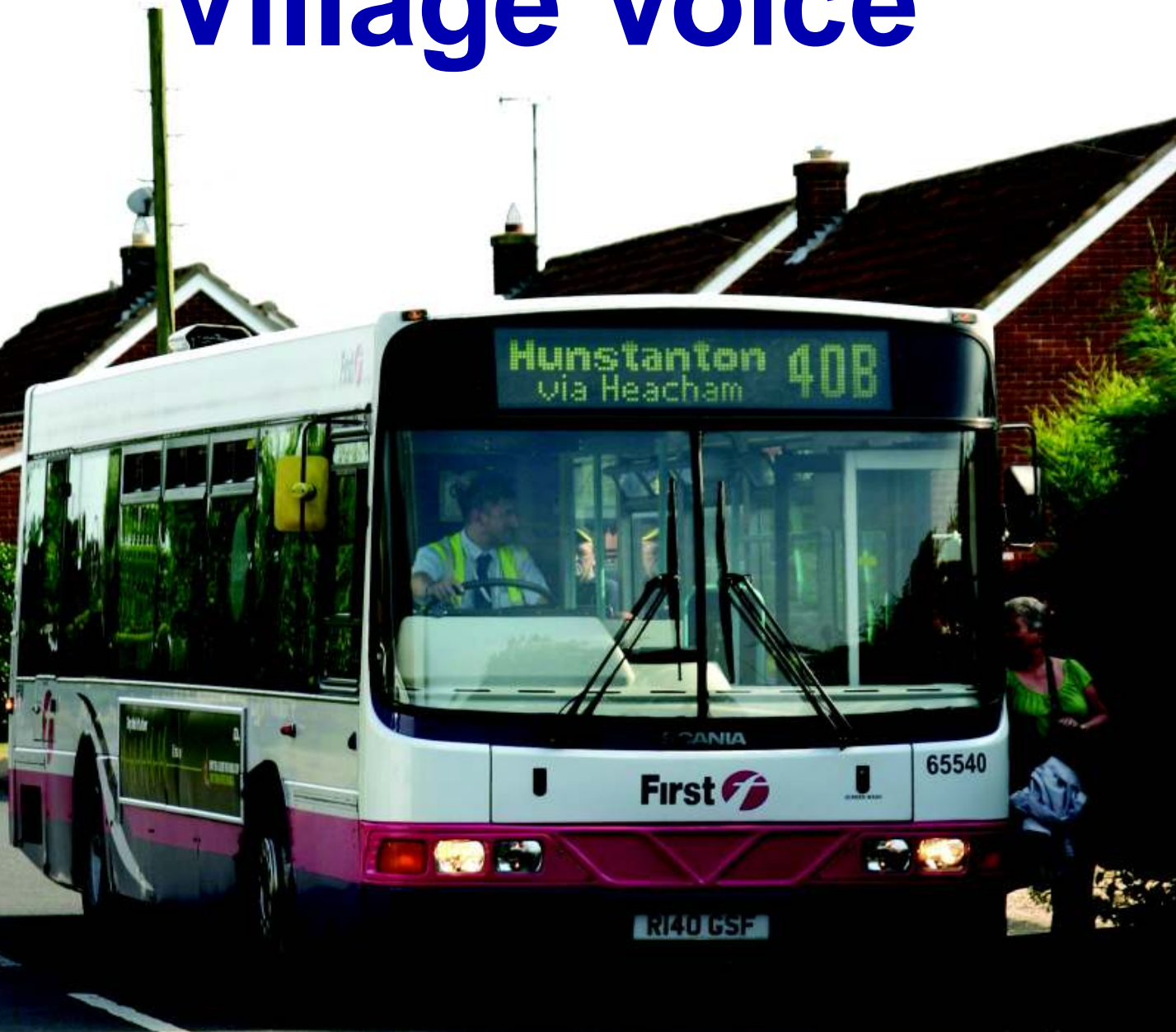


Dersingham Village Voice



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Editor's Notes

Welcome to the August edition of Village Voice. No theme to this edition of VV although there are several references to litter and dog fouling etc.

I seem to have aroused an interest in herbs and remedies with our theme last time. There are letters and articles still arriving on the subject for this edition as well. Do let us know if you have been cured or not by old remedies.

We have some new swings on the recreation ground and as I found myself passing the factory where they were made I called in for a look. Playdale are in the village of Haverthwaite in the Lake District. I was expecting a small rural workshop and was pleasantly surprised to find a large, modern factory which was opened by Sir Chris Bonnington in 1996. They employ around 140 people, both in the factory I visited and in their other unit in nearby Ulverston - home of the country's shortest, deepest



and widest canal - where the stainless steel equipment, like ours, is made. The swings are proving very popular I hear, with queues forming at peak times.



There aren't many bears in Dersingham, not surprising given the lack of paving stones, but we need to be prepared. So all you budding Heath Robinsons or Roland Emetts, get designing a bear trap and we will publish the best ones in the December issue. Don't hold back on the

imagination and remember that bears come in all sizes from Polar to Teddy.

A reminder now that the closing date for the photo competition is September 1st. With a subject of Dersingham Wildlife I am expecting a deluge of photos so make sure you are not too late!

Closing date too for nominations for Best Front Garden. Let us know about the gardens that you love to see. And a last reminder if you have any corrections for **Dersingham Data** that they need to be in to the office by August 5th.

By the time you read this I will be digesting another excellent Community Lunch. If you feel you should not be left off the invitation list do contact Bob Tipling who is the coordinator.

Happy and informative reading starts here, so what are you waiting for.

Tony Bubb

WHATS HAPPENING*

July

24 - Aug 7 West Norfolk Artists Association exhibition
St Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn.

August

2-31 Jo Jones photo exhibition.
The Grapes Gallery,
Snettisham
14 CC Hog Roast 8pm Sports Ground
15 Art Exhibition, Feathers Hotel
26 Puddleducks Bingo 7.30
Feathers Hotel

September

10 McMillan Coffee morning,
St Cecilia's church 10-12
11 Last Night of the Proms.
7.30. St Nicholas Church
23 - 25 Arts & Crafts Festival
St Nicholas Church & Hall

* 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



Thank you Dick Melton for devoting space to Beck House, our home in Chapel Road. For the record let me complete the details. Our early deeds to the house are incomplete, but it was actually called The Shieling before the first world war. In 1936 Frank Beck's widow died and the Sandringham Estate put the house on the market. Its sale has the signature of the new King, George VI, on the transfer document. By the 1960s the house had been renamed Blackheath Lodge.

When my wife Sue and I bought the house in 2001 we thought about the name. We were moving from north London, whereas Blackheath is a district south of London and somehow seemed inappropriate. It was Sue who suggested Beck House as a way of celebrating a noted local figure. We checked with the Post Office and as no other Beck House existed in Dersingham we duly changed the name.

Although there is no-one alive now in Dersingham who remembers Captain Beck, it being ninety-five years since his death at Gallipoli, there are those who recall his wife and daughter. According to Kelly's Directory for 1929 Miss Beck lived at the Hilltop and used daily to catch a bus into King's Lynn, where she worked. In those days the hillside was mainly orchard rather than the King's Croft Estate. Nor did Red Pumps garage exist; this was started by the Isherwood family shortly before the second world war (I think). It shows how the internal combustion engine was taking over from horse drawn transport as part of the garage buildings were in fact the house's stabling.

Ion Trewin

Each year I have to prepare a new Register of Electors and may need people to help with this as canvassers. The work involves the delivery of forms to all addresses within a defined area and any follow-up action that proves necessary, including the issue of reminders and, as a last resort, at least three door-knocks.

The process begins at the end of August and runs until late October. Canvassers are paid a set fee per property regardless of the number of visits required, plus mileage. Payment is made at the end of November.

Opportunities will not be available in all parts of the Borough but if you are interested and are willing to travel I would be glad to hear from you.

Applications are invited from all parts of the community but I have a particular need for anyone able to speak an Eastern European language.

Mary Colangelo

Electoral Officer

Tel: 01553 616281

e-mail: mary.colangelo@west-norfolk.gov.uk

With reference to a passing mention on a warts cure in David Bingham's article "Hokus Pokus" I was reminded of my experience with warts. When I was around 8 or 9 years old and lived in North Creake I had very many warts which my parents had tried to remove by various means eg many types of mild acid and something that looked like a large match. In the end my father said "we'll go and see Ted Ebdale about them". So off we went to see Ted Ebdale, who asked me how many warts I had. I told him I had 35. He then said "Right I'll give you a halfpenny for them and they'll go within two weeks".

Two weeks went by and I still had the warts, but then I happened to see Ted and he asked if they had gone, and when I said "No" he said "Go and count them again" which I did and found I actually had 36. When I told him he said he would again give me a halfpenny and "they would go within a fortnight". I thought no more about it but when I was on my way to school I noticed that a wart in the palm of my hand had gone and within a week they had all fallen off.



He did not rub anything on the warts as Grandma Bingham did, so I suppose it was MAGIC so over to you Miss Fiddick!

From a wart free Barry Beales

You may remember my previous letter in the April Village Voice. I planned to do a sponsored bike ride for cancer research. Since then, the EDP rang me out of the blue and asked if they could come and do a feature on me. You most probably saw the article in the paper! I started my ride (aiming to avoid main roads as much as possible) the last few days of April and, apart from my second day's ride when I cycled through the Fens to Ely, when it rained all day, I just had to keep my head down and keep going! The rest of the days I was fortunate to have good weather.

Starting on 23rd April the daily mileages were:- 102.11, 100.04, 34.34, 95.48, 57.57, 20.20, and 92.87, a total of 502.51 miles.

Having completed it I would now like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported me in giving a donation to make this event the success it was. We were able to raise a very worthwhile amount of £1417.50 for the Cancer Research Fund. Well done and thank you all.

John Lambert



Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

We are a friendly local birdwatching group and you will be most welcome to join us, whether an experienced birdwatcher or a total beginner.

Our indoor meetings are held in the Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Mangate Street, Swaffham at 7.30pm on the final Tuesday of every month except June. We also run outdoor trips, exploring the birds and wildlife of our local area and sometimes further afield.

Our August and September indoor meetings are:

31st August "The West Norfolk Reserves of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust" by Karl Charters; and 28th September "The Natural History and Management of Dersingham Bog" by the reserve warden, Ash Murray

Village Voice Sudoku No 12 Solution								
4	6	1	9	8	2	7	3	5
7	9	3	4	5	1	8	2	6
2	5	8	3	7	6	1	9	4
8	7	5	6	4	9	3	1	2
1	2	9	8	3	5	6	4	7
6	3	4	1	2	7	5	8	9
3	8	2	5	6	4	9	7	1
5	1	7	2	9	3	4	6	8
9	4	6	7	1	8	2	5	3

Just turn up on the night, or for membership enquiries please telephone Ian Black 01760 724092. 2008 Annual Reports are now available, price £5, from Philip Parker 01553 630842

Marilyn Abdulla Tel: 01760 720419

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The Dersingham Beat

May - June 2010

Here are a few of the highlights (and “lowlights”) we have experienced during May into June.

You may recall that in the last issue I made you aware that my colleagues and I had interviewed a number of local youths regarding damage to fences and ‘For Sale’ signs. These reports came to an abrupt halt for about three weeks but alas we have had a few more reports more recently. Would you believe it if I told you that one of those youths went out and did it again? Well he did, only this time he’s off to court

I am even more concerned that someone has decided to set fire to three ‘For Sale’ signs on one occasion this period. This damage was committed approximately 2am and may be linked with a middle aged man who was found wandering the streets and dealt with by medical staff (unconfirmed). We have not experienced any further damage of this kind since.

The Community Centre and Church Hall in Manor Road were entered by some youths as they were heard inside but not caught. Blood was removed from a window by our Crime Scene Investigator consistent with a punch. We now have a ‘DNA hit’ on the blood and a local youth has been identified as responsible.

A local man was assaulted on his way home by four youths; they accused him of ‘looking at a girlfriend’. The victim was injured and hospitalised. Four local youths have been traced and one has made an admission to the assault. King’s Lynn CID are now dealing. Please do not be alarmed, assaults of this kind are relatively rare in our area thankfully and the victim has made a full recovery.

Some of our local youths have caused trouble in Heacham recently, it’s the same ones that damaged the fences etc. They were rounded up and taken home to their parents. The main individual will be going before a youth court where we may consider applying for a CRASBO which is basically an ASBO on the back of a criminal conviction. This also usually includes more pressure being put on the parent(s) to be more responsible for their actions and consequences. Some how we will try to bring this individual back in line.

Now for some better news, we are working with Norfolk Youth Services, Dersingham Sports Ground Committee and The Dersingham Tennis Club regarding adapting one of the two existing tennis courts into a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area). It will double up as a tennis court when required and be available during club nights etc. We are still in the planning and fund raising stage but the project is moving along quite positively.

I know what some might think, “why are we rewarding these yobs when they smash fences” and part of me understands this line of thought. But according to people that are far brighter than me, there is a method in this apparent madness. It appears that there is evidence that supports a reduction in crime when local youths get involved in local projects of this kind. The theory is quite simple, if they are involved in the project and see it through there is a higher likelihood that they will look after the facility by a sense of ownership and this respect will spread to other people’s property.

This article is not as positive as I would have liked but crime has highs and lows and statistically most areas experience an increase at this time of year. I would like to point out that what might appear high for Dersingham is still relatively low and the incidents I have referred to above have happened on single occasions and not as a constant stream of crimes being committed. In May and June we have experienced on average 5 incidents of damage which is little more than one a week. This is still too many but Dersingham is one of the largest villages in the west of the county and we are doing all we can with the evidence available to address this problem.

If you have witnessed anyone committing an offence or any information leading to those responsible we would like to hear from you.

“Mind how you go”

Andy

Say Cheese!

Dersingham photographer Jo Halpin Jones will be holding an exhibition of her photographs at the Grapes Picture Framing and Gallery, 33 Lynn Road in the centre of Snettisham. Images will range from pictures of Norfolk to those from her travels around Britain and abroad. Natural history and garden plants are also featured. The show runs from Monday August 2nd to Tuesday August 31st. The Gallery is open Mondays to Fridays 9am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm, and on Saturdays 9am - 1pm.

Jo is also involved in the West Norfolk Artists Association's summer exhibition at St Nicholas Chapel, St Anne's Street King's Lynn. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Association and the members are celebrating with a calendar and a prize chosen by the Committee (of which Jo is a member) for the best piece of artwork in the show. There are other prizes also, including one chosen by members of the public who can vote for their favourite entry. The winning voter, drawn from the box, also receives a prize.

The event runs from Saturday July 24th until Saturday August 7th and is open daily from 10am - 4pm. Further details can be found on www.westnorfolkartists.org. □

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE ON DOG FOULING

Dog Bins

Dersingham has 27 dog bins around the village, so it is disappointing that we still have a dog fouling problem. There is some confusion over how to bag and bin, and the advice from the Borough Council is:

- Doggie bags can be disposed of in the domestic bins – they need to be double bagged – collecting the bags throughout the week, in a carrier bag is acceptable
- Dog bins are for “passing trade” and not for a collection of bags from gardens

Separate rules apply to businesses such as kennels.

How to Report a Dog Fouling Problem

Most months the Environment Committee receives complaints about dog fouling in the streets of Dersingham. It is such a shame that a few irresponsible dog owners can make the streets so unpleasant for everyone. The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk has introduced a “Clean-Up” Scheme, with the aim of creating a safer and cleaner environment for all to enjoy.

The Borough Council has powers, under the Dog Control Order 1 of 2007, Clean Neighbourhood & Environment Act 2005. The Act states:

“Dog owners have a legal obligation to clear up their dogs waste on any Land within the area of the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment) as provided by the Act. A conviction carries a maximum fine of £1,000.”

The Scheme works in the following way:

A complaint needs to be registered with the Borough Council, either by:

- by telephone call to the Dog Enforcement Service on 01553 616200, or
- the Animal Fouling Report Form, via <http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=0>

The witness will be asked to make a statement. The Borough Council may then take the following actions:

- On the first occasion a warning letter is sent to the dog owner
- If the problem continues, a fixed penalty notice for £75 is issued
- If the dog owner fails to pay the fixed penalty, or if the problem continues, the owner can be taken to court

The Parish Council does not have any powers to deal with this problem – all complaints received via the Parish Council office will be referred to the Borough Council. □

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Dersingham born, Dersingham bred, Dersingham based!

Parish Council Report

Suzy Daniels

It was again very pleasing to see a high turnout of parishioners at the previous two meetings.....it is after all your support that enables the Parish Councillors to make improvements and changes within Dersingham.

COMMUNITY CENTRE PLANS...a residential haven

The Community Centre lease was returned to Sandringham Estate earlier this year. Mr O'Lone, the estate's agent, stated that as a very important site within the village careful thought and consideration had been given when drawing up the preliminary plans for the redevelopment. Mr Charles Morris had been commissioned to design the scheme and presented his drawings to the council. This comprised two linked dwellings on the upper level and nine dwellings on the lower part, a single bedroom apartment, seven two bedroom houses and one three bedroom house. Vehicular access would be from Dodds Hill. The site would have a small green in the centre that the houses would surround. A raised footpath would skirt the development on Dodds Hill and Manor Road. The Dodds Hill junction would be widened and this would improve sightlines for vehicles exiting onto Manor Road. The lower part of the building will be carrstone and the upper part a lime washed render; hand –made Pantiles and soft red brick would also be used. Councillors asked a number of questions regarding pedestrian access and disabled access, collection of waste, possible problems regarding anti-social behaviour. The Council will have further notification as plans proceed. Mr O'Lone and Mr Morris were thanked for their courtesy in involving the Parish Council at this early stage.

BOROUGH COUNCIL...parking, proposal and planning!!

Following reports of ongoing parking problems within Dersingham, Borough Council officers have visited on a number of occasions and confirmed that there is no rule prohibiting parking on these areas. The Legal Department will investigate further and possibly produce a Bylaw on these particular problem areas. Cllr Johnston advised the Parish Council on the procedure to make a complaint when planning application procedures had not been followed, or where proper consideration had not been given.

Cllr Burrall reported that a meeting had taken place to discuss proposal of the Parish Council taking over some of the open spaces on Sandringham View estate. It was decided two of the five sites would be better treated as verges. The Borough will make a formal proposal in July. He also explained that the Coalition Government has redefined garden land from Brownfield land. This means that such land will no longer be assumed available for development; instead applications will be considered in terms of their form and character in relation to the surrounding area. This is important for the village as there are three applications for development on gardens at present. These will be considered at July's meeting of the Borough's Development Control Board. Its decision will indicate how such applications should be dealt with in the future. Cllr Johnston said that cutting costs at the Borough was ongoing and in keeping with other District Councils. Substantial savings were likely to be achieved. The Parish Council was also reminded that a local community emergency plan should still be in consideration.

COUNTY COUNCIL....

Cllr Dobson was previously asked to pursue the possibility of a sign being placed by the roadside of Holyrood Drive requested by Hanover Housing. It was decided that the County Council would not provide this sign, but that Hanover Housing could fund it themselves. A new Bus service including Mountbatten Road and Station Road started on the 26th June. This seems to be successful with bus stops being located just a few days beforehand. There was no prior discussion concerning their placement. The service is the 40b. The change of Government will introduce measures to stop unitary status for Norwich.....this is very good news and has pleased Local Government. Cllr Dobson made it clear that the Sports Association had never requested a multi-use surface at the sports ground.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES...

