. Hmmm, I think it is Tuna day. Stumps just woke up too and Sidney is already chasing flies in the conservatory.

No, wrong, no Tuna, it is Turkey, well why not. Just let me have a sniff at Sid's left overs. No, definitely Turkey. Looking at Stumpy tells me I don't even have to try to sniff hers.

Sidney turned out to be real hooligan. He keeps mugging us Ladies and sometimes he tries to beat us up as well. Stumps just whacks him around his ears, falling over by doing that. She keeps forgetting that she only has 3 legs. Although I still have all my legs, I can't manage to whack him. I always miss. So I just make loads of noise and run off.

Moving on, because I have big News. Beauty moved in! And isn't she a beauty. Her fur shines blue-ish black and she purrs incredibly loud. She must be the same breed as Stumps, as she has only 3 legs as well. And when she walks, well you can't call it walking, she strides, it looks really majestic. Maybe she is royal? I have heard of British Black, she could be the One. Sidney is quite taken by her and tries to interact with her, but she just ignores him. She looks at him like he is thin air. She acknowledged Stumps and has thrown a look in my direction, but other than that she keeps close to my big friends. She follows them around like there is a magnet attached to her and my big friends.



Sidney is still chasing flies, Stumpy is napping after her big breakfast, Beauty is investigating and I think I have a nap too. It is exhausting having breakfast AND keeping track of everything and everybody. Sid just walked in and is yawning. I guess he will settle somewhere for a nap as well. And another yawn. Looks funny when he does that. I took a picture. And I couldn't help myself, I put a microphone in front of him. Now it looks like he is a Rock Star – Grins – Giggles. Sidney and a Rock Star! With his squeaky voice. Although, he has the attitude for one. Always the centre of attention.

By the way, yesterday was a really nice sunny day and I was allowed outside in the garden, under supervision of course. I could not be bothered to go anywhere and settled on the grass in the sun, belly up. And you know what, when I woke up a few hours later, because it got a bit chilly,



Side effect of catnip!

my belly was just as white as before. No tan, no sun burn nothing! Very disappointing. I would like my belly to match the rest of my fur. I heard my big friend talking about spray tan. Maybe I should try that?! I will give this a further thought. Not now though, I am too exhausted from telling you all this AND writing it down. Anyway, it is nap time... □



# IMPRESSIONS

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## The Dersingham Weather

observed by John F. Murray



I said in my last article that the first days of March were an improvement on what we had been having in January and February and that I was keeping my fingers crossed for an improvement. Well, it seems to have worked. The really wintery weather seemed to go once March got under way, though not completely; but what could we expect, it was still only March!

We started off with those clear nights that produce low temperatures, but at least the snow and rain disappeared, well, for the first half of the month anyway. I recorded overnight temperatures of  $-6.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  on both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. These are the lowest temperatures I have recorded since I started keeping these records. As March progressed the weather went downhill for a while and we ended up with a total of 59.4mm of rain, most of which fell in the last week. Up to that point I was beginning to think that it was going to be an exceptionally dry month. Last March we had 46.7mm. This year the average (mean) temperature was  $6.4^{\circ}$  whereas last year was marginally warmer at  $6.9^{\circ}$ . However this year we had a high temperature of  $20.2^{\circ}$  as opposed to last year when the highest March temperature was only  $17.7^{\circ}$ .

By the end of March there were huge numbers of buds on my trees. Most noticeable was the magnolia which seemed as though it had been hanging on desperately waiting for winter to go. The daffodils appeared and were in flower in no time. I think most people will have noticed huge numbers of snowdrops all over the countryside. A really wonderful sight. By the end of April we were amazed at the amount of fruit blossom. I have never seen so much on my trees. If it all turns to fruit then the weight will topple them over. Of course nature will prevent this by shedding the excess.

The temperatures in April were of a similar pattern to March in that the mean temperature was lower than last year but a higher temperature was recorded. This year it was an average of  $9.4^{\circ}$  with a high of  $22^{\circ}$  and last April it was an average of  $10.5^{\circ}$  and a high of  $20.8^{\circ}$ .

The rainfall this April totalled 15.6mm, most of which fell in the last week or so and this compared to 10.2mm for last April. The rainfall for both March and April in 2010 and 2009 was a lot less than in 2008 when we had 102.4mm and 57.7mm respectively.

I am hoping for a nice warm summer this year but at the moment there aren't enough indications to predict anything. Even the Met. Office have curbed their long term predictions. Keep your eyes on this space and see if you can work out what sort of summer we are likely to have.

I am happy to say that the page on the Parish Council web site ([www.dersingham.org.uk](http://www.dersingham.org.uk)) with the current weather conditions is being viewed. There were 148 hits last month. Keep viewing for the latest weather here in Dersingham. □

### Dersingham Parish Council Office Opening Times

|                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
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## *NEWS FROM THE PRINCESS THEATRE CLUB*

# *GOTTA ACT? GOTTA SING? NOW'S YOUR CHANCE*

Calling all budding (or full-blown) thespians, extroverts and show-offs. If ever you wanted to try, or have already tested, your talents at acting, singing, or being part of the crew for a farce or drama, musical show or stage production of any kind, then here is your chance to share all the fun of live theatre by becoming a member of the Princess Theatre Club, Hunstanton. Our motto is '*Keeping Live Theatre Alive*' and that is what we intend to continue to do, here in North West Norfolk, whatever may happen at the Theatre itself.

Theatre Club members are local people of varying ages, interests and talents, who share a love of theatre and who get together to have fun providing theatrical experience for both themselves and a wide audience from West Norfolk and beyond. At present we produce two main plays each year but the imminent changes at the theatre promise to provide us with opportunities for staging additional shows from Pantomime to Music Hall. It all depends what resources we have to draw from, so add your talents to the brew. The more the merrier.