The Parish Council consists of a variety of Committees which enable decisions to be made by delegated groups instead of full Council. One of those Committees is the Village Hall Committee. An important improvement and benefit to the Village is the building of a Village Hall. 12 sites have been considered by the Parish Council, but only one is suitable. This is to the North of Station Rd, adjacent to the bypass. It is within a high risk flood area which could cause problems for planning and will not be an easy site to develop. However it was decided by the committee to recommend that the Council should take the first steps to try and purchase the site, subject to outline planning permission. A more detailed, confidential report was circulated amongst Councillors. The Council agreed to commission a full flood risk assessment and a discussion with highways over work required to bring the access up to standard. New future Committees were discussed briefly and deferred until July's meeting. These included an Awards Panel and a Youth Council.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

9 Onedin Close.....Recommended that permission is not given without a hearing. Council will request a site visit and referral to Development Control Board. Reasons for objection: access, drainage and sewage, ruining architectural integrity of location, incorrect information supplied on planning application.

30 Woodside Close...construction of two dwellings following demolition of existing... Recommended approval.

23 Woodside Avenue...construction of 3 bedroom chalet style bungalow....Resolved to object on the grounds that this would use back gardens land, exacerbate access problems over private road and would result in over development of the site.

24 Station road....construction of double garage....Recommended approval.

79 Lynn Road...extension and alteration to existing building.....Recommend approval.

DETERMINATIONS

12 Dodds Hill Rd...Change of use from residential to beauty therapy training centre.....GRANTED,

1 Chapel Road....Change of use to dwelling from retail and dwelling....GRANTED, 2 Willow Drive...GRANTED, 36 West Road...GRANTED, Kebab House, Manor Road...GRANTED. □

Dersingham CC's Hog Roast and Junior Presentation Evening at The Sports Ground

**After 1st XI match against Heathersett on
Saturday 14th August
approx 8pm**

**Tickets £6 adults, £4 Under 12s
where possible, early booking is helpful**

**Contact
Roger Poll: 07860 255177 or
Richard Southgate: 07909 875549**

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

T G Morris, PPG Committee

National Recognition for the Vida Healthcare and the Carole Brown Health Centre

It is in recognition of the high quality of care delivered at the Carole Brown Health Centre (CBHC) in Dersingham and the Gayton Road Health Centre in King's Lynn that the practice has become the only one in the county to hold the coveted Quality Practice Award (QPA) awarded by



the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP). Only 62 practices throughout the country currently hold this award. The award was presented to both surgeries at Gayton Road Health Centre by Hilary De Lyon, Chief Executive of the RCGP, on Thursday 17 June. RCGP Chairman Professor Steve Field said: "The RCGP Quality Practice Award is recognition of the high standards and quality of care provided to the patients and the entire practice team should be very proud of their huge achievement."

The practice has been working towards this award for two years under the leadership of Dr Liz Vaughan Williams who is based at CBHC. It was decided to apply for the QPA because it provides stringent external evaluation of how well care is delivered to patients. The practice was required to submit a portfolio of written evidence set against a number of criteria covered in six modules and the PPG contributed to this task. This was followed by a full day assessment visit to each surgery by a panel of four external assessors comprising a GP, a nurse, manager and lay assessor to interview staff and patients. In recognition of the role played by the PPG in obtaining this award, it also was awarded a certificate by the RCGP. Pictured are the award being presented by the RCGP Chief Executive to the practice staff and PPG committee members and in turn a certificate being handed over by Dr Liz Vaughan-Williams to the PPG Chairman, Mrs Vanessa Blythe,



The practice is the largest in Norfolk with the Gayton Road Health Centre providing health-care for 16,000 patients and the Carole Brown Health Centre for an additional 6,000 people. The 15 doctors and 20 nurses, supported by 40 patient services staff currently see more than 11,000 patients every month. Perhaps this is a figure we should all to keep in mind when we get impatient with the telephone or appointment system!

PPG Annual General Meeting

The AGM was well attended but it was emphasised that **all patients and staff** of the Carole Brown Health Centre are eligible to attend all PPG meetings. **There is no membership.** The Chairman reviewed the activities of the last year and the Treasurer presented the accounts which are in a healthy state. Mr Graham Dickerson, the Executive Partner of the practice outlined the activities and developments within the practice and indicated how successful was the new Endoscopy Unit now located at the CBHC. Another centre of excellence at Dersingham!

Donations

The PPG is extremely grateful to all those patients who have so generously donated money to the PPG to fund its work in support of CBHC patients. As with all its funds, this money is used to acquire equipment, facilities and services that enhance the quality of healthcare provided to patients and which would not normally be available from statutory bodies.

Pictured right is Mr Ken Conley, a great supporter of the CBHC and its staff, with a wheelchair he kindly donated for the use of those less able patients attending the surgery.

PPG Expenditure

The PPG holds a limited amount of funds which can be used to purchase equipment not provided by statutory authorities but that would improve patient care or to enhance the medical and nursing services provided. Any ideas from staff or patients as to the use of PPG funds should be made through a member of the PPG Committee who currently are:



Chairman: Mrs Vanessa Blythe **Secretary & Treasurer:** Mrs Dee Morris (Tel: 541450)

Committee Members:

Miss Olive McRea, Mrs Jackie Sisson, Mrs Sandy Hyams, Mrs Wanda Thompson, Mrs Louise Rushton, Mr Barry Judd, Mr Ted Overall, Mr Terry Finbow, Mr Tom Morris.

Coming Soon

Watch out for notices regarding internet access to the appointments system, repeat prescriptions etc. Information and notices relevant to the practice can be accessed on the internet at:□

<http://www.thehealthcentre.org.uk>

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.

The winning garden will be featured in this magazine.

Send to:- Dersingham Parish Council, 7b Hunstanton Rd

email:- villagevoice@dersingham.org.uk



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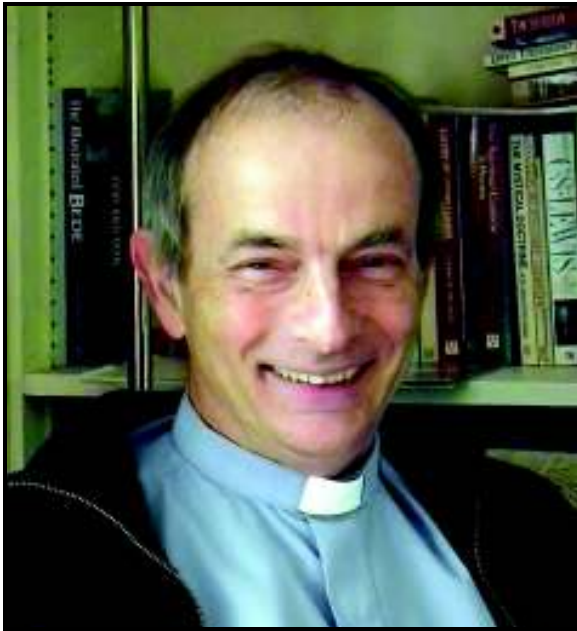
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That's my business - the Revd Michael Brock

Story and pictures by Steve Davis



Originally graduating in Psychology and working for a short period as an Industrial Psychologist, Michael Brock studied for ordination in Nottingham and continued to work in the area for 30 years before coming to us in November 2005 as Vicar of St Nicholas Church, Dersingham as well as St Mary's, Anmer and St Peter & St Paul's, Shernborne. More recently he was appointed Rural Dean of the so named Heacham and Rising Deanery, a large region spanning Hunstanton, Burnham Deepdale, Docking and Hillington. I caught up with him recently to discuss his involvement.

A typical Sunday will see him taking an 8:00am Communion Service at Dersingham, a 9:30am service at Anmer or Shernborne, the main 10:30am service back at Dersingham, an occasional baptism at 12:30pm and the evening Worship at 6:30pm. Saturday is generally set aside to prepare for all this, as well as making visits to

those preparing for baptisms, funerals or weddings and of course conducting the weddings themselves.

So, the rest of the week off? Hardly! An early start, each day for prayer and devotions before being at his desk for 8:30am, when the torrent of phone calls and emails begin followed by an intense schedule of meetings. Meetings with various leaders and officers within the church, deanery meetings, school governors, pastoral care and hospital visits, meetings of all the various organisations associated with the church and its premises: Parent & Toddlers, Community Centre, "Phobbies", Sunday School, Kidz Club, Scouts and Guides, etc, etc. There are occasional mid-week services and funerals to conduct. Then as Rural Dean he is responsible for any clergy vacancies within the deanery when the role becomes all the more demanding. He also acts as mentor and trainer on the Clergy Leadership Programme, and is available as a Vocation Advisor for those thinking of training for the ministry within Norwich Diocese. As governor of both schools in Dersingham and Chair of St George's, Michael is deeply committed to the work there where his background in psychology is also a great asset. No two workdays are alike, but 13 hours are not untypical. It is indeed a relentless on-call vocation though with some relief, Friday is observed as his day off!

Michael's vision is to see Dersingham as a thriving community, where people feel they belong. For many he hopes it will be a community of faith, love, hope, light and trust, but for all, one where each individual can feel included, respected, able to make a contribution and to take ownership – indeed a sentiment not so far removed from that expressed by our new prime minister! □





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Poetry Please

A Breath of Norfolk Air

Flocks of geese in flight
Squeel out in pure delight
In warm Norfolk lavender air
That bees and butterflies share
With fields and streams in sight
Everything looks so very right

Country so simple and bare
A natural land so very rare
Wild meadow flowers fight
Then rest and sleep at night
Neat hedgerows grown with care
Lanes used by carriage and pair

A distant kestrel and a kite
Glide and swoop at great height
Eyes survey with a stare
Upon tranquil land so fair
With colours of the sky alight

Blue, red, grey and white
Providing splendour and some flair
Where else can compare
Alan Mayes

Evening Stroll

It's dark and wet and nearly ten
I'll take the dog, he has the yen
Around the block I think's enough
And somewhere round he'll do his stuff

And what care I if someone treads
Into the filth that Fido spreads
No one will see the dog was mine
They will not know just who to fine

A glistening heap near yonder lamp
Oh look there is a wheelchair ramp
Well they'll not get to step in it
But wheels may go and squash a bit

And if perhaps when morning comes
An eager schoolbound pupil runs
Right through the pile so neatly laid
Slip, bump, splosh, bang, their legs all splayed

Sorry Miss I am a mess
I didn't look, I must confess
But if the doggy walker had
I might not smell so awfully bad

The answer is now so really simple
If your mutt stops to lay a pimple
Have plastic bag to put it in
And drop it in the Doggy Bin

Anon



Dersingham Evening WI

will host another

Coffee Morning for MacMillan Cancer Relief

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for this wonderful Cancer Relief
organisation**



George Richard Eldred Stanton

30th September 1934 to 1st May 2010



It was my pleasure to have the privilege of interviewing Dick Stanton on behalf of this magazine in April 2005, and the following contains extracts from that interview plus a great deal of information provided by his son, Richard, for which I am grateful.

George Richard Eldred Stanton was born in Dersingham at The Manor House, on 30 September 1934. A brother for Jane, and then, ten years later for Edward and Penelope.

He was named Richard Eldred, following the long-standing family custom of the eldest son being called Richard. As each generation alternates between Richard and Dick, he became known as Dick. A tradition that will continue with his grandson Dicken, who will now become the next Dick Stanton.

On the day of his birth his father was shooting partridges at Sandringham with his landlord His Majesty King George the Fifth. He was greatly honoured when the King asked to be Dick's Godfather, and Richard Eldred quickly became George Richard Eldred.

His education started at Welswell School in the village, and later he attended Prep School at Neville Holt, and then Public School at Oundle having to catch the train to school from Dersingham station.

After Oundle, he served his National Service as a Captain in the Queen's Bays and was posted to Akaba in Jordan where he had responsibilities for the King of Jordan. He found the experience of commanding a tank troop as a young officer exhilarating and always believed that the man management skills learnt in the Army stood him in good stead for later life. He enjoyed his soldiering and was disappointed to miss his posting to Korea when the war ended. He could hardly believe that at that time there was a similarity between the cost of a pint of milk, a loaf of bread and a pint of beer!

A farming career beckoned and he moved to Park Farm, Stetchworth, a farm bought by his father...as the land was strong Suffolk clay it was an opportunity to farm "man's land". Despite the hard work involved with a new farm, he enjoyed the hectic Suffolk social life, and managed to continue his military career. He served with the Territorial Army in the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry.

It was at a Newmarket and Thurlow Hunt Ball that he was introduced to the young St Thomas' nurse, Sally. It was difficult to persuade her to leave her nursing to marry him but a proposal in the racing green MGA sports car eventually did the trick and they were married by her father, the vicar of Great Thurlow, in his church on 25th April 1963. Richard was born the next year with Sophie, Jeremy, William and eventually, Ben, following on. Dick enjoyed his hands-on farming at Stetchworth and introduced some new ideas such as growing blackcurrants.

In 1970 the family moved back to Dersingham and Dick took over the management of the family farming business. He specialised in the arable and his brother, Edward, ran the livestock enterprises. The business was successful and they expanded, eventually buying a farm at Dunira in Perthshire.

Dick was a member of one of the oldest farming families in the area and one of the few farmers remaining in business in Dersingham. Records show that the family have worked here for

many years and it is in acknowledgement of their relationship with the village that Stanton Road was so named on completion of the Sandringham View Estate in 1993.

Dick's grandfather originally owned Ling House farm prior to taking over Manor House Farm which was then handed over to Dick's father in about 1929, to be farmed by him until it was Dick's turn to take over the reins. Dick was still concerned with the farm up to the time of his death but left the day-to-day running to his son Richard.

Few people love their job as much as Dick loved his farming. It wasn't just growing the crops – it was the rapport with his staff and the satisfaction of seeing a job done well. He inspired fierce loyalty and a number of people have spent their working life with him on the farm.

He saw dramatic change in the farming industry during his career and enjoyed playing his part as a food producer. He loved the opportunity to discuss farming matters and would spend hours trying to understand the latest policies to come from Brussels. This interest helped him in his roles as Chairman of the King's Lynn Branch of the NFU and serving as a member of the Land Tribunal. He served on the NFU crop committees for sugar beet and cereals, and was a founding member of the King's Lynn Pea Group. He was a regular visitor to agricultural meetings; shows and exhibitions espousing the benefit of time spent looking at new ideas.

When Edward moved back from Scotland they decided to run their own businesses although continuing to work closely together. An arrangement that has worked very well for many years. Dick was a keen sportsman. He played cricket for West Norfolk Cricket Club as an opening batsman who made more runs later in his career than in the early days and as a naturally modest man was delighted when he eventually topped the season's averages. He was the third generation of the family to be President of West Norfolk – following in the steps of his father and grandfather- and as a terrific supporter of the club encouraged his family to play as much as possible. It is due to the benevolence of Dick's father that the use of part of the pastures, which is now the Sports Field, was given over for the permanent use of villagers for sport and recreation.

Dick played rugby for West Norfolk Rugby Club and was a member of Hunstanton Golf Club. Shooting played a big part in his life and at various times he ran shoots at Stetchworth, Prickwillow in the fens, and more latterly in conjunction with his godson, James Wilson, at Park Farm, Snettisham. He had a natural understanding of wild game and was especially keen to encourage the grey partridges. He hated shooting without a dog and had a succession of spaniels. In the evenings, if he didn't have a meeting, he would play tennis or invite friends to play snooker, and in winter he used to have a regular bridge four.

Dick was an enthusiastic supporter of village life. He served on the Dersingham Parish Council and was a Dersingham Charity Trustee. He was Chairman of the Dersingham Sports Club, and President of Dersingham Institute Bowls Club – where he particularly enjoyed the annual dinner. He worshipped at St Nicholas Church where he was a PCC member, Churchwarden and Treasurer.

Dick and Sally were married for 47 years and enjoyed doing many things together – travelling, fishing, playing golf, or a quiet supper at the beach-hut. In later years he suffered long periods of poor health. During this time he retained his wry sense of humour, whilst Sally looked after him with resilience and determination.

Sally remembers how fond he was of his four daughters-in-law and how very proud he was of his eighteen grandchildren – ten grandsons and eight granddaughters - and when watching them play cricket or football on the lawn thought every one of them had a “good eye for the ball”!

The occasions that I had spent with Dick showed me that he had had a very eventful life, one which would have taken a book to relate, and this has forced me to cut out a lot of what he told me in order that this tribute does not take over the whole of this issue.

All of those who knew him will remember Dick as a gentle man, who in all senses, loved life and left the world a better place.□

Bob Tipling

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Announcing Hearing Aid services for the people of Dersingham

West Norfolk Deaf Association is a local charity supporting Deaf and hard of hearing people in West Norfolk.

Learning to cope with hearing loss and adjusting to life with hearing aids can be difficult. There are an estimated one in seven people in the UK with hearing loss, and in Norfolk, where there is a higher than average number of elderly people, 55% of people over the age of 60 are hard of hearing.

The Hearing Support Service is the largest service that we provide, and we are delighted to announce our Hearing Support Clinic at Dersingham Surgery.

The Hearing Support Service provides thorough aftercare services for NHS hearing aid users in West Norfolk. Working alongside the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Audiology Team we provide practical support, servicing and advice for those with hearing loss. We visit many hundreds of patients at home and in residential care, in sheltered housing units and in our range of clinics around West Norfolk.

Many people receive their new hearing aids and are unaware that they will need regular servicing, cleaning and re-tubing every two to three months to maintain their effectiveness. We are on hand to repair, replace and clean faulty hearing aid parts and offer advice and information on all issues relating to hearing loss and hearing aids. We will also provide batteries. If you have noticed that your hearing aid has become less effective, or if it has been more than three months since your hearing was serviced and re-tubed, then we would like to see you.

In Norfolk, people with hearing loss are entitled to free assistive equipment for their hearing loss to enable them to live more independently. So if you struggle to hear the door bell, the TV, the callers voice on the telephone, or anything else, come to see us. We will make the referral for you to receive this equipment.

WNSA Services:

- West Norfolk Hearing Support Service
- Advocacy for Deaf British Sign Language Users
- West Norfolk Tinnitus Support group
- Breakout holiday Club for Deaf children
- Deaf Awareness and British Sign Language courses
- Me2 Project
- Social and learning activities for Deaf community
- Activities for Deaf and hard of hearing children
- Advice and support

Dersingham Surgery clinics run on the third Monday of every month from 9am – 12 noon. The clinics run as a drop-in system, no appointment is needed, though it will be necessary for you to let reception staff know that you are waiting to be seen.

You do not have to be a patient of Dersingham Surgery to attend the clinic.

The service is free and is funded by Norfolk Primary Care Trust. We are unable to provide batteries private hearing aids or service hearing aids issued by private dispensers.



Dersingham Community Lunch

Report and pictures by Stella Gooch

Councillor Gill Sergeant (Vice-Chairman* of Dersingham Parish Council) and Councillor Bob Tipling (Co-ordinator of the Dersingham Community Lunches) welcomed everyone to the May Dersingham Community Lunch and set the warm and relaxed tone for proceedings. Dersingham Village Social Club provided the venue and lovely buffet lunch for the event. The Dersingham Evening Women's Institute complemented the buffet lunch with a selection of fabulous desserts and the proceedings were decorated with floral displays courtesy of members of Dersingham Flower Club.



As this was the first time I had attended this now regular event, I did not really know what to expect. What I found was a coming together of all quarters of the local community in a relaxed and social setting and it works! Everyone had a great opportunity to meet members of the community they may otherwise not get to meet and networking round the room was actively encouraged..

On my table was local historian, Elizabeth Fiddick, Councillor Jonathan James (also of Budgens), Hugh Mullarkey (local poet and author), Joy Savill (Hawes Solicitors) and Ruth Mountain (Dersingham United Charities), none of whom I had had the pleasure of meeting before.

Having had a nice chat with a number of people over an enjoyable lunch, we were addressed by Gayle Platt (Headteacher of Dersingham Infants and Nursery School). Gayle proposed that Dersingham work together as a community to create a key event to mark the Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and invited everyone to attend a meeting at the Infants School at 6 pm on 27th May 2010 to move this idea forward.

We were also treated to a talk by the renowned local sage and writer, Dick Melton, who waxed lyrical about his time in Dersingham and how the local area has changed since his childhood. Mr

Melton's relaxed speaking style (and wonderful Norfolk burr) was just the right thing to make us focus on how things have changed in Dersingham and no doubt will continue to do so – especially as with a new government we hope that positive change will be the order of the day.

Guests at the lunch had the opportunity to view the poster entries submitted by children at the local Dersingham Schools and boy what a lot we had to choose from! It was exceedingly hard for me to cast my votes and I am sure



that everyone else felt the same. However, Eleanor Howson (age 7) from Dersingham Infants and Nursery School, was decreed the overall winner and the overall winner from St George's School was Kelsey Buttery (age 10). The other high scoring entries were from Perry Bierton (aged 5) and Milly Butler (aged 7) from Dersingham Infants and Nursery School. *See centre pages. Ed.*

As ever at events like this there was the requisite fundraising raffle with prizes donated by numerous local businesses and organisations. Amazingly my number was picked out first, much to my surprise. Councillor Tipling happily reported at the close of the lunch that funds raised were £117.00 of which 50% was going to the Dersingham Village Social Club and 50% to the Dersingham Entertainments Committee.



The next community lunch is on Friday 10 September, hosted by Lyntony Restaurants t/a McDonalds and is to be held at the St Nicholas Church Hall. □

* *This lunch took place before the Parish Council AGM and Gill is now in the chair. Ed.*

RAOB Sandringham Lodge

On Tuesday 4th May 2010, Bro' Ken Conley ROH, ably assisted by Bros' Colin Lloyd, John Evans ROH, Frank Jacklin ROH, Danny Callaghan ROH, Edward Venemore, Paul Jacklin CP,



Fred Hart & Doug Gravener, members of the Sandringham Lodge, No 10499, presented a £500 cheque to the Dersingham First Response, represented by Brenda Gezeb and Jo Furminger. Brenda thanked the members of the Sandringham Lodge for their most generous gift and went on to express her admiration for the work that the Lodge members strive for and their aims for the future.

John Evans



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The Sandringham Newsletter

by kind permission of the Sandringham Estate



With the arrival of warmer weather in mid-May, plants and flowers seem to have caught themselves up; swallows arrived and the first cuckoo was heard in the Park. The Farm department are embarking on the task of hand-pulling weeds, particularly docks, in the organic crops; they spread out from the headlands and conservation strips and have to be kept under control to prevent them becoming a major problem, since of course chemical weedkillers cannot be used in these areas.

The cool and dry conditions over the last few weeks slowed down germination of the farm's arable crops considerably, so some rain over the next month would be helpful. Rain would help the Gardens department too, who are having to irrigate some of the shrubs in the Woodland Walk, which is always a dry area of the gardens. Water from the Upper Lake, not from the mains supply, is used for this.

On the other hand, the Fruit Farm needs warm and dry conditions with no daytime rain for the next few weeks to encourage honey bees, bumble bees and other pollinating insects to keep flying; when the apple orchards were in full blossom the bee hives were moved among the trees to help with pollination.

Visitors to Sandringham House in April will have caught a glimpse of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, who as Patron was present at a lunch reception held in the Library of Sandringham House by the charity Livability. Her Royal Highness had a series of engagements in Suffolk and Norfolk on that day, but spent an hour at Sandringham meeting supporters and residents of John Grooms Court, a residential centre in Norwich for people with disabilities.

Finally, on 28th May the organist of Sandringham Church gave a recital at the church to celebrate the completion of restoration works on the 100-year-old organ. The recital was to thank parishioners and local residents who made donations towards the restoration by sponsoring pipes and by holding fundraising events during the year.

June has been a month of weather extremes – temperatures were recorded on the Estate ranging from 30°F to 89°F (-1°C to 32°C). Of particular concern were the very cold winds in the early part of the month; they meant that the displays of the purple rhododendron ponticum which are such a feature of the roads and tracks around Sandringham were over more quickly than usual, summer flowering plants in the Gardens were held back slightly, and pollination and fruit set in the apple orchards and blackcurrant fields may not have been as good as we normally be expected. Some visitors to Sandringham were also apparently deterred by the cold and windy weather, but with the return of sunshine people came in their hundreds to enjoy the Gardens, the House and the Museum (and an ice cream or two).

The Estate was very pleased to learn that the Sandringham Camping and Caravanning Club Site has emerged as the winner of Caravan and Motor Caravan magazine's 'Your Top 101 Sites' Awards for 2010. The inspectors described it as, "a natural campsite which has been established in sympathy with its environment and into which it fits unobtrusively." The site has also been given five-star status in the Club's "Loo of the Year Awards".

People who keep an eye on the Events Calendar page of our website may have seen the list of events undertaken by charities and community organisations in different parts of the Estate. As a small sample from the last few weeks, the 200 cyclists with the Teenage Cancer Trust passed through Sandringham Park and had a welcome pit stop there during the course of their 100-mile ride from Leicestershire to Burnham Deepdale; over 100 cyclists in rock 'n' roll-themed fancy dress took part in a sponsored cycle ride starting and finishing at the Sandringham Visitor Centre; and camps by both Boy Scouts and Girl Guides have taken place in Sandringham Park. The Estate



also welcomed a visit by schoolchildren, organised by the Country Trust, who were able to see some of the working areas of the Estate including glasshouses and kennels, as part of the Trust's work to promote understanding of rural communities.

Finally, late June always marks the arrival of the Horse Driving Trials in Sandringham Park. Over three days, competitors driving single horses, pairs and foursomes competed in dressage, a marathon course and a cone course – the driving equivalent of showjumping at a three-day event; the speed and precision of horses and drivers is an extraordinary sight, particularly through the obstacles of the cross-country section. Once the Trials are over, the mammoth task of preparing the Park for the Sandringham Flower Show on Wednesday 28th July begins; dozens of show gardens, hundreds of trade stands, and of course the keenly-fought flower and produce competitions will all be in place by the time the Show opens.□

Elderberry Juice

Here a recipe from my grandmother. She was a bit of a witch. She used to collect the elderberries for the following:

*2 ½ kg (5 pounds) Elderberries, 1 ½ kg (3 pounds) Sugar,
1 litre water (2 pints), ½ a lemon.*

Collect the elderberries when they are ripe (autumn). Wash them and take the berries of their stems with a fork. Put them in a pot and add the water. make sure they are all covered. if you need to add a bit more water, that is OK. Bring to boil and boil for around 10 minutes. Now put them through a sieve and press all the juice out. Add the sugar and the lemon to the juice. Bring back to boil and boil for another 10 minutes. Done.

My grandma always gave it to me, or to anybody else who came when we had a cold. You can drink it hot or cold. If you drink it hot, it is good to get rid of your cold and it warms you right through as well, it makes you sweat a lot. If you drink it cold, it is very refreshing but you may need to add water to your drink, depending how sweet you like it.

Elderberry juice cleans the blood and strengthen the immune system.□

Antje Franke



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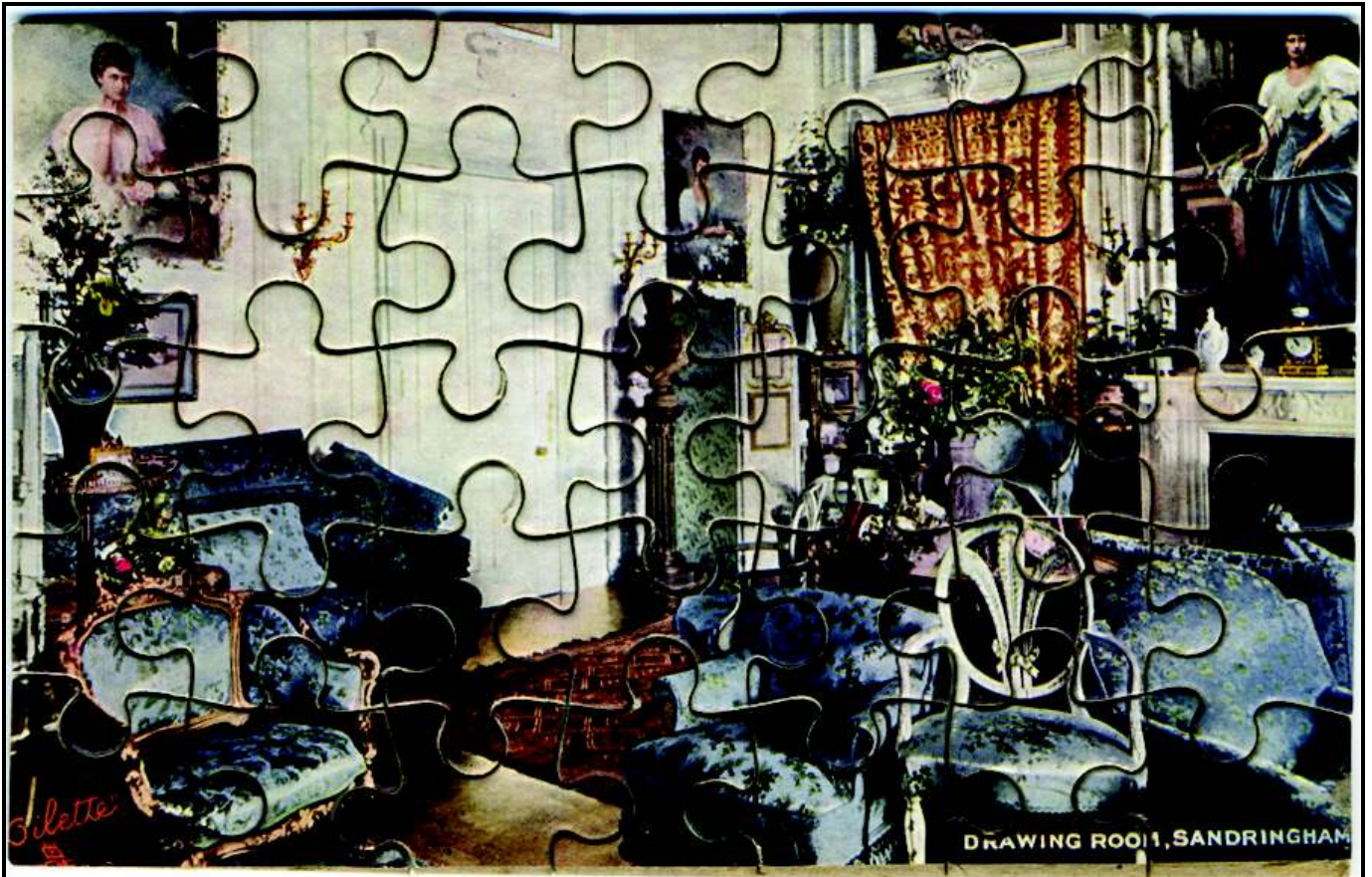
Old Picture Corner - now and then

Part of my ever growing collection of old things is a selection of "Oilette" postcards and amongst these is this jigsaw version of the Sandringham drawing room around 1910. Small and fiddly, it shows, when compared to the modern photo, much that is similar. However the picture over the fireplace seems to have altered in detail over the years, particularly in the shoulder area. Do any of you know about this picture?



The clock and ornaments look the same however and there is more carpet. The brown curtain has gone from beside the fireplace - a victim of central heating perhaps.

Ed.



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

Recipes from the Bluebell Cottage Kitchen

by Lindsey Davis

Delicious appetising meals for hot summer days or impressive picnics

Sausage & Pasta Salad

1lb/454g tasty sausages, 10oz / 300g pasta (spirals or tubes are best), 1 tin baked beans, ½ tsp mustard powder (or so according to taste), mayonnaise.

Fry or grill the sausages well until browned. Boil pasta as on packet and cool both. When cold slice sausages fairly thinly and mix into pasta with other ingredients, using enough mayonnaise to bind together. **Serves 4.**

Spam & Beetroot Salad

1 lge tin Spam, 1lb/454g beetroot (raw is best), 2 lge eating apples (gala work well), 4 lge tbsps mayonnaise, 4 lge tbsps plain yoghurt.

Cook beetroot – can be done in microwave 10-15 mins depending on size. Allow to cool, then skin and dice. Dice the Spam. Core and cut apple into small pieces. Mix beetroot, Spam and apple together in large bowl then add mayonnaise and yoghurt. Mix well. Serve with new potatoes and a green salad. **Serves 4**

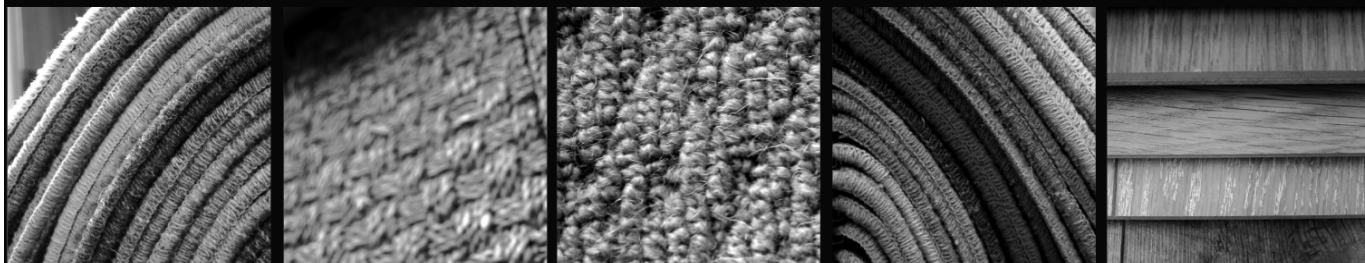
...and for that really sophisticated touch

Crisp Sandwiches

Make and pack your favourite sandwiches, (almost any savoury variety would be good), along with a packet of crisps.

Just before eating, gently prise open sandwiches, add a generous layer of crisps and squash back together again with a satisfying crunch. Delicious! **Serves as many as you can manage.** □

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DERSINGHAM WALKING GROUP

Twenty-two of us enjoyed the walk we had in May when Brian Payne led us along the bank of the River Ouse to the Point, through the RSPB reserve and then back on other paths to where we had left the cars in Crossbank Road. This was a part of King's Lynn which few of us knew and we had a mild, sunny and clear evening to enhance our enjoyment.



Unfortunately, the weather was not so kind for the evening walk at Courtyard Farm led by Christine and Geoff on 9th June. The seven brave walkers who took part found it wet overhead and underfoot: even the wild flowers looked forlorn! The rain did stop after half an hour or so and we felt that making the effort had been worthwhile. Perhaps the highlight of the walk was Geoff's confrontation with a Red Pol bullock. After a few seconds stand-off the bullock realised who was 'the boss' and took to its heels, so we passed through the field unmolested. We hope for better weather for our forthcoming walks and for our day-trip to Southwold.

The walks planned for August and September are:

WEDNESDAY 11th AUGUST

Start at 6.00pm from Brancaster church (map ref. LI 32/772 439). A 4 miles circular walk around Brancaster and Titchwell led by Elizabeth Fiddick (540940)

WEDNESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER

Start at 2.00pm from the lay-by on A148 opposite junction with B1440, west of Hillington (map ref. L132/712 153). A 4.5 miles circular walk around Congham and Roydon led by Keith Starks (542268)

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.

HELP! New Walks' Leader(s) Needed

One problem we have is that, because of other commitments, the current leaders find it difficult to lead walks on a **SUNDAY**. It will be a pity if we have no Sunday walks, particularly in the winter months, as this will mean that people who are working in the week will have little chance of joining us on our walks.

If there is anyone out there who would be prepared to lead the occasional Sunday walk (either am or pm), I should be delighted to hear from them and will give them any help they need with route planning, pre-walking the route, etc..

Please give me a ring at 542268 or email k.starks@btinternet.com

Keith Starks

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Old Girls Patch

by Meetze

I think I figured out why I did not get a tan the other day when I was sun bathing belly up. It is because I did not put any of that white milky looking stuff on. I saw my big friend rubbing it all over herself one morning and in the evening she had a light tan. I tried to get some out of that bottle, but it was closed and even my little spiky teeth did not manage to open that lid. Sidney helped. He was able to grab it with his teeth, but then he ran off with the whole bottle and my big friend chased after him. Gigggle. It looked funny. Now the bottle has little teeth marks all over. Stumps and Beauty missed the whole thing.

Oh dear, what is that box doing in the middle of the kitchen? That is one of our carrier boxes for when one of us is about to go to the vet. If we would go on holiday, all the boxes would be piled up, not just one. Who is the poor sod that has to go??? Not me I hope. I'd better hide under the settee for the time being. Grrrrr... Stumps is already there. She must have heard the box coming. Well, I will hide under the bed than.

Sid is being picked up and put in the box. Phuuuu. What a relief. And off he goes meowing loudly.

I think one of us is supposed to go to University. Sounds weird, I admit, but the big 2 legged ones are talking about PET DEGREE. It can't be Stumps, she is too old I would say and Sid is too young. That leaves Beauty and me. Hmmm. I have to keep my ears wide open for that. Don't really fancy going away and I definitely do enough typing as it is with my Patch. Nap time. Stumps and Beauty are already on the arms of the settee doing exactly that. Leaves the big middle seat for me.



Why the tomato's did not grow as they should have!

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TODDLER GROUP

5 2

Yawn, what is that noise waking me up?? Stumps and Beauty are looking up as well. Ah yes, it is Sidney in the box, just got back from the vet. And he has a ... yes, what ... looks like a lamp shade ... around his neck. Apparently he got done and chipped. What did he get done for? What has he done now??? Wrecked another plant and smashed the pot? That's called vandalising and is a crime. I remember him doing that a few weeks back. Must be that. And chipped??? Must be short for something else or I miss-heard and they meant chopped?? But he still has all 4 legs and 2 ears etc. Or they mean chips and Sid just pinched some food off of my big friends. Again!

Now Sid has been let out the box and he went straight to the window, bumping into everything on the way with that lamp shade. But he made it onto his little spot by the window and is now bird watching. There are a lot of those these days in the garden. Probably because we now have loads of restaurants for them hanging from the trees. □

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Dick Melton

About two months ago I was privileged to be asked by Bob Tipling if I would give a talk at one of the community lunches at the Dersingham Social Club. This I did and, as far as I know, it went down well. I spoke about Dersingham, past and present. What surprised me afterwards was the number of people who did not realise how many shops there were in the village when I was a boy in the fifties.

So when I got home I looked in a Kelly's Directory for 1925, and here is a bit about a lot of the shops in the village in that year.

In 1925 Dersingham covered an area of 3,573 acres of land and 8 acres of water -this being the drains and decoys down the marsh. The population in 1921, the year of the census, was 1,412; so if we say that in 1925 it had raised to 1,500 we will not be far out. That is about a quarter of what it is today (nearly 6,000).