To find out more about the Princess Theatre Club and its exciting new plans all you have to do is get in touch (*see below for details*). You too can be part of it. You do NOT need experience, just a willingness to 'have a go'. None of us is a theatrical professional though some have been involved in AmDram for more years than they care to admit and their experience is a great asset. New members can soon pick up a few tips and lose their inhibitions. Come and see if you have star potential. Or just come along and share the fun.

You can, of course, decide for yourself just how deeply you become involved. Be an Associate Member (for only £5 a year) to share our social activities and get discount on tickets, or join as an Active Member (£10 annually, £15 for couples — extra covers insurance) and have the chance to take an active part either on stage or behind the scenes, or both. Help out in the demanding role of Prompt, with Props or Costume, or with Set-building or set-painting; or join in a play reading or audition for a part in one of our productions. You might end up as the star of the show or be a walk-on extra. It's up to you. If you don't try you'll never know.

To find out more, log on to our website: [www.princesstheatreclub.co.uk](http://www.princesstheatreclub.co.uk)  
or email [princesstheatreclub@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:princesstheatreclub@globalnet.co.uk).

If you're not yet online, ask at the Theatre Box Office and see our display on the board there. Our AGM this year is on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Now's your chance to join and help shape the future at this exciting time of fresh opportunities for AmDram in Sunny Hunny. □



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## Cricket

Dersingham Cricket Club plays on the Sports Ground in Manor Road from May to end of August with the 1st XI playing in the Frankly Digital Norfolk Cricket Alliance League and the 2nd XI playing in the west Norfolk League on Saturdays. The Club also run four junior teams at U16, U15, U14 & Under 12 playing 20 over mid week matches. Senior nets are held on Wednesday evenings during the season and Youth nets and training are held on Friday evenings. New members are welcome, both social and playing. A bar is open for members on match days. Both senior teams won their first matches of the season.

Contact: Roger Poll (Chairman) on (01485 542346) or Richard Southgate (Club Captain & Youth Team manager) (telephone: 01485 543535 or 07909 875 549 ).

### Under 16 Fixtures 2010

|            |                             |                           |             |
|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Mon        | 7 <sup>th</sup> June        | North Runcton             | Away        |
| Mon        | 14 <sup>th</sup> June       | Long Sutton               | Away        |
| <b>MON</b> | <b>21<sup>st</sup> JUNE</b> | <b>HEACHAM/SNETTISHAM</b> | <b>HOME</b> |
| <b>MON</b> | <b>28<sup>th</sup> JUNE</b> | <b>MUNDFORD</b>           | <b>HOME</b> |
| Mon        | 5 <sup>th</sup> July        | Fakenham                  | Away        |
| <b>MON</b> | <b>12<sup>th</sup> JULY</b> | <b>DENVER</b>             | <b>HOME</b> |

### Under 14 Fixtures 2010

|            |                             |                    |             |
|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>FRI</b> | <b>4<sup>th</sup> JUNE</b>  | <b>WISBECH</b>     | <b>HOME</b> |
| <b>FRI</b> | <b>11<sup>th</sup> JUNE</b> | <b>LONG SUTTON</b> | <b>HOME</b> |
| Fri        | 18 <sup>th</sup> June       | Sandringham        | Away        |
| Fri        | 25 <sup>th</sup> June       | Downham            | Away        |
| Fri        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> July        | North Runcton      | Away        |
| <b>FRI</b> | <b>9<sup>th</sup> JULY</b>  | <b>SWAFFHAM</b>    | <b>HOME</b> |

### Under 12 Fixtures 2010

|            |                             |                      |             |
|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| <b>MON</b> | <b>7<sup>th</sup> JUNE</b>  | <b>NORTH RUNCTON</b> | <b>HOME</b> |
| <b>MON</b> | <b>14<sup>th</sup> JUNE</b> | <b>LONG SUTTON</b>   | <b>HOME</b> |
| Mon        | 21 <sup>st</sup> June       | Heacham/Snettisham   | Away        |
| Mon        | 28 <sup>th</sup> June       | Mundford             | Away        |
| Mon        | 12 <sup>th</sup> July       | Denver               | Away        |

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### Last word on the Pageant photo - from Ann Hawkes - nee Linford

**Back Row:** Stanley Bird (King Henry V 111): Paul ?(King Alfred): 'Hatch' Waymark (Lord Nelson): Miss Peeling (Brittania): Mrs Starling (Time): Adrian Bell (St George): Mr Manning (Henry 1V) Owen Green (Cromwell)

**Middle Row:** Mrs Walden (Peace): Mrs Pitcher (Joy): Mr Willis (Common Man): 'Pip' ? (Page): Mrs Bird (Sorrow): Mrs Maisie Linford (War): Mrs Drew (Boudicca)

**Front Row seated:** Miss Doris Goff (Queen Victoria): Mrs Houchen (Queen Elizabeth 1): Mrs Willis (Duchess of Marlborough): Mrs Chambers (Florence Nightingale)





## David Bingham

### Hocus pokus

My knowledge of herbs, remedies and witchcraft is very limited, but I do recall watching my mother bury a piece of fillet steak in the back garden under a full moon after she had rubbed the prime-cut over a wart on my right index finger. She said that the wart would disappear as the steak rotted - and it did. I wasn't sure whether or not my mother had invented this treatment so I did a 'Google' search and found it to be a well known cure countrywide - including a surgery in Filey where my mother's remedy was listed as a treatment option for warts! In Norfolk, the steak is often replaced by half a potato. This seems a sensible alternative because you can get rid of the wart and still have steak and chips for dinner.

I'm sure that local witches would have found plenty of useful ingredients for their lotions and potions on the bogs, heaths and woods around Dersingham. Bog myrtles are full of powerful compounds and would certainly have been added to the cauldron. Modern science also recognises the medicinal properties of the bark and sap of silver birch trees. The fact that these trees were revered by pagan Celtic and Germanic tribes for their powers of purification and renewal suggests that witches out on our 'blasted heaths' would have known about these medicinal properties and put them to good use.