Let's talk about those shops. There were three butchers, Mr Bird, Mr Terrington and Mr Lines; three cobblers or boot menders, Mr Riches, Mr Terrington, and Mr Senter; three bakers, Mr Playford, Mr Fitt and Mr Jarvis. Mr Playford also had a corn mill to grind his own flour; this is right up the top of Mill Road and the house is still there today. At one time there had been three corn mills in the village. Mr William John Ewer was a music seller, with a shop in Post Office Road; Mr King and Mr Reynolds were hairdressers and they were both still going strong when I was a boy; John Henry Drew was a saddler with a shop in Manor Road and, next to him, my grandfather had an ironmongers' shop, where he also sold paraffin. There were five public houses: the Alexandra Inn by the station, The Albert Victor, The Dun Cow (this was the old one as the new one was not built until 1938), The Coach and Horses, and The Feathers. There were two motor and cycle engineers, Mr Hyner and Mr Twaite. The grocers were Mr Cobbald in Chapel Road, Mr Linford, J W Parker and Son, and Mrs Senter. There were five other shops that sold a variety of other things, including a fried fish dealer in Post Office Road. Mr Walter Nurse was a coal dealer but when I was a boy there were three coalmen, Mr Nurse, Mr Bird and Mr Wilson.

The village also had a variety of tradesmen: William Asker was a carpenter; Frederick Linford was a house decorator; G Chambers and Sons were builders, as was William Walden; Reginald Terrington was a stationer and Henry Towler was a poultry farmer. If you wanted any parcels taken to King's Lynn, John Edward Wyer and Albert Ding were carriers and they went there Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, returning the same day. So you see, even in 1925 when there was only 1,500 people living in the village of Dersingham, there were a lot more shops and tradesmen than there are in the village today.

Dersingham Beach

I have often talked in Village Voice about the Shingle Pits and the old jetty down the beach, though they are both in the parish of Snettisham. As Bernie Twite says, we always called it Dersingham Beach. I have been trying to find out when the Shingle Pits were first used and when the jetty was built and I have come across a report in a book of the census of 1841, and it says that there were six barges laying off Snettisham with 36 men and boys on them. They had brought coal into Snettisham and they were now laden with chingle (shingle), so it looks like the pits were in use as far back as 169 years ago. I don't think the jetty is that old but it is now looking in a sorry state, as there is not much of it left. As Bernie said, there is very little access to the beach and foreshore these days. At one time you could go down The Drove next to Larringtons Farm (Marsh Farm), Wolferton, but not now as the gate is always locked. When the pumping station was first built they put in a parking area next to it, but now this cannot be used by cars, as they cannot get through the gates. If you go down Snettisham beach and turn left towards Dersingham, you get to another locked gate. People who live in Snettisham are able to gain access to this part of the beach as they have what is known as common rights to take shingle, shellfish and samphire, but most of the foreshore from South Beach, Heacham to Wolferton is under the control of the RSPB. So there goes our right to

roam. Not all the land down the marshes at Dersingham belongs to Sandringham Estate; some belongs to other landowners, but for the time being it looks as if it is all out of bounds to us common folk.

The duck decoy at Dersingham Fen

Now I am not going to talk about Dersingham Fen but I would just like to say a bit about the old duck decoy that is at the Wolferton end of the Fen. A friend of mine was walking over the Fen but he could not find the decoy so a few days later I went with him. We could not see it from the ridge with our binoculars so we walked along the old fire track until we found it hidden away amongst small trees and shrub. This duck decoy was created out of a bomb crater that was made by a bomb that was dropped from a Zeppelin on the night of 19 January 1915. This same Zeppelin dropped a bomb near Snettisham Church that shattered the east window. On the same night it dropped bombs on Brancaster, Thornham, Hunstanton, Heacham and King's Lynn before making its way back to Germany. On the night of 17 September 1916 another Zeppelin dropped a bomb on the green up Dodds Hill doing a lot of damage to some houses. At the time Queen Alexandra was staying at Sandringham House and the next morning the Queen's first thoughts were for the villagers at Dodds Hill on whom the bombs had dropped and she went immediately to visit them and to see the damage for herself. Afterwards she said, What an awful sight, everything destroyed inside and out.

After the First World War the crater made by the bomb from the Zeppelin was turned into a decoy with a wooden bridge and a hide, and was used by royal shooting parties for duck flighting. The bridge is now rotting away and the whole of the decoy wants a good tidy up. I have written to Ash Murray, the Fen Warden, to ask if he could do this and also put up an information board, telling people a little bit about the history of this duck decoy.

Royal Observer Corps

I have been doing some research into the local Royal Observer Corps posts. I know that we had one at Dersingham: it was located on the back road from Dersingham to Ingoldisthorpe, somewhere between Mill House and the old vicarage at Ingoldisthorpe. It opened in 1934 and was closed down in 1968. There were also posts at Brancaster, Docking, Hunstanton, Kings Lynn and Middleton. I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who knows more about the Dersingham post or anyone who served in the Royal Observer Corps. Well, that's all for this time.□

A few years ago I went along to an open day at the observer post, which had been bought by an enthusiast. We were allowed down in small parties, entering the bunker through the lid of the middle construction in the picture. Dark, damp and smelly and about 12 ft deep, it was never the less extremely interesting to visit. Equipped for very basic living, it was not, however, very homely.

From time to time after the bomb had gone off, observers would have poked equipment up the tube in the foreground to test for radiation. When it had

dropped to a "safe" level the crew of about 6 would have popped back up and set about dealing with the enemy or been turned into crisps.

Sadly the Health and Safety lot have now rendered such visits impossible. Ed.



DERSINGHAM DAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY



The Dersingham Day Centre closes for the summer holidays, i.e. from 21st July until the 1st September. We close for these few weeks each year but, thanks to the hospitality of Ruth Mountain, we meet up for one afternoon in August at her house. Members are taken for a tour of her lovely garden and then they enjoy afternoon tea and the chance to catch up on all the news. We have had a mixture of weather over the years but we have never let the weather spoil our fun and we are keeping our fingers crossed for a nice day this August.

Over the last few weeks in May and June we shared our Wednesdays with a family of Jackdaws who had taken up residence in the Church Hall roof. The noise the babies made each time their mother returned with food was impossible to ignore. When she left the nest all was quiet again but as she seemed to be feeding them every 15 minutes or so, their presence was very noticeable. No doubt they wondered what was going on down below them, as we can make quite a lot of noise too!!

We have now arranged for Gerald Warnes, Hearing Support Adviser, to visit every two months. He checks hearing aids and replaces batteries and deals with any problems. This is very much appreciated by those who have difficulty getting to the hospital or surgery.

In May Teresa English, who visits us several times during the year, came with a good selection of summer clothes for us to look at and purchase. She has a good and varied selection of items for ladies and gentlemen and we all look forward to her visits.

Ann Saunders (Chairman) and myself were invited to the morning service at St Nicholas' Church on the 16th May where we were presented with a cheque for £560. The money raised from the Lent Lunches had been divided between the Day Centre and the Phobbies. This was a wonderful gesture and one which we all appreciated.

The presentation before the service gave us the opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the past 6 months and, in particular, for saving the Day Centre by accommodating us in the Church Hall.

On the 6th June Ruth and David Mountain opened their delightful garden to the public. The garden was looking at its best after a good shower of overnight rain and, although it was a dull cloudy day, the attendance was excellent and the rain held off until just over an hour to go before closing. There were some lovely plants for sale and refreshments with a variety of delicious homemade cakes and pastries. Money raised on the day was for local charities and everyone at the Day Centre was delighted when we were lucky enough to receive a cheque for £145.

We held our annual Flag Day on Saturday the 19th June in the most awful weather - heavy rain and a strong cold North wind straight off the Wash - yet every collector turned up on time and did their turn. Despite the fact that we only had enough collectors to cover the morning, our total collection came to £387.20. - our best result ever thanks to the generosity of the people of Dersingham.

On the 14th July we are having an outing to the Ff olkes Arms in Hillington, where we are always made welcome and are given a very nice lunch.

The Members and Volunteers of the Day Centre wish all the readers a good Summer and we will be back with you in the Autumn.□

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DERSINGHAM INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL



At the end of a busy term and another successful academic year, we would like to say a big 'Thank you' to everyone in the community who has supported our school in so many ways. It is really appreciated by the staff, children and parents.

Here are a few 'snippets' of what we have been doing recently.



Yellow class plants are looking really healthy and well looked after!

Red class have been busy learning all about life-cycles.



Blue class have created 'Dolphina' Island - Well worth taking a look.

Green class have made lots of important decisions as they invented their own environmentally friendly island making lots of important decisions!



DERSingHAM METHODIST CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL

The 120th Anniversary of Dersingham Methodist Church was celebrated with the annual flower festival. This year the theme was 'A book of many colours' and the twelve arrangements depicted Bible passages and events in which different colours are mentioned. The flowers and words reminded us of the wonderful variety and beauty of God's creation.

We were pleased to have a colourful picture display from the year 5 children from St George's Junior School Dersingham, who also opened the flower festival on Thursday morning with several songs about colours. The children of Dersingham Infant and Nursery School drew pictures and made models to illustrate the Feeding of the 5,000 and the colour green. They also entertained us with singing on Friday morning, which was much appreciated by those present.

The church hall was very busy with people enjoying coffee, lunch, tea, as well as the stalls – cards, Christian books, jewellery, bric-a-brac, cakes and plants. Comments made were 'beautiful displays'; 'you are the only festival that always have a Biblical theme'; 'you can feel the fellowship and love in this Church'. We were blessed with a great team of helpers who enjoyed the fun and fellowship as well as working hard. The helpers met every day at 9.30 a.m. for prayers before the start of a busy day.

The Sunday morning service was led by our minister the Rev Kim Nally, and in the evening we met at Hunstanton Methodist Church for a circuit service. Some of our members joined the West Norfolk Circuit choir for a performance of 'Hopes and Dreams', with the offering for LWPT.

The flower festival raised £2,340 which has been divided equally between The Ocean Stars

Trust Sri Lanka who work in areas devastated by war and the tsunami; the Hope Centre project in Straupe, Latvia, part of the Methodist Church of Latvia, where the women's hostel supports unmarried mothers and their children; and our own Church funds to purchase copies of Complete Mission Praise.

At the end of the festival we were tired but delighted to have met so many people and shared God's riches of colour and creation. □

Elizabeth Batstone



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Lavender Lace Makers

Our 4th Lace Day



On May 22nd 2010 about 60 lace makers met at St. George's School hall with their lace pillows. It was a day to meet old friends, exchange ideas and have a chat and, yes, we can make lace and chat at the same time. We served refreshments all day and had some lovely home made cakes and scones, made by friends and family. We, being my friend Barbara Merrick and myself, Barbara Lake (known as the two Barbaras) decided to try a lace day five years ago while at a similar day in Wymondham and, as it was such a success, have done so each year since. With ticket sales and raffle, donations for refreshments and a team of ladies selling pieces of material, books etc., we raised £631 for the Dersingham First Response Team and a had a very enjoyable day too.

There were lace makers from Norwich, March, Saffron Walden and places in between and one very good friend came from Germany. We are part of a small group of lace makers who meet once a fortnight at St. Cecilia's Church and between the seven of us have over 100 years' experience in lace making. The pictures show a display of some of our work and a section of the hall on that day. We could not do it without our team of helpers on the washing up and serving in the kitchen, also people to do the raffle etc. We are now getting ready for next year, May 11th 2011.□

Barbara Lake

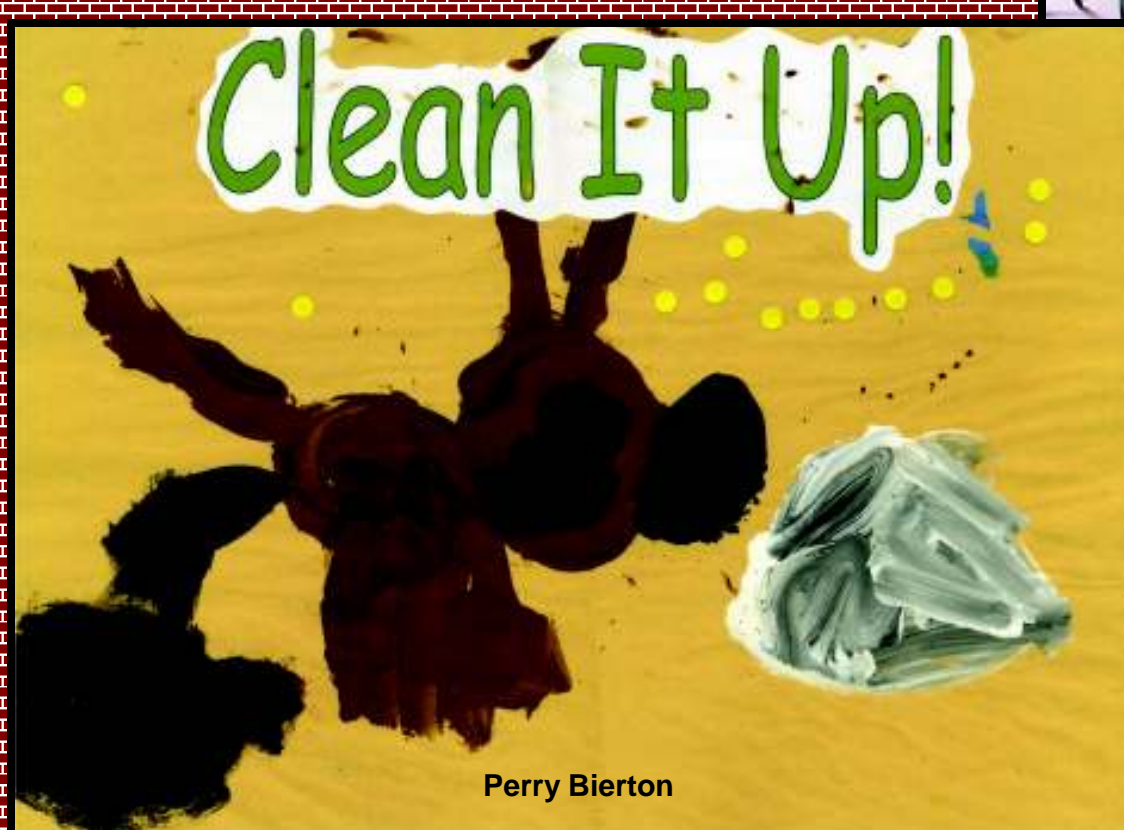




Eleanor Howson

The Environment Committee of the few problems that seemed to be inc fouling, litter, more recycling etc. Th schools to help advertise the problems children at the schools. Both head te very enthusiastic about the idea. The amount of entries and the standard c judging took place at the community l the Parish Council. Everyone that stickers on their favourite posters and by having four clear winners. Eleanor Bierton age 5 and Kelsey Buttery age

The winners will be receiving prizes were kindly donated by the business a



Perry Bierton

Poster Competition

The Parish Council needed to address a problem increasing in the village – parking, dog mess. The committee decided to ask our two teachers, Mrs Pope and Ms Platt, were asked to run a poster competition for the children. The Parish Council were astounded by the level of understanding of the problems. The lunch on 13th May which was hosted by Mrs Pope, was attended by the children and voted by putting up the posters. This made a very interesting outcome. The winners were: Howson age 6, Milli Butler age 7, Perry age 10.

The posters were displayed at the schools prize giving day. Prizes were given by the Parish Council and organisations of the village.



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Two Art Exhibitions

ART 21 Art Exhibition

Local art group Art 21 who regularly meet on Monday mornings at the Scout Hut in Dersingham is having a ONE DAY show of their work at the Feathers Hotel on Sunday 15th August.

We will be open all day including the evening and will be showing around 50 paintings, mostly views of the local area which will all be for sale at reasonable prices. We will be pleased to meet local residents who may recognise some local beauty spots! Open from 10.00a.m.- 10.00p.m. More info from Jill Ilett 545798.

"A View by Two"

An exhibition of paintings by Dersingham artists Jill Ilett and Michael Smith is to be held at Brancaster Staithe Village Hall on 24th - 31st August. 10- 5 Daily.

Jill Ilett writes -

"I first met Mike when moving to Dersingham and joined the local art group ART21. We both realized we had a lot in common and approached our work via a keen interest and dedication to the English landscape tradition. Reality and the world around us inspires us to paint.

We both come from teaching backgrounds which clearly reflects in and influences the way we approach our work. After many years exhibiting in Brancaster Staithe I have invited Mike to join me to share a week of showing our work to the many visitors that are in the area at this time of year. I hope that the residents of Dersingham will be able to come and view." □



Dersingham's Lavender Field by Jill Ilett

DERSINGHAM GUIDES DOUBLE CELEBRATION

Over sixty Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, Young Leaders and adult leaders and helpers past and present came together in the Scout & Guide HQ on Friday 25th June for a double celebration. Last September, when they had launched their Centenary celebrations, everyone helped to make a special Centenary Flag, which had been designed by Guider, Elizabeth Wheeler. The reverse of the flag has felt stars with the names of every member who attended the event.

This Friday saw its dedication by Rev Michael Brock, of St Nicholas Church. The short service was introduced by Guide Leader, Jeanette Lister and included two songs, a reading by a leader, prayers and blessing.

Chairs and mats were then cleared to enable everyone to enjoy the 80th Birthday party for the 1st Dersingham Guides who had opened on the 25th June 1930, making them one of the oldest Guide units in the area.

Everyone who attended made a commemorative birthday badge, designed by one of the Guides, as well as enjoying party games, food and birthday cake.

Contact for any further information - Jeanette Lister (Guide Leader) - 01485 542483 □



Questions that need Answers

Why is dyslexia such a hard word to spell?

What do occasional tables do the rest of the time?

Where does your lap go when you stand up?

If laughter is the best medicine why don't they put joke books in doctors waiting rooms?

Why do we hang things up when they obviously hang down?

Why don't we see the residents of Coronation Street *watching* Coronation Street?

Why, whenever I decide to wind the clock, is one of the hands always over the hole?

And finally a musical question, Was Handel a crank?

BB

Open Gardens – 30th/31st May 2010



Mill House

I look forward to our Annual Dersingham Open Gardens on the Sunday and Monday afternoons of Spring Bank Holiday and this year's event was certainly no disappointment! For a single payment of £3 one could visit eleven very contrasting gardens across the far reaches of the village, ranging from the unbelievably spectacular, often with windy and undulating pathways though to the small, believable cottage gardens that left you inspired and feeling *"I could perhaps manage something like that!"* The courtyard gardens

of Hanover Court were also available to view and a visit to the Methodist Church Flower Festival, on at the same time, rounded off the experience.

I was privileged to be able to take a couple of stewarding spells up at the Mill House garden, opened for the first time this year with its spectacular views across to Sandringham and the Wash, quite apart from the garden itself that still includes the foundations of where the old mill once stood. I simply told visitors that were impressed by what they perceived as my domain that *"I just come here for weekends!"*

Refreshments and a display of work by local artists were on in the Church Hall, and all in all £1,700 was raised for St Nicholas Church funds with over 450 visitors enjoying a village event of which we can all feel justly proud.

Steve Davis



and a garden opener reports...

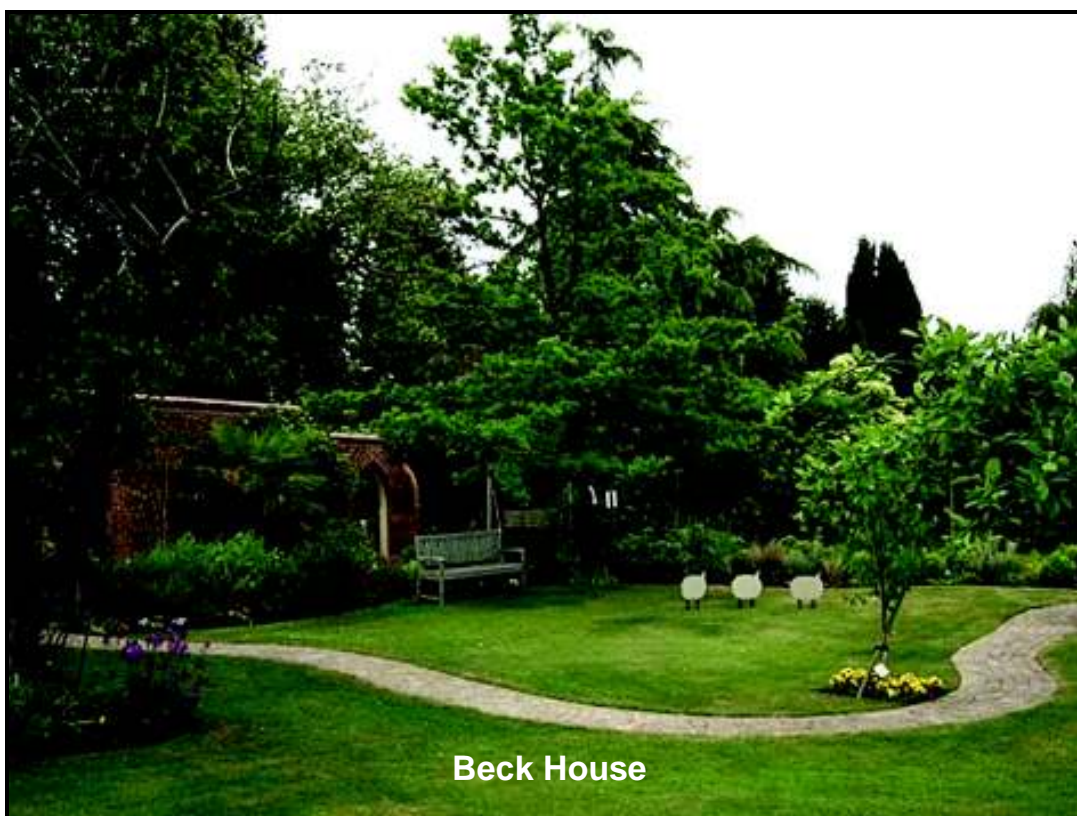
After 106 visitors through Beck House's garden on Sunday, despite intermittent blustery showers, Sue and I took bets and thought we'd be lucky to have 50 or 60 on the Bank Holiday. How wrong that proved! With the final couple coming through ten minutes before the close we topped 150. And the sun only really began to shine very late in the afternoon.

One couple from Downham Market not only visited



8 Hunstanton Road

Dersingham's gardens, they had done Sedgford's the day before. 'We like to see what other people do with such varying gardens,' they said. 'We get ideas for our own.' I know what they mean, particularly over plants. My embarrassment was not knowing the names of several plants that attracted interest. Memo to myself: bone up if we ever do it again. For the record to so

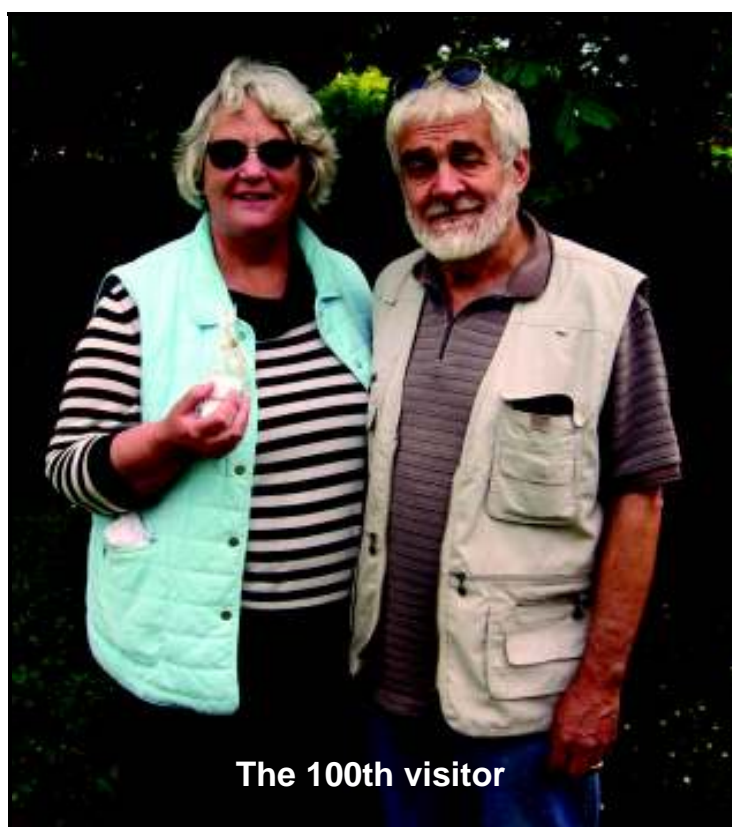


Beck House

many who asked, the yellow-flowered wall shrub is a Fremontodendron.

Another plus was discovering more about our house and garden. One visitor remembered Miss Beck, daughter of Frank Beck, the Sandringham agent who lost his life at Gallipoli in 1915 and after whom our house is named. She had at one time also lived in a house in Fern Hill. Each weekday morning she would catch a bus from the village to go and work in Tuesday Market Place in Lynn. Another recalled the Isherwoods, who lived in the house until the 1950s.

We have two oak trees in our garden. One, a pin oak, by the Chapel Road boundary wall, we planted in 2004, the other was in the garden when we arrived. We learnt that it came to the garden as a seedling about twenty years ago, given to the previous owners by another Chapel Road resident, who visited our garden on the Bank Holiday. Happily it is thriving.



The 100th visitor

About 4 p.m. on Monday we realised our numbers that afternoon were fast approaching the century. Sue produced a prize and soon afterwards marked the arrival of Mrs Avril Almey from Snettisham who came with her husband Bob, as our hundredth visitor of the day.

The plus of opening one's garden – if others are thinking about doing so next year – is having the spring bank holiday deadline to get things done. The only drawback as far as we could see, is not having time to visit the other ten on this year's list. But there's always next year.

Ion Trewin

Contact the editor if you would like to open your garden next year.

DERSINGHAM SCOUT & GUIDE ANNUAL FETE-19TH JUNE 2010

One of the regular village events took place on Saturday 19th June with the Annual Dersingham Scout & Guide Fete and Grand Raffle. This event has been a fixture for many years and although the Carnival Floats had to be abandoned in the late 90's due to insurance and vehicle problems the event has continued to flourish, taking place in and around the Scout & Guide HQ in Manor Road.

The terrible wet and windy weather this year did not dampen spirits and the afternoon was a great success. Traditional games proved popular, coconut shy, roll-a-ball, fishing for ducks, hoop-la, target game, marbles-in-the-pot, guess the name etc. There was also the perennial greasy pole as well as badge making, face painting, Tombola and roll-the-10p. In the HQ, teas, strawberries and cream and ice creams were available. All the Scout & Guide groups participated and they would like to especially thank the following organisations and individuals who run stalls for the benefit of the Scouts & Guides: the Dersingham WI who ran and provided many of the cakes for the Cake Stall supplemented by other generous donations, Jackie Burrell and Brenda Gibb who ran the plant stall and St Nicholas Church who provided a "Guess the weight of the Cake" game.

The Grand Raffle took place just after 3pm with over 50 prizes provided by local businesses and individuals. Money raised was just over £1,040.00 which will be used for continued maintenance of the HQ.

This year the event had a special celebration when Rodney Saunders received a presentation from HQ Committee Chairman, Brian Greenacre. Rodney was retiring after 30 years of service to Dersingham Scouts. He began as a parent helper and then moved on to be Assistant Scout leader, Scout Leader and Group Scout Leader. Rod received an engraved Tankard and "suitable" bottle and the good wishes of all present.

This year's event would not have been possible without the hard work and enthusiasm of the unpaid Unit leaders & helpers, committee members, parents, friends and the Guides and Scouts themselves. Despite the weather problems the afternoon was full of fun and laughter, the key elements of Scouting and Guiding.

Volunteers and helpers are always needed to ensure the continuation of the groups.□

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The annual canvass for the Register of Electors begins at the end of August, when a form and reply paid return envelope will be personally delivered to every property in West Norfolk. Completion and return of the form is both obligatory and important because the Register is used not just for electoral purposes but also by many financial service providers dealing with, for example, mortgages, loans or new accounts. Anyone whose name is not on the Register will not only be unable to vote at the coming Borough/Parish Council Elections but will also be likely to have problems using any service that involves a check of the Register.

The form is intended for the present occupiers of an address. The name of anyone expected to be resident at the address on 15th October and who is already 18, or will reach that age by 30th November 2011, needs to be on the form and the names of anyone no longer at the address crossed out.

Forms received by owners of properties which are either already empty or are expected to be so on 15th October simply need the "Property empty on 15th October" box ticking and returning. This will avoid the issue of reminders.

In the event of any queries when the form arrives, householders can telephone 01553 616773 and any of the electoral staff will be glad to help.

Early return of the form or, better still, confirmation by freephone, internet (if you have a Community Information Point in your village a terminal is available there) or SMS (details on the form) will avoid the need for reminders and help to keep costs down.

The Old Biddie and her cottage garden. Valerie Anckorn



I'm writing this during May, with a bluer than blue sky behind the wonderful, ancient, horse chestnut trees in the garden opposite my office. The 'candles' are reaching up into the air full of joyful promise, and collar doves are courting on the telephone wires, then flying up high into the branches of the trees. One of the trees contains a cackle of crows. (I don't know the official name) They are quite a roisterous bunch, and I love to see them wheeling and arguing across my garden, high in the sky. Conkers have bounced off the road and taken root. I've left a couple to grow, and maybe one day, in a few hundred years time, someone else will be admiring them. The rest I have uprooted, and will be replanted elsewhere – but not in the garden, they grow too big.

So, I cast my mind ahead to the month of July and the beginning of August. What will be happening in the garden then? Maybe it will be looking a bit dry, if we have had a good summer. I've never seemed to

be able to plan ahead to get flowers all the season through. After May and June, things seem to go a bit quiet on the blooming front. I must do something about that. I'm aiming for more chrysanthemums and Michaelmas daisies next year, and with a garden in progress it can't all be done at once. I sowed lots of seeds in trays in February but they took an awful long time to germinate. I don't have a greenhouse (other than a £20.00 polythene affair) but they struggled along and at least I shall have some asters, Livingstone daisies, Cerinth etc. to grace this month in the garden.

Perennial catmint, purple geraniums, and delphiniums have finished flowering now. If you haven't already, cut them back and they will flower again for you. Don't be too harsh with the clippers, though.

I've given up trying to grow vegetables. Out of the entire broccoli seedlings that I planted, only one remained, and that was protected by a rose bush. I watched it as it grew, and was looking forward to cooking the one branch that it produced, only to find that Crow, my lurcher, had beaten me to it. He had uprooted it (probably with a thorn or two in his nose) and eaten it raw. What with him, the wild rabbits and the deer, it's a wonder I have anything growing in the garden at all, but luckily, it still looks a picture.

I was cajoled into entering my garden into the open gardens slot at the May bank holiday weekend. This made me put a spurt on! I usually leave the weeds, finding them just as attractive as 'proper' flowers, and just hoik them out when I feel the urge, but what with writing this column and then opening my garden, I felt obliged to make some effort. I found the easiest way was to widen the beds, making a nice neat weed free edge. Hopefully any grass and weeds in the middle were not so noticeable! Cheating? No, of course not. If there is a simpler way to do things, I am the champion. I thought I would have plenty of time to get the garden in order, but rain was the first hurdle, making the soil too tacky to manage, and then the heat baked the soil too hard! Being a fat old biddy, I melt like a blancmange in the sun, and just can't operate. Some of you have seen me digging at five or six in the morning, when it is cool and shady. Much more acceptable.

In the end I roped in a couple of fit young ladies to help me who told me they never get tired....I can't remember a time when I'm not tired – ah, the joys of youth, eh.

Apparently my garden was once the village pond. Has anyone any photos? Digging through lumps of black clay are the bane of my life, maybe I should start making some pots out of it.

If your other half, like mine, is not keen on DIY here is another handy tip. Fed up, because I had no brackets put up on the walls to hang



my flower-filled baskets, I ended up hanging them on the trees in my garden, and also over my picket fence. Actually, they look lovely and I think more attractive. There is always an alternative solution!

Since we have been here I've been taking photos of progress of both the house and the garden – which is a good thing to do, because one does forget what things looked like before. I was astonished when I looked at the photos taken two years ago when the garden looked bare and uninteresting as well as full of builders rubbish, and it has changed so much, now being calm and beautiful.

I shall have to slap our Editor's wrist, as he didn't tell me about working to a theme of herbs in the June issue, with perhaps a nod towards witchcraft. Editor, you have missed out there!! Since I was eighteen people have crossed the road to avoid me because of my ability to sometimes see into the future. I've even written a book about all the amazing phenomena I have experienced. It's called 'The Magician's Daughter – a Modern Mystic's Journey of Discovery'. If anyone is interested in getting a copy, just give me a ring – I have plenty of them as I acted as publisher/distributor too – don't get the book through Amazon, as they will contact me anyway and then I will have to pay postage to them and so on. It's a good read, looks good on the coffee table and makes a lovely gift. Discounts to all Village Voice readers. And if you want a gypsy palmist for a fete, an interesting speaker, a healer or a one to one reading, here I am, with my turban waiting on the table. (01485 543280)

My sorrow about having a honed sixth sense is that people misguidedly associate this with dealing with the devil, making one feel very much an outcast. I personally feel I have a gift from God, and I am often able to help people because of it. The Bible makes many a mention of seers, prophets, healers, astrologers and so on, so how come down the ages such people have been much maligned?

But, lets get back to cottage gardens, where all the wise women would have tended their plants to make medicines, simples and cures in the old days. The Witch Finder General had a field day discovering so called witches in their cottage gardens and targeted East Anglia in particular. Everything that grew within



the gardens would have had a purpose: the roots, the leaves, the oils, the petals – all can be helpful, even the poisonous when the proper dosage is realised. Digitalis (Foxglove) is poisonous if eaten, yet made into a draught of the correct quantity helps heart disease. Everything has a use and it is a shame that much of these country remedies have been swept under the carpet and mainly forgotten but I guess being burned at the stake causes some forgetfulness!

Have you tried making tisanes (an infusion or herbal tea) from the herbs in your garden? You can try anything – a mixture of lavender, rosemary, thyme, for instance, with a spoonful of honey added to sweeten is quite delicious. Just put the leaves in a teapot and pour on boiling water, leave for a little while, just like you would a pot of tea. You don't need many leaves – adjust until you find the quantity you like. And it's *free*, as well as better for you than manufactured stuff.

I planted three silver birches in my front garden. Two close together and the other a little distance away. As I did this, I wondered if the 'lonely' one would grow more slowly than the two 'friends' together, then told myself off for being fanciful. As it happens, the pair have come into leaf before the solo one, and have also grown taller. So, flight of fancy, coincidence, or can trees (plants etc.) be lonely, happy or miserable?

I *always* communicate with the occupants of my garden. I don't feel it necessary to talk out loud to them but I always compliment them on their appearance, go out daily to see how they are doing, and thank them for being beautiful and I am sure that they respond to this kind of arrangement. I mentioned the 'plant murderer' in my last column, and how the other plants reacted when the 'killer' re-entered the room. If plants can react in that way to cruelty, then how

much better they must bloom to kindness and love.

As I continue my writing it is now June and we have been having a lot of rain. Well, not good for holidaymakers, but lovely for the garden – I can almost hear greedy slurping from the flowerbeds.

I had a new box flowerbed installed to retain a bank at the back of the property. I decided to go for an orange and russet theme (my favourite colours are usually purples, pinks and blues). The shed in the back garden is black with orange stained window surrounds, so the colour scheme seemed appropriate. I found some wonderful brown iris, and some peachy ones, plus lots of foxgloves in peach hues. Already it is looking wonderful, with the other flowers I also planted.

I have been looking forward to my new David Austin roses – yellows and oranges to match the colour scheme in that particular corner of the garden. To my annoyance one of the roses I planted has blossomed red. That is going to totally ruin my colour scheme... These roses are not cheap, but I thought I would treat myself – but do you know, at Wards Nursery at Ringstead, you can purchase David Austin roses, and they are far cheaper than sourcing them direct!

I haven't seen the big rabbit in the front garden for some time. My neighbour (with whom we share the rabbits) told me that she had chased it down the road. Good for her and I am mighty thankful. It must have given the bunny such a fright so hopefully he won't come back again.

A 'may bug' zoomed in my bedroom window the other night. It sounded like a helicopter. Do these things bite, or sting? I googled (what fun googling is) to discover that their proper name is a cockchafer, sometimes called a Billy-witch or around Norfolk, a sprang beetle. They are harmless to humans, but not to your plant life and they cause considerable damage to plants and crops.

It seems the female lays about 60 to 80 eggs in the soil and the grubs hatch out after six weeks and feed on plant roots, including potatoes. They develop for six years (yes six years!) still underground and eating the roots of your prize specimens, then pupate in early autumn and develop in some six weeks. They over-winter deep in the soil and work their way upwards until they zoom out in the springtime until July. I once dug up some of the fat horrible looking pupae, well over an inch long, not knowing what they were, and now know they are the may-bug babes (called rookworms). My other neighbour squashed them with her shoe, and I am jolly glad she did! I don't like killing things, as I feel they are all part of the grand scheme of things – but I object to huge maggot-things eating my precious plants, so any more I find I will suitably despatch.

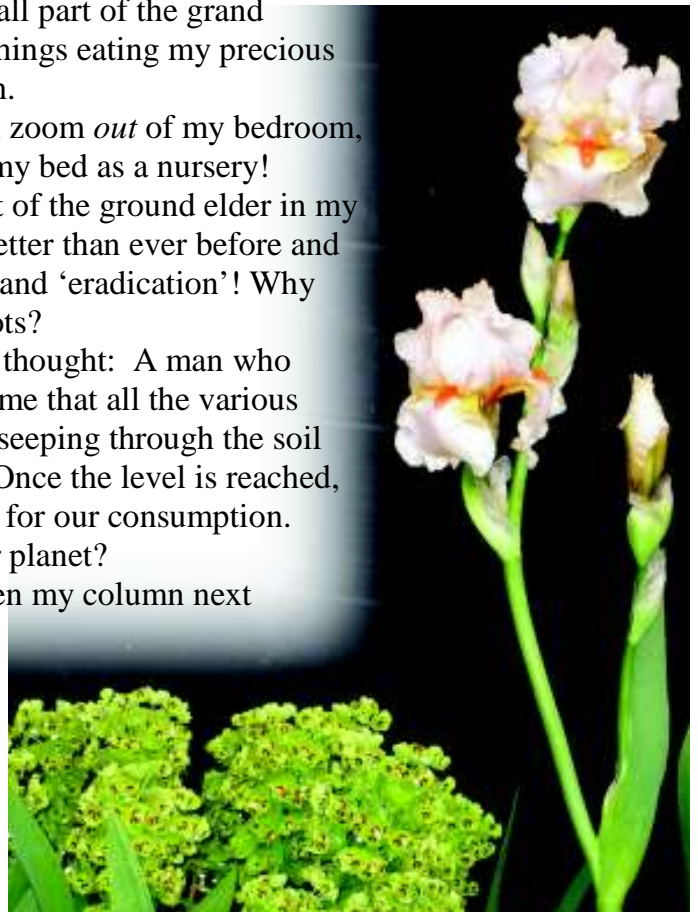
What worries me, I didn't hear the Billy-witch zoom *out* of my bedroom, so I hope it's not deciding to use the dust under my bed as a nursery!