Wood sage is a common herb in the woods around Dersingham. It had medicinal uses in the past and was also used to treat animals. Martin Martin in his "A Description of the Western Isles of Scotland, 1695" wrote:

*"A quantity of wild Wood Sage, chewed between one's teeth, and put into the ears of cows or sheep that become blind, cures them and restores their eyesight ... chopped small and eaten by horses mixed with their corn, kills worms. The horse must not drink for 10 hours after eating it."*

Deer were also said to 'self-administer' wood sage to their wounds if they were injured during the chase. It is probably worth consulting a vet before trying to cure your stock with this herb!

Wild garlic grows in profusion at the edge of wet woodlands, such as the ones near Castle Rising, at this time of year. I imagine they are good for you but can't say for what exactly. The leaves taste surprisingly mild considering the plant's strong smell. Try them with a drizzle of olive oil and balsamic vinegar, a sprinkling of pine nuts and a few walnuts - topped with slices of goats cheese warmed in a griddle pan. Delicious.

Mushrooms and toadstools aren't herbs (they aren't even plants but if you are a veggie don't worry because they aren't animals either). The local toadstools with the strongest link to the world of magic and myth are the fly agarics. These big bright red toadstools are flecked with white and make a colourful addition to our autumn woodlands. They often appear in storybook illustrations of pixies and fairies. This is probably as much to do with their impact on the central nervous system as it is to their aesthetic qualities. Definitely not something to add to your cooking pot but I suspect that our pagan ancestors found some use for them.

I've left the most powerful of our local witch plants until last. Henbane is a malodorous member of the nightshade family and is very toxic. Some people feel giddy just by smelling the leaves. It grows on disturbed dry sandy ground. The henbane photo was taken near a hide at the Snettisham RSPB reserve and this is typical of the habitat they prefer. Henbane is said to induce a sensation of flying and has had a long association with witches. Some have even made a connection between the fact that the plant would be very unpalatable and the typical image of a witch flying on a broomstick. The suggestion is that the broom was an ointment applicator. Silver birch was often used to make traditional brooms and so local witches would have found all they needed for a comfortable life within a few miles radius of Dersingham. □



- 1 Henbane
- 2 Wood Sage
- 3 Fly Agaric
- 4 Wild Garlic





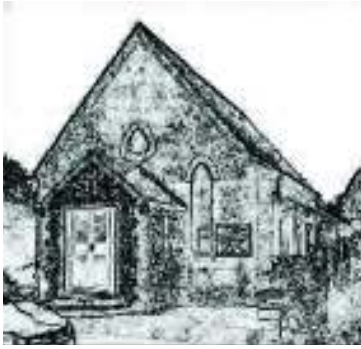
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## Greetings from the manse

The Venerable Bede was born in Northumberland in the year 673 A.D. and became a monk at Jarrow. Here he passed the whole of the rest of his life. The name probably derives from the Old English *bēd*, the verb being “biddan”, which means to pray, and if it was the name given Bede at birth, it probably meant that his family had planned on his entering the clergy from birth. He said of himself: “I have devoted my energies to the study of the Scriptures. Studying, writing have always been my delight.”

Bede's tomb is in Durham Cathedral. His Ecclesiastical History of the English People collected and retold many wonderful stories of the saints and preachers, both Germanic and Celtic on the island of Britain.

Among his studies and writings he is credited with being the first to draw up a calendar of the Christian year in England. The year is full of days that are special to us personally or as a community. Birthdays and anniversaries remind us of friends and relatives. The early Christians wanted to keep certain days special to remind them of outstanding leaders, martyrs and saintly people whose example they should follow. They used the Roman calendar - based on the sun - for these days, so they come at fixed dates each year. The date chosen is often the day of their death. But the church also wanted and needed to commemorate the great historic events of the Christian faith: when Jesus died, rose again, ascended to heaven, and when the Holy Spirit was given. These happenings are linked to the Jewish calendar, which is calculated by the moon. For example, the Jewish Feast of Passover, which was the time at which Jesus was crucified, varies from year to year, according to when the full moon occurs in the month. So the Christian calendar is a mixture of fixed feasts and so-called movable feasts. Those are the ones that can fall on different dates in different years

He died on 25 May 735. A little time before on Ascension Day, Bede finished his last major work, a translation of the Gospel of John. As he dictated, he urged the scribe to write quickly until

the chapter was almost finished. Then Bede stopped and sent for the other monks. He received each in turn and gave each some small gift - a few peppers and some napkins - and said goodbye. They left the room and the scribe wondered if his master would be able to finish the task. “There is still one sentence to be written,” he said. With a final, supreme effort, Bede dictated the closing words of the Gospel. “It is done,” he said. His work and his life were finished.

### *Prayer*

*Grant me thy grace, O Christ I beseech thee,  
that thy good spirit may lead me in the right  
way and move far from me him who cometh to  
destroy, that casting away all malice of evil, I  
may search into the commandments of my God,  
and with the eyes of my mind awakened, go  
forward faithfully to read and to weigh the  
marvels of the holy law.*

The Venerable Bede 673-735

Rev. Kim Nally





## TO SPELL, OR NOT TO SPELL?

By Steve Nowell

Magnus ('The Great One') was a pleasant young man, 18 years old and just starting his final term of the 'A' Level year at Smithdon High School. There was nothing extraordinary about him, he was always pleased to help others and was popular in the area of Valley Rise where he lived. But he did have problems. One was quite serious - he stuttered. In normal speech and conversation he was fine, speaking clearly and precisely, but as soon as any emotions came into play he went to pieces. It wasn't a simple case of repeating certain letters or phrases, even his choice of words became muddled. He knew he was at his most vulnerable during the spring and early summer 'when the sap was rising...' as his Biology master had put it. That was his second problem - he was absolutely potty about girls. It seemed that he could 'pull the birds' without even trying. On the first occasion that he spoke to one he would stutter and stammer almost incoherently. This would result in the young lady letting her protective, 'motherly' hormones come to the surface and a new relationship would begin. (This mother/child state of affairs never lasted long it has to be said!)