By the way, I mentioned I had eradicated most of the ground elder in my garden. Ha! What a fool, me. It's flourishing better than ever before and apparently is much refreshed for all that digging and 'eradication'! Why don't the rookworms attack and devour *those* roots?

I like to get people thinking, so here's another thought: A man who dealt with well water from the council once told me that all the various poisons (weed killers, pesticides etc.) have been seeping through the soil for years and are now very near the water table. Once the level is reached, chemicals will be needed to make the water pure for our consumption. As I have said before – what *are* we doing to our planet?

Enjoy your August/September garden and when my column next appears it will be the sad time of the year when the leaves have turned colour and are falling and we know that it won't be long before winter is on its way.

As I write I have the heating on in June...□



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The Dersingham Weather

observed by John F. Murray



When I wrote my last article I was fairly hopeful that the summer would turn out to be a reasonable one but my hopes were dashed as May was a very hit and miss affair. We alternated between reasonable, promising days which came to nothing as the thick clouds rolled in. However May followed the same trend as the previous months in that the mean temperature was lower than the previous May but the highest temperature recorded was actually higher. May last year averaged 13.3°C with a high of 23.7°, whereas this year the mean was only 11.4° but the high was a very warm 29.4°. That was recorded on 23rd during one of the sunny spells that petered out. I also recorded the last below zero temperature overnight on the 12th when it fell to -0.8.

Although we had plenty of cloudy, even heavily overcast weather, the rainfall was low. The rainclouds passed us by without leaving much precipitation for the garden to thrive on. We had only 22.8mm this May, compared to 59.9mm last year.

July looked very similar to May at first with bright spells being overtaken by heavy clouds coming over and spoiling it. Once again the clouds failed to produce much rain; they simply kept the temperatures down and then went away.

Then we got to the summer solstice and it all changed. Prior to the 21st June the temperature had been pretty mediocre at roundabout 18° but on that day it jumped to 24° and steadily increased until on 27th we had the hottest day of the year, so far, at a very warm 30.9°. It was also very humid which made the temperatures seem even warmer. June this year was definitely better than last. We achieved 29.8° as the highest last year. The average temperatures were also up this year with an average of 16.1 compared to 15.6 last June.

I have already said what a dry May we had and this was the same for June. We had only 35.6mm this year compared to 49.3mm last year and 57.7mm for June 2008. However this trend was, in general, reflected around the country with the threat of a hosepipe ban in the North West, one of the wettest areas in England.

So what about global warming? 'Everyone' predicted that our summers would be warmer and drier and the winters to be colder and wetter. This year, so far, we could possibly nod in agreement with that statement. Certainly my records look like that. But how long do you have to keep records to really know the answer. In the greater scheme of things accurate meteorological records haven't been kept for very long. Accurate instruments for measuring temperature and air pressure are a relatively modern thing. It is the cause of global warming where opinions differ. Is it down to man or is it a naturally occurring change?

What do you think? Some opinions of mine and some facts in future articles. □

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More about herbal magic

Wendy Jilley

Just to let you know that the medicinal use of herbs is still alive and kicking in Dersingham! I was unaware that the theme of last month's edition of the Village Voice was going to be herbs, potions, and witches – otherwise I would have contributed then. I am lucky that I have a chance to contribute in this way – in the old days I would most likely have been burnt at a stake for being a witch!

I have been working for over 20 years as a Medical Herbalist, and for the last few years working in Dersingham from James Kemp's osteopathic practice in Jubilee Court. I remember as a child being taken out on nature walks by a favourite teacher, and doing a project on wild flowers one summer holiday, which I think is where my interest first began. My interest was renewed

when many years later I was working as a temporary secretary in London for a womens' magazine when someone wrote in wanting to know more about natural medicines and was given the address of the School of Herbal Medicine in Tunbridge Wells. I decided at that time to do their one year course, to learn more about how to use herbs medicinally to treat myself and my family, and following that I decided to continue by transferring onto the 4 year course to become a professional Medical Herbalist. It was quite a gruelling course, we had to learn the basics of anatomy & physiology plus other subjects such as dermatology, gynaecology, pharmacology, nutrition & dietetics, etc. as well as having to complete 100 hours of seeing clients at a student training clinic under supervision. I was glad that I had studied Latin at school a long time ago, because we had to learn all the Latin names of the plants, and sometimes now I will remember the Latin name but forget the common name! When I treat patients, I mainly use herbal tinctures, which I buy from a supplier, and then choose which ones to use out of over 100, mainly European herbs, that I keep in stock, and may use up to 10 different ones in any one medicine.

We still use a lot of herbs – or weeds - that were used in the old days as herbal remedies – dandelion, for instance (called 'pis-en-lit' in French, or 'wet the bed'). The leaves have a diuretic effect – good to use in salads in the Spring, but maybe don't overdo it if you eat it in the evening! I often use dandelion leaf tincture in a medicine for somebody with high blood pressure, as not only does it have diuretic effects but it also replaces the potassium that is often lost with orthodox diuretics.

Stinging nettles are still used a lot today in herbal medicine – they used to use these externally in the old days to whip people with who had rheumatic joints (rather sadistic, you might think...) –



but the purpose was to cause counter-inflammation which would serve to reduce the joint inflammation. Nowadays, we tend to use nettles internally – and yes, you can make nettle tea, or nettle soup, or use them as a substitute for spinach. They are good internally for any joint problems, also have an antihistamine effect and are good for hay fever, as well as for skin problems, and are high in iron and calcium.

Elderflower is another common remedy that is all around me as I write – in fact, I have today just bottled up some



elderflower champagne – supposedly non-alcoholic but I do remember taking some to a class I was teaching a few years back for people to sample and I did wonder... I have since concluded that it is non-alcoholic when first made, but this may change as it matures! People may prefer the champagne, or cordial, but it is the tea that has the main medicinal effects, since the volatile oils are released upon immersion in boiling water, although I have heard of people pulling the blossoms off the trees to eat there and then and getting relief from hay fever.

And then there are the culinary herbs. They don't have much effect medicinally when sprinkled into food, but they will do if you drink them regularly as teas. Rosemary, for instance, used to be used by the ancient Greeks to help them study for exams – although apparently it worked by entwining it in the hair...and it is associated with memory – 'rosemary for remembrance', often being sprinkled on graves. We still use it as a circulatory stimulant, which is especially good for improving the circulation to the brain. Garden sage is another herb I use a lot – this is good as a gargle for sore throats, having antiseptic properties, and it also has oestrogenic effects. As a tea it will help to reduce sweating and is a good herb to use for menopausal hot flushes, and is supposed to promote longevity. And then there's thyme – a powerful disinfectant and used mainly for throat infections and asthmatic conditions. And, of course, parsley – full of iron and vitamin C, good for flushing out the kidneys, and good for disguising the smell of garlic on the breath. Garlic, of course, is an excellent remedy for all sorts of problems since it has antiviral, antibiotic and antifungal effects, and can also lower both cholesterol and blood sugar levels.

You may have seen the recent television programmes about making natural home remedies, which hopefully will stimulate peoples' interest in using herbs and natural products to care for themselves, however a few words of warning – it is wonderful to pick your own herbs, and make your own potions, but do be careful – make sure you can correctly identify what you're picking, as some similar looking plants may be poisonous, don't pick them near a busy road or a field where they may have been sprayed, and – if you are attempting to treat yourself for anything more than a minor condition - it may be better to seek professional advice. □

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Greetings from the manse

Two psychiatrists were at a convention. "What was your most difficult case?" one asked the other. "Once I had a patient who lived in a pure fantasy world," replied his colleague. "He believed that a wildly rich uncle in South America was going to leave him a fortune. All day long he waited for a make-believe letter to arrive from a fictitious attorney. He never went out or did anything. He just sat around and waited." "What was the result?" "It was an eight-year struggle, but I finally cured him.

And then that stupid letter arrived...."

Well, we Methodists in the area have been working towards a new reality for the past couple of years, namely the beginning of a new circuit for West Norfolk, comprising the former Downham Market, King's Lynn and Hunstanton Circuits. The churches will extend from Hunstanton to Southery and from Burnham Market to Terrington St. Clement. In all there will be 26 Methodist Churches (one being a Local Ecumenical Project) and 740 members and thousands of folks on the community roll, which means people who have some link with the Methodist Church.

The West Norfolk Circuit will have a staff of 5 full time ministers, 6 retired ministers, 2 Lay Workers, 52 Local Preachers, 4 Local Preachers in Training and 11 Worship Leaders. We will have the customary Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Meeting, and more committees and meetings than you can shake a stick at! Methodists really are quite methodical!

All this sounds, I hope, quite impressive. However, it will be an illusion, a pure fantasy if we think this will solve every problem and difficulty for churches, communities and societies. It won't. But we know that finding faith in God and receiving the love revealed in His son, Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord, is the place to begin to find, forgiveness, peace and life. As we testify to God's grace through personal experience, we trust that our plans and reorganisations will be blessed and make us more committed and effective in the proclamation of the Good News of God's love and peace.

We ask for and value your prayers at this time of change and discovery for the Methodist people of west Norfolk.

With every blessing,

Kim Nally.



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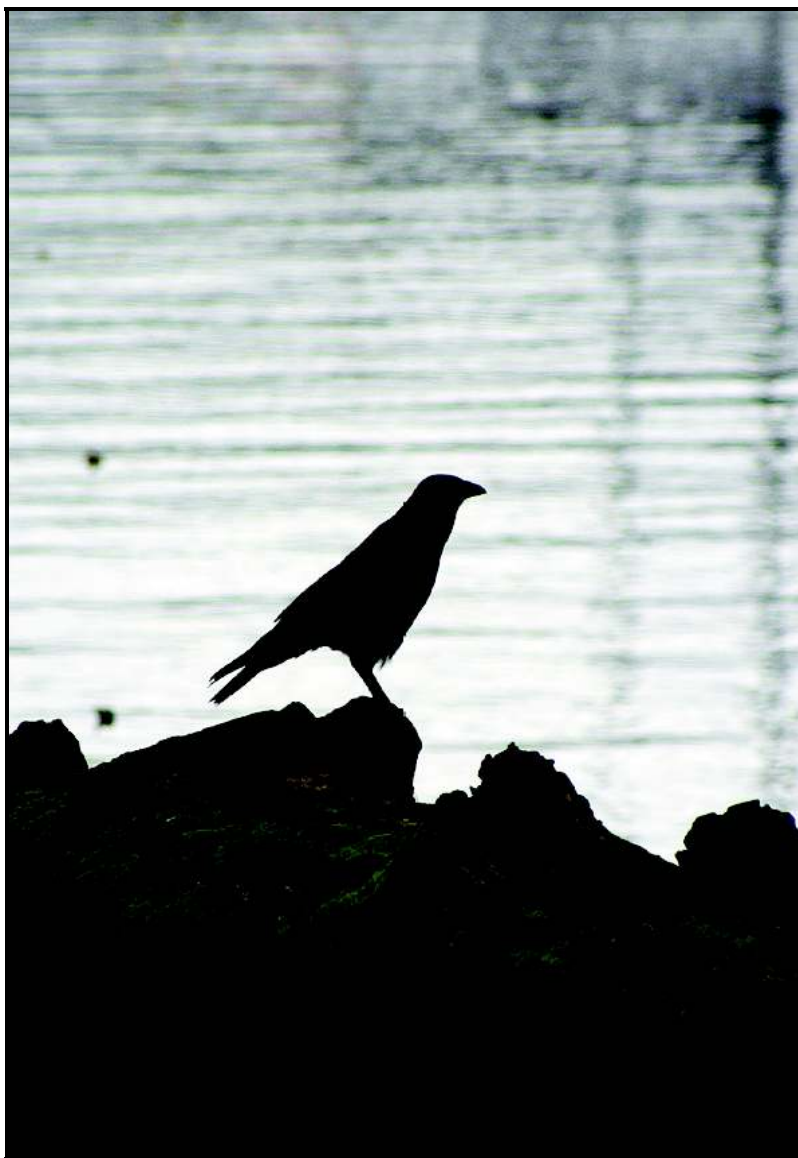
David Bingham

The Observer's Book of Birds

I'm sure that I'm not the only birdwatcher of my generation whose childhood interest in birds was fired by thumbing through an old copy of 'The Observer's Book of Birds'. It was one in a series of small books about things you might 'observe'. I could have developed an interest in ships, aircraft, automobiles, flowers, trees, dogs, cats, horses, cacti, stars or any number of observable things. But I only ever opened the book on birds.

The book was illustrated with reproductions of wonderful miniature paintings - about the size of a commemorative postage stamp - showing the birds in their natural habitats. Half were in colour and half in black and white. I can remember my surprise when I saw my first crossbill and discovered that it was red. I would never have guessed and imagined them to be a drab brown colour. I'm fairly certain that I didn't read any of the words in the book except for the birds' names. My copy had been well chewed by my terrier and I'm not sure whether the words were all that legible after this gnawing.

Modern bird books are much better than my old OBB and nowadays every feather on every bird can be studied in detail. There is also a whole range of CDs and websites to help where birds can be seen on film or listened to singing or calling out in alarm. Having said this, there was one thing the old OBB did that modern guides and computers don't do. The link between the birds and the special places in which they lived was conjured up by the details in the little pictures. The background to the paintings showed deep dark woods, mist-covered mountains, sea cliffs above a



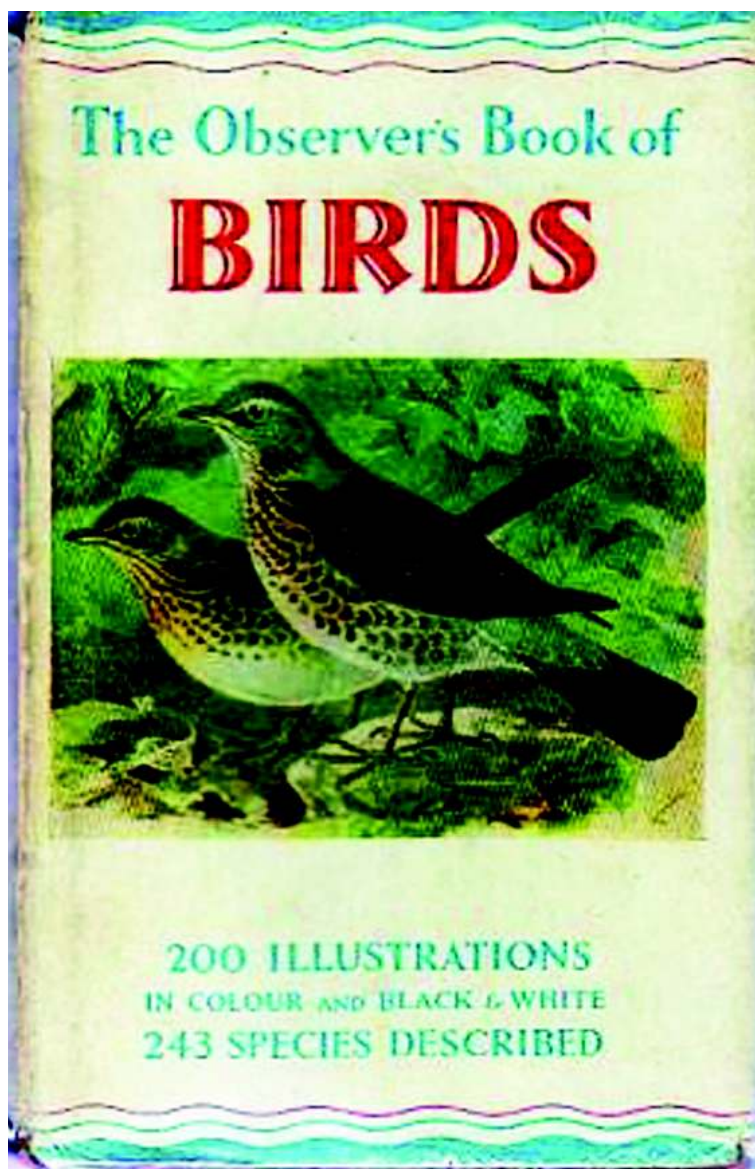
blue sea, sparkling upland streams and wide sandy beaches. I've very much enjoyed visiting these wild places and my first sighting of a particular species has often been uncannily similar to the illustration in my OBB. My first peregrine was perched on a sea cliff in west Wales at a place that looked very similar to the picture in the book. I also saw choughs on the top of the cliff, pied flycatchers in a sessile oak wood and red kites above a raised bog during the same trip in places very reminiscent of the images from the book. Whether it is memories of seeing golden eagles in the Cairngorms, dippers in the Derbyshire dales or ravens on a Cornish moor the connection between bird and place is always important to me and I put this down to the OBB. It also probably explains why I never go twitching because rare birds are lost and I would much rather go and see them where they belong.

I still believe that this view is mainly correct and it matches modern ideas about protecting habitats, however, I do see things slightly differently now. To begin with, travel has broadened my horizons somewhat. The sight of dozens

of barn owls catching mice alongside a dusty road in California one hot evening loosened the connection I had made between this species and snow covered English churchyards. The eighteen ospreys soaring over a fishing pool in the Everglades also broke the link between osprey and remote Scottish loch. Some species have a worldwide distribution and can survive – and even flourish – in unexpected places. I once saw a grey wagtail by the little waterfall behind Burton's in King's Lynn. The OBB shows a grey wagtail on a rock in the middle of a mountain stream and I would normally go to places such as Dovedale to see one rather than a busy shopping centre. Peregrines are also seen with increasing regularity in King's Lynn - proving that the tall building opposite Netto's is as attractive to them as the Pembrokeshire cliff where I first encountered one of these amazing falcons. Bird distributions are also changing in response to changing climates. The OBB did not have a picture of a Cetti's warbler but just last night I heard the explosive call of several of these recent immigrants from the south at the Titchwell RSPB reserve.

There is another group of birds that I always associated with remote locations in the north and west that are now spreading eastwards. Ravens are breeding on the white cliffs of Dover and buzzards are a common sight in Norfolk (I saw three yesterday on a drive to Norwich). Their success is down to successful species protection or reintroduction schemes. During the depth of last winter, I walked across a snowy field in Northamptonshire to see the marvellous sight of scores of red kites returning to roost. These birds were from a joint Forestry Commission/RSPB reintroduction scheme but wandering red kites are being seen with increasing regularity in Norfolk. I'm sure it won't be long before they become a common breeding bird in this part of the world.

I still have two birds to see to complete my OBB list - the white tailed eagle and the storm petrel. Storm petrels are tiny fragile looking birds that spend their lives far out to sea only coming to land to breed. I believe that the OBB pictured one with its legs dangling just above a storm tossed ocean. The storm petrel represents my old way of thinking and to see one I will need to arrange a trip to one of a handful of small islands off the Welsh or west Scottish coast during the breeding season. I will never see one around Dersingham. White tailed eagles are different. They were persecuted and exterminated in Britain during the early years of the twentieth century. Adding them to a book of British birds fifty years after they disappeared was an act of wishful thinking. They represent my modified view of birds and the fact that they have been successfully reintroduced to the Hebrides where they made their last stand in the early 1900s does not mean that this is the only place where they belong. I seem to recall the picture in the book showed one standing on a cliff looking out to sea. It could just have easily have been shown flying over a fen in eastern England.□





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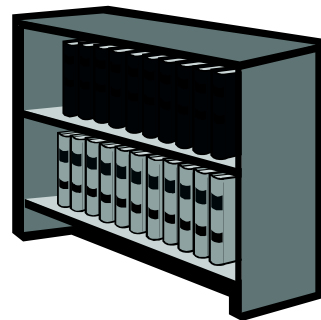
Dersingham Library

What's On at Dersingham Library

Official Space Hop Reading Challenge launch

Monday 19th July 5.00-6.00pm

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Space Hop around the Universe

10.30am – 12.00noon Monday 16 August

Find out more about the planets. This event is aimed at 7-11 year olds

Doctor Who Night

Thursday 26 August 5.30 – 7.00pm

Quizzes, games, make your own Dalek and Tardis models. This event is aimed at 7-11 year olds.

Space Hop Medal ceremony

Thursday 9 September 5.30pm – for those who have read their 6 books for the Summer Reading Challenge

We now have two reading groups which are open to new members

The Crime Book Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm, and will be meeting on July 13th, August 10th, and September 14th.

Our other reading group meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6pm on July 20th, August 24th and September 28th.

From September we will be running a 6-week course for complete internet beginners. If you want to know more, please ask library staff.

By popular demand our Thursday storytime for pre-school children will start again in September. Watch this space for more details or ask library staff. □

Alison

THE COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME IN DERSINGHAM

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GLIMPSES OF LIFE IN A NORFOLK VILLAGE

By Maggie ©20.6.10

A MAJOR SCANDAL!

'The Major' as he was simply known, was a force to be reckoned with in the village. Local parish councillors dreaded his appearing on their doorstep or turning up at meetings, for they knew it wouldn't mean good news. The local paper was well-used to receiving one of his lengthy letters, and his headed notepaper elicited groans from the editor when yet another three page epistle landed on his desk. He was outspoken, often to the point of rudeness, and seemed to think that his rank and age entitled him to be like this, no apology or explanation needed. Nor would it be given even if asked for; The Major rarely apologised, everyone knew this.

So, there was no-one more surprised than Phoebe when she found herself on the receiving end of a rather blustering apology from The Major. He'd turned up unannounced and uninvited on her doorstep one Saturday morning, and if there's anything Phoebe dislikes, it's visitors of this kind. Not that she's the most sociable of beings, at times she tends to retreat into her cottage and won't be seen for days, and rather like The Major, she never feels she has to explain herself. It's just Phoebe, she values her time alone and guards her privacy. She's never been fond of The Major, sensing that beneath the well turned out exterior was a man who was both a bully and a coward at the same time. Having been married to a bully in uniform she knew the signs, but kept her views to herself. Their paths crossed at village events and that was all.

So there he stood on her doorstep, holding his tweed cap in one hand, using the fingers of the other to smooth down his moustache just as Phoebe opened the door. A bit embarrassed at being caught sitting preening, he coughed rather louder than intended, startling one of the cats beside

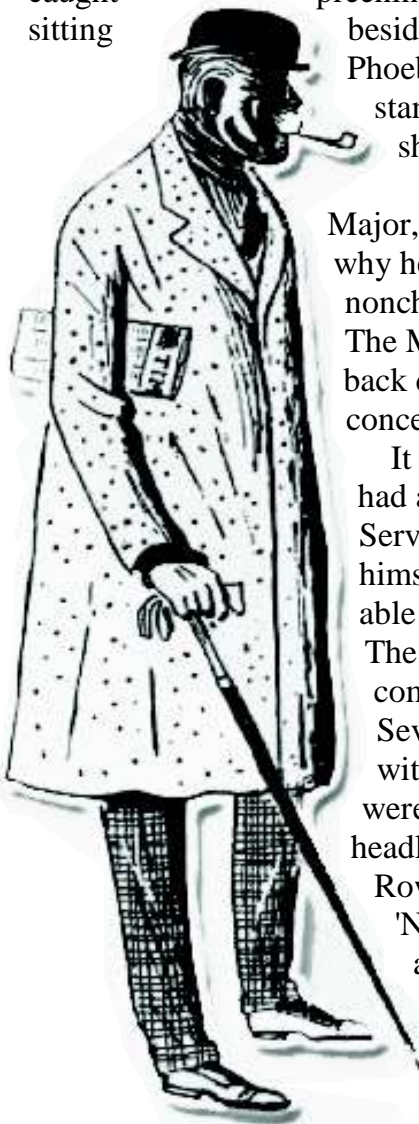
Phoebe, almost as if guarding her. Phoebe had an inkling as to why he was standing there, but wasn't about to make life easy for him, not at all. So she

stood and stared at him, one eyebrow raised quizzically, waiting. The Major, on the other hand, was also waiting for her to help him out and ask why he was there. Seconds dragged by, each looked at the other, the cat nonchalantly washing itself as if it hadn't been scared half out of its wits by The Major's loud cough. Neither spoke, until in the end The Major had to back down and be the first one to speak, and as far as Phoebe was concerned, since he was the one in the wrong, that's as it should have been.

It had all begun a week previously, when an old friend of The Major had arrived, unexpectedly. It seems Rowley was doing a tour of all his old Service comrades, one last visit whilst he was still capable of driving himself, with no particular plan in mind, which was why he hadn't been able to give The Major any warning. The two went to the pub for lunch, The Major looking decidedly uncomfortable, not his usual loud self many commented later, but hardly surprising they added.

Several drinks were downed before the food arrived, a bottle of red wine with the meal, a couple of brandies afterwards, and the two old comrades were very relaxed. The Major still had the look of a rabbit caught in car headlights and it wasn't long before his worst, hidden fears were realised.

Rowley began reminiscing, loudly. The Major kept trying to shush him, 'Not so loud old chap!', but Rowley had a good head of steam built up and away he went. Out came The Major's indiscretion with the CO's wife, the bounced cheque scandal, posing as an officer and a gentleman to help relieve a wealthy widow of some of her cash, the bullying of female recruits, and the final misdemeanour which led



to his being discharged.

It didn't take long for the gossip to get around the village, this time not aided by Elsie, the purveyor of local news; it seemed to have a life of it's own, sadly for The Major. Phoebe heard about it, even though she hadn't left the house due to a bad head cold. One or two friends had popped in to make sure she was all right, telephoning her first of course, and all had told her about how The Major had been well and truly embarrassed and not shown his face in the village since his friend left four days ago. As soon as Rowley's car left the drive, The Major apparently scuttled back inside like a frightened animal as Elsie put it in the village shop, where she had hastened after witnessing this.

And the reason for the visit to Phoebe? He had gone to apologise, for giving the wrong impression, not exactly lying to anyone as he put it, but just not correcting them when they assumed he was entitled to the rank. But it was, after all, how he had introduced himself when he first arrived in the village wasn't it? asked Phoebe. 'Force of habit m'dear' he replied, still standing on the doorstep having not been invited in, as expected. It had just 'slipped out' when he introduced himself in the pub for the first time, and since then, he'd been The Major. 'I know I should have put it right' he said to Phoebe. 'But you know how it is, the longer this type of thing goes on....' 'Type of thing?' asked Phoebe. 'Oh, you mean deception?' Here The Major issued another of his coughs. 'Quite, yes, sorry' and once again a silence descended.

By now Phoebe was beginning to get rather bored, so she hurried him along. 'So what exactly are you doing here Major, sorry, MISTER isn't it?'

'Just came to apologise, say 'sorry' for not being honest from the start. Bad form I know, no excuse, sorry' and with that he turned on his well-polished brogues heel and began to walk away. 'I suggest,' shouted Phoebe, 'that you apologise to those who are interested or who were taken in by you in the first place. I don't fit into either category. Good day,' and with that she closed the door firmly and went back to her cosy fireside and her book, which coincidentally was Roger Moore's autobiography, 'My Word is My Bond'. As she looked at the title of the book, and thought back to her visitor, she couldn't help but laugh out loud, once again disturbing the rather skittish cat.

DISCLAIMER... Any resemblance between characters in the story and people with similar names, is purely coincidental.

Village Voice Sudoku 13

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



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Freedom From Doggie Dirt

© Hugh Mullarkey July 2010

Those of us who own no dog
Should acknowledge some who do
Who when their doggies defecate
Always scoop the poo



Praise to those with plastic bag
From Sainsbury's or Tesco's
Always pick the deposits up
When their doggies go alfresco

They recognize that doggie dirt
Wherever it is piled
Puts at risk the health and strength
Of O.A.P. and child



Let's acknowledge those who play
By the proper set of rules
Rather than the folk who give us
Nowt but doggie stools

If you own a canine consumer
When you need to dispose of its waste
Please use the bins provided
To avoid an unhealthy disgrace

For this specimen of poetry, which was commissioned by our noble editor, we must thank the
Double F and Double D* Association.

*(See title of Poem.)

According to the 'Telegraph Weekend' Sat. June 19th 2010 in an article entitled 'Making poop-scooping easy' there is apparently a product that is most useful to pooper-scoopers. It is called the dickybag. Please refer to www.dickybag.com. According to the Telegraph an owner of a dickybag describes herself as a 'Happy user of the product.' Our thanks to the Daily Telegraph.

Norfolk Churches Trust 27th Annual Sponsored Bike Ride (and Walk)

This will take place on Saturday 11th September 2010. Neil Adams and Steve Davis hope to be involved again this year and would welcome any offers of sponsorship, however small, as well as hearing from others interested in taking part. The aim is to visit (by bike or on foot) as many churches in Norfolk as you care to from a list approaching 1000 between the hours 9am and 5pm. Proceeds raised by each participant are split between their nominated church (in our case St Nicholas) and the Norfolk Churches Trust Fund at large. Whether you aim for a leisurely half dozen visits or a record breaking three dozen, it is a very enjoyable event and the hospitality shown by many of the churches onboard is most appreciated.

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NEWS FROM ST CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Spring lunchers

We held our Spring Lunch on May 27th, when twenty eight members of the parish enjoyed a three course lunch with wine, cooked and served by the social team. A good time was had by all, including the cooks.

Our Strawberry Fair on June 26th was a great success, raising well in excess of £800 for church funds. We very much appreciate the support given to this event by the village, and greatly enjoy welcoming visitors to our church and grounds. Having had a wet day for this event last year, we were especially grateful for some fine weather on the day, which had a very positive effect on the number of visitors.

On July 10th two young men from our diocese are to be ordained priests at our Cathedral in Norwich. A number of us are going to the Cathedral to support them on what promises to be a very special occasion.

During July and August there is an extra Mass at 6pm on Saturday evening, at the Catholic Church in Sandringham Road, Hunstanton.

We are always happy to welcome visitors to our services, whether from the local area or from further afield. Refreshments are served after the 9am Mass at St Cecilia's (next to Budgen's) on the first Sunday of the month. We also have a friendly and informal gathering after the 10.15 Mass on Wednesdays. Do come and visit – we'd love to see you.□



Strawberry Fair Tombola



Holly and mum Bozena at the strawberry fair.

Scrappy Cat Crafts

From 1st July the popular arts and craft shop, 'Trimbles', in Lynn Road, Snettisham, has changed hands, and is now known as 'Scrappy Cat Crafts'. The new owners are art and craft enthusiasts and intend to develop the business by extending the range of products on display and introducing a full internet mail order service, 'www.scrappycatcrafts.co.uk'.□



Giant Red Mustard

THE GARDEN FARMER -DIG FOR THE FUTURE

Bryan Beers

At this time of the year even the keen vegetable gardener can feel somewhat overwhelmed by the amount of the things going on in the garden. But don't give up yet, the Autumn will come soon enough and then you will be able to slow down. This month we should be spending a lot of time weeding and harvesting. Writing this at the beginning of July there has been little rain for the last month and the garden could do with a good soak; fingers crossed that there is no hosepipe ban. August and September are the months when our gardens are at their most productive so we should enjoy them while the summer lasts.

It can be hard to judge how many plants of each crop we are likely to need at any one time. With some crops it is not too difficult; potatoes, for example, can all be set in the spring and once harvested are relatively easy to store. I make two sowings of carrots, one in the early spring for a summer crop and a larger sowing in early summer to give enough carrots to last from autumn to late winter.

With faster growing crops the only way to keep a constant supply is by successional sowing; that is to sow a small quantity at regular intervals. Lettuces and salads are classic examples. I'm sure most veg growers, myself included, have at one time planted a couple of dozen lettuces at the start of the season, tended them carefully, watched them grow with anticipation and pride, only to arrive at a week in May or June when there is more lettuce than we can possibly eat; two weeks later what we haven't managed to give away has gone past being edible and we have to go back to the supermarket for our salad. If you think about how many lettuces you will realistically eat in a two week period and sow that many every couple of weeks, plus just a few more in case of failures, you should be able to keep yourself well supplied for eight or nine months of the year.

Oriental salad vegetables are good crops for successional sowings. These are members of the brassica family, as are cabbages and sprouts, and should be included in your rotation. From early spring to late autumn they can produce fabulous crops of lush spicy leaves in as little as four weeks. They are great either for salads when small or for stir-frying as they mature. Some of the most popular are Pak Choi, a crunchy succulent plant with a sweet and mild flavour; Mizuna which has a slightly stronger taste and dramatic serrated leaves and Giant Red Mustard which produces a large amount of hot peppery purple and green leaf. From late winter onwards I make a sowing every couple of weeks starting in module trays so that they can be planted either in the greenhouse or outside with a piece of fleece over them. Once the soil has started to warm in the early spring they can be sown thinly into the ground. They need plenty of water, particularly in summer, or they can run to seed quickly.



Pak Choi



Mizuna

Fast growing crops such as radish can be sown among steadier growers to make the best use of space before those plants reach full size. Similarly beetroot, kohlrabi, turnips, spinach, rocket, peas and spring onions are all well suited to successional sowing.

Once the weather starts to cool things don't grow so fast and sowings can be made less often. It is still not too late to be sowing and planting some of the winter crops including planting kale and spring cabbages. Some varieties of lettuce and the oriental salads, rocket, spinach and chards are hardy and can be sown now for growing through the winter under fleece or in the greenhouse.□

SJP

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The Great Flood 1671

Elizabeth Fiddick

One of the pleasures of living here in West Norfolk is the closeness of the sea. It is a constant delight to walk the coastal path, enjoy the salt marshes, linger on the beaches and watch the birds as they wheel and soar above the waves. The sea is our friend but one that needs to be respected. Alfred Tennyson wrote of the sea in summer, "*drawling up the beach, brushing the shingle with coquettish lips, so gentle, so harmless.....*" But he warns in winter when it, "*is cold and grey, when fishermen stand helpless on the beach besides their little boats and the wildfowl chatter uneasily.....come back then and see how dreadful is the change from meekness to ferocity.*" The people of this part of the world have witnessed this ferocity on many occasions throughout the centuries. In 1236 the chronicler Holinshed wrote of a great tide that pounded the East Coast. "*It washed up the ocean in such tremendous waves that the banks gave way and the whole country lay completely exposed to its awful fury.*" He described how shipping was damaged, trees uprooted and countless flocks of sheep and herds of cattle perished. Houses were destroyed and complete beaches washed away. He records that in one village, "*there were buried one hundred corpses in a day.*" In 1287 more than a hundred people were drowned in Hickling when a storm blew up in the middle of the night. Men, women and children were drowned in their beds. Even those who had escaped and tried to save themselves by climbing into trees were soon overcome by cold and fell into the water.

A violent hurricane blew down part of Norwich Cathedral in 1362 causing considerable injury to members of the choir. Norfolk marshland suffered great damage in 1613 when according to the historian Dugdale there was "*a dreadful inundation of the sea on 13th of November.*" The collapse of the sea bank at Terrington was total and the small town suffered great losses. A bridge was shattered, over 2000 head of livestock drowned, 480 acres of land sown with corn were swamped and 13 houses ruined. In Walpole the sea bank was breached in twenty places and the total loss suffered by Norfolk Marshland was calculated at £37,000. In 1619 there was an appeal for the fishermen of Southwold whose harbour had been severely damaged by the violence of the sea. We all know the story of Dunwich now a very small village but once East Anglia's first capital city 1,300 years ago. It was a wealthy town only a little smaller than Ipswich and it had 52 churches, religious houses, Chapels and hospitals. There was a King's Palace, a Bishop's seat, a Mayor's mansion and a mint. There were windmills and countless fine houses but all have long since disappeared. Over the centuries the sea has taken them all.

The last church to be claimed by the sea at the beginning of the twentieth century was All Saints. It stood a lonely ruin on the edge of the cliffs for some time but could not defy the power of the sea for long. Some say the muffled ringing of its bells can still be heard above the sound of the wind and waves. In 1703 seven ships were lost in the Wash and 20 men perished during a storm that was described at the time as the worst hurricane ever known. Daniel Defoe wrote of it and recorded that boats were lifted out of rivers, carriages blown into fields, warships destroyed and 8,000 people killed. £1000 worth of damage was done to buildings in Lynn and the roof was torn off Ely Cathedral. In 1757 a herd of cattle was swept away on a high tide at Ingoldisthorpe. The currents off shore were notoriously dangerous and for much of the 18th century a pilot boat patrolled the sea off the coast of Ingoldisthorpe.

Dersingham had faced the power of the sea on many occasions but it was in 1671 that the courage and resilience of the villagers was most severely tested. At this time the population of our village was about 400. The people for the most part lived in small carstone cottages along the present Chapel Road and Manor Road but there was a group of houses around the site where Budgen's now stands that formed Gelham Manor. Another cluster would have been found near The Feathers which, with the Manor House that once stood in the old school playground, formed Pakenham Manor. There were a few cottages on Fern Hill and another group up the top of Doddshill so that the total number of dwellings was around 73. The largest house would have been the Pell's Tudor house standing in the pastures behind the present bowling green. The Great

Barn in front of the church had just been completed for the date stone bearing the inscription July 31st 1671 is still clearly visible. It is also possible that some of the dwelling we now know as Jannoch's Court had been erected and as 1671 is also the date given for the building of Westhall Manor this could also have been underway. The community consisted of a few yeomen farmers, some skilled tradesmen, one or two shopkeepers and a large number of agricultural workers. The economy of the village was founded on sheep and corn.

The waters of the Wash had been much nearer the village in the past. There are documents from the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries that record the granting of fishing protection to Dersingham men. Another writes of "*two ships of Mark and Adam made for fishing in the port of Dersingham*" Alan Lawys of our village was granted a licence for a "*dogger*" a two- masted Dutch fishing boat by Henry VI. However by 1671 the sea had receded and from Life Wood through to Badger Fen by our present round-a-bout and down to the Wash stretched the Great Marsh. This land, which had once been under the waves, now afforded rough summer grazing for the flocks and herds of animals. The ancient cliff line can still be detected as the land rises behind the village and the arable fields stretch away in the distance.

During late August and early September of 1671 the weather had been very unpredictable. There were long periods of stormy rain and high wind that had the villagers complaining just as we do today. It certainly made life difficult for the farmers but it reached a peak on or about September 12th. The strength of the wind increased, and the tide rose so high that it swept over all existing sea banks and made huge breaches in the defences such as no-one could remember in their lifetime. Freebridge Marshland was under water, huge numbers of livestock perished, and winter fodder was ruined. Ships were wrecked in the Wash and roads near the coast destroyed so that communications were disrupted. Everyone turned out to fight the sea but with little more than just shovels, carts, wheelbarrows and their own muscle power there was only so much they could achieve against such ferocity.

Our Parish Register records the disaster like this. "*The fflood was on the twelfe day of*



All that remained of Gelham Manor - part of the moat - before the area was levelled and sown with meadow grass. It would be nice to restore this historic feature.