A few days after term began, Magnus was swatting conscientiously for his A Levels. But something kept disturbing his concentration, both at School and at home. "Whar...whar... WOTS...fort...fort...forty...for.tea...mmmm..MUM?" was his opening question nearly every evening. "Perhaps he's been over doing things" suggested his mother when his father asked her what she thought was wrong. "More likely it's girlfriend trouble again" he replied. "Remember we had just the same last year before AS Levels?" "Yes, but at that time he was trying to cope with three girlfriends and his revision all at the same time" said his mother. "This year I don't think there's anyone on the scene. You'll have to have a word with him, dear." Now Magnus' Dad was a dour Yorkshireman who felt decidedly uncomfortable when dealing with matters of feelings. To him a spade was not a spade; it was a 'bloody shovel'. "Now see thee 'ere lad. What t' soddin' hell's oop wi' thee? Is't tha's in loov again tha' wassock?" "Prithee father. I be not in love. Forsooth, 'tis long since I have caressed a tender young wench." Magnus and his father stared at each other, wide-eyed and with lowered jaws. Magnus' dad, speaking as he did was nothing unusual but as for Magnus himself...? He *knew* what he had said and he had been correct. But what was all this 'prithee' and 'forsooth' business. He didn't even know what the words meant. However, surprise surprise he wasn't stuttering.

The following day, Magnus went to High School as usual. It was four days into the Summer Term. He went to his classroom and took his seat. Something was different. Ye Gods! Something *was* different! Sitting just across the aisle on his right was the most delectable young lady he had seen in years. She smiled at him. A sincere, loving smile but with a high 'come hither' content. Magnus went into one of his states. He could hardly speak. The best he came up with was a prolonged "Corrrrrrrrr!" followed by a string of unintelligible jibberish. He then attempted to lean nonchalantly on the corner of his desk but did a 'Dell Boy' and fell to the floor.

The young lady had moved into Old Hall Drive with her mother over the Easter holidays. At the start of term she had sat at a desk in the back of the class room where she had seen Magnus, but he had not seen her. As if by magic, when they did come face to face they chatted continuously and fluently for five or more minutes until the Form Tutor came into the room. Magnus had not put a single syllable out of place. At the end of the session they talked some more. With his self confidence running at 110% Magnus asked Philomena ('The Greatly Loved One') for a date. She accepted willingly. They would go to the pictures in King's Lynn and round off the evening with a visit to Wetherspoons before coming home by bus.

That first date went very well, exactly as planned, except that they stayed at Wetherspoons too long and missed the last bus home. After some frantic phone calls, Magnus managed to contact a friend who had a car and gave them a lift to Dersingham. He dropped them both off at Old Hall Drive. After a prolonged, mushy 'goodnight', Magnus walked home singing love songs to himself

and trying to count the stars. It was about 1.00 am. But at the War Memorial he beheld an amazing spectacle. There were six women – as far as he could tell from the voices – all dressed completely in black, including headscarves, dancing around the Memorial. It was more of a run than a dance however, because every two or three strides each woman would, independently, leap into the air and shout a short string of words which Magnus could not identify. Although the whole scene had an air of stupidity about it, Magnus felt that no harm was being done and simply wondered what strange activities some people engaged in to get their kicks.

At school the following morning, Magnus could hardly wait to tell Philomena what he had seen, but she seemed completely disinterested, suggesting that he either had a very fertile imagination or couldn't take his lager as well as he thought he could. She would very much like Magnus to meet her mother

Magnus had no problem with going to meet the lady. She looked pleasant. 40 ish, he thought, and smart and slim like her daughter. But she had an extraordinary habit of repeatedly jumping as high as possible and shouting with every jump. Suddenly Philomena screamed "No! Please Mum! Not that one; we didn't mean to be late!" She grabbed Magnus by the arm and ran towards the front door; but escape was impossible. The door was locked firmly shut. Olwen ('Footprint'), Philomena's mother, repeatedly leapt into the air, shouting manically as she did so :-

*By monkeys' nuts and pythons' pills  
I heap upon thee vicious ills.  
It matters not where thou goes to  
You'll leave a trail of bovine poo.*

Then she howled like a banshee and ran upstairs. Philomena burst into tears. "You've been bewitched" she explained, tears running down her face. "You see I got a terrible telling off that night when we were late home. And she said she would put one of her spells on you if she ever caught up with you. I thought she was kidding and I reckoned that if she could only meet you she would realize what a lovely chap you really are, and all would be forgiven. But she's obviously been at the Ants-Eggs-wine again; it always affects her like that. "So what do we do now?" said Magnus. "If I interpreted her correctly, where ever I walk I will leave behind a trail of cow dung. Did I get that right?" "I'm afraid so, yes. But there is an answer believe it or not if only we can pull it off. I'd better explain. You see my mother is a witch of the Third Sanctum, which in witchcraft terms is not much better than a beginner. That's why she can only cast her magic when she's jumping up and down. A Second Sanctum Witch doesn't have to do that. Also, my mother has to have an un-interrupted view of her victim whereas Second Sanctum Witches can cast spells through brick walls. And you wouldn't believe what First Sanctum Witches can do." "I think I'd rather not know" said Magnus. Philomena went on. "What my mother doesn't know is that I am a witch of the Trainee Sanctum. When my mother thinks I'm playing badminton on Thursday nights I'm really at Witchcraft Classes in Life Wood. I can't cast spells but we do learn how to counteract them, and even inflict some revenge, through the use of herbs.