September on the year of our Lord one thousand six hundrede seaventye and one, All the generall marshes in Dersingham and also the common marsh there were overflowed by reason the tyde did come over the tops of all the banks. And after made severall breaches of the said bankes.” The record then states that such an event had not been known for fifty or sixty years. Several cattle perished on the Common marsh but no human life was lost. However some cottages were flooded and it would seem to me that those most at risk would have been the homes around Gelham Manor. The Manor House stood in the open fields at the back of Sandringham view and part of the moat used to be visible until the building work started. I have wondered if it was because of these floods that the old house was abandoned and later demolished. The record continues *“This flood was allonge the sea coast then it continued for two days.”* and goes on to record that one villager John Chamberlaine with others had worked valiantly *“gitting out of cattell the said two days.”* It is not so difficult to imagine the sound of the rain, feel the strength of that wind, and imagine the struggles of the villagers.

There are some in our village, like Dick Melton who remember the dreadful night of January 31st 1953 when the wind and tide combined again to bring utter disaster to the area. The waters of the Wash came up to the old railway station and many lives were lost in Snettisham, Heacham and Hunstanton. So in 1671 when the danger had passed and the village could relax everyone must have felt a great sense of relief that no lives were lost and thanks to the efforts of John Chamberlaine and others much had been saved. The register ends with a request that the Clarke of the Parish of Dersingham *“might yearly and every yeare on the 12th day of September sing to the praise of the Lord the nine and twentieth Psalm; to that purpose to put the inhabitants of the same parish in the mind of the mercies of Almighty God.”* Three verses of the hymn are then printed and the entry ends, *“This is desired by me John Chamberlaine the older, one of the inhabitants there September 12th 1671.”* So ended those traumatic few days. In the N.W. corner of the church, covered over at the moment, is the tomb of John Chamberlaine who died in 1737 aged 76 years. He would have been 10 years old when he helped his father at the time of the Great flood. He was an old man of 74 when once more on February 16th 1735, *“the very same accident happened”*. In 1971 the village held a flood festival to mark the tercentenary of the Great Flood. The Lynn Town Band played in the church, and a discotheque was held in the church hall. A “jamboree Turkey lunch” with a speaker was arranged and a special children’s event was held on the Saturday. On the Sunday, the exact anniversary, there was a Festal Eucharist of Thanksgiving and Festal Evensong. John Chamberlaine would have looked down with much approval. □





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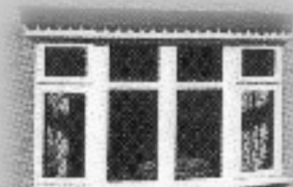
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HUNSTANTON LIONS CLUB.

It is with great sorrow that we have to report the death of fellow Lion, Brian Nobes. Brian was a very active Lion for many years and will be greatly missed by all.

With over half the year already passed by we've had a very good 2010 so far. Just last month we held our annual "Fun Day" at the Fair. This is the day where we entertain well over 100 disadvantaged children to a day out at the Funfair, finishing with a "Fish and Chip" lunch. As always we thank Henry Roper, Fred and

Chadwick Pooley and their team for opening the Fairground especially for us and not charging a penny for the day. We also thank the proprietors of the Fish and Chip shop who supply all the food at cost. This year we also thank the Borough Council for arranging passes to the Car Park for the coaches and the cars of the carers involved. It is a most enjoyable and satisfying day for all concerned and always a highlight in our year.

We held a "Coconut Shy" at the Hunstanton Carnival on the Green which raised plenty of laughs and nearly £200.00 for our charity causes.

Our talk given by Lt Col (Retd) Chris Taylor in aid of the Gurkha Welfare Trust was a very enjoyable and informative evening enabling us to donate over £150.00 to the Trust.

Our Car Boot Sales at the Glebe School continue to be very well supported. The next ones are on Sunday August 15, September 5th and 19th. Come early and grab some of those bargains, Stallholders can arrive at 7.00am and visitors from 8.00am.

Our annual "Bowls Tournament" this year is on Saturday and Sunday August 7th and 8th. This is a very enjoyable weekend with plenty to do for all the family. It is held in Old Hunstanton Social Club and there will be a fully stocked bar with several guest ales on tap, lagers, wines and spirits together with a running Bar B Q all day. If you would like to play bowls please contact us or the Old Hunstanton Club. There will be both a 'singles' and a 'triples' championship. It's a 'fun' weekend for all the family, so please come along and enjoy yourselves.

Look out for us at the Hunstanton Tennis Week starting on August 23rd and on Thursday September 16th when the British Cycle Race comes through Hunstanton. This will be an extremely exciting day giving our Town and area a very high profile. More news about this event is available from the local and national press.

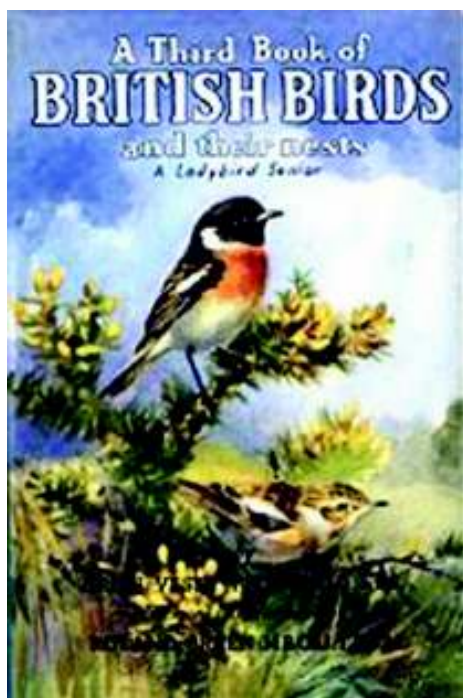
Not only do we raise money for local and other causes we are also very active in helping people and organisations in our area, and we really would like to hear from anyone who thinks that we may be able to help them. We helped a lady in Dersingham whose garden had become overgrown, and in parts dangerous. It was far too much for her to cope with so over a couple of evenings we cleared it out and arranged for a skip to take it all away. We also moved the kitchen of a Dersingham Day Centre from one location to another earlier this year. A few examples of recent local causes that we have donated money to are to a local Girl Guide troop to enable all of them to attend a Centenary Camp and "Norjam" in Norwich later in the year. This will be a great festival celebrating 100 years of "Guiding". We have also helped a local youth Football Club, and donated a cooker to a local Bowls Club.

Our "200 Club" is now full and the lucky winners in May were Peter Sutton, Keith Lake, Angie Sanderlock and Sharon May, and in June S.E. Hussey, Tony Healy, Mrs. Brown and Steve Hammond. Congratulations to all of you.

We are a very successful Club and are very pleased to announce that in the last couple of months we have inducted six new members. These include our first two ladies, with a third joining very soon. This proves that we are going from strength to strength and will be able to serve our community to the full in the future. □

and finally...

Steve Davis - Eyeing the Birds



Do you still have any of those lovely old-style Ladybird books with the full-page painted illustration on the right-hand page and the narrative text on the left? The price of them seemed to be pegged for years at half-a-crown.

However harshly we turn out our books to send to the St Nicholas church bookshop, I cannot bring myself to part with my oldest and most treasured: *First, Second and Third Ladybird Books of British Birds*. From the inside cover, I note that the first was given to me by my godparents for my second birthday in 1953; (do your sums if you must!) I suppose that it is to these (and the encouragement of my parents) that I must attribute my early knowledge and awareness of the more common birds.

Growing up, I never particularly went out of my way to look for birds. My mum always liked to feed them and would get particularly excited over spotting a bullfinch! Dad would put up bird-tables and nesting boxes and seeing families of bluetits was always a treat. My teenage and early years of married life and bringing up a family were pretty indifferent on the subject.

Indeed I would have found anyone who appeared a little over-enthusiastic for birdwatching with their strange terminology, cumbersome equipment and apparent lack of dress-sense to be quite off-putting! We did however enjoy many years of camping holidays as a family and I remember one particular time camping at Kingsbury Water Park, Sutton Coldfield. Whilst our children occupied themselves happily, my wife and I took a little stroll around to a bird-hide overlooking a lake that was home to a variety of water birds. We probably only had the one little cheap pair of binoculars between us, but I suddenly realised what a very relaxing and pleasant way it was to spend time together.

As years rolled on, and we continued to enjoy our camping just as a couple, being able to watch birds figured ever more prominently in our holiday thinking. Investing in a pair of binoculars each more than doubled that pleasure. Instead of waiting until we spotted something with the naked eye, then painstakingly passing the binoculars back and forth to view, we discovered the joy of being able to simultaneously scan the landscape whilst keeping up a conversation. Something like this: “You see that rock over there”, “Ye-es!” “Well, come forward from that at about 7 o’clock until you reach a tuft of grass”, “Mmmm!”, “Now just to the left of that there’s a little bird flitting about,...”, “What is it?” Well I cannot remember exactly, but you get the idea! And if other people are in the same hide or vicinity at the time, they may well join in the game! Conversation flows and mutual interest is shared and established. The RSPB Reserves at Minsmere in



Suffolk and Bempton Cliffs in East Yorkshire have become particular favourites recently, in addition to our own at Snettisham and Titchwell of course.

Many folk get the idea for one reason or another that they are no good with binoculars. Perhaps they have tried looking through old ones that are heavy, or worse have been knocked about a bit so that they are out of alignment and produce a double image, or maybe they simply figure that they cannot get on with them whilst wearing spectacles or contact lenses. Choosing the right style of binoculars to suit your needs and of course pocket is a matter of personal preference, but there are many helpful websites that can be *Googled* up; here is a good one:

www.green-witch.com/acatalog/Advice_on_Choosing_the_Right_Binoculars_for_You.html

Of course the RSPB shop at Titchwell Reserve (shopping.rspb.org.uk/c/Binoculars.htm), *InFocus* also at Titchwell (www.at-infocus.co.uk) and *CleySpy* in Glandford near Holt (www.cleyspy.co.uk) would be delighted to help too and I was particular pleased to see binoculars starting from around £30 in the RSPB shop; not everyone wants to spend upwards of £1500 for a pair of *Leicas* or *Swarovskis*, good though they may be! I do not want to bore you with too many technical details here, but for the most part we would go for ones that are 8x40, waterproof with twist up eyecaps and high definition or extra-low dispersion glass and large exit pupils for which you must expect to pay around £200 or more for a new pair; after that you will pay increasingly more for increasingly less additional quality. *InFocus* and *CleySpy* do however keep a good stock of used bargains. Whilst my wife was discovering the delights of being able to use binoculars effectively as a contact lens wearer, I was learning to use them whilst keeping my specs on, a real revelation that is well worth a little perseverance with a modern pair with the eyecups turned down. Straining and squinting are no longer an issue!

To me though, birdwatching is really as much about people as birds. Although I enjoy the odd solitary mission, it is sharing the experience that makes it really worthwhile. As an RSPB volunteer, leading walks to see the wading birds flock into the Snettisham Reserve on the extra high tides and the Pink-Footed Geese taking off on the early winter mornings, are very much about





sharing an awesome experience. On a more ad hoc basis at Snettisham I enjoy setting up my spotting telescope so that I can invite others to view whatever happens to be about, as indeed many other telescope owners would be pleased to do if you turned up at a hide there or at Titchwell. Another way of sharing the experience is of course by taking photos or videos and perhaps putting them up on a website (see below), or turning them into greeting cards. Photographing birds can become obsessive though! Perhaps it is the trophy-bagging

hunter instinct that seems to afflict men in particular! I must have thousands of very similar pictures, but there is always the thought that I may just get that one that is a bit nearer or clearer! On more than one occasion my ultra content wife has helpfully commented “why don’t you put the camera away and just enjoy it!” Still, I am not as bad as some of the groups of photographers I see at the reserves with their 1000mm+ telephoto lenses where the least flutter of a bird wing is met with a salvo of machine-gun-like rapid-fire shutters going off! I once heard one of them quip that nature photography was as addictive as heroin but much more expensive! Maybe we should start a campaign to keep birdwatching the stress-free, non-competitive and relaxing activity that it deserves to be! All the record-keeping and agonising over identification is nothing compared to the enjoyment of the experience!

Simon Barnes, in his book “*How to be a Bad Birdwatcher*” gives an amusing account of the many symptoms that befall the birdwatching fanatic, especially those that the uninitiated find so off-putting and he tries to restore a sense of proportion and normality to it all. The book is still readily available from bookshops and amazon.co.uk for around £5. Through it we can laugh at our ways and it certainly instils more confidence to those with less experience. Birdwatching is such a wonderful freely accessible activity for all and you do not have to conform to any perceived “standards” of others. I find that just being yourself, content with what little you know and ready to learn from others when the opportunity arises works best.

Of course birdwatching is just one facet to an overall appreciation of the natural world. If you have a faith, then it is a reason indeed to feel very privileged and blessed by such a wonderful gift of creation; if not then I guess you would at least have to concede that you are in on one heck of an accident!

Enjoy your Summer!□

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



Village Voice publication dates

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

No	Copy deadline	Publication date
No 66	Wednesday 1st Sept 2010	Thursday 23rd Sept
No 67	Wednesday 3rd Nov 2010	Thursday 25th Nov
No 68	Wednesday 12th Jan 2011	Thursday 4th Feb 2011

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

DIARY OF REGULAR EVENTS

Do please let us know if any of these details change.

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

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

Advertising in Village Voice

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

Advertisements for inclusion in the next magazine should be in the hands of Anita Moore, Dersingham Parish Council, 7b Hunstanton Rd, Dersingham PE31 6HH **by Wednesday 1st September 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 1st September 2010 for publication on Thursday 23rd September**. (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 will appear on the Parish Council's Internet web site. The copyright of all articles remains with the author. The editor does not necessarily agree with opinions that are expressed, or the accuracy of statements made, by contributors to the Village Voice.

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

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Village Voice is the bi-monthly Newsletter of Dersingham Parish Council

The Production Team for this edition consists of
Editor: - Tony Bubb. Editorial assistant - Rob Smyth
In the office - Anita Moore, Distribution - Steve Davis

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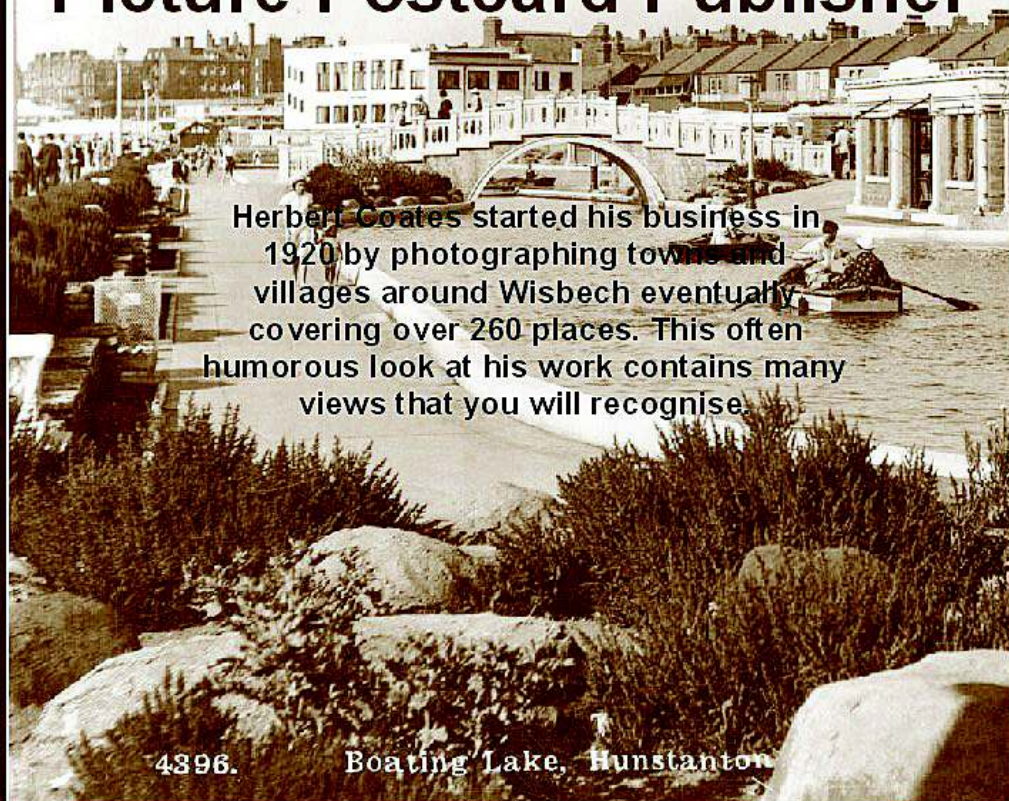
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Herbert Coates

Picture Postcard Publisher



Herbert Coates started his business in 1920 by photographing towns and villages around Wisbech eventually covering over 260 places. This often humorous look at his work contains many views that you will recognise.

4396. Boating Lake, Hunstanton

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

VILLAGE VOICE LIVE

Tuesday September 7th

FOOD & DRINK NIGHT

Hear all about what local food producers are doing, taste the goodies with also a chance to buy



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

Schools Poster Competition



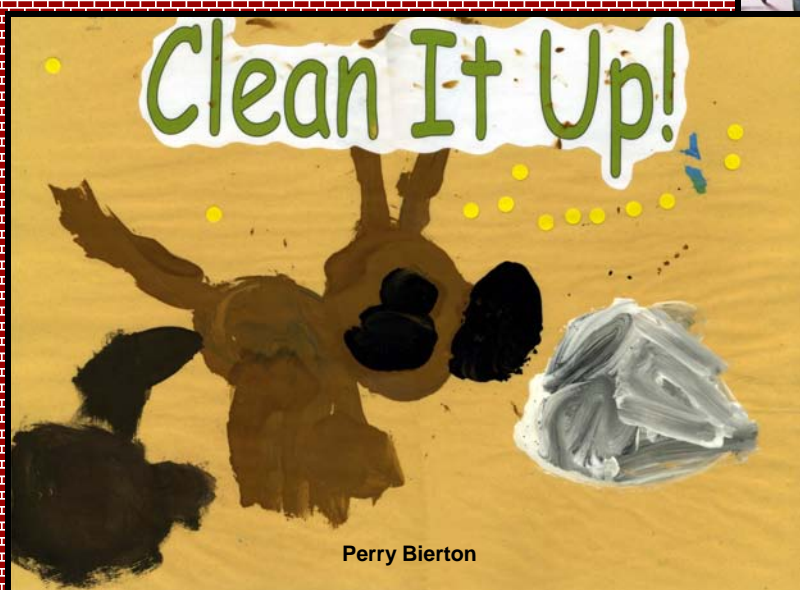
Eleanor Howson

The Environment Committee of the Parish Council needed to address a few problems that seemed to be increasing in the village – parking, dog fouling, litter, more recycling etc. The committee decided to ask our two schools to help advertise the problems by having a poster competition for the children at the schools. Both head teachers, Mrs Pope and Ms Platt, were very enthusiastic about the idea. The Parish Council were astounded by the amount of entries and the standard of understanding of the problems. The judging took place at the community lunch on 13th May which was hosted by the Parish Council. Everyone that attended the lunch voted by putting stickers on their favourite posters and this made a very interesting outcome by having four clear winners. Eleanor Howson age 6, Milli Butler age 7, Perry Bierton age 5 and Kelsey Buttery age 10.

The winners will be receiving prizes at the schools prize giving day. Prizes were kindly donated by the business and organisations of the village.



Milli Butler



Perry Bierton



Kelsey Buttery