The next few days were not easy for Magnus. He carried a shovel around with him everywhere he went but that was obviously not the whole answer. Fortunately the problem only arose when he was simply walking. If he cycled anywhere he would only leave heaps of cow poo when he walked to and from his bicycle. True, his father's garage where he stored his bike was in a terrible mess, and his mother was not overkeen on having to 'de-poo' the kitchen and lounge at regular intervals. But things were not as bad as they might have been if Olwen had cast her spell properly. Generally speaking Magnus stayed close to, but outside, his house armed with his shovel and a vast number of buckets. Philomena visited him each day, bringing with her, for them both to study 'The Witches Guide to Herbal Usage'. They studied the book carefully and came up with some remarkable results, the most useful of which involved soaking the afflicted person's feet, socks and shoes in a solution of Calamus Root and Dry Ginger. It was worth a try and to the youngsters' delight it worked. But in the following chapter they found that the spell could be temporarily





reinstated by treading a mixture of red grapes and Agnus Castus Berries. Philomena couldn't understand why but Magnus was overjoyed. He persuaded his friend with the car to drive him round to Olwen's front door, having done the operation with Agnus Castus Berries before they left, then he spent a full 15 minutes running up and down the pavement outside the house until Olwen was, in effect, barricaded inside her house by a huge heap of - you know what.

There were still problems to sort out however. How could Magnus get rid of his stutter, and why did he on occasions lapse into Shakespearian language? Philomena confessed. On the first occasion that she had met Magnus she, like most other girls when they met him for the first time, felt very sorry for him. But Philomena felt that, despite the fact that she was only a Trainee Witch, it was worth trying to cast a spell over Magnus which would relieve him of his horrible burden. Unfortunately the casting of the spell went drastically wrong. Philomena hoped that the answer could be obtained with the co-operation of a witch who was prepared to cast a couple of 'good' spells over Magnus. Philomena took the problems to the next meeting of the Trainee Sanctum. The Trainees themselves were unable to cast any spells but their Tutor, Hayfa ('The slender one') was a fully fledged Second Sanctum Witch. She took Philomena and the rest of her class to Olwen's front door. When they arrived they stood looking up to where Olwen was standing in the window, and chanted:-

*Of evil witches you're the worst.  
Take from this man your dreadful curse  
And while you're at it, let him utter  
Speech that's free from age and stutter.  
Should you not wish to accede  
We'll make sure that you will need  
Something more than glass spheres round.  
Your feet we'll stick unto the ground.*

Hayfa was quite pleased with herself. The poem had come to her spontaneously and her students were suitably impressed. Not only had she made Olwen release Magnus from the foul spell which had entrapped him, but she had also made her correct speech difficulties for which she, Olwen, was not even responsible. And the threat that Hayfa had made was the ultimate. If Olwen had her feet glued to the ground she would be unable to jump up and down and could not, therefore, cast any more wicked spells. Hayfa was not a vindictive witch however. She wouldn't literally glue Olwen's feet to the ground. It would suffice that the adhesive used would be golden syrup. The vision of Olwen trying to walk through a sea of treacle appealed to her.

Magnus and Philomena continued their studies at Smithdon High School and gained their 'A' Levels which qualified them to go to their respective universities. Philomena got a First Class (Honours) in Biology with special emphasis on Botany, while Magnus got a Ph.D in Veterinary (Large Animal) Studies.□

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## NEWS FROM ST CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Easter was a busy time. The church looked lovely with lots of lilies in remembrance of people's loved ones. Then Penny Downen decorated it all over again in memory of her Mother, Daphne Barbara Mayman. She said she was pleased to share the flowers with us all. We hope others may donate flowers during the year for special occasions. A lovely gesture.

The Catholic Cathedral in Norwich is celebrating its centenary this year. Happily two young priests are being ordained there this summer and four more are in training.

Sue Gostling, Carole Casey and May Davey will be helping to decorate St Nicholas Church at July's Flower Festival. We enjoy the fellowship of women from other churches. The Walk of Faith on Good Friday was very well attended by Anglicans, Methodists and Catholics. It ended with a delicious tea and home-made hot cross buns at the Church Hall.

Another very enjoyable Parish Ladies Shared Lunch was held on Saturday 24 April and attended by women from neighbouring churches and village organisations. Tricia Steel showed pictures from her recent visit to the Holy Land.

Our **Strawberry Fair** will be from 2-5pm on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June** at St Cecilia's. We are hoping that the whole village will support us as well as it has done in previous years. □

*May Davey*



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## Kidz Klub explores Fruits of the Spirit



We start with a Circle Game



Making biscuits with strawberry jam – very tasty!



Parachute game

Kidz Klub Dersingham meets every second Saturday of the month from 10am to 12 noon.

We meet in the Church Hall, Manor Road.

On 11<sup>th</sup> April we looked at Faithfulness.

If you are 5 years – 11 years old, come and join us ! You will get a fun, action-packed Saturday morning with a Christian message.

Contact : Alan Crawshaw tel. 543836



# THE GARDEN FARMER - DIG FOR THE FUTURE

Bryan Beers



**Container herbs**

With the weather warming up, the potted herbs that I grew from seed last spring are putting on some lovely vivid green shoots. I grow many different kinds of herbs, some for culinary use, some for their beautiful flowers and leaf scents and some as companion plants for my vegetables; one plant will often fulfill two or more of these functions.

May is a good time to sow herb seeds; many, such as, basil, winter savory, purslane and pot marigold, will readily germinate on a warm windowsill. I use a mix of all purpose seed sowing compost, horticultural sand and perlite. Like other garden perennials there are a variety of ways to propagate herbs including layering, root cuttings and softwood cuttings. Later in the year herbs such as rosemary, lemon verbena and lavender can be more easily grown from stem cuttings. Mints, which do not grow true from seed, can be easily propagated with root cuttings.

Companion planting is the idea that some plants enjoy beneficial relationships with other species. For example, basil goes well with tomatoes both in cooking and when planted next to each other; the basil is more attractive to whitefly which then leave the tomatoes alone. Similarly, hyssop will draw the cabbage white butterfly away from the cabbages. Many herbs are attractive to bees, hoverflies and butterflies, which are essential for pollination. Seed bearing herbs will provide some birds with additional winter food.

I have heard that catnip planted between rows of carrots will deter carrot root fly, however this is not something I have tried due to the propensity of catnip to attract cats who like to roll in the stuff.

If you have ever bought potted parsley or basil from the supermarket to grow on your kitchen windowsill you may well have been disappointed to find they soon lose their intense flavour (if they had one to start with) or they quickly wilt. This is usually due to loss of nutrients in the compost. The same herbs

grown in your garden will flourish and provide you with tasty leaves for much longer. I still have some parsley plants in a shady and sheltered spot in my garden which were sown last spring and have been harvested regularly through the winter. Parsley is high in vitamin C and iron and is a good addition to sandwiches, salads and soups. I sow basil in module trays before transferring it to a greenhouse, cloche or mini cloche (upturned clear plastic bottle with the end cut off),



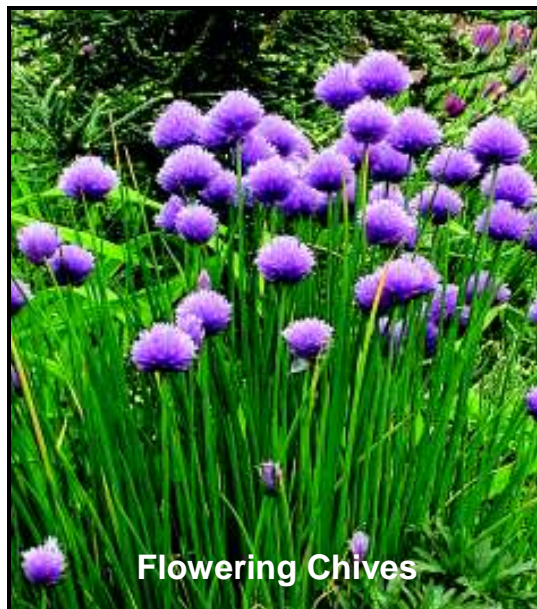
**Herb gardens can be attractive**



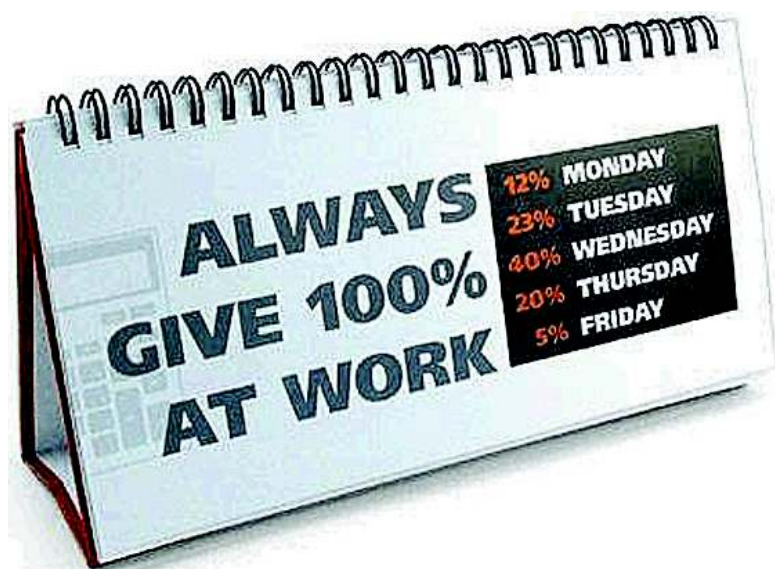
where it will thrive and give leaves for several months for pesto, tomato sauces etc. Basils benefit from extra feeding with an organic seaweed or comfrey 'tea' and regular picking of new shoots prevents them going to seed and losing flavour.

You only need a small space to make a productive herb garden and a patio container or window-box can be very successful. I would favour annual or biennial herbs such as chives, basil, parsley, dill, coriander and purslane rather than the woody perennials which soon get quite large.

In the summer, leaves and seeds can be harvested and dried to store for the winter. Some people like to freeze fresh herbs such as parsley, tarragon and thyme in a little water to make ice cubes which can be defrosted and used individually. If you want to keep on top of self sown seedlings then harvest your herb seeds before they drop to the soil. Tie a paper or cloth bag around the top of the plant then cut the stems and hang them upside down in a sunny, dry place with plenty of airflow (a conservatory works well) and the seeds will drop into the bag, ready for adding to recipes and saving for sowing next year.□



Flowering Chives



| Sudoku No 11 solution |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7                     | 2 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 3                     | 1 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| 6                     | 8 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 2 |
| 2                     | 4 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| 1                     | 3 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 7 |
| 5                     | 9 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| 4                     | 5 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 3 |
| 8                     | 6 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| 9                     | 7 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 |

## Brancaster Staithe and Burnham Deepdale Open Gardens Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 10am till 5pm

(in aid of Burnham Deepdale church)

A number of gardens will be open and each will contain a stall or refreshments. There will be a book stall and plants stalls including one from Hoecroft Plants. Refreshments will be available all day, from coffee through lunch to teas. Adults £3.

Please come and have a lovely day out.

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Monday - Friday

## Dersingham Infant and Nursery School



There is always something happening to surprise and excite us at school! After the Easter holidays, we came back to school only to find that a giant beanstalk had grown. Messages have arrived and we have been finding out about how some of the different characters really felt in their fairy tales.



As a result of our recent, glowing Ofsted report the school has had a lot to celebrate too. The children at the school have outstanding behaviour and achieve well during their time at the school. We are extremely proud of our school and the good report is a credit to the hard work of all the staff, the good links with parents and the whole school community. Please look at our website to find out more. ([www.dersingham.norfolk.sch.uk](http://www.dersingham.norfolk.sch.uk))

If you would like to come and see us at school and find out more, there will be an Open Day on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June :-

9.30 – 11.30

1.30 – 2.30.

Everyone is welcome.

We are also happy to welcome members of the community to come and help within school (subject to an enhanced CRB check). If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Gayle Platt (Headteacher) on 01485 540022 or call in at the school office. □



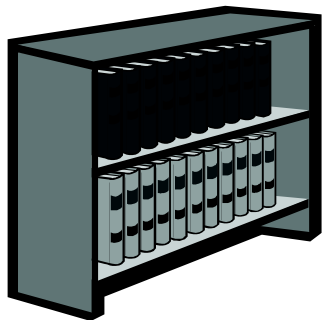
### Village Voice publication dates

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 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.





## Dersingham Library

We have a new Crime Book Club meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm. Anyone who wants to know more, please contact Alison at the library on 01485 540181

### Half-term family activities:

**The birds in your garden** - Thursday 3 June, 10.30 - 11.30am

Join in with the stories, learn lots of bird facts, test your knowledge with a quiz and make an apple birdfeeder. Please bring along an apple!

**Bees are brilliant!** Saturday 5 June, 10.00 - 12.00 noon

Join us for a family activity full of bee stories, facts and games. Under 7s must be accompanied by an adult.

A BBC Breathing Places event.

### New to the library -

We now have Nintendo DS and Wii games to rent - £3 per week.

BOGOFF night continues on Thursdays from 6.30-7.30pm. Borrow one DVD and rent the other free.



From June we'll be offering free e-book downloads from the library website. Ask staff if you want to know more! □

*Alison Thorne*

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## Dersingham Methodist Church

Dersingham Methodist Church will be holding their Annual Flower Festival from Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> to Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. except Sunday when it is 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. The theme is 'A Book of many colours'. The flower arrangements will depict Bible stories and passages mentioning different colours. The flowers and Bible passages will remind us of the wonderful colours of God's creation.

The children from Dersingham St George's School will sing on Thursday at 10.00 a.m. and the children from Dersingham Infant and Nursery School will sing on Friday at 10.00 a.m. Please come along and see the lovely floral displays, listen to the children sing, have coffee, lunch or tea, and visit the stalls – cakes, cards, plants, gifts, books, jewellery.

The service on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May will be at 10.30 a.m. with Rev Kim Nally when we celebrate our 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We will join Hunstanton Methodist Church at 6.00 p.m. for a performance of 'Hopes and Dreams' led by the West Norfolk Methodist Circuit. The proceeds will be divided equally between the Church project – Ocean Stars Trust which works with children and schools in Sri Lanka damaged by the 2004 tsunami; The Hope Centre Project in Latvia and Church Funds.

You could combine your visit on Sunday and Monday with a visit to the Open Gardens in Dersingham details from St Nicholas Church.  
Flower festival details from Elizabeth Batstone 01485 541068.





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## Bog News

Spring has finally sprung on the reserve and the weather has been almost like summer. This is one of the most exciting times on the site here at Dersingham Bog NNR with birds beginning to nest and even some nests are fledging young.

As you may recall from my last article I mentioned returning migrants. Although it seemed like many of our migrants were quite late this year there has been an arrival in the past four weeks of many birds.

One of the most vocal birds to have arrived on the site is the Grasshopper Warbler. If you walk around the tracks and pathways on the site you will probably be able to hear the sound of a very loud grasshopper. This is in fact the Grasshopper Warbler named because of how alike its call is to the sound of a grasshopper. Grasshopper Warblers to look at are a fairly nondescript bird with a dull plumage. When you hear the distinct call you know there can really be no other bird calling. Grasshopper warblers breed fairly close to the ground normally in thick scrub or vegetation so they are extremely difficult to see but if you are patient and have a bit of time it is well worth the wait.

If you have walked round the site recently you will probably have noticed that the Swallows have returned. These birds have arrived from their wintering grounds in sub Saharan Africa and have made the long flight to Britain to mate. As well as Swallows, House Martins and Sand Martins have returned and again if you have a keen eye you may be able to see them hunting for insects above some of the pools.

Mid April to May is the usual time for these birds to return and they can be seen in large groups sometimes migrating through the reserve to other parts of the country. Swallows and House Martins are fairly distinct birds but another distinctive migrant bird is the Swift. Swifts tend to return to Britain around May and there have been quite a few sightings across the site and these again can be seen across the reserve hunting for insects.



One of our key birds at Dersingham is the Nightjar. Nightjars are a fairly scarce species in Britain favouring heathland and forestry sites. They tend to return to the reserve from May but the first Nightjar was seen this year in the last week of April. The Nightjar is hard to confuse with any other species its call is a metallic churring sound and it is best seen in the evenings.

The Nightjar hunts moths and other small insects and warm evenings can give wonderful

views of this secretive bird. If you are lucky you may even see one perching on a branch or wing clapping. Wing clapping is where the birds clap their wings to show their presence to other males but also a part of their courtship ritual with the females. Nightjars are particularly vulnerable to disturbance as they are ground nesting birds. Between the months of February and September all dogs must be kept on a short lead (i.e. less than 2 metres) or close to heel.

Dawn is a particularly nice time to see a variety of birds on the site. The dawn chorus is particularly melodious at this time of year with Chiffchaffs, Willow Warblers and Blackcaps singing as well as our more common species such as robins, Dunnocks and Blackbirds. Although at dawn there can be a lot of birds calling with a little bit of practice you can separate many of the bird calls. I find that a good way to identify birds by their call is to try and find the bird singing. If you have binoculars this makes it a bit easier. Once you have found the bird just spend some time

listening to it and watching it. If you try and do this with one or two birds a week or a walk you can quickly build up knowledge of these birds calls. Once you know a few calls it then makes it slightly easier to pick out the harder calls and who knows if you are lucky you may find a rarity or two.

I look forward to seeing you out on the reserve hopefully enjoying the amazing wildlife that Dersingham Bog NNR has to offer. □



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

## The Dersingham Institute Bowls Club



Saturday April the 17th saw the opening of the Bowls Club and Bob Meredith (President) sent down the first bowl of the 2010 season to declare the green open

Over fifty members and visitors attended the meeting and with the wonderful weather, everyone enjoyed a super afternoons bowling.

Also enjoyed were the celebrations, first a toast to Alan Walker who has achieved his 80th birthday, and also Dick Murrell (Vice Chairman) not only did he reach his 80th but also, along with his wife Jean, celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary, so drinks and nibbles all round

As mentioned before the club is always open to visitors, anyone who would care to try their hand at the game would be most welcome.□

*Gordon Fisher (Chairman)*





## 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 7th July 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 7th July 2010 for publication on Thursday 29th July**. (Contributors who are promoting events should take note of this earliest date of publication). Should you be providing graphics to accompany advertisements or articles, it would be appreciated if these could be in JPEG format.

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

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

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

---

**The Mobile Police Station**  
**Will visit Budgens car park on Wednesdays**  
**between 1pm & 3pm on**  
**2nd June & 30th June.**

**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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## **150 Years Old – Walking, Building, Improving!**



James Graven is proud of its achievements and of its history, and there is much we know of the past, as we strive to build the future of our company.

In the past few months, we have run a 25 mile walk around the Norfolk countryside in aid of Help for Heroes, completed a major refit in one of our petrol stations, started a major refit in one of our supermarkets and are now getting ready to break ground on a brand new build! It would be easy to get a little dizzy right now and potentially miss an important minor detail, like for instance, someone in Yorkshire emailing the company about a piece of history we did not know about the company.

An email was received from the deputy editor of 'Steaming Magazine' regarding the history of our company in our 150th year.

In it he gives details about one of our traction engines, still going strong today!

Apparently, Charles Turner & Sons of Lazenby, of south-eastern Middlesborough, decided to buy a big Fowler traction engine, they found at James Graven's. Courtesy of historical records, the engine concerned was believed to have come to Graven's from Gloucestershire. Charles Turner travelled to Ely to collect the engine and to drive it back home. Charles was very taken with the cathedral in the city. On his return home, he named the engine ELY in honour of the place it was bought.

After 'retiring', ELY attended at least one of the early Pickering rallies. In September 1959, ELY was purchased by John Connor of Charleston Farm at Grindale, East Yorkshire, and renamed the engine BELLE OF THE WOLDS, in keeping with its new home and she achieved nationwide fame when used to deliver a newly-built railway locomotive, to the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway in Cumberland. Now the engine is owned by Mike Middlewood of Great Kelk, and has been extensively overhauled in recent years and now carries the name AJAX as a tribute to the well-known Fowler road locomotive of this same name once owned by Norman Box.

I wonder if James Graven ever thought that people would be discussing his business with such interest and vigor so far into the future? We hope, as the current custodians of the business that we will be discussed at least half as much when the company reaches 300 years old.

We would also like to thank Derek Rayner of the 'Steaming' Magazine for the wonderful information that he has brought to us, and look forward to reading his article about us in the pages of his publication!

**For more details and any further information, please  
contact our Community Liaison Officer:  
Nick Brown – on 01354 692492**



# VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday June 1st

## Boulton & Paul *Ltd.*

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# VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday July 6th

## TITCHWELL MARSH

**PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**

An illustrated talk by

**Robert Coleman**

Senior Sites Manager  
for Titchwell Marsh  
and Snettisham  
RSPB reserves



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





## GALA DAY

The weather had been unsettled for the few weeks leading up to April 4, Easter Sunday, the day on which it had been planned to hold a Gala Day on the car park at Budgens Supermarket in the village. The Gala Day had been inspired by the fact that James Graven, the owners of the supermarket, were this year celebrating 150 years of trading, and that, due to the law related to trading on Easter Sunday, the store would not be permitted to open.

Jonathan James, Managing Director of the company, made a decision that this was a perfect opportunity to offer something back to the community his store serves, and offered any charity, club or organisation in the area a means by which they could raise funds to their benefit. The idea was that no charge would be made for the use of a pitch on the day, which would be available for trading between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm, a 'free-to-use' bouncy castle would be provided for children who attended, refreshment facilities would be available in the form of a burger van and a 1940s style ice cream bicycle, and as a tribute to the origins of the company, a traction engine, supplied by Tim Plumb from Heacham, would hark back to the time when James Graven started his engineering business in Ely, exporting all forms of agricultural machinery to many parts of the world.

The weather has been mentioned because, as anybody who has had the task of planning an outdoor event in Britain will know, it is the one thing you cannot plan, and the omens on the day before the event were not good, with rain being forecast.

It was, therefore, with some apprehension that the two organisers arrived at 8.00 am to start the task of setting up the area and allocating the stalls – that is if the booked stallholders had not been put off by the overcast sky! No worry! Everybody who had requested a stall turned up, resulting in stalls for the Carol Brown Health Centre's Patient Participation Group, The Dersingham Evening Women's Institute, The Dersingham Section of the Norfolk Constabulary, The Cat's Protection League, Help for Heroes, Dersingham Cricket Club, Pets as Therapy, The Royal National Lifeboat Institute, Sunnyside Vets, Norfolk Hospice Tapping House and Dersingham Infant and Nursery School, these being supplemented by Dick Ropa's Bouncy Castle, A local three-piece Jazz Band, Face Painter and Balloon Artist 'Crazy Bananas' and a very well received Charity Car Wash operated by the fire-fighters from Sandringham Fire Station who are based in the village.

Then day turned out to be on the cool side, but was alleviated by some sunny spells which warmed up the atmosphere for a time before again turning to cloud, but, nevertheless, it did not rain!

Reports are that each of the stalls had had a satisfactory response to their efforts to raise funds, there ended up being about 40 vehicles in the village which were a lot cleaner than they had been, and a good day had been enjoyed by all.

Rumour has it that, it having been so successful as a first effort, the company may repeat the event next year and it may well become an annual event, so watch your local notice boards and the Village Voice, and keep Easter Sunday 2011 free in your diary!□

*Bob Tipling*